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# observer

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

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Joan K. Lentini photo

## A battle over saving bees

Farming, environmental groups debate push to ban 'neonic' pesticides

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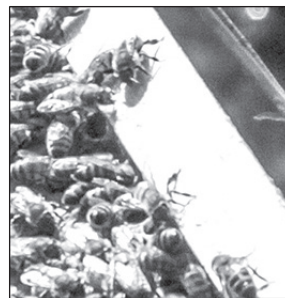
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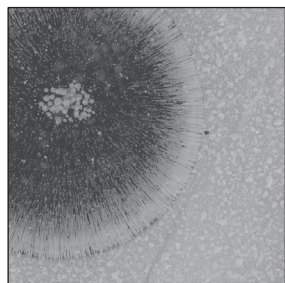
DECEMBER 2021 - JANUARY 2022

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### In battle to save bees, a push to ban certain pesticides

New York lawmakers are expected to vote in the new year on whether to ban a class of pesticides that have been blamed for massive die-offs of honeybees over the past decade and a half. Conservation groups and many beekeepers around the region say banning seeds treated with neonicotinoids, or "neonics," is the key to curbing the phenomenon known as colony collapse disorder, in which worker bees leave their hives and never return. But many farmers and local legislators oppose the ban, saying neonics protect crops and are better for the environment than older, less targeted chemicals. .... Page 4



### Zombie candidates set off calls for change

After Republican operatives effectively hijacked the Working Families Party ballot line and fielded a slates of "ghost candidates" in Saratoga Springs, Rensselaer County and elsewhere around New York, leaders of the left-leaning party are vowing to take steps to prevent similar mischief in the future. But others say the episode reveals fundamental flaws in the practice of "fusion voting," a once-common system that only a handful of states still allow. .... Page 7

### Election 2021: Results from local races

A roundup of key races from local and state contests in N.Y. and Mass. Pages 10-13

### For winter, art inspired by snow and ice

In a new show at the Bennington Museum, ice crystals are echoing in translucent glazes, quartz and silver, abstraction and calligraphy. The group exhibit "Transient Beauty," which runs through Dec. 31, draws its inspiration from a Vermont artist who became known around the world: the photographer William Bentley, who captured more than 5,000 detailed images of snowflakes beginning in 1885. .... Page 18

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Cover photo by Joan K. Lentini: A close-up view of bees from a hive at Dancing Bee Gardens, near Middlebury, Vt., taken in 2015.

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# Comfort and luxury, born of necessity

## Essential oils, scented pillows power a one-woman micro-business

By **STACEY MORRIS**  
Contributing writer

GREENWICH, N.Y.

On a cold, blustery November day, the air in Gina Grillo's work studio is vibrant with notes of lemongrass and lavender.

The lower half of her home is where magic happens for her one-woman company, Grillo Essentials. Everything is crafted from scratch. On the far wall, 5-foot-long rolls of unbleached cotton are bolted in place on a commercial spreader.

Soon, she'll be unfurling the cotton onto a 168-foot-long table to measure pieces of it for her Good Night Pillows (which she measures to standard, queen and king sizes). The pillows' cotton exteriors will encase fibers infused with lavender, rose and lemongrass.

"The fact that it's a 100 percent cotton cover vs. polyester brings such a level of comfort," she explained. "And the fragrance within the fibers helps quiet the mind."

Holiday orders may be pouring in from around the country, but Grillo's pace of creation is deliberate and detailed. As she finishes crafting each pillow, she wraps it with a satin ribbon and a pocket-sized, 8-page story, written by Grillo, entitled "The Lost Princess and the Land of Dreams."

"Every great pillow deserves a fairytale," she said with a smile.

Not far from the worktable are floor-to-ceiling metal shelves with collapsed shipping boxes for the completed orders. Grillo moves on to preparing a shipment of relaxation pillows (stuffed with balsam and buckwheat hulls), lavender-infused sleep masks, and Pain Tamer shoulder wraps made with moisture-retaining grains, eucalyptus and cloves.

"People love the smaller-sized pillows," she said. "They're great for travel or just supporting a particular body part while resting."

Grillo started her business in 1996 after becoming a single parent raising two pre-teen daughters. She was living in Virginia at the time and, not wanting to be away all day at an office job, she vowed her new career would be something she could do at home while also providing the family a living.

"I always say necessity is the mother of invention," Grillo said, explaining that the stress of her newfound situation led her to create products designed to calm the nerves and soothe the senses. Her first product was a balsam-stuffed travel pillow.

Sewing was a skill she learned while a high school student at Indian Lake Central School in the Adirondacks. Grillo soon found herself using that skill at full throttle after her pillows were selected by home shopping giant QVC



Joan K. Lentini photo

Gina Grillo started her one-woman business in 1996 after becoming a single parent with two pre-teen daughters. She vowed her new career would be something she could do at home while providing a living for her family.

as part of a small entrepreneur contest the network sponsored.

"QVC sold 5,000 travel pillows in six minutes, and suddenly, my townhouse was turned into a production factory," she recalled with a laugh. "It was an amazing adventure and just grew from there."

### Experimenting and expanding

After that initial surge, Grillo said her company's growth was slow and steady. She sold her travel pillows at high-end craft fairs and sought feedback from customers about what other stress-busting products they'd like to see. She'd file away the ideas and then set

about putting them through an extensive development process — experimenting with fabrics, product design and fragrance combinations, testing them on friends and family until she felt they were market-ready.

After relocating her family to Greenwich in 2000, Grillo continued expanding her product line, sometimes again relying on necessity as her muse.

"I began doing research on satin pillows and how they have a smoothing effect on not only the complexion, but on hair as well," she said. "My skin was cracked and dry from working

*continued on page 14*

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# A battle over saving bees

## Farming, green groups debate New York bill to ban neonic pesticides

By EVAN LAWRENCE  
Contributing writer

New York lawmakers are expected to vote in the new year on whether to ban a class of pesticides that have been blamed for massive die-offs of honeybees over the past decade and a half.

Conservation groups and many beekeepers around the region say a ban on seeds treated with neonicotinoids, or neonics, is the key to curbing the phenomenon known as colony collapse disorder, in which worker bees leave their hives and never return.

“Insecticides are an enormous problem,” said Lloyd Spear, a beekeeper with about 200 hives in Columbia County. “These are insecticides that last forever. Everything the bees bring in is contaminated.”

Spear said colony collapse disorder has become a persistent problem for his hives.

“It’s happened every summer for the past 10 years,” he said.

Although the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Environmental Protection Agency still say no single cause of colony collapse disorder has been identified, a series of studies in the past few years has strongly implicated neonics, which are highly toxic to bees. The studies show that even low-level exposure to the pesticides over time leaves bees confused and unable to find their way home.

Advocates say the bill to ban neonics in New York, known as the Birds and Bees Protection Act, is vital to protecting bees and other pollinating insects as well as insect-eating birds. The state Senate passed the bill in June, but the proposal never advanced to a floor vote in the Assembly. Advocates expect both houses to take it up again when the new legislative session begins in January.

But many farmers and local legislators oppose the ban, saying neonics protect crops and are better for the environment than older, less targeted chemicals.



Joan K. Lentini photo

Ross Conrad, a former president of the Vermont Beekeepers Association, works with his bees in this file photo taken in 2015 at Dancing Bee Gardens in the town of Cornwall, Vt.

“If you use untreated seeds, you need to apply gallons of pesticides per acre to control pests,” said Jeff Williams, director of public policy for the Farm Bureau of New York. “If you use treated seeds, you only need a shot glass per

acre.”

### Systemic insecticides

Neonicotinoids are an updated version of an older class of insecticides derived, as the name

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suggests, from nicotine, the naturally occurring chemical in tobacco plants.

Neonics are considered less dangerous to mammals because they act on a nervous system receptor found only in insects. The chemicals target sap-sucking insects like aphids and leaf hoppers and grubs that eat roots. Imidacloprid, one of the major neonics, is an ingredient in some flea and tick treatments for pets.

Neonics are easily soluble in water, so they can be applied to the soil and taken up by plants. They are slow to break down. When seeds are coated with neonics, the developing plant incorporates the insecticide in all its tissues – roots, leaves, stems and flowers – and the pesticide won't wash off in the rain.

Soil and seed coat applications mean there's no spray to drift onto other crops. Seed processors can add other pesticides such as fungicides to the coating at little cost, saving farmers time and money. Neonicotinoids also are safer to people than the organophosphate insecticides they replaced.

Since neonics were introduced in the 1990s, their use in the U.S. has boomed.

An estimated 73 percent of the neonics used by New York farmers are on treated corn, soybean and wheat seeds. Most of the rest is applied to turf farms, other turfs such as golf courses, and nursery plants. The proposed state legislation would halt the use of neonicotinoid-treated seeds for turf and ornamental plants

For farmers, untreated seeds are available but "are much harder to get," Williams said.

Almost all the corn seeds and most of the soybean seeds planted in the United States are treated with neonicotinoids.

One of the principles of integrated pest management is not using toxic pest control measures until there's evidence of that pest in the field. But Williams compared the use

of neonics to an insurance policy, citing the example of one insect pest, the European corn maggot.

"With the European corn maggot, once you see it, the crop is done, and there's usually not enough time to replant," he said. "You don't drop your car insurance just because you didn't crash your car last year."

**Effects on birds, groundwater**

That extra level of protection for farmers comes at a high cost to bees.

The European Food Safety Authority has estimated that the active ingredient in one neonic-treated seed could potentially kill 250,000 bees. Other studies have found that in social bees, concentrations too low to kill them outright can impair their memory and ability to forage and find their way back to the hive. The loss of worker bees can cripple or wipe out an entire hive.

Corn and wheat are wind-pollinated, meaning bees don't feed directly on their flowers. But as the pollen drifts, it can contaminate flowers on nearby land where bees are foraging. Studies have found exposure through dust released when coated seeds are planted. The European Union was so concerned about the hazard to pollinators that it banned all outdoor use of three of the most common neonics in 2018 and didn't reapprove a fourth in 2020.

Although neonics were touted as being harmless to birds, that hasn't proved true. Eating just one treated seed may kill some songbirds. At low doses, research shows damage to birds' immune systems, reproduction and ability to migrate. Birds may lose weight, which lowers their chances of survival. Birds may also starve if there aren't enough insects left for them to eat.

Because neonics are water soluble, soil applications can run off and contaminate streams,

ponds and groundwater. Research by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Geological Survey has found troubling concentrations of neonics in New York waterways.

And when aquatic insects die, it affects all the fish, amphibians, birds and mammals that feed on them. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, half of Americans have regular exposure to neonics, and some research links neonics to neurological, developmental and reproductive illnesses in people. Because neonics permeate plants, concerned consumers can't wash them off.

In June, Cornell University released an analysis of 1,121 studies on the relative costs and benefits of neonics and their impact on the environment. The analysis concluded that the chemicals are dangerous to bees and other pollinators while providing no economic benefit to farmers. The chemicals resulted in no consistent increase in crop yields – nor any improvement in farmers' net incomes.

The Cornell report also noted that there are safer alternatives for both crops and non-agricultural uses such as lawn and garden treatments.

Williams countered that the study didn't consider what would happen if there were an insect infestation and the pesticides were unavailable.

**Closing a regulatory loophole**

The New York bill would ban the sale of corn, soybean and wheat seeds treated with five neonicotinoids starting in 2024, unless untreated seeds are unavailable or unreasonably expensive. A ban on applications to outdoor ornamental plants and turf would start in July 2023.

The bill provides an exception for situations in which a neonic is necessary to manage,



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control or prevent invasive species. The state Department of Environmental Conservation would be tasked with reviewing the science around neonics and coming up with regulations to protect pollinators and birds, as well as researching and reporting on alternatives to neonics. The DEC's report and proposed regulations would be due in January 2023 – with a goal of having new rules in place before the ban expires in July 2028.

Advocates say the bill would close a loophole in pesticide regulations. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency doesn't regulate or track pesticides applied as seed coatings. As a result, there's no data on the amount of neonics entering the environment on seeds.

State pesticide regulations generally follow federal regulations, but the bill would give the DEC explicit authority to regulate treated seeds.

When the bill passed the state Senate in June, local Sens. Daphne Jordan, Dan Stec and James Tedisco, all Republicans, voted against it.

The Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee held a hearing on the bill in September, but the bill failed to advance to a vote. Supporters expect it to be reintroduced in both chambers when the new legislative session begins in January.

Dan Raichel, the acting director of the Natural Resources Defense Council's Pollinator Initiative, said that in addition to the European Union's ban on neonics, the states of Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, Maine and Maryland have imposed restrictions on outdoor landscape applications of the pesticides. That doesn't touch agriculture, which is by far the biggest market for the chemicals, but "it

takes the pesticides off the shelf and prohibits outdoor consumer uses," he said.

In the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec, farmers now must show a need before they can plant coated seeds, Raichel said. Getting that certificate is relatively easy, but even so, the portion of coated corn seeds planted in Quebec dropped from nearly 100 percent in 2015 to only 2 percent in 2019, he said.

"These markets do shift," Raichel said. "People are moving away from neonics. The U.S. is behind the curve."

#### 'Canaries in the coalmine'

The EPA has to re-certify pesticides every 15 years. Neonics came up in 2020, and the EPA has proposed some restrictions based on concerns for human health — a first for the agency, Raichel said. The rules have not been finalized.

"The jury is still out," Raichel said.

Raichel called the Birds and Bees Protection Act "well-tailored" to New York's situation as documented in the Cornell report.

The proposal "gets at 80 to 90 percent of the neonics going into New York's environment," Raichel said. "It's a good all-around bill."

For Raichel, the most important part of the Cornell report was its finding that neonics have no economic benefits for corn, soybean and wheat farmers, despite the pesticides' high environmental costs.

The situation for fruit and vegetable crops is less clear, Raichel said.

"There may prove to be some justification," he said. "We should operate in the area where we have certainty. I hope the Legislature continues to be guided by science."

Passing the New York bill, he added, would be "a huge step and a really important one."

Rebecca Louie, managing director of The Bee Conservancy, also expressed strong support for passing the bill. The conservancy, based in New York City, runs a Sponsor-a-Hive program to support urban beekeeping and habitat-building activities for wild bees.

"In New York, honeybee keepers just experienced the second worst annual losses on record," Louie said in an email interview.

Louie, who's a beekeeper in the Catskills, called neonicotinoids "a leading cause" of the die-offs of honeybees that began in the mid-2000s, just as use of the pesticides was spiking.

"Honeybees are also 'canaries in the coalmine' for the other 400-plus native bee species we have in New York, which are crucial to crop pollination as well as ecosystems," Louie said. "While these species are not tracked and accounted for like honeybees, we have some

examples of major native bee losses in recent decades. For example, the American bumblebee has lost 99 percent of its population in the state and is currently being considered a candidate for protection under the Endangered Species Act."

#### Disappearing bees

Spear, the Columbia County beekeeper, said most of his hives are on organic farms, with the rest in orchards. That might seem to protect his bees from exposure to neonics, but Spear said bees often travel widely from their hives.

"Bees forage three miles under ideal conditions, seven or eight miles if they're less than ideal," he said. "The bees on the organic farms are unquestionably foraging on non-organic land."

A neonic ban "would be helpful," Spear said. The pesticides "affect butterflies, moths, bumblebees, native bees — everything that forages on green living plants."

To be sure, neonics aren't the only problem facing bees. Anthony Antonucci, a beekeeper in southern Rensselaer County, said he hasn't seen much impact from neonicotinoids.

"I'm not near corn," he said. "It's a bigger issue in the Midwest."

Antonucci said he is more worried about varroa mites, an introduced parasite that weakens bees and spreads diseases. Other challenges are habitat loss and other pesticides. He's down to four hives after losing six last winter.

Statewide, beekeepers lost about 40 percent of their hives last winter, he said. The nonprofit group Bee Informed estimated the losses at more than 50 percent of the state's managed bee colonies.

"I've cut back after last year," Antonucci said. "Losing so many hives — it's not as cheap to keep bees any more. New bees are expensive."

Besides domestic honeybees, New York has 450 species of native bees, Antonucci said, all of them vulnerable to pesticides and loss of habitat.

"Neonics are a whole different breed of pesticide," he said.

Antonucci said he supports banning neonics until the state has had a chance to do its own studies.

"We can't just go on and allow it to continue," he said. "Look at the PFOA stuff in the water. Neonics can be the same way until they're saturated in our environment, like PCBs. We can't let these big businesses call the shots. We need to find different pesticides. We need to slow down and look at the science."

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# NEWS & ISSUES

## Zombie candidates prompt calls for change

### Third party decries hostile takeover of ballot line in some local races

By MAURY THOMPSON  
Contributing writer

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y.

In the days leading up to the Nov. 2 election, leaders of the local Working Families Party delivered an unusual campaign message to Saratoga Springs voters: Ignore the party's candidates for city offices, they said, and vote for the Democratic candidates instead.

The small, left-leaning political party often provides a second ballot line for Democratic candidates. But earlier this year, party leaders in Saratoga Springs say Republican operatives effectively hijacked the Working Families ballot line on behalf of a slate of "phony candidates."

"They caught us where we didn't see it happening," said Joe Seeman, who represents Saratoga County on the state Working Families party committee. "Fool us once, shame on you. Fool us twice, shame on me."

In Saratoga Springs and some other jurisdictions around the state, including Rensselaer County, an unusually large number of new voters opted to enroll in the Working Families Party earlier this year. While voter enrollment in the party increased by about 10 percent statewide over the past year, enrollment increased by 28 percent in Saratoga County and by 120 percent in Rensselaer County.

The party's leaders smelled a plot. Many of the new Working Families voters were previously Republicans or had been enrolled in the Independence Party, which lost its ballot status last year. The new voters then signed nominating petitions for candidates with links to local Republicans. These candidates didn't campaign actively, but they effectively blocked Democrats from access to a second ballot line.

"There was clearly a strategic plan," Seeman said.

Now, Seeman and other longtime Working Families leaders are calling the experience a wake-up call.

Andy Kier, who represents the Capital District on the state committee, said the party must do a better job of educating the public

about the its core values – and work to enroll new members who share those values.

"I think the biggest thing that we're going to pursue is to grow our enrollment numbers," Kier said. "And there's also an education piece."

#### A flawed system?

Others say the episode points to bigger problems with New York's practice of allowing candidates to run on multiple party lines and combine the number of votes received on each ballot line.

The practice, commonly known as "fusion voting" or "cross endorsement," was once common across the United States in the 19th century. Today, however, New York and Vermont are among only eight states that still allow it. (The others are Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Mississippi, Oregon and South Carolina.)

"I think it goes to the flaws of the fusion voting system," said Robert Turner, a political science professor at Skidmore College.

He described the experience in Saratoga Springs, where multiple news outlets reported that a Republican operative enrolled new Working Families Party members and then circulated nominating petitions to put some of these new members on the ballot for city offices.

"They enrolled ... sort-of-ghost candidates," Turner said. "They didn't actively campaign, they didn't have campaign websites, and they didn't have a presence in social media."

Similar efforts occurred in Rensselaer County, in western New York and in the lower Hudson Valley, said Anita Thayer, state treasurer of the Working Families Party.

The tactic is legal, as long as the candidates

have enrolled in the party by the state's deadline and collect a sufficient number of signatures of party members on nominating petitions.

Turner said it appeared the effort was intended to siphon off votes from progressive voters who might otherwise have supported cross-endorsed Democratic candidates on the Working Families line.

"There are a certain number of this sort of lefty Democrats who vote the Working Families line to make a statement," he explained.

#### Potential to sway close races

Seeman and other Working Families leaders took the unusual step of holding a press conference just before Election Day in November to urge voters to vote the Democratic ticket, not the Working Families candidates, in Saratoga Springs races.

As it turned out, votes cast on the Working Families line did not change the outcome of any of the Saratoga Springs races. Democratic candidates won four of the five seats on the City Council, including the mayor's office.

But the city has seen its share of close elections over the past two decades, and Turner said the tactic in some years could have swayed the outcome.

"In a really close election, 80 to 100 votes can matter," he said.

In Rensselaer County, the number of voters enrolled in the Working Families Party increased from 999 on Nov. 1, 2020 to 2,190 on Nov. 1, 2021, according to figures compiled by the state Board of Elections.

The *Times Union* of Albany reported earlier this year that Rensselaer County Republican Chairman John Rustin and GOP operative

*continued on next page*


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Richard Crist acknowledged a coordinated effort to assist people in changing their enrollment from the Independence Party to the Working Families Party.

Neither Rustin nor Crist responded to messages seeking comment for this report.

Thayer, the Working Families state treasurer, said not all of the party's enrollment increase in Rensselaer County can be attributed to Republican efforts, because the party also conducted its own enrollment drive in the county.

"So some of the gains in Rensselaer County were on our part, though not sufficient," she said.

In Saratoga County, the Working Families party enrollment increased to 583 on Nov. 1 from 454 on the same date in 2020, according to the state's figures.

Local party leaders say it has not all been natural growth.

**Shifting ballot-access rules**

Kier said that in Rensselaer County, the activity appeared to be fueled by a recent state

law that made it harder for third parties to achieve ballot status.

The Independence Party had often cross-endorsed Republican candidates in Rensselaer County elections. But the Independence, Libertarian, Green and Serve America Movement (SAM) parties all lost their ballot lines in November 2020 under a new law that raised the threshold of votes needed to qualify for permanent ballot status.

The new law also required parties to qualify every two years instead of every four, tying ballot access to presidential elections, where previously it had only been determined by the number of votes a party garnered in gubernatorial races.

Green Party leaders have said the change unfairly targets third parties that do not cross-endorse candidates from other political parties.

The Working Families Party, which often cross-endorses Democratic candidates, and the Conservative Party, which often cross-endorses Republicans, were the only two minor parties to retain permanent ballot access.

The Green Party has long opposed fusion voting, saying it merely extends the power of

the two-party system.

The state Democratic Committee in 2019 passed a resolution recommending ending fusion voting. But political observers at the time said the goal of that resolution was not reform so much as an effort to punish the Working Families Party for backing Cynthia Nixon for governor against incumbent Democrat Andrew Cuomo in the 2018 Democratic primary.

Turner said fusion voting may have had merits at one time but has outlived its practicality.

"Really, what it's done is that it's given these people with the third-party lines the ability to sort of extort promises from candidates," he said, adding that he was referring to third parties in general and not specifically to the Working Families Party.

But others say fusion voting increases voter turnout.

"Fusion is not a panacea, but it does improve elections," Adam Morse and J.J. Gass concluded in a 2006 essay for the Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University

*continued on page 13*

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See map on page 17

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# ELECTION 2021

Here are the results of the key races and ballot questions decided by voters in the Nov. 2 elections in Massachusetts and New York. A guide to political party abbreviations is in the box at right. In the tables below, incumbents are marked with an asterisk (\*), and winning candidates are in **bold** type.

A brief summary follows the candidate listings for each county. Because of space limitations, municipal-level races below the level of mayor or town supervisor are omitted except in the region's most populous communities.

The vote totals shown are final tallies, including absentee ballots, except for those in Rensselaer County and for New York's statewide ballot questions, where only unofficial, election-night results were available as of late November.

## MASSACHUSETTS

### BERKSHIRE COUNTY

#### North Adams mayor

Lynette Bond ..... 1,484 (46.9%)  
Jennifer Macksey ..... **1,682 (53.1%)**

#### North Adams City Council (9 seats)

Jennifer Barbeau ..... **1,285**  
\* Lisa Blackmer ..... **1,706**  
\* Keith Bona ..... **1,740**  
Marie Harpin ..... **1,611**  
Barbara Ellen Murray ..... 1,139  
Michael Obasohan ..... **1,508**  
\* Peter Oleskiewicz ..... **1,745**  
Jesse Lee Egan Poirier ..... 1,016  
\* Brian Sapienza ..... **1,624**  
Ashley Shade ..... **1,245**  
Heidi Shartrand-Newell ..... 1,124  
Ronald Sheldon ..... 537  
Joseph Smith ..... 884  
\* Wayne Wilkinson ..... **1,404**

Macksey will become the first woman to serve as mayor of North Adams when she takes over Jan. 3 from two-term incumbent Tom Bernard, who opted not to run again.

The mayor-elect is assistant superintendent of operations and finance at the North Berkshire

School Union. She previously served in several roles at City Hall in the administration of longtime Mayor John Barrett III, who ran the city for 26 years before losing a re-election bid in 2009. Barrett, now the state representative for the northern Berkshires, was a supporter of Macksey's campaign.

Bond, a member of the city Planning Board, is director of development for grants and research at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. Her campaign had the support of former Mayor Richard Alcombright, who defeated Barrett in 2009 and again in a 2015 rematch.

Municipal elections in Massachusetts are nonpartisan.

## NEW YORK

### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

#### Proposal 1 – Apportionment and redistricting

A yes vote would have made a series of changes to the redistricting process voters approved by constitutional amendment in 2014. Many of the changes would have given the Legislature's Democratic majority a stronger hand in crafting the state's political maps. The 2014 amendment created an Independent Redistricting Commission to draw those lines.

Yes ..... 1,202,106 (44.2%)  
No ..... **1,518,442 (55.8%)**

#### Proposal 2 – Right to clean air and water

A yes vote establishes for each New Yorker a constitutional right to "clean air and water and a healthful environment."

The change was strongly supported by environmental groups, who say it will give private citizens, such as those who were affected by PFOA contamination in Hoosick Falls' water, more power to go to court to seek prompt action against pollution, rather than having to wait for state agencies to act on their behalf. Opponents said the change would lead to unnecessary litigation and costs.

Yes ..... **1,904,636 (68.9%)**  
No ..... 859,723 (31.1%)

C – Conservative Party  
D – Democratic Party  
i – independent or unrecognized party  
R – Republican Party  
WF – Working Families Party  
\* – incumbent

#### Proposal 3 – Advance voter registration

A yes vote would have deleted a constitutional provision that now requires anyone participating in an election to be registered at least 10 days in advance.

Yes ..... 1,179,674 (42.3%)  
No ..... **1,608,177 (57.7%)**

#### Proposal 4 – No-excuse absentee voting

A yes vote would have deleted a constitutional provision that now requires voters obtaining absentee ballots to attest that they are unable to vote in person because of absence from their home county, illness or physical disability. Supporters said anyone should be able to vote by mail-in ballot as a matter of convenience.

Yes ..... 1,208,664 (43.5%)  
No ..... **1,568,895 (56.5%)**

#### Proposal 5 – New York City Civil Court

A yes vote supported expanding the jurisdiction of New York City Civil Court by allowing it to hear and decide claims for up to \$50,000 instead of the current limit of \$25,000.

Yes ..... **1,675,853 (62.9%)**  
No ..... 990,185 (37.1%)

### COLUMBIA COUNTY

#### County sheriff

\* David P. Bartlett (R, C) ..... 9,453 (44.1%)  
Donald J. Krapf (D, i) ..... **12,007 (55.9%)**

#### Claverack supervisor

Kathleen Proper (D, WF) ..... 901 (42.6%)  
\* Clifford "Kippy" Weigelt (R, C) ..... **1,213 (57.4%)**

#### Germantown supervisor

\* Robert W. Beaury (D, C) ..... 437 (46.0%)  
David L. Helsley (R) ..... **512 (54.0%)**

#### Ghent supervisor

Mallory M. Mort (D, WF, i) ..... 1,084 (47.2%)  
Craig Simmons (R, C, i) ..... **1,215 (52.8%)**

#### Hudson city treasurer

\* Heather S. Campbell (D, i) ..... **1,027 (79.7%)**  
Michael Hofmann (WF) ..... 261 (20.3%)

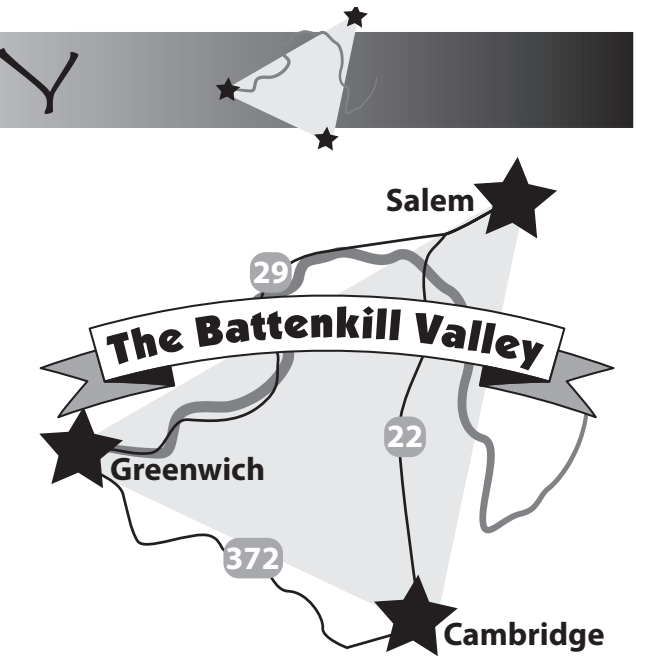


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See map on page 17



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**Hudson 2nd Ward supervisor**

Tiffany Garriga (WF) ..... 64 (24.4%)  
 \* **Abdus Miah (D, C)** ..... 198 (75.6%)

**Hudson 2nd Ward alderman (2 seats)**

Lee J. Bradshaw (R) ..... 20  
**Mohammed Rony (D)** ..... 171  
 \* **Dewan Sarowar (D, C)** ..... 205

**Hudson 5th Ward alderman (2 seats)**

Rebecca R. Borrer (WF) ..... 69  
**Vicky Daskaloudi (D, i)** ..... 272  
 \* **Dominic Merante (D, C)** ..... 245

**Kinderhook supervisor**

Matthew L. Nelson (D, i) ..... 1,372 (41.5%)  
**Timothy Ooms (R, C)** ..... 1,931 (58.5%)

**Stuyvesant supervisor**

Lee Jamison (D, WF) ..... 286 (37.5%)  
 \* **Ron Knott (R, C)** ..... 477 (62.5%)

In the one of the bigger upsets in the region, Krapf, a sergeant in the county Sheriff's Office, defeated Bartlett, the two-term incumbent sheriff, by a substantial margin.

During his campaign, Krapf pointed to what he said was poor morale in the Sheriff's Office, and he called for beefed up training for officers – including more training regarding implicit bias and cultural

sensitivity.

Only six seats on the 23-member county Board of Supervisors were contested. Republicans candidates held on to open seats in Ghent and Kinderhook and won in Germantown. In Hudson, Mayor Kamal Johnson was unopposed for a second term.

**RENSSELAER COUNTY**

**County executive**

Sara J. McDermott (WF) ..... 1,141 (3.0%)  
 \* **Steven F. McLaughlin (R, C)** ..... 24,317 (63.0%)  
 Gwen Wright (D) ..... 13,131 (34.0%)

**County clerk**

Jason A. Cloud (WF) ..... 1,139 (3.0%)  
 Justan J. Foster (D) ..... 11,610 (30.6%)  
 \* **Frank J. Merola (R, C)** ..... 25,239 (66.4%)

**Family Court judge**

Anne L. Coonrad (D, WF) ..... 15,493 (41.3%)  
 \* **Jill Kehn (R, C)** ..... 22,028 (58.7%)

**County legislator, District 2** (four seats; towns of East Greenbush, North Greenbush and Poestenkill)

\* **Robert W. Bayly (R, C)** ..... 5,025  
 \* **Leon B. Flacco (R, C)** ..... 5,295  
 \* **Thomas P. Grant (R, C)** ..... 5,203  
 Brenda Hammond (WF) ..... 392  
 \* **Kelly C. Hoffman (R, C)** ..... 5,553

Sally H. Lauletta (D, WF) ..... 3,958  
 Jennifer L. Massey (D, WF) ..... 4,234  
 Robert B. Poltras Jr. (D, WF) ..... 3,780  
 Jack Rogers (D) ..... 3,824

**County legislator, District 3** (three seats; towns of Brunswick, Pittstown and Schaghticoke)

Adriano C. Bongiorno (D) ..... 2,137  
 \* **Daniel F. Casale (R, C)** ..... 5,631  
 \* **Kenneth Herrington (R, C)** ..... 5,585  
**William E. Maloney (R, C)** ..... 5,405

**County legislator, District 4** (three seats; towns of Nassau, Sand Lake and Schodack)

\* **Scott H. Bendett (R, C)** ..... 4,951  
 Andrew M. Bulmer (D, WF) ..... 3,294  
**Thomas Choquette (R, C)** ..... 4,750  
 Alexander R. Flood (D, WF) ..... 3,208  
 \* **Robert R. Loveridge (R, C)** ..... 4,971  
 Shawntell E. Mills-Sanchez (D, WF) ..... 3,121

**County legislator, District 5** (two seats; towns of Berlin, Grafton, Hoosick, Hoosick Falls, Petersburg and Stephentown)

Gary Contessa (D) ..... 1,153  
 \* **Bruce Patire (R, C, WF)** ..... 2,685  
 \* **Jeff Wysocki (R, C, WF)** ..... 2,818

**Poestenkill supervisor**

\* **Keith A. Hammond (R, C)** ..... 874 (60.4%)  
 Thomas J. Russell (D, i) ..... 574 (39.6%)



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- from Glens Falls: 50 minutes
- from Great Barrington: 1 hour, 55 minutes
- 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 17*

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**Sand Lake supervisor**

Garrett E. DeGraff (D, WF) ..... 1,252 (42.1%)  
**Scott F. Gallerie (R, C) ..... 1,724 (57.9%)**

**Schodack supervisor**

**Charles J. Peter (R, C) ..... 2,367 (55.6%)**  
 Tracey Rex (D, WF) ..... 1,893 (44.4%)

After narrowly winning his seat as county executive four years ago, McLaughlin handily won his bid for a second term, as voters seemed unmoved by a series of controversies that have swirled around him.

(The drama continued after the election when McLaughlin was criminally charged Dec. 1 after a lengthy investigation by the state attorney general's office and the FBI. He faces two felony counts after prosecutors say he used thousands of dollars in campaign funds to settle a personal debt.)

**SARATOGA COUNTY**

**County sheriff**

Norman G. Boyes (WF) ..... 7,257 (15.9%)  
 \* **Michael H. Zurlo (R, C) ..... 38,399 (84.1%)**

**Clifton Park town and county supervisor**

Melissa L. Boxer (D, WF) ..... 2,975 (32.7%)  
 \* **Philip Barrett (R, C) ..... 6,125 (67.3%)**

**Malta supervisor**

**Mark E. Hammond (R, C) ..... 2,441 (57.9%)**  
 Michael J. Williams (D, WF) ..... 1,776 (42.1%)

**Milton supervisor**

Barbara A. Kerr (i) ..... 727 (16.2%)  
**Scott T. Ostrander (R, C) ..... 2,271 (50.7%)**  
 \* Benny L. Zlotnick Jr. (D, i) ..... 1,480 (33.1%)

**Saratoga Springs mayor**

Robin O. Dalton (i) ..... 576 (6.5%)  
**Ronald J. Kim (D, i) ..... 4,319 (48.6%)**  
 Maxwell Rosenbaum (WF) ..... 56 (0.6%)  
 Heidi Owen West (R, C) ..... 3,943 (44.3%)

**Saratoga Springs county supervisor (two seats)**

Bruce Altimar (WF) ..... 275  
 \* **Tara N. Gaston (D) ..... 4,460**  
 Gabriel P. O'Brien (WF) ..... 142  
 John F. Safford (R, C) ..... 3,775  
 \* **Matthew E. Veitch (R, C) ..... 4,334**  
 Shaun D. Wiggins (D, i) ..... 3,828

**Saratoga Springs accounts commissioner**

Samantha J. Guerra (R, C, WF) ..... 3,673 (42.2%)  
**Dillon C. Moran (D, i) ..... 3,963 (45.5%)**  
 Angela T. Rella (i) ..... 1,073 (12.3%)

**Saratoga Springs finance commissioner**

Sierra J. Hunt (WF) ..... 69 (0.8%)  
 Adam W. Israel (i) ..... 547 (6.2%)  
 Joanne M. Kiernan (R, C) ..... 3,784 (42.9%)  
**Minita J. Sanghvi (D, i) ..... 4,415 (50.1%)**

**Saratoga Springs public safety commissioner**

David Labate (WF) ..... 95 (1.1%)  
 Tracy L. LaBelle (R, C) ..... 3,859 (44.2%)  
**James A. Montagnino (D, i) ..... 4,783 (54.7%)**

**Saratoga Springs public works commissioner**

Donald J. Reeder (WF) ..... 160 (1.8%)  
 \* **Anthony "Skip" Scirocco (R, C) ..... 4,870 (55.9%)**  
 Dominique C. Yermolayev (D, i) ..... 3,686 (42.3%)

**Saratoga (town) supervisor**

Paul F. Murphy (D) ..... 524 (35.9%)  
 \* **Thomas N. Wood III (R, C) ..... 936 (64.1%)**

The most hotly contested races were in Saratoga Springs, where police practices and public safety emerged as major campaign issues.

Activists said the city was moving too slowly toward implementing policing reforms that were crafted in response to last year's racial justice protests. City police also faced widespread criticism over their heavy-handed treatment of Black Lives Matter protesters.

Several of the Republican candidates for City Council rallied to the defense of city police, while the Democratic candidates embraced calls for swifter reform – and for a new inquiry into the 2014 death of Darryl Mount, a young unarmed black man who was mortally injured while fleeing city police.

Democrats won four open seats on the City Council, including the mayor's office, increasing their majority from 3-2 to 4-1.

**WARREN COUNTY**

**Glens Falls 4th Ward county supervisor**

\* **Daniel Bruno (R) ..... 131 (53.9%)**  
 John B. Reilly (D) ..... 112 (46.1%)

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**Glens Falls 5th Ward county supervisor**

\* **Bennett F. Driscoll Jr. (D, C)** ..... 309 (62.4%)  
 Philip G. Russel (R) ..... 186 (37.6%)

**Glens Falls Common Council, 2nd Ward**

Robin M. Barkenhagen (D, WF) ..... 335 (46.7%)  
**Robert Landry (R, i)** ..... 383 (53.3%)

**Glens Falls Common Council, 4th Ward**

**Benjamin Lapham (D)** ..... 164 (56.7%)  
 Henry L. Pelton III (R) ..... 125 (43.3%)

**Queensbury at-large county supervisor (four seats)**

\* **Doug Beaty (R, i)** ..... 3,015  
 \* **Brad Magowan (R, i)** ..... 3,007  
 P. Brent McDevitt (D, C) ..... 1,711  
 \* **Rachel Seeber (R, i)** ..... 2,924  
 \* **Mike Wild (R, C)** ..... 3,078

**Queensbury Town Board, 1st Ward**

John A. Kassebaum (i) ..... 339 (20.1%)  
 \* **Anthony F. Metivier (R, C)** ..... 1,347 (79.9%)

**Queensbury Town Board, 2nd Ward**

David Deeb (R, i) ..... 695 (48.8%)  
 \* **Harrison C. Freer (D, C)** ..... 729 (51.2%)

Glens Falls elected a new mayor, Bill Collins, a Common Council member who ran unopposed as a Democrat to succeed the departing incumbent, Dan Hall. Republican Jim Clark Jr. was unopposed for

councilman-at-large.

Together with the results for council seats representing the city's five wards, the election yielded a 5-2 Democratic majority on the council.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY**

**Greenwich supervisor**

**James Nolan (D, i)** ..... 740 (50.5%)  
 \* Don Ward (R, i) ..... 725 (49.5%)

**White Creek supervisor**

Sean Cossey (R) ..... 259 (34.7%)  
 \* **James S. Griffith (D, i)** ..... 487 (65.3%)

Only two of the county's 17 towns had contested supervisor races.

In Greenwich, Ward, who narrowly defeated longtime Supervisor Sara Idelman (D) two years ago, came up short in his bid for a second term. He lost to Nolan in a race that was settled by absentee ballots.

In White Creek, Griffith, who won by 21 votes over longtime incumbent Robert Shay (R) two years ago, easily won re-election.

— Compiled by Fred Daley

**Zombie** *continued from page 8*

School of Law.

The writers said fusion voting allows voters to make a statement about policies by voting on a third-party line while still supporting a viable candidate.

"In an election without fusion, voters must, in most cases, choose between expressing their support for a minor party's agenda and participating in the actual choice between the major-party candidates who have a chance of winning," they wrote.

Thayer, the Working Families state treasurer, expressed a similar sentiment about fusion voting.

"The solution is to fix it so that it works, not to throw the baby out with the bathwater," she said.

Thayer said the incidents in this year's election were something of a fluke, because the number of signatures needed on nominating petitions was temporarily reduced in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.



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- from Glens Falls 35 minutes
- from Great Barrington 1 hour, 30 minutes
- from Hudson 1 hour, 20 minutes
- from Manchester 1 hour, 20 minutes
- from Pittsfield 1 hour, 25 minutes
- from Saratoga Springs 15 minutes
- from Williamstown 1 hour, 15 minutes

See map on page 17

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## Oils *continued from page 3*

too hard, and sleeping on a satin pillow made a huge difference. I was thinking of using silk, but it's too high-maintenance and you have to hand-wash it. Satin, on the other hand, gets softer with each washing."

The pillowcases, which retail for \$24.95 to \$39.95 depending on size, come in a variety of pastel colors and a lace border that Grillo sews onto each one.

"I like to add special handmade touches to my products," she explained.

As her product line has grown, so has her collection of industrial sewing machines. Grillo

started with one and now uses four.

The company's growth, she said, continues to reflect the needs of her customers. Her best-selling product by far, she says, is her Outdoor Fragrance, a proprietary blend of lemongrass, lavender and six other essential oils, each one chosen for its reputation for use in the outdoors.

"I chose the oils for their beautiful scents as well as their efficacy," she said.

Outdoor Fragrance comes in a roll-on bottle, which Grillo says is perfect for backpack storage and for anointing the body's pulse points.

"I'm careful not to make claims, but I get feedback from hikers around the world who tell me it's effective in keeping bugs away," Grillo



Joan K. Lentini photo

Scented sprays, pillows and sachets are among the creations of Grillo Essentials, Grillo's home-based business.

# Destination: MANCHESTER, VT & VICINITY

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- from Cambridge: 45 min (Dorset, 40 min)
- from Glens Falls: 1 hour, 20 min (Dorset, 1:10)
- from Great Barrington: 1 hour, 50 min (Dorset, 2 hours)
- from Hudson: 2 hours (Dorset, 2:10)
- from Pittsfield: 1 hr, 20 min (Dorset, 1:30)
- from Saratoga Springs: 1 hour, 20 min (Dorset, 1:10)
- from Williamstown: 50 min (Dorset, 1 hour)

See map on page 17

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said. "What I can say is, it's citronella-free and smells wonderful. Hikers on the Appalachian Trail affectionately call it 'trail perfume.'"

"I have a nose for fragrance," she added with a smile. "It may be my greatest business asset. I use it to test and research all my products before they hit the market."

As an example, she cites her lavender mist, which in addition to lavender contains bergamot (known to help relax nasal passages) and rose-geranium for hormone-balancing properties.

"It's pretty all-purpose," Grillo said. "It can be used as a room freshener, or as a body spray, or on sheets and clothing."

**Supplying local retailers**

Jennifer Lamb, the owner and supervising pharmacist at Menges & Curtis Apothecary and Compounding Pharmacy in Saratoga Springs, said that when she learned about Grillo's products seven years ago, it was love at first scent.

"I tried her Outdoor Fragrance and was very impressed with its effectiveness and fragrance," Lamb recalled.

When Lamb and her husband, Scott, bought the century-old apothecary the following year, she knew she wanted to carry Grillo Essentials products. She said Grillo's satin pillowcases and lavender mist spray are some of the store's best sellers.

"The satin pillowcases are beautiful quality and finer than any silk pillowcases I've seen," Lamb said. "I have very curly hair, and they really control the frizz. They just feel so luxurious against the skin."

Lamb said she was so impressed with the brand's fragrances that she asked Grillo to expand her line of essential oils.

"We previously had sold a national brand and wanted to get away from that for various reasons," she explained. "There's no comparison to Gina's essential oils - they have both a richness and lightness to them."

Grillo said that with her growing inventory of products, and with orders coming in from

*continued on page 27*

# Destination: MANCHESTER, VT & VICINITY



George Bouret photo

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# EDITORIAL

## Be thankful, be merry, but try to be cautious

As we enter this holiday season amid a swirl of bad news about the Covid-19 pandemic, it's worth taking a moment to acknowledge that our situation really is substantially better than at this time a year ago.

The difference mostly boils down to one thing, but it's huge: We now have vaccines. And for many among the substantial majority of us who are fully vaccinated, that means activities like traveling and gathering for the holidays are much less risky than they were last December.

Even so, the risks are not zero. There are a disturbing number of breakthrough infections among the vaccinated, even if relatively few of these cases result in serious illness. And it's hard not to be discouraged by the slow pace of our climb out Covid – especially for those of us who'd hoped it would be behind us by now.

Lately we seem to be sliding backward. As November turns to December, new infections have been soaring across most of the counties in our region, and new Covid deaths are being reported locally every day or two.

Vermont, despite having the highest vaccination rate in the nation, set a one-day record for new infections, reporting 604 cases on Dec. 2, the day this issue goes to press. Bennington County is posting the highest infection rate in the state, fueled in part by an outbreak at the Crescent Manor nursing home, where 71 infections and three deaths had been reported as of Dec. 1. Rutland County's infection rate is nearly as high.

Just across the state line, Washington County has had the highest per-capita rate of new infections in New York for at least the past two weeks, and Warren County is not far behind.

At the same time, the world and national headlines in the final days of November have been dominated by the emergence in southern Africa of the new Omicron coronavirus variant, which some experts fear could be more transmissible than its predecessors.

With so many troubling trends, there's a certain emotional appeal to the idea of just ignoring Covid and trying to go back to pre-pandemic life, come what may. But following that impulse will only prolong the suffering for all of us.

The key to putting the pandemic behind us remains the same, whether here or in Africa: Take steps to curb the spread.

Getting vaccinated, or getting a booster shot, helps to curb the spread. Yes, vaccinated people can still contract and spread the virus. But when compared with the unvaccinated, they're much less likely to contract it, and they're much less efficient at spreading it.

Wearing a well-fitting facemask helps to curb the spread, though it works better if everyone else wears one too. Masks are still required for travel on planes, trains and other public transport, and this helps to reduce the risk of travel. Even if it's not required, however, wearing them in other indoor public spaces is still a good idea.

Finally, avoiding large indoor gatherings helps curb the spread. At least among the vaccinated, public health officials say small gatherings of friends and family pose comparatively little risk. But the risks increase with the number of people and households involved.

The advent of Covid-19 vaccines means we're all freer to enjoy the holiday season than we were last year. But we also need to remember that real risks remain – and to take precautions to limit those risks.



## Letters to the editor

### Readers deserved to know how to speak out on districts

To the editor:

Thank you for the November article, "Redistricting reform swiftly reaches partisan deadlock." Another headline could be, "Seems only the politicians care about redistricting," or "Redistricting: the threat for bureaucrats and politicians."

I'm not surprised at the lack of progress, but more enraged by the Democratic-leaning content the newspaper allowed, especially since your tag line is, "The independent newspaper of eastern New York, southwestern Vermont and the Berkshires."

The first thing I notice in your article is the writer included lengthy discussion and quotes from Democrats including the League of Women Voters and the Warren County Democratic chairwoman.

I am curious: Why are there no quotes from the Republican Party or a conservative response to the deadlock?

The deep-seated conviction that produced our unique system of government was that human beings were, first and foremost, meant to be free, self-governing people under "the laws of nature and of nature's God." The purpose of civil government was to secure the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of property.

Today America is at another crossroads, and we are called again to choose. We will either courageously confront a situation that is irreconcilable with our founding vision, or we will give up that vision and drift, by default, toward a different but uncertain destination. We elect representatives to be our voice. But if you remain silent, you have no voice.

The situation is this: Our state and national government exercises a degree of power and control over its citizens' lives, liberty and property that is inconsistent with the system of self-governance enshrined in our Constitution.

My suggestions:

1. Perhaps list the public hearings regarding

redistricting. Members of the public may testify virtually or submit written comments regarding modifications, suggestions and edits to the Independent Redistricting Commission's maps.

2. The commissioners are solidifying their positions as we write this. The redistricting plan is due to the Assembly in January 2022. So who is on the commission, and can citizens call, email or speak to them? Provide links to the website to find more information.

3. Share your views with the commission on such thorny issues as whether self-governance is best served by not gerrymandering for votes.

4. The independent view or a nonpartisan solution for the committee: Hire a mediator like the courts make you do before a lawsuit is filed. Both parties are forced to agree to some things they like and some things they dislike.

Voting districts matter. That's why gerrymandering happens in the first place. Voting is the ultimate expression of self-governance. There are some things good citizens do because it is our duty, as citizens, to do them.

But in America, good citizenship also requires we use the constitutional tools available to us to make necessary course corrections when our government goes astray. One way to learn your civic duty is to engage with the team at Convention of States.

Redistricting deadlock is going on all over the country. What can the average citizen do? Do readers care about who is elected to office to represent them?

Do people use critical thinking and see that this article is not independent or nonpartisan? We could have used some of that space to give a solution or citizen knowledge and involvement or to give the politicians some ideas from whom they represent.

Nancy Suits  
Diamond Point, N.Y.

*Editor's note: The League of Women Voters is officially nonpartisan. Our story did quote the Warren County Democratic chairwoman, but her initial quote was immediately followed by a statement from the state Republican chairman.*

# A progressive pitch to the North Country

Detailed descriptions of appearance were important to journalism in the era before photographs were common.

So *The Morning Star* of Glens Falls reported on Sept. 17, 1887: "Among the passengers who alighted from the early north train at Fort Edward yesterday morning was a medium-sized man, with full red beard and a florid countenance that would indicate good living, He wore a Prince Albert coat and black derby hat, and, altogether, was a rather ordinary looking individual."

The "rather ordinary looking individual" was Henry George, a well-known political economist and newspaper columnist who had lately become a political candidate. George was in town to speak at the Fort Edward Institute that morning and at the Washington County Fair at Sandy Hill (now Hudson Falls) in the afternoon.

He arrived from the Lewis County village of Lowville, where he spoke the previous day.

George was a leading voice in the 19th century Progressive movement and was best known for his 1879 book "Progress and Poverty." He championed the equalization of wealth, ending monopolies, and protecting the secret ballot, among other issues.

Much of his speech at the Washington County Fair was devoted to his advocacy for replacing all taxes with a single property tax, which he argued would put the burden of government services on wealthy landowners. He also called for the government to take ownership of railroads.

George said he was not looking to overthrow the wealthy, but rather to make sure they carried a fair load of responsibility for public good.

"I would that we were all millionaires," he said. "I do not dislike them. Let every man have the benefit of industry, but let us base our taxes on the value of land."

George acknowledged that his championing of a single tax based on property value was unpopular with many of the farmers who attended and exhibited at the fair.

"It may be said that farmers would have to pay the bulk of the taxes under such a system as is proposed, but this is not true," he said in his speech. "The land

everywhere would be taxed according to its productive value. An acre of land in New York City would pay a tax several times higher than an acre of land in an agricultural district."

George described farming as "the first of occupations," *The Granville Sentinel* reported on Sept. 17, 1887.

And he argued that farmers who labored in their fields shared common interest with the laborers who worked in urban factories. Neither, he said, were receiving a fair share of wealth.

"We all know that the men who enjoy most of what labor produces today are not the men whose hard toil creates wealth," he said. "Take the farmers of this country today as a body. Have they cause for discontent? Is not the farmer's life far harder than it ought to be?"

In 1886, George had run for mayor of New

York City on the United Labor Party line. He barely lost to Democratic candidate Abram Stevens Hewitt – and placed well ahead of the Republican hopeful, the future president Theodore Roosevelt.

At the time of his 1887 visit to Washington County, George was running for New York state Secretary of State, which was an elected office at the time. He wound up placing a distant third in that race.

George said he wasn't at the fair to talk politics, at least not as it was commonly understood.

"To talk politics in these days means to abuse the other side," he said, according to *The Morning Star*. "The people whom I represent do not do that because they have something else to do. What we stand for is to sustain great principles that come home to every man and every woman in every country. We want to abolish poverty."

George said he might run for president in 1888 – if he could be sure he wouldn't be elected. Ideally, he explained, he would lose the national race by one vote.

"I don't want to be elected," George said. "I can't afford to be tied down for office. As it is now, I am free to go where I please and talk on the land tax."

The fair managers paid George \$100 (the equivalent of \$2,911 in today's dollars) and treated George to lunch. The payment was likely because of his ability to draw a crowd — and not necessarily because the fair management agreed with his philosophy.

*continued on page 27*

## Maury Thompson

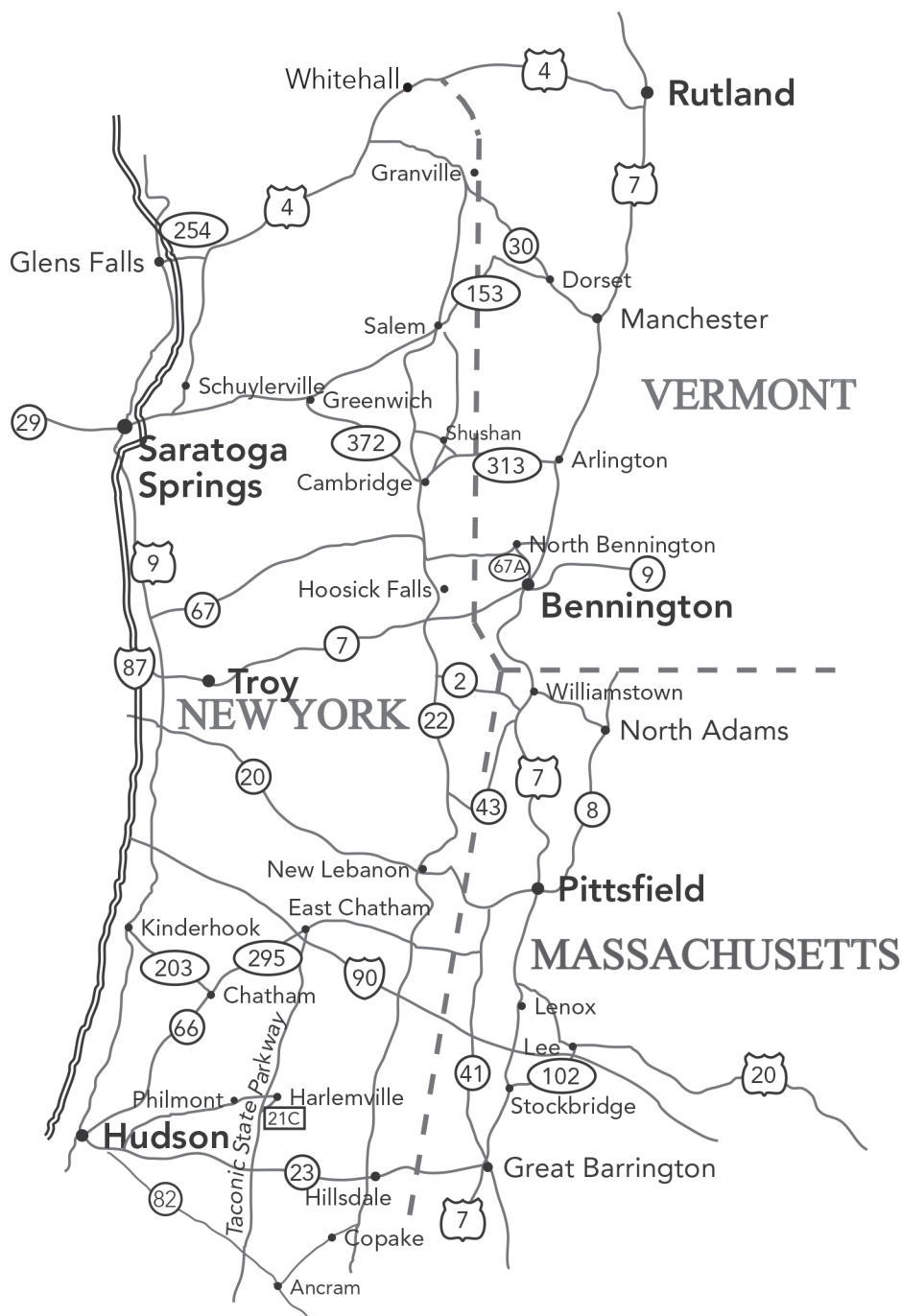
### News that's slow-brewed for a high-speed age

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

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

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

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



## ARTS &amp; CULTURE

## For winter, art inspired by snow and ice

Famed snowflake photos offer starting point for Bennington group show

By KATE ABBOTT  
Contributing writer

BENNINGTON, Vt.

Ice crystals form like stars: They take shapes too small for human eyes to see, fractal patterns, repeating smaller and smaller until they vanish.

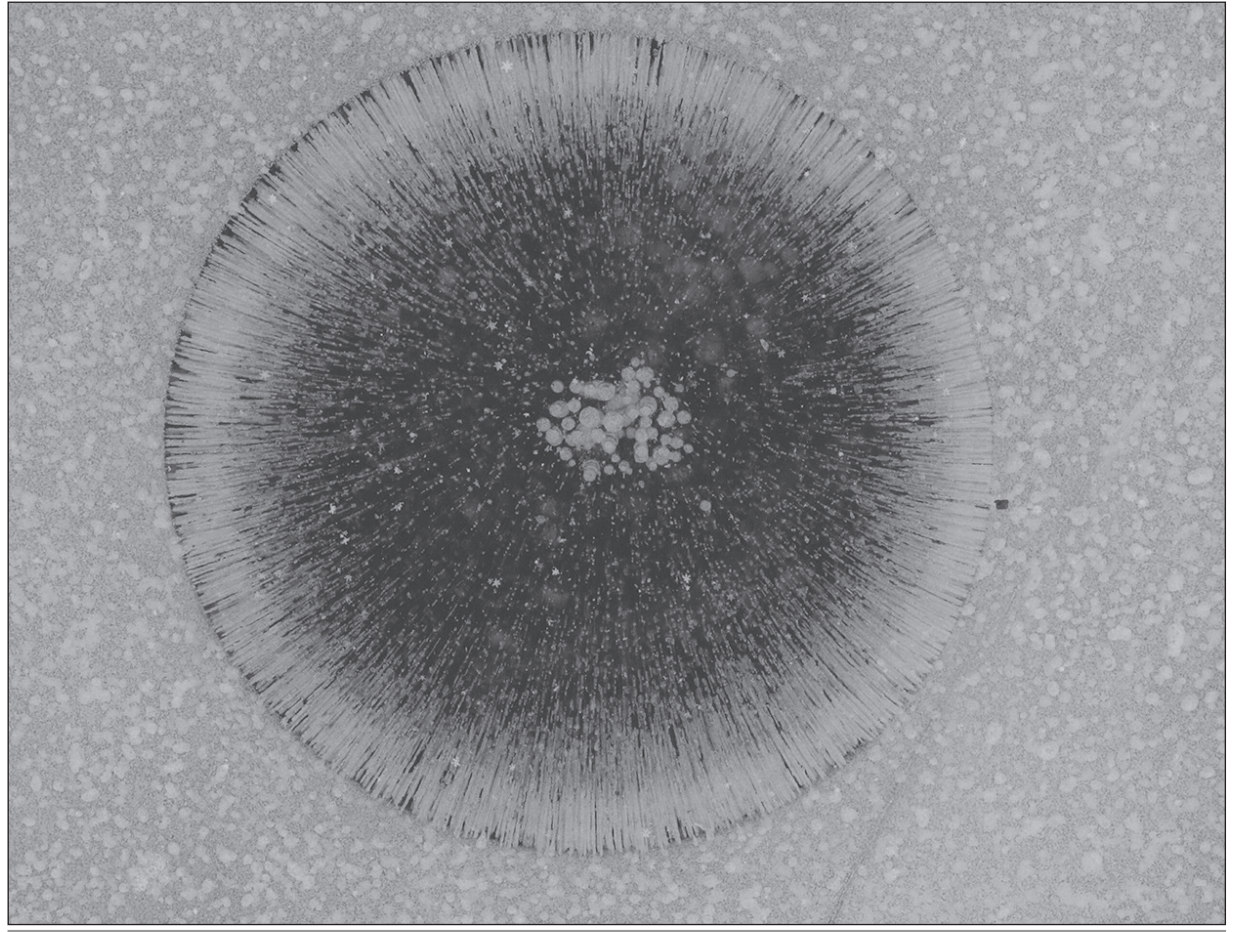
In a new show at the Bennington Museum, these crystals are echoing in translucent glazes, quartz and silver, abstraction and calligraphy.

In this uncertain holiday season, many creative places are turning attention to snow and winter and the night sky, whether in the new "Museum of the Moon" installation at the Berkshire Museum or at Naumkeag's outdoor "Winterlights" holiday show. The Mount brings fire and music into its winter gardens in "NightWood," and Hancock Shaker Village offers evening walks around the round stone barn, where cows and sheep are settling in for the night.

At the Bennington Museum, snowflakes are translated into contemporary art in "Transient Beauty," which runs through Dec. 31.

The show draws its inspiration from a Vermont artist who became known across the world. On a farm about a hundred miles north of here in 1885, Wilson Bentley became the first person to successfully photograph a single snowflake, close enough to see the patterns the ice crystals form. He showed the light crystal structure against a dark background in more detail anyone had seen before.

It wasn't easy, focusing in closely enough and



Courtesy of Bennington Museum

Erik Hoffner's "Ice Fishing 12" is one of a series of photographs he's taken of ice-fishing holes that have frozen over. Some of these photos are included in the new group show "Transient Beauty" at the Bennington Museum.

taking the photo before it melted. The process took Bentley years to develop. He wrote that his mother gave him the tools and the fascination. She had been a teacher, and she had a small microscope that she had used in her classroom before he was born.

"I was absorbed in studying things under this microscope: drops of water, tiny fragments of stone, a feather dropped from a bird's wing, a delicately veined petal from some flower," he

wrote. "But always, from the very beginning, it was snowflakes that fascinated me most. The farm folks up in this north country dread the winter, but I was supremely happy, from the day of the first snowfall, which usually came in November, until the last one, which sometimes came as late as May."

Bentley would capture many snowflakes — so many that he is credited with demonstrating that no two of them are the same. In his lifetime, he took more than 5,000 images in gelatin silver prints. He called them photomicrographs. And if every snowflake is really unique, he made images of crystalline forms that no one else will ever see again.

Curator Jamie Franklin acquired one for the Bennington Museum. He said he has known Bentley's work for years, and it felt like a natural focus for a winter show.

#### Holiday fund-raiser

Each holiday season, Franklin chooses a work in the collection or from the region and handpicks regional artists in the community whose work connects for him, and the show becomes an auction to benefit the artists and



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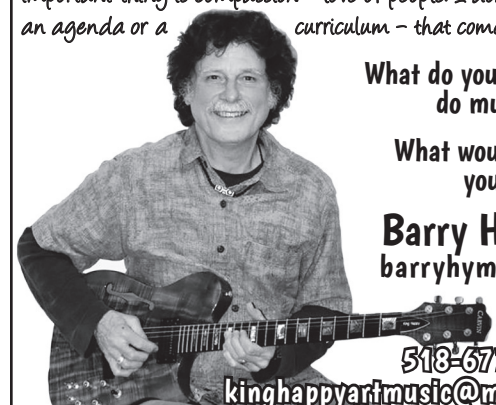
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the museum both.

“We take an idea or a theme or an artist and dig deep,” he explained. “And Bentley’s work has so many facets, no pun intended.”

The artists this year have responded in reflections, geometry and early forms of photography.

Leslie Parke brings studies of water on glass, stippled and translucent and abstract.

Erik Hoffner’s photographs of intricate patterns in ice transform the holes ice fishers bore in local ponds. Frozen in again, they gleam like an astral body in a night sky, or cells, or eyes.

Light script flows against a shifting ice blue, as Daisy Rockwell draws from Robert Frost, translated into Urdu. And facing her lines, in gold, clear lines of Arabic script read “Bennington Vermont,” surrounded by geometric patterns, rivers and cedar trees.

Ahmad Yassir is an artist and teacher in North Bennington and manager of initiatives, programs and partnerships at the Sage Street Mill. In his work here, the Bennington College alumnus is drawing connections between his hometown in North Bennington and his home country.

They are both landscapes of conifers and mountains and rivers, he said. Lebanon is a green country on the Mediterranean, rising quickly from the sea to the highlands.

“It’s the only Middle Eastern country that is not a desert,” he said. “You can go for a swim, and in half an hour you can be on a mountain and snowboarding.”

He finds connections too between snowflakes and the art of the Middle East — in their symmetry and patterns. Middle Eastern art often calls for minute perfection in form, like the fine control in a line of script or the sculpted geometry of the vaulted ceilings of the Alhambra, or the starred mosaic tilework on the walls and floors, or woven Persian rugs.

Yassir said he wants to recognize the labor in that kind of clear repetition, and the care and time it takes. In the West, scholars have often dismissed Islamic art as “decorative.” He wants to show the skill and beauty in it.

And at the same time, he wants to make it his own. He calls these two works “Local



Courtesy of Bennington Museum

Leslie Parke’s oil painting “Melting Frost” is one of a series of explorations of the frost on her studio window.

Abrash.” In Arabic, abrash means the unique irregularities that come from making something by hand.

**Tradition and innovation**

These are not traditional calligraphy, though Yassir has practiced traditional forms for many years. As a teenager he took part in national competitions, he said, and he found he was not winning because he was more intrigued by making his own forms.

As an aspiring artist at home, he grew up sketching, and he found that people around him seemed to hesitate to take art seriously. Because Islamic art is built on such a long tradition, they felt it was too old or too hard, he explained.

Coming to Bennington College and working with professors who encouraged him, he has developed his own art practices, and he wants to encourage this kind of contemporary innovation for his students here and for his contemporaries across the Arab world.

He also wants to revive practices that have centuries of tradition and are fading.

“Glassblowing is a dying practice, and the same for woodworking and everything that is considered an Islamic art,” he said. “They’re dying because they are so traditional.

“I find that similarity between Islamic and Quaker art: We have that idea that we’re not creators, and so we can’t draw portraits, and the solution is to draw paradise or natural elements. My process is trying to figure out how to do Islamic art with the fewest constraints. I want people to question and change their minds, to become more open-minded toward the idea of art making.”

This show has motivated him to come back to calligraphy again, Yassir said, and now he imagines continuing the work in new ways, playing with abstraction, color, language.

**New view of a Frost poem**

Rockwell said she too has found this show opening her to new approaches. On the wall facing Yassir’s work, her Urdu script fans out against a background washed in deep dusky blue. The words in English would be familiar from Robert Frost’s “Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening” — lines he wrote just up the road in Shaftsbury.

Rockwell said she began by looking for a ghazal, an Arabic form of poetry, about snow. She is a painter in North Bennington and a translator of Hindi and Urdu literature into English. She hoped to translate a poem with images that would speak to Bentley’s work.

She went searching with her friend and co-translator, Aftab Ahmad, a professor in Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies at Columbia University, and they could not find a single verse about snow. They could find only one word for snow or ice, a word usually used to suggest the coldness of a lover.

So they turned to Frost, she said, and she found the reversal illuminating.

When they work together, Rockwell said, she often asks Ahmad what a word means in Urdu. Now he would ask her for nuances in English. He would ask her about a phrase like “without a farmhouse near” and she would try to encompass all a reader in Vermont would feel and understand when they thought about a farmhouse on a winter day in 1922. She would try to explain warmth and shelter, loneliness and changing ways of living.

Ahmad came to understand that a farmhouse meant more than a building, she said, and he chose a word with an inflection of home.

Rockwell said she found it fascinating to take something so familiar and pull it apart — and see it through the lens of a new language. The poem came alive for her again, complex in a way it had not felt in years, as she and





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Ahmad talked about how to find a word for woods, or for a single flake of snow, and how to understand the relationships between the people and the land.

Whose woods these are I think I know ...

**Light, water and a lens**

Ice can reflect in more than one direction. In "Transient Beauty," Joanna Gaber has evolved 25 distinct images from a single photograph of light on water.

Gaber calls her process macrophotography, and like Bentley she said she has become absorbed in photographing "the inner and intimate dimensions of flowers, hidden from the naked eye, found only through the lens of the camera."

But where Bentley recorded microscopic details with precision, Gaber transfigures hers into kaleidoscopic abstractions. Keeping the color and shifting light of the original image, she forms her own fractal patterns and mandalas.

Gaber described her creative process as "first the water, then my eye, then the digital camera and my imagination."

These images are new, made for this show, and she said she thinks of them as mapping invisible patterns of energy, fluid as subatomic particles, moving between microscopic worlds and galaxies.

As a painter and photographer, Gaber also has followed other callings. She was an assistant

professor of philosophy and sociology in her native Poland; more recently she was night librarian at Williams College.

These images feel meditative to her, she said, like a portal, and while these are each about a foot square, she has some large enough to walk into.

"I'm opening something," she said.

**Visions forged in ice**

Across from Gaber's images, stars and cells revolve in Hoffner's photographs too. He has also been studying ice crystals for years, two decades and more.

Hoffner said he and his wife love to skate outdoors on local ponds. They moved to western Massachusetts from the Southwest, and in their first year, they rented a house on a lake. They had a cold winter and a dry December, and they would put their skates on every day and explore for hours.

And he began to pay attention to the sites used by people who'd go ice fishing on the lake. They would drill into the ice, leaving an open round hole, and then they would leave, and the opening would freeze again overnight. Hoffner saw these places as dark circles in the ice - ringed with filaments of crystal, like the iris of an eye.

"I would see them the next morning, and it would blow my mind," he said.

He would come back to them and watch them change over time, as cracks crossed them

and rain pitted them and snow blew into the indentations.

Hoffner said he admires Bentley, and he enjoys being part of this gathering responding to a Vermont artist.

"One of the most resilient things about our lives is community," he said.

Yassir also feels that sense of community from the exhibit.

"I'm not from here, but I've been here long enough to be appreciated as a local," he said. "Any person who comes to a new place has a lot to bring, their uniqueness. ... As someone living here, studying, building relationships, the more I see connections. And people are becoming open to it."

He said he finds the people around him accepting, and he values that warmth. As someone who has studied and taught internationally, Yassir has found a sense of acceptance again here. He often walks around North Bennington, and people will stop and talk with him.

"If there's anything I miss at home, it's walking down the street and saying hi to people," he said.

He remembers the casual friendliness of a neighborhood, knowing the people who live and work around you, and picking up a conversation at the corner store or the coffee shop ... or at the local museum, with another artist who has traveled the world and come home.

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# Arts & Culture

## AREA EXHIBITIONS

SOME VENUES ARE CLOSED AND/OR HAVE RESTRICTIONS. CHECK ONLINE BEFORE YOU GO

**ArtOmi.org** • 518-392-4747 • Sculpture & Architecture Park • outdoor, self-guided tour, at website  
• through Jan. 2: Jeffrey Gibson: "To Feel Myself Beloved on the Earth" (quilts, garments, drums, prints, & video)

**ArtistBkFoundation.org** • 1327 MASS MoCA Way, Bldg. 13, 2nd Floor, North Adams, MA  
• through Mar. 31: Don Gummer: Wall Reliefs, Drawings, and Sculpture

**Arts Center Gallery at Saratoga Arts** • 518-584-4132 • www.saratoga-arts.org  
• through Jan. 8: Annual Members' Show

**BenningtonMuseum.org** • 75 Main St., Bennington, VT • 802-447-1571  
• through Dec. 10: Silent Auction, in person and online  
• through Dec. 31: "Transient Beauty: Responding to "Snowflake" Bentley"  
• through Dec. 31: "Askwa n'daoldibna iodali: We Are Still Here" • "Love, Marriage, & Divorce"  
• "boundless: new paintings and mixed media works by Dusty Boynton"

**BerkshireMuseum.org** • 39 South St., Pittsfield, MA  
• through Jan. 9: "The Land of the Thunder Dragon: Bhutan Through the Lens of Mead Eagle Photography" • "Objects and Their Stories" • "Muh-he-con-ne-ok: The People of the Waters That are Never Still" • "Museum of the Moon" • Berkshire Backyard • Rocks and Minerals Gallery

**TheBeyondGallery.com** • 437 Main St., Bennington, VT • 802-753-7502  
• Dec. 3-31: "Artist's Choice"

(Saratoga County Historical Society at)  
**BrooksideMuseum.org** • 6 Charlton St., Ballston Spa, NY  
• through Dec. 24: "A Century of Ice Cream! The Duke Family & Stewart's" • "The Country Store" • "Mystery Photographs"

**Cambridge Community Holiday Windows 2021** • www.facebook.com/holidaywindows12816 or @holidaywindows12816  
• through Jan. 15: Daily map at websites

**CarrieHaddadGallery.com** • 622 Warren St., Hudson, NY • 518-828-1915  
• through Jan. 16: A Changing Landscape

**ChaffeeArtCenter.org** • 16 S. Main St., Rutland, VT • 802-558-8845  
• through Jan. 7: Annual Member Exhibit & Holiday Shoppe with Gingerbread Contest

**ChapmanMuseum.org** • 348 Glens St., Glens Falls, NY • 518-793-2826  
• through Dec. 31: "Let's All Fight, WWII Home Front Posters Online Legacy Exhibit"  
• through Mar. 31: "From Nickelodeons to Drive-Ins"

**Christopher Pierce Studio** • 909 Co. Rte. 61, Shushan, NY • 518-854-3159 • Studio hours or by appt. • christopherpiercestudio.com • Masks if not vaxed  
• Dec. 4-11: "New Works with a Holiday Spirit"

**ClarkArt.edu** • 225 South St., Williamstown, MA • 413-458-2303 • Masks & vax proof REQ'D  
• through Dec. 31: Anne Thompson "Trail Signs"  
• through Jan 2: "Erin Shirreff: Reminders"  
• through Jan. 30: "Competing Currents: 20th-Century Japanese Prints"  
• Dec. 11-Mar. 6: "Hue & Cry: French Printmaking and the Debate Over Colors"

**CollarWorks.org** • 621 River St., Troy, NY • 518-285-0765  
• through Jan. 30: "Out of Office," curated by Angelik Vizcarrondo-Laboy  
• through Aug.: "Flat Files," curated by Kate Mothes (feat. small 2-D works by over 50 artists)  
• through Aug.: "Object Lounge," curated by Madison LaVallee & YiyiMendoza (feat. small-scale three-dimensional objects by 14 artists)

**Columbia County Historical Society** • Rural Properties (c. 1850 Ichabod Crane Schoolhouse & 1737 Luykas Van Alen House), 2589 NY-9H, Kinderhook, NY • Open dawn to dusk  
• Early Heritage: A Cultural Legacy in Columbia County, New York • Permanent outdoor exhibit  
• Dutch Farming Heritage Trail • 1.7 mi. footpath to Lindenwald

**Courthouse Gallery** • 1 Amherst St., Lake George, NY • 518-668-2616 • www.lakegeorgearts.org • Masks REQ'D  
• through Dec. 18: "Parallel Play," new work by Barbara Todd  
• Jan. 26-Feb. 26: Kinsley Parker

**ElizabethMooreFineArt.com** • 105 Warren St., Hudson, NY • 646-321-3419  
• Dec. 3-Jan. 16: Jon Cowan: "Radiant Void"

**CrandallLibrary.org/Folklife Center** • 251 Glen St., Glens Falls, NY • 518-792-6508  
2d Floor Atrium Gallery:  
• Dec. 6-29: North Country Arts Exhibit: Friends Gallery  
Folklife Gallery, Basement Level:  
• through Dec. 31: Crafts of Saga Japan: 33 Years of Gifting by Our Sister City

**HancockShakerVillage.org** • 413-443-0188 •  
• through Oct. 30: James Turrell & Nicholas Mosse: "Lapsed Quaker Ware"

**HartCluett.org** • 57 2nd St., Troy, NY • 518-272-7232  
• through Dec. 18: "Rensselaer County's Black History" and "The Way We Work(ed)"  
• Permanent Collection: "By Water & By Land;" "South End Tavern;" "Uncle Sam;" & "Stoves of Troy"

**HudsonHall.org** • 327 Warren Street, Hudson, NY • 518-822-1438  
• through Dec. 5: "On Lightness" (Judah Catalan & Diane Townsend) • "Off the Wall" (Jean Feinberg, Margaret Saliske, & Pamela J. Wallace)

**HydeCollection.org** • Adv. REG., Masks & Distance REQ'D • 518-792-1761  
• through Jan. 2: "Reflecting on 2020: New Sculpture by John Van Alstine" and "Summer Bomb Pop: Collections in Dialogue" (part of "All Together Now" collab. with the Tang)  
• through Apr. 24: Robert Blackburn & Modern American Printmaking  
• through May 1: Georgia O'Keeffe: Pattern of Leaves

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

**TheLafferGallery.com** • 96 Broad St., Schuylerville, NY • 518-695-3181  
• Dec. 4-Jan. 9: 10th Annual "Upstate Artists" Juried Group Show

**LARAC.org** • 7 Lapham Pl., Glens Falls, NY • 518-798-1144 • In person or virtually  
• through Dec. 24: LARAC Holiday Shop

**MASSMoCA.org** • North Adams, MA  
• through 2021: Richard Nielsen's "This is Not a Gag"  
• through May: Wendy Red Star's "Apsaalooke: Children of the Large-Beaked Bird"  
• through May 2023: Yto Barrada: "Ways to Baffle the Wind"

**MuseumOfTheCreativeProcess.com** • 257 Wilburton Dr., Manchester Village, VT • 802-368-1278 • Guided tours Sat. & Sun. • Five permanent exhibits introducing the creative process as a scientific conflict-resolution mechanism

**Norman Rockwell Museum** • 9 Glendale Rd, Stockbridge, MA • nrm.org • 413-298-4100 • Masks REQ'D indoors  
• through Mar. 6: Jan Brett: Stories Near and Far

**NorthCountryArts.org**  
--The Shirt Factory • Suite 120, 71 Lawrence St., Glens Falls, NY  
• through Jan. 8: "Celebration"  
--The 2nd Floor Gallery • City Hall, 42 Ridge St., Glens Falls, NY  
• through Jan. 8: City Hall Exhibit

**PamelaSalisburyGallery.com** • 362 ½ Warren St., Hudson, NY  
• through Dec. 12: "Exactly: precision and process"  
• Dec. 18-Jan. 24: ALL small  
• opening Dec. 18: Lothar Osterburg



























**The Sembrich** • 4800 Lake Shore Dr., Bolton Landing, NY • 518-605-8965 • thesembrich.org  
• Online: "The Hawaiian Nightingale: Studies with Mme. Sembrich, Exploring the Life and Career of Hawaiian Soprano Ululani McQuaid Robertson"  
• On-going: "On the Wings of Song" • The Thatcher Photos (Online)

continued on page 26

# Arts & Culture

## THE CALENDAR DECEMBER 2021

Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs


<p><b>5</b></p> <p> <b>MyStrandTheatre.org</b> • Ray Alexander Jazz Piano Trio • 3-4:30 pm • 518-832-3484</p> <p> See Theater Listings</p> <p>• <b>Bridge St. Theatre</b> • <b>Ft. Salem</b> • <b>Ghent</b> • <b>Jacob's Pillow</b> • <b>Skidmore</b></p> <p><b>GildedAge.org</b> • "A Christmas Carol" w/Gerald Charles Dickens • 3 pm • Masks, vax, ID &amp; res. REQ'D at 413-637-3206</p> <p> <b>ImagesCinema.org</b> • "Belfast" • 5 &amp; 7:30 pm (closes Dec. 9) • Vax REQ'D</p> <p> <b>FriendsOfClermont.org</b> • The Chancellor's War • 2 pm • Pre-reg. REQ'D 518-537-6622 • Germantown, NY</p> <p><b>ClarkArt.edu/events</b> • "Anne Thompson: Trail Signs" outdoor walking tour • 2:30 pm • meet at Fernandez Terrace • Adv. reg. REQ'D • 413-458-2303</p>	<p><b>misc.</b></p> <p><b>33rd Christmas in Warrensburgh</b> • Events schedule at Facebook.com/WBeautification</p> <p><b>RutlandCountyAudubon.org</b> • Birdseed Sale • 10 am-3 pm • Garlands Farm &amp; Garden, 70 Park St., Rutland, VT • Feed &amp; protect birds: birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org</p> <p><b>BerkshireBotanical.org</b> • Holiday Marketplace • 10 am-4 pm</p> <p><b>ClarkArt.edu</b> • 1st Sundays Free • 10 am-5 pm • Adv. reg. rec • 413-458-2303</p> <p><b>LARAC</b> • Holiday Festival • 10 am-5 pm • Queensbury Hotel, Downtown Glens Falls</p> <p><b>Kinderhook Ref. Ch. Cem.</b> • Outside observance of Martin Van Buren's birth • 11 am • 518-758-9689 • nps.gov.mava</p> <p><b>Glens Falls City Park</b> • Adirondack Christkindlmarkt • 11 am-4 pm</p> <p><b>Cambridge Valley Fine Art Tour</b> • 11 am-4 pm • Details &amp; map at CambridgeValleyArt.org</p>	<p><b>BrooksideMuseum.org</b> • 21st Artisan Market (Thu.-Sun., through Dec. 24) • 11 am-5 pm • Ballston Spa, NY</p> <p><b>Copake Falls</b> • Winter Walk in the Wilderness • 12-4 pm • Multiple events</p> <p><b>Troy Garden Club &amp; Hart-Cluett Mansion</b> • 65th Green Show • 12-5 pm • Under 16 free • 57 Second St., Troy, NY • hartcluett.org</p> <p><b>HancockShakerVillage.org</b> • Holiday Nights • 5-8 pm</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p> <b>CaffeLena.org</b> • Open Mic • 7-10 pm • Vax REQ'D</p> <p><b>MyStrandTheatre.org</b> • Lobby Concert: Jason Irwin • 7pm • Free • 518-832-3484</p> <p> <b>ImagesCinema.org</b> • See Dec. 5</p> <p><b>misc.</b></p> <p><b>Hebron United Presb. Church</b> • Blue Christmas Gathering • 7 pm • 3153 Co. Rte. 30, West Hebron, NY • 518-854-3729</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p> <b>BEMF.org</b> • Baroque Christmas masterpieces • Free, Streaming at IDAG.IO/BEMF_BaroqueChristmas (through Mar. 7, 2022)</p> <p><b>MyStrandTheatre.org</b> • Beledo &amp; His Friends • 7-9 pm • 210 Main St., Hudson Falls, NY • 518-832-3484</p> <p> <b>ImagesCinema.org</b> • See Dec. 5</p> <p> <b>Northshire.com</b> @ home • Bookseller Office Hours • 11 am-1 pm • Carla Gambescia ("La Dolce Vita University") • 6 pm</p> <p><b>CaffeLena.org</b> • Art of Community: Saratoga's Impact Sector Speaks • 4-5 pm • Vax proof REQ'D • Livestream 4-4:30 pm</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p> <b>CaffeLena.org</b> • Jazz: Chuck Lamb &amp; Peter Mack Album release • 7-9 pm • Vax proof REQ'D • Livestream 7-8:30 pm</p> <p> <b>ImagesCinema.org</b> • "Fargo" • 7:30 pm, and see Dec. 5 • Vax proof REQ'D</p> <p> <b>Northshire.com</b> @home • Bookseller Office Hours • 1-3 pm</p> <p><b>misc.</b></p> <p><b>Crandall Public Library</b> • Blood Drive • 10 am-4 pm • 251 Glen St., Glens Falls, NY</p> <p><b>ScovilleLibrary.org</b> • Outdoor Family Storytime (Rain moves us inside) • 10:45 am • 860-435-2838</p> <p><b>Saratoga-Arts.org</b> • Holiday Soap Sculpting • 6-8 pm • Reg. REQ'D</p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p> <b>MyStrandTheatre.org</b> • The Strand Community Orchestra • TBA • 518-832-3484</p> <p><b>BerkshireMuseum.org</b> • Holiday Favorites w/Berkshire Concert Choir • 3-3:30 pm</p> <p><b>CEWM.org</b> • Roaring '20s—Berlin, Paris, New York • 4-5:45 pm • Mahaiwe PAC • Tix: 413-528-0100</p> <p><b>CaffeLena.org</b> • Kimberly Hawkey's "A New Noel" • 7-9 pm • Vax REQ'D • Livestream 7-8:30 pm</p> <p> <b>BPACVt.org</b> • Intro to Step Drop-In Workshops • 11 am-12 pm and 1-2 pm • Free • 331 Main St., Bennington, VT • Masks &amp; vax REQ'D</p> <p><b>AOMTheatre.com</b> • See Dec. 10 • 1 pm</p> <p><b>UniversalPreservation-Hall.org</b> • Nacre Dance Group's Charles Weidman's "Christmas Oratorio" • 1 &amp; 4</p>	<p>pm • Masks &amp; vax REQ'D • Saratoga Springs, NY</p> <p> See Theater Listings</p> <p>• <b>Ft. Salem</b> • <b>Ghent</b></p> <p> <b>ImagesCinema.org</b> • See Dec. 10</p> <p> <b>Bennington Hist. Soc.</b> • Wilson "Snowflake" Bentley • 2-3 pm • BenningtonMuseum.org</p> <p><b>SaratogaJewishCulturalFestival.org</b> • "Kippur" virtual film discussion • 7 pm • Pre-watch film • Pre-reg. REQ'D: sjca.sjcf@gmail.com</p> <p><b>JewishBerkshires.org</b> • "A Different Concept of God," w/Prof. Michel Paul Richard • 10:45 am • 413-442-4360, ext. 10 • Pittsfield, MA • Adv. res. req'd for noon lunch</p>	<p><b>misc.</b></p> <p><b>BrooksideMuseum.org</b> • See Dec. 5</p> <p><b>DeweyHall.org</b> • Cake Raffle &amp; Bake Sale • 1-4:30 pm • Tix. REQ'D</p> <p><b>HancockShakerVillage.org</b> • See Dec. 5</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p> <b>MyStrandTheatre.org</b> • Lobby Concert: The Newells • 7 pm • 518-832-3484</p> <p><b>CaffeLena.org</b> • Open Mic • 7-10 pm • Vax REQ'D</p> <p> <b>ImagesCinema.org</b> • See Dec. 10</p> <p> <b>ClaverackLibrary.org</b> • FDR &amp; Pearl Harbor • 6-7 pm</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p> <b>MyStrandTheatre.org</b> • Barbara Kolarova &amp; Jonathan Newell • 7:30 pm • 518-832-3484</p> <p> <b>ImagesCinema.org</b> • See Dec. 10</p> <p> <b>Northshire.com</b> at home • Bookseller Bookchat • 6 pm</p> <p><b>BrooksideMuseum.org</b> • "Jane McCrea: A Revolutionary Martyr and an Early American Family Story" • 7 pm via Zoom • 518-885-4000</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p> <b>CaffeLena.org</b> • Blue Grass Jam w/Red Spruce • 7-9 pm • Vax REQ'D</p> <p> <b>ImagesCinema.org</b> • See Dec. 10</p> <p> <b>ClaverackLibrary.org</b> • Nature &amp; American Art • 6-7 pm</p> <p><b>ClarkArt.edu/events</b> • Matthew Aucoin: "Updating Eurydice: An Adventure in Opera" • 7 pm • Free, Adv. reg. REQ'D</p> <p><b>misc.</b></p> <p><b>ScovilleLibrary.org</b> • Outdoor Family Storytime • See Dec. 8</p> <p><b>HubbardHall.org</b> • Breaking Bread on Zoom • 6-8 pm • Reg. REQ'D</p> <p><b>Saratoga-Arts.org</b> • Holiday Clay Creations • 6-9 pm • Reg. REQ'D</p>


# Arts & Culture

## THE CALENDAR DECEMBER 2021


Th(cont'd) Fri Sat


**9**

 **CaffeLena.org** • Jim Snidero • 7-9 pm • Vax REQ'D • Livestream 7-8:30 pm

 See Theater Listings

• **Bridge St. Theatre**

 **ImagesCinema.org** • See Dec. 5 (last showing)

 **Northshire.com**  
--Saratoga • Signing w/ Lâle Davidson ("Strange Appetites & Blue Woman Burning") • 5:30-6:30 pm  
--home • "Hearts of the Mountain") • 6 pm

misc.

**BrooksideMuseum.org**  
• See Dec. 5 • 12-5 pm

**CrandallLibrary.org** • Winter Family Photo Time, w/pro photog. Emma Rogan • 4:30-6 pm • Sign-up REQ'D for 10-min. time slot

**HancockShakerVillage.org** • Holiday Nights • 5-8 pm

**Olana.org** • "Journey of F. E. Church through New Granada" Webinar • 5:30-6:30 pm • Reg. REQ'D

**LakeGeorgeArts.org**  
• Holiday Party & Annual Meeting • 5:30-8:30 pm • RSVP 518-668-2616

**SVAC.org** • Virtual Paint & Sip w/Anharad Llewelyn • 6-9 pm • Reg. REQ'D

**16**

 **CaffeLena.org** • Koehler & Kelly • 7-9 pm • Vax REQ'D • Livestream 7-8:30 pm

**UniversalPreservationHall.org** • Storm Large: Holiday Ordeal • 8 pm • Masks & vax REQ'D • Saratoga Springs, NY

 **ImagesCinema.org** • See Dec. 10 (last showing)

misc.

**BrooksideMuseum.org**  
• See Dec. 9

**BenningtonMuseum.org** • Museum ABCs: "Snowflake" Bentley • 1:30-2:30 pm

**HancockShakerVillage.org** • Holiday Nights • 5-8 pm

**10**

 **CaffeLena.org** • Dirty Grass Players w/Kendall Street Co. • 8-10 pm • Vax REQ'D

 **AOMTheatre.com** • Pioneer Valley Ballet's Nutcracker • 7 pm • REQ'D: masks, vax or 72-hr neg. PCR test • Northampton, MA

**MyStrandTheatre.org** • Chevalier Ballet Meets British Invasion Music w/Across the Pond • 7:30 pm • 210 Main St., Hudson Falls, NY • 518-832-3484

 See Theater Listings

• **Apple Tree Inn**  
• **Ft. Salem**  
• **Ghent**

misc.

**BrooksideMuseum.org**  
• See Dec. 5 • 11 am-6 pm

**HancockShakerVillage.org** • Hancock Holiday Nights • 5-8 pm • 1843 West Housatonic Street, Pittsfield, MA


**BenningtonMuseum.org** • The Gala: Transient Beauty • 6-9 pm • Vax REQ'D

**17**

misc.


**BrooksideMuseum.org**  
• See Dec. 10


**HancockShakerVillage.org** • Holiday Nights • 5-8 pm

 **Fox Hollow Music & Art Café** • The Ginger Roots • Doors, 6:30 pm • 71 Main St., Petersburg, NY • foxhollowcafe@gmail.com


**CaffeLena.org** • Sirsy • 8-10 pm • Vax REQ'D

**Kaatsbaan.org** • Superwolves • 8 pm • Masks & vax REQ'D

 **MyStrandTheatre.org**  
• New York Dance Project: Twas the Night Before Christmas • 7 pm • 518-832-3484

 See Theater Listings

• **Apple Tree Inn**

 **ImagesCinema.org** • "Nightmare Alley" • 4:15 pm & 7:30 pm • Vax REQ'D

**11**

 **CaffeLena.org**  
--School of Music Family Jam: Songs of the Season • 11 am-12 pm  
--Street Corner Symphony Christmas Tour • 8-10 pm • Vax REQ'D • Livestream 8-9:30 pm

**Lake George Festival of Lights** • Family-friendly live entertainment • 12-4 pm • Shepard Park, Lake George, NY

**BerkshireMusicSchool.org** • Wintergreen folk trio • 3 pm • Res. adv. seats \$5 • Pittsfield, MA • 413-442-1411

**MyStrandTheatre.org** • The Bluebellies Old-Time Christmas Revue • 7 pm

 **MyStrandTheatre.org**  
• Chevalier Ballet Classical • 1 pm

**AOMTheatre.com** • See Dec. 10 • 1 & 4 pm

**BenningtonMuseum.org** • Soul Steps at BPAC • 7:30-9 pm • 331 Main St., Bennington, VT • 802-447-0564 • bpacvt.org/tickets • 331 Main St., Bennington, VT • Masks & vax proof REQ'D

 See Theater Listings

• **Bridge St. Theatre**  
• **Ft. Salem**  
• **Ghent**

 **ImagesCinema.org** • See Dec. 10

 **Clark.edu/events** • "Hue & Cry: French Printmaking and the Debate over Colors" • 2 pm • Live & virtually • Reg. REQ'D for virtual viewing

misc.

**HolidayShindy.com 2021** • Local artists, crafters • 10 am-5 pm • 74 1st Street, Pittsfield, MA

**BrooksideMuseum.org** • See Dec. 5 • 11 am-5 pm

**Saratoga-Arts.org**  
--Monotype Printmaking Workshop • 12-3 pm • \$51/\$61 • Pre-reg. REQ'D  
--Pop-Up Holiday Market • 12-4 • 320 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY

**FriendsOfClermont.org**  
• Winter Wonderland Story Hour • 2 pm • Masks recommended • Pre-reg. REQ'D

**HancockShakerVillage.org** • Holiday Nights • 5-8 pm

**Copake, NY** • Holiday Light Parade • 5:30 pm • Copake Fire House to Copake Park

**18**

 **Lake George Festival of Lights** • See Dec. 11

**BPACVt.org** • Youth Theater's "Jingle Jangle Jubilee!" variety show premiere • 1 & 4 pm • Free under 10 • 802-447-0564

**BenningtonMuseum.org** • Music at the Museum: The Fretless • 2-3:30 pm

**CaffeLena.org** • Holiday Folk Show • 4-6 pm & 8-10 pm • Vax proof REQ'D • Livestreams 3-4:30 & 8-9:30 pm

**ClaberackLibrary.org** • Jeff Snow: Celtic Concert • 6 pm

**TheFoundryWS.com** • Svetlana • 7:30 pm • Masks & vax proof REQ'D • W. Stockbridge, MA

**Kaatsbaan.org** • Superwolves • 8 pm • Masks & vax proof REQ'D

**MyStrandTheatre.org** • Ernie LaRouche Band • 8 pm • 210 Main St., Hudson Falls, NY • 518-832-3484

**UniversalPreservationHall.org** • "It's a Jazzy Christmas" Virtually • 8 pm premiere • Viewing links at site

 **MyStrandTheatre.org** • See Dec. 17 • 1 pm

 **BerkshireMuseum.org** • Little Cinema Sci-Fi Series: "Pacific Rim" • 2-4:15 pm

**ImagesCinema.org** • See Dec. 17

misc.

**Cornell.edu** • Holistic Wellness: Make natural Body Products • 10 am • Live & zoom • Reg. for zoom & supplies link

**BenningtonMuseum.org** • Museum ABCs: "Snowflake" Bentley • 10:30-11:30 am

**BrooksideMuseum.org** • See Dec. 11

**Lake George Festival of Lights** • Holiday Artisan Market • 11 am-5 pm • Ft. Wm. Henry Resort Carriage House & Conf. Ctr.

**Saratoga-Arts.org** • Pop-Up Holiday Market • 12-5 pm • 320 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY

**Olana.org** • OLANA Winter Solstice Celebration • 1-5 pm • Reg. REQ'D










**HancockShakerVillage.org** • Holiday Nights • 5-8 pm

# Arts & Culture

## THE CALENDAR DEC - JAN 2021 - 22

Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs

<p><b>19</b></p> <p> <b>CaffeLena.org</b> • "The Singing Anchors" Holiday Show • 3-4:30 pm • Vax REQ'D • Livestream 3-4:30 pm --The Fretless • 7-9 pm • Livestream 7-8:30 pm</p> <p><b>GildedAge.org</b> • Holiday Cabaret "Swingin' in the Season" • 3:30 pm • Res. REQ'D: 413-637-3206 • Vax, ID, &amp; masks REQ'D</p> <p><b>Saratoga Chamber Players</b> • Winter Musical Interlude • 3-5 pm • Sara. Spr. United Meth. Church • <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/winter-musical-interlude-tickets-167626901575">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/winter-musical-interlude-tickets-167626901575</a></p> <p><b>StoneValleyArts.org</b> • Poultney Music Jam • 4-6 pm • Info at <a href="mailto:ben-nett_lovett_graff@hotmail.com">ben-nett_lovett_graff@hotmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Kaatsbaan.org</b> • Superwolves • 8 pm • Masks &amp; vax REQ'D</p> <p> <b>ClavarackLibrary.org</b> • "In Cold Blood" • 2 pm (followed by book discussion of "In Cold Blood," by Truman Capote)</p> <p><b>MyStrandTheatre.org</b> • "It's a Wonderful Life" • 6 pm • 210 Main St., Hudson Falls, NY • 518-832-3484</p> <p><b>ImagesCinema.org</b> • See Dec. 17</p> <p><input type="text" value="misc."/></p> <p><b>BrooksideMuseum.org</b> • See Dec. 5</p>	<p><b>Lake George Festival of Lights</b> • See Dec. 18</p> <p><b>HancockShakerVillage.org</b> • Holiday Nights • 5-8 pm</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p> <b>CaffeLena.org</b> • Open Mic • 7-10 pm • Vax REQ'D</p> <p> <b>ImagesCinema.org</b> • See Dec. 17</p> <p><input type="text" value="misc."/></p> <p><b>CrandallLibrary.org</b> • New Year's Eve in a Bag • Ages 3+ • At Children's Desk • Reg. online REQ'D</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p> <b>CaffeLena.org</b> • Rochmon Record Club: Charlie Watts - "The Rock of the Rolling Stones" • 7-9 pm • Vax REQ'D • Livestream 7-8:30 pm</p> <p><b>St. Ann Ch. Music Ensembles</b> • Winter Solstice Concert • 6:30 pm • Lenox, MA • 413-637-0157 • Livestream <a href="http://www.avptriparish.org">www.avptriparish.org</a></p> <p> <b>ImagesCinema.org</b> • See Dec. 17</p> <p><input type="text" value="misc."/></p> <p><b>Olana.org</b> • "Deck the Halls: Female Abolitionist Societies &amp; the Evolution of Christmas" Webinar • 6-7 pm • Reg. REQ'D</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p> <b>CaffeLena.org</b> • Acoustic Blues Open Mic &amp; Jam • 7-9 pm • Vax REQ'D</p> <p> <b>ImagesCinema.org</b> • See Dec. 17</p> <p><input type="text" value="misc."/></p> <p><b>ScovilleLibrary.org</b> • Outdoor Family Storytime • See Dec. 8</p>
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<p><b>26</b></p> <p> <b>CaffeLena.org</b> • Racquette River Rounders Boxing Day Show • 7-9 pm • Vax REQ'D • Livestream 7-8:30 pm</p>	<p> <b>ClarkArt.edu</b> • The Met Live in HD: "The Magic Flute" • 12:55 pm • Box office: 413-458-0524</p>	<p> <b>ImagesCinema.org</b> • See Dec. 17</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p> <b>ImagesCinema.org</b> • See Dec. 17</p> <p><input type="text" value="misc."/></p> <p><b>HancockShakerVillage.org</b> • Holiday Nights • 5-8 pm</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p> See Theater Listings</p> <p>• <b>Ghent Playhouse</b></p> <p> <b>ImagesCinema.org</b> • See Dec. 17</p> <p><input type="text" value="misc."/></p> <p><b>HancockShakerVillage.org</b> • Holiday Nights • 5-8 pm</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p> <b>CaffeLena.org</b> • Amy Helm: Night One • 7-9 pm • Vax REQ'D • Livestream 7-8:30 pm</p> <p> See Theater Listings</p> <p>• <b>Ghent Playhouse</b></p> <p> <b>ImagesCinema.org</b> • See Dec. 17</p> <p><input type="text" value="misc."/></p> <p><b>ScovilleLibrary.org</b> • Outdoor Family Storytime • See Dec. 8</p> <p><b>HancockShakerVillage.org</b> • Holiday Nights • 5-8 pm</p> <p><b>ClavarackLibrary.org</b> • Family Kwanzaa Celebr. • 5:30 • Reg. encouraged: <a href="mailto:info@clavaracklibrary.org">info@clavaracklibrary.org</a> or 518-851-7120</p>
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### January 2022

<p><b>1 Sat</b></p> <p> <b>BerkshireBach.org</b> • Bach at New Year's Live! The "Brandenburg" Concerti • 3 pm • Troy Savings Bank Music Hall • 518-273-0038</p>	<p><b>2 Sun</b></p> <p> <b>BerkshireBach.org</b> • Bach at New Year's Live! The "Brandenburg" Concerti • 3 pm • Academy of Music, Northampton, MA • 413-541-8888</p>	<p><b>CaffeLena.org</b> • Carolyn Shapiro Album Release • 7-9 pm • Vax proof REQ'D • Livestream 7-8:30 pm</p>	<p><b>BerkshireMuseum.org</b> • Moonlit Carole of the Bells • 3-3:45 pm</p>	<p><b>4 Tue</b></p> <p> <b>CaffeLena.org</b> • Art of Community: Saratoga's Impact Sector Speaks • 4-5 pm • Vax proof REQ'D • Livestream 4-4:30 pm</p>	<p><b>5 Wed</b></p> <p> <b>CaffeLena.org</b> • School of Music After-School Folk Ensembles • 3:30-5:30 pm</p>
<p><b>15 Sat</b></p> <p> <b>MyStrandTheatre.org</b> • Albert Lee Band • TBA • 210 Main St., Hudson Falls, NY • 518-832-3484</p>	<p><b>TheFoundryWS.com</b> • Muddy Ruckus • TBA • Masks &amp; vax proof REQ'D • W. Stockbridge, MA</p>	<p><input type="text" value="misc."/></p> <p><b>Cornell.edu</b> • Make Fire Cider &amp; Elderberry Syrup • 10 am • Live &amp; zoom • Reg. for zoom &amp; supplies link</p>	<p><b>16 Sun</b></p> <p> <b>ClavarackLibrary.org</b> • "Clueless" • 2 pm (followed by book discussion, "Emma" by Jane Austen)</p>	<p><b>19 Wed</b></p> <p> <b>ClavarackLibrary.org</b> • Notorious RBG: Life &amp; Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg • 6-7 pm</p>	<p><b>BenningtonMuseum.org</b> • Frauds, Fakes, &amp; the Real Deal in Early Amer. Samplers • 6:30-8 pm • Reg. &amp; tickets online</p>


# Arts & Culture

## THE CALENDAR DEC - JAN 2021 - 22

Th(cont'd) Fri

Sat

23

 **CaffeLena.org** • A Very Leonard Christmas w/Let's Be Leonard • 7-9 pm • Vax REQ'D

 **ImagesCinema.org** • See Dec. 17

misc.

**BrooksideMuseum.org** • See Dec. 9

24

 **ImagesCinema.org** • See Dec. 17


misc.


**BrooksideMuseum.org** • See Dec. 10

25

 **ImagesCinema.org** • See Dec. 17

30

 **CaffeLena.org** • Amy Helm: Night 2 • 7-9 pm • Vax REQ'D • Livestream 7-8:30 pm


 See Theater Listings

• Ghent Playhouse

**BerkshireMuseum.org** • Children's Theatre presents "The Jungle Book" • 11 am-12 pm & 1-2 pm

 **ImagesCinema.org** • See Dec. 17 (last showing)

31

 **BerkshireBach.org** • Bach at New Year's Live! The "Brandenburg" Concerti • 6 pm • Mahaiwe PAC • 413-528-0100

misc.


**BerkshireMuseum.org** • Magic by George • 11-11:45 am & 1-1:45 pm

**BenningtonMuseum.org** • Noon Years' Eve • Family-friendly year-end party


**FirstNightNorthampton.org** • First Night 2022 (headliner NRBO) • Sched. & health consid.: <https://www.firstnightnorthampton.org/health-and-safety-guidelines>


### January 2022

7 Fri


 **CaffeLena.org** • Mark & Jill • 8-10 pm • Vax proof REQ'D

8 Sat

 **CaffeLena.org** • Rees Shad & the Convo Combo • 8-10 pm • Vax proof REQ'D

 **ClarkArt.edu** • The Met Live in HD: "Cinderella" • 12:55 pm • Box office: 413-458-0524


10 Mon

 **ClaverackLibrary.org** • Books & Bridles: Story of the Horse Back Librarians • 6-7 pm


11 Tue

misc.  
**SandLakeHistory.org** • "Sand Lake Show & Tell II" (What's in your attic?) • 7 pm • 8428 NY 66, Sand Lake, NY • 518-527-9926


13 Thu


 **UniversalPreservationHall.org** • The Bad Plus • 8 pm • Masks & vax proof REQ'D • Saratoga Springs, NY

21 Fri


 **Fox Hollow Music & Art Café** • Open Mic • 6:30 pm • Petersburg, NY • foxhollowcafe@gmail.com

22 Sat

 **CaffeLena.org** • Chris Pierce • 8-10 pm • Vax proof REQ'D • Livestream 8-9:30 pm


 **MyStrandTheatre.org** • Tim Reynolds • TBA • 210 Main St., Hudson Falls, NY • 518-832-3484

28 Fri

 **CaffeLena.org** • Cory Branam • 8-10 pm • Vax proof REQ'D • Livestream 8-9:30 pm

**UniversalPreservationHall.org** • Hipster Assassins • 8 pm • Masks & vax proof REQ'D •

29 Sat

 **ClarkArt.edu** • The Met Live in HD: "Rigoletto" • 12:55 pm • Box office: 413-458-0524

## THEATER LISTINGS

**Apple Tree Inn Restaurant** • 10 Richmond Mountain Road, Lenox, MA • AppleTreeInnLenox.com

"The Elephant in the Room" • Tale of a nice Jewish girl who goes on a psychedelic odyssey through Pentecostal churches, psych wards, the Ivy League and 12-step meetings that finally brings her closer to God, herself and a resolution of intergenerational trauma. But funny! And with music! • Dec. 3, 10, 17 • 8 pm • 21+ yrs • Vax or neg. COVID test w/in 48 hours REQ'D • Tix at mela-nie.s.greenberg@gmail.com or 646-761-2635

**Bridge Street Theatre** • 44 W. Bridge St., Catskill, NY • 518-943-3818 • bridgest.org • Masks & proof of vax REQ'D

• "My Witch: The Margaret Hamilton Stories" • A one-woman tour-de-force in a funny and moving performance about the behind-the-scenes life, craft and experiences of the actor behind the green make-up who played The Wicked Witch of the West in "The Wizard of Oz" • Dec. 3-12 • Thu., Fri., Sat. at 7:30 pm; Sun. at 2 pm • Dec. 5 (pay what you will) • Discounted adv. tickets (highly recommended) at mywitch.brownpapertickets.com

**Fort Salem Theater** • 11 E. Broadway, Salem, NY • 518-854-9200 • FortSalem.com

• Salem Central School Drama Club presents "The Sound of Music" • Dec. 3 & 4, 7 pm; Dec. 5, 2 pm • Salem Central School, 41 E. Broadway, Salem, NY  
• "There's No Business Like Snow Business" • Original family-friendly holiday showtune revue and sing-a-long with familiar, traditional Christmas tunes, as well as new ones • Dec. 10 & 11, 7:30 pm; Dec. 12, 2 pm

**The Ghent Playhouse** • 6 Town Hall Pl., Ghent, NY • GhentPlayhouse.org • Masks & proof of vax REQ'D

• The Annual Panto "Rapunzel: The Tale of a Quaranteen," written & directed by Cathy Lee-Visscher • Outrageous Panto Loons' family-friendly production with all the elements of a traditional British panto-mime, and this year's twist is on the famous Brothers Grimm fairy tale • Dec. 3 & 4, 10 & 11, 7:30 pm; Dec. 5 & 12, 2 pm • \$23 members/\$28 nonmembers  
• "The Curious Savage," by John Patrick, dir. by Cathy Lee-Visscher • A fanciful comedy that compares the kindness and loyalty of patients in a psychiatric hospital with the greed and hostility of so-called "normal people" • Jan. 28 & 29, Feb. 4, 5, 11 & 12, 7:30 pm; Jan. 30, Feb. 6 & 13, 2 pm

**Jacob's Pillow** • 358 George Carter Rd., Becket, MA • 413-243-0745 • jacobspillow.org

• Special Edition Holiday Stream of STREB Extreme Action Company's 2021 Dance Festival Performance and Behind the Scenes Activity • 7:30 pm, Dec. 1-Jan. 6, 2022, 11 pm • jacobspillow.org/events/holiday-stream-streb • **2021 Dance Festival bonus content:** • PillowTalk w/Elizabeth Streb ([https://youtu.be/HjwKmb7JV\\_8](https://youtu.be/HjwKmb7JV_8)) • STREB Post-Show Talk (<https://youtu.be/WOHIBQLouPo>) • **Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive:** Elizabeth Streb in "Little Ease" (1985) in 1997 (<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/streb-ringside/little-ease/>) • Women in Dance: Elizabeth Streb by Maura Keefe, Themes | Essays (<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/themes-essays/women-in-dance/elizabeth-streb/>)

**Skidmore College Theater** • Janet Kinghorn Bernhard Theater, Skidmore College Campus, Saratoga Springs, NY • theater.skidmore.edu or 518-580-5439 • Vax proof AND 48 hr. neg. COVID test REQ'D

• "Somewhere – A Primer For The End of Days," by Marisela Treviño Orta, dir. by Lisa Jackson-Schebetta • The world is falling apart as crops fail. Cassandra and her brother Alexander track the last monarch butterflies as they head to the west coast, and their path intersects with a small group of people hunkering down for the on-coming collapse of society • Dec. 3 & 4, 7:30 pm; Dec. 5, 1:30 pm

## Exhibitions continued from page 21

**ShakerMuseum.us | Mount Lebanon** • 17

Main St., Chatham, NY • Past exhibits online

• "Fringe Selects: An Exhibition of Shaker Objects Curated by Katie Stout"

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

• through Jan.: Jeff Robb: "Capturing the Invisible"

**Southern Vermont Arts Center** • 930 SVAC Dr., Manchester • 802-362-1405 • www.svac.org  
• through Feb. 27: "Hiroshige and the Changing Japanese Landscape" (Japanese woodblock)  
• Dec. 11-Mar. 27: "The World Between the Block and the Paper" (A Mokuhanga Exhibition)

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

• Virtual tour of "Painters Choose Painters" at <https://vimeo.com/480725058>  
• through Dec. 5: Artist Member Show (feat. 17 prominent regional artists)

**Tang.skidmore.edu** Museum and Gallery • 518-580-8080 • ONLINE

• through Dec. 5: "Look After Each Other: Intimacy & Community" • "Hyde Cabinet #14: Con todos estos líos: confronting the demons of US history"  
• through Jan. 2: "Opener 33: Sarah Cain — Enter the Center" • On the web: <https://tang.skidmore.edu/exhibitions/361-elevator-music-41-laura-ortman-dust-dives-alive>  
• through Sep. 10: "Lauren Kelley: Location Scouting" • On the web: <https://tang.skidmore.edu/exhibitions/360-lauren-kelley-location-scouting>  
• Jan. 22 – May 15: "Opener 34: Ruby Sky Stiler"  
• On the web: <https://tang.skidmore.edu/>

exhibitions/287-opener-34-ruby-sky-stiler

• Jan. 29-Jun. 12: "Radical Fiber: Threads Connecting Art and Science" • On the web: <https://tang.skidmore.edu/exhibitions/286-radical-fiber-threads-connecting-art-and-science>

**TanjaGrunert.com** • 21 Prospect Ave., Hudson, NY • 646-944-6197

• through Dec. 19: Katharine Ulmsted

**ThompsonGirouxGallery.com** • 57 Main St., Chatham, NY • 518-392-3336

• through Dec. 12: Lily Morris: "Aeria Signum"

**ValleyArtisansMarket.com** • 25 E. Main St., Cambridge, NY • 518-677-2765 • Online shop

• through Dec. 31: Annual Members' Holiday Show

**Warren County Historical Society** • 50 Gurney Lane, Queensbury, NY • 518-743-0734 • wcnys.org

• Permanent exhibit: "Warren County 360: Celebrating Place and People"

**WorldChildrensMuseum.org** • 89 Warren St., Glens Falls, NY • 518-793-2773

• Artifacts Collection Online • Online "COVID-19 & Me: Changes in My World" Exhibition Walkthrough

## Author Kevin O'Hara plans Lenox reading

LENOX, Mass.

The Lenox Library will welcome local author Kevin O'Hara, who will read tales from his new book, "A Christmas Journey: Sixteen Stories," at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8.

This event is free and open to the public. Because of Covid restrictions, the program will take place via Zoom. Meeting details may be found on the library's website at lenoxlib.org or the library's Facebook page.

The book, published by *The Berkshire Eagle*, collects stories O'Hara has written for the paper over the years, and features 18 full-color illustrations by Pittsfield artist David King.

O'Hara is a longtime contributor to *The Berkshire Eagle* and the author of two acclaimed books, "Last of the Donkey Pilgrims" and "A Lucky Irish Lad." In 2012, he was the proud recipient of the John F. Kennedy National Award for being "an outstanding American of Irish descent." He lives in Pittsfield.

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## Oils *continued from page 15*

around the world, expansion is inevitable. In 2017, Grillo Essentials was selected as one of three national winners of the annual American Small Business Contest funded through Sam's Club. Out of a pool of thousands of national candidates, Grillo Essentials was one of three grand champion winners selected to receive a \$25,000 grant.

"I think what the past two years have taught us is that micro-businesses are more important than ever," Grillo said. "They drive the economy and help sustain communities. Shopping local is about supporting one another."

Grillo ships to customers in places as far-flung as Belize, Thailand and Scotland, and she sells her wares in shops nationally. Regionally, her products are available at Menges & Curtis, the Adirondack Salt Cave in Glens Falls, St. Andrews Hardware in Queensbury, Old Saratoga Mercantile in Schuylerville, and Rad Soap, the Shaker Heritage Christmas market and Honest Weight Food Co-op, all in Albany.

In the coming months, she plans to move production of her larger bed pillows next door to a small building on her property.

"I know someday I'll probably be looking at a larger manufacturing space, but I want to keep it local for as long as I can," Grillo said. "I moved to Greenwich when my daughters were teenagers because of its hometown environment. It was great to have a village as a single parent."

Grillo enlisted graphic designer Shawn Soares-Kern of SSK Designs for branding design and strategy, and he recently helped redesign Grillo Essentials' website. After

working closely with Grillo for seven years, Soares-Kern said he's not surprised at the success of her business.

"Gina's products are fantastic," he said. "She responsibly sources everything she uses and does a thorough vetting process — and manages to keep it all at a reasonable price point."

Operating the business on her own means Grillo is free to follow her own tastes and conscience — and to set her own limits.

"I can't sell a product unless I really believe in it, and there are certain things I won't do," she explained, pointing to a bottle of her lavender mist. "See how the oil floats to the top? That's because there's no chemical emulsifier in it, just witch hazel, water and essential oils. All you have to do is shake it."

Grillo said she has seen a definite spike in sales in the nearly two years since Covid hit, and she believes it reflects customers' increased need for comfort in trying times.

"You don't need Grillo Essentials to survive," she said. "But they're little luxuries that add to your life."

*Gina Grillo will be at Menges & Curtis Apothecary, at 472 Broadway in Saratoga Springs, for the store's "Meet The Maker" event on the afternoons of Dec. 3, 4, 10 and 11. Visit grilloessentials.com for more information on Grillo's business and its products.*

## Thompson *continued from page 17*

"Mr. George was kept busy hand shaking from the time of his arrival on the grounds until half-past twelve o'clock, when he took dinner," *The Morning Star* reported.

He spoke shortly after 1 p.m.

George left Fort Edward on the 5:45 p.m. train to Albany, where he was to take overnight passage on a steamboat to New York City. He was scheduled to speak there the next day.

George apparently attracted many curiosity seekers, but not many converts.

Six days later, between 200 and 300 people attended a United Labor Party organizational meeting at the Glens Falls Opera House.

Robert Crowe of New York City, a Mr. Moeller of Chicago, and John H. Quinlan of Glens Falls spoke about George's philosophy.

"At the close of his address, Mr. Quinlan invited those in sympathy with the George movement to step forward and sign the membership roll," *The Morning Star* reported on Sept. 24. "There was no response to this request, and all filed out of the room."

*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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**With your support last year, we launched 2021 strongly with programs, performances, and special events.** We offered our regular spring classes and a CCS Drama Club Cabaret in the spring. We implemented a full summer of classes, programs, a free outdoor concert series and our beloved *Music from Salem* concerts. We featured two full productions of Shakespeare in August, with *Much Ado About Nothing* and *As You Like It*. We celebrated the return of the Seagle Festival with an evening cabaret of Cole Porter. We welcomed *Flamenco Vivo* from Brooklyn for the first time to Hubbard Hall in October, and featured a world premiere play with *My Witch* and a murder mystery classic with *And Then There Were None* with the CCS Drama Club.

At the same time, we made structural improvements to our historic buildings, with three new restrooms constructed within Hubbard Hall, including an ADA restroom on the Hall level, and painting of the Hall and Beacon Feeds buildings. All the while we raised new funds from the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant and the Payroll Protection Program to support our mission, and managed all of this with a regular staff of only three people.

For over four decades, Hubbard Hall has **engaged thousands of students, artists, and audience members** in acclaimed productions of theater, opera, music, and dance; **built a top-notch education program; and served as an engine for cultural and economic development.** We work tirelessly to cultivate, sustain, and promote the cultural life of our rural community. We care deeply about our community, as we know you do.

**All of this work has been rewarding but challenging.** We want to continue to grow back all of our offerings in 2022. We want to serve our community for many years to come. We want to continue to protect and improve our historic structures.

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