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observer

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

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Vote early, but not by mail?



Joan K. Lentini photo

GOP message on early balloting shifts as more New York voters try it

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Hill Country Observer

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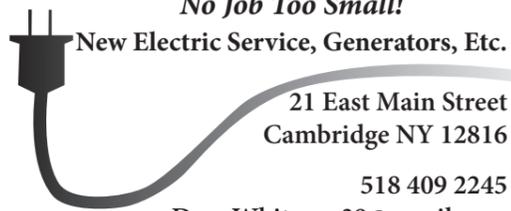
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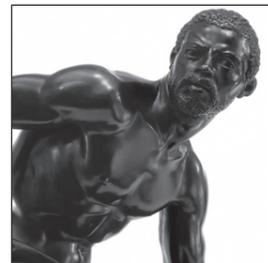
GOP offers mixed message on early voting in New York

Ever since he lost the 2020 presidential election, Donald Trump has been claiming the increased use of early voting and mail-in ballots helped to "rig" the contest against him. But U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik, one of Trump's most outspoken supporters in upstate New York, has lately been leading a campaign to urge more Republicans to vote early -- even as she leads a legal fight to block the wider use of mail-in ballots. Page 3



Supporters raise \$5M to save Darrow School

After several weeks in which it appeared that the current academic year might be the last for Darrow School, alumni and supporters of the private secondary school have rallied to save it. An emergency fund drive in December and January raised about \$5 million in donations and pledges -- enough, the school's leaders said, to reverse their decision to shut it down. Page 6



Hot sauces add spice to farm-to-table meal service

Back in 2009, the owners of 9 Miles East Farm wanted to make it easy for busy people to eat healthy, locally produced food. Today, their farm's vegetables star in the prepared meals made at their kitchen in Saratoga Springs for customers around the Northeast. Now they've expanded into making their own line of homegrown hot sauces. Page 14

Exhibit explores Black Americans' paths to liberation

An exhibit opening Feb. 16 at the Williams College Museum of Art explores the journey to freedom for Black Americans since the Civil War. In "Emancipation: The Unfinished Project of Liberation," seven contemporary artists visualize the nation's ideals of freedom in the 21st century. Page 16

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Cover photo by Joan K. Lentini: Harold Hubbard, the Republican deputy elections commissioner of Warren County, instructs elections inspectors at a recent training session on the use of electronic poll books. The devices ensure that voters who cast ballots at New York's early voting sites cannot vote more than once.

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Harold Hubbard, the Republican deputy elections commissioner for Warren County, demonstrates the use of new voting machines at a late January training session for elections inspectors.

Early Voting Around the Region

Year	Total voters	Early voters	Percentage voting early
COLUMBIA COUNTY			
2019	20,883	3,381	16.2%
2020	35,793	6,456	18.0%
2021	22,136	3,135	14.2%
2022	29,957	6,038	20.1%
2023	20,858	3,815	18.3%
RENSSELAER COUNTY			
2019	39,224	1,937	4.9%
2020	79,876	19,806	24.8%
2021	42,676	4,393	10.3%
2022	62,893	9,733	15.5%
2023	39,114	5,413	13.8%
SARATOGA COUNTY			
2019	37,293	2,700	7.2%
2020	94,290	24,719	26.2%
2021	47,831	3,766	7.9%
2022	86,981	15,252	17.5%
2023	38,942	5,430	13.9%
WARREN COUNTY			
2019	13,976	863	6.1%
2020	20,348	7,455	36.6%
2021	12,468	1,083	8.7%
2022	20,912	4,696	22.4%
2023	11,843	1,995	16.8%
WASHINGTON COUNTY			
2019	9,994	290	2.9%
2020	24,477	5,156	21.1%
2021	10,288	314	3.1%
2022	22,316	1,972	8.8%
2023	9,575	601	6.3%

Source: County Boards of Elections

Vote early, but not by mail?

GOP message on early voting shifts as more N.Y. voters try it

By MAURY THOMPSON
Contributing writer

GLENS FALLS, N.Y.

Ever since he lost the 2020 presidential election, Donald Trump has been claiming that increased use of early voting and mail-in ballots helped to “rig” the contest against him.

In his victory speech after winning the GOP caucus in Iowa on Jan. 15, for example, Trump called for a return to “one-day elections.”

But here in upstate New York, one of Trump’s most outspoken supporters, U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik, has been leading a public relations campaign to urge more Republicans to vote early — either in person or, if eligible, by absentee ballot.

In September, Stefanik, R-Schuylerville, announced the start of Bank Your Vote, a yearlong educational campaign to promote early voting. Stefanik, working with the state and national Republican parties, said in a press release that the effort is vital to the GOP’s effort to retain House seats it picked up to win a narrow majority in 2022 — including the Hudson Valley seat now held by

U.S. Rep. Marcus Molinaro, R-Rhinebeck.

“We will encourage Empire State voters and all Republicans to make a plan to legally ‘Bank Your Vote’ as early as possible in 2024,” she said.

Even as she embraces early in-person voting, however, Stefanik has lately been leading the legal fight to block widespread use of mail-in ballots in New York under a newly enacted state law that both sides say would make it easier for lots more voters to cast ballots in advance of Election Day.

On early in-person voting, the difference between Trump’s position and Stefanik’s is not one of policy, but of messaging, said Matt Dickinson, a political science professor at Middlebury College.

Trump, he said, is appealing to supporters who generally view early voting and mail-in voting as favoring Democrats.

“His view, from a partisan perspective, is that early voting helps Democrats, which is not necessarily the case,” Dickinson said.

Stefanik, on the other hand, is conveying a message that Republicans support some flexibility in voting, a popular message with younger centrist and Democratic-leaning voters, Dickinson said.

“That seems to be a winning message,” he said.

And on a tactical level, given that early voting has been legal for five years in New York and is proving increasingly popular, Stefanik and many other Republicans appear to have concluded that it’s a mistake to let GOP voters sit out until the final day of voting.

Hank Sheinkopf, a Democratic political strategist in New York City, called Stefanik’s push for Republicans to vote early “a smart move.”

Robert Turner, a political science professor at Skidmore College, explained that for both major political parties, convincing dedicated supporters to vote early frees up time immediately before Election Day for campaign staff and volunteers to concentrate on hard-to-turn-out voters.

“Early voting benefits a very well organized campaign,” he said. “If you can get people to vote early, it allows you to concentrate your resources more effectively.”

The potential risk for voters, of course, is that their decisions are locked in and can’t be changed in response to last-minute developments in a campaign.

continued on next page



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Local participation varies widely

Early voting, either in person or by mail, is now offered in 46 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Locally, both Vermont and Massachusetts have embraced the concept.

Massachusetts debuted its early voting system in the 2016 presidential election and this year will allow early in-person voting beginning 17 days before the November general election and 10 days before the March 5 presidential primary. The state also allows voting by mail for voters who submit a mail-in ballot application at least five days before an election.

Vermont allows early voters to obtain ballots as

soon as they are printed — for statewide elections, up to 45 days in advance — and return them by mail or in person. And for the November general election, the state now mails ballots directly to all registered voters, not just those who requested to vote early — a practice that started when the pandemic hit in 2020.

New York started allowing in-person early voting in 2019. The state's system allows voters to cast ballots at centralized polling places designated by each county during a nine-day period that ends the Sunday before Election Day.

Figures from local counties in eastern New York show the share of voters using early voting sites has varied widely from year to year. It peaked in the 2020 presidential election, which was held near

the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. That year, the share of ballots that were cast before Election Day ranged from 18 percent in Columbia County to 36 percent in Warren County. (See accompanying chart on page 3.)

Early voting has proven less popular locally in lower-turnout, off-year elections in which the only races at stake typically are for county or municipal positions. But even in those years, the share of ballots cast early has been growing, particularly in counties that have expanded the number of early polling sites.

Warren County, for example, started with a single early voting site in 2019, at the county municipal center in Queensbury. That year, early voters accounted for about 6 percent of the total bal-

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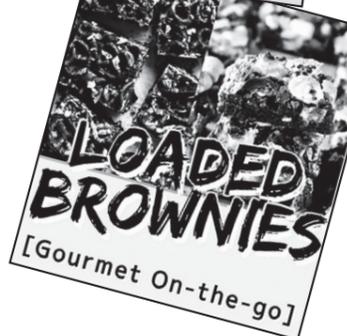
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See map on page 11



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lots cast. By 2023, in a similar off-year election, the county had added a second early polling place at Glens Falls City Hall, and early voters cast nearly 17 percent of the ballots in the November election.

Little effect on turnout

New York has long ranked near the bottom among the 50 states for voter participation, and supporters of early voting have argued that providing more options makes it more likely that more people will vote.

“It’s a no-brainer,” said Joe Seeman, a progressive political activist from Ballston Spa. “I’ve voted early a number of times.”

Seeman said he can’t see why anyone would be opposed to offering more opportunities for vot-

ing.

“I think there is a television commercial that says, ‘More is better,’ or something like that,” he said.

But several experts said there is no evidence so far that in-person early voting actually increases overall turnout.

“The motivation was that it would significantly increase turnout. The empirical evidence is that it has not done that,” said Turner, the Skidmore professor.

Dickinson, the Middlebury professor, said research from about a decade ago, while possibly outdated, showed in-person early voting resulted in overall turnout being either unchanged or reduced. Mail-in early voting has shown to be more

effective at increasing turnout than in-person early voting, he added.

A 2013 University of Wisconsin study concluded that in-person early voting actually resulted in a turnout decrease of four percentage points by reducing the Election Day “buzz” that would have stimulated some low-propensity voters to participate.

Early voting dilutes the enthusiasm generated by single-day voting, Dickinson explained.

“Voting is a social activity,” he said.

Still, supporters of early and mail-in voting say both should be available as a convenience to voters.

The Brennan Center for Justice, a nonprofit

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NEWS & ISSUES

Saving Darrow

Supporters raise \$5M to pull a school back from the brink

By JOHN TOWNES
Contributing writer

NEW LEBANON, N.Y.

After several weeks in which it appeared the current school year might be the last for Darrow School, the private secondary school's alumni and supporters have rallied to save it.

An emergency fund drive in December and January raised about \$5 million in donations and pledges – enough, the school's leaders said, to reverse their decision to shut it down.

"This is great news," said Andrew J. Vadnais, Darrow's head of school, after the school's trustees announced Jan. 26 that the contributions were enough to keep it running. "We still have a lot of work to do. But this removes the uncertainty and enables Darrow to remain open and continue in operation."

Darrow, a college preparatory school with about 110 students, occupies a portion of the historic Shaker community at Mount Lebanon, just across the state line from Massachusetts. The school has long been known for its small class sizes and individualized approach to learning.

But Darrow has struggled in recent years as a result of economic and demographic changes that are vexing many other private schools and small colleges in the region, and it also faces the need for costly repairs and upgrades to its historic buildings.

In November, Vadnais and Darrow's board



Susan Sabino photo

Head of School Andrew Vadnais stands outside the administration and classroom building at Darrow School in late January after the school's leaders reversed a decision to shut down at the end of the current academic year.

of trustees sent letters to the parents of current students and to alumni warning that the school had become financially unsustainable and might have to close at the end of the current academic year.

They said tuition revenue currently covers only about 65 percent of the school's operating budget, leaving a gap of \$1.5 million to \$2 million each school year. Donations and other sources of financial support had not been enough to bridge the difference. In addition, an increasing number of students have needed financial aid in recent years.

The board concluded that an immediate infusion of at least \$5 million to \$7 million would be required to keep the school open beyond this year. The board also has projected that the school will need about \$25 million in the years ahead to achieve true sustainability because of the need to construct a new dormitory and renovate its current structures.

Darrow has an endowment of \$4.7 million, but those funds carry restrictions that prohibit

their use to cover the current shortfalls.

A chance to regroup

The school launched its emergency fundraising campaign in December, with students, staff, the school leadership, parents and other supporters reaching out to solicit contributions through letters, personal contacts and social media.

In early January, after exploring potential alternatives such as cutbacks and the possibility of partnership with another institution, the trustees voted to close the school.

But by mid-January, with more than \$2 million in pledges raised, the board postponed a final decision and set a deadline of Jan. 25 to raise a target of at least \$5 million. By that date, some 650 donors had pledged a total of \$4.1 million – with an additional \$1 million from an anonymous donor to be received by 2026.

"We owe a lot of gratitude to everyone who worked really hard to achieve this," Vadnais said. "They never lost faith."

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He said the next step will be to develop and implement immediate and long-range plans to address the school's underlying problems and place it on a more solid financial footing.

"We now have a backstop that will enable us to stay open," Vadnais said. "It also gives us time to investigate the physical condition of the campus in detail and gather the information to put together a campaign and grant applications to fund that work."

Historic setting

Darrow, founded in 1932 as the Lebanon School for Boys, was renamed Darrow School in 1939 in honor of a family that was part of the local Shaker community. The school, which serves grades 9-12, became coeducational in the early 1970s. Today, 85 percent of its students board at the campus, with the rest commuting from nearby towns.

The scenic campus, on the side of Mount Lebanon off Route 20, was the site of the first official community organized by the Shaker religious sect in 1787. The Mount Lebanon Shaker settlement, including the Darrow campus, has been designated as a National Historic Landmark.

Darrow's 365-acre campus has 26 buildings, including 16 of the original Shaker structures, as well as athletic facilities and playing fields, hiking and cross-country ski trails, ponds, pastures, orchards, gardens, marshlands and an expansive forest.

Other sections of the former Shaker community are occupied by a branch of the Shaker Museum, which is based in Chatham, and the Abode of the Message, a separate spiritual community.

Fewer potential students

Darrow has experienced and overcome financial difficulties in the past. But Vadnais, who became head of school in 2019, said this year's crisis was the most serious challenge to its survival.

Vadnais was a teacher at Darrow in the 1980s and later served as head of school at South Kent School, a private school in Connecticut.

"When I came back to Darrow for this position, I knew it was in a difficult situation,"

he said. "I have a strong belief in the school and wanted to do what I can to help turn it around."

The current problems had been building for decades, he said.

Vadnais said some of the issues have been specific to Darrow, but others are the result of larger demographic, economic and cultural changes that have put pressure on many private schools and colleges in recent years — forcing some to shut down.

Chief among these is the declining number of school-age children in the United States, a trend that began with the recession of 2008-09. Federal statistics show the nation's birth rate fell nearly 23 percent from 2007 to 2022, from 14.3 to 11.1 births per 1,000 people. As a result, high schools and colleges now face what some are calling a demographic cliff.

The challenge of recruiting from a shrinking pool of students was a factor in the decision by the College of Saint Rose in Albany to shut down at the end of the current academic year, and it also contributed to the demise five years ago of Southern Vermont College in Bennington, Green Mountain College in Poultney and the College of St. Joseph in Rutland.

Among private high schools, between 2018 and 2023, some 36 percent of members of the National Association of Independent Schools, or NAIS, reported net enrollment drops, with 14 percent reporting their enrollment had declined by more than 10 percent.

The Covid-19 pandemic made this situation worse but was not the primary cause of Darrow's recent crisis, Vadnais said.

"There's been a real change in the landscape for smaller independent schools, based in situations that originated with the recession of 2008," Vadnais said.

A shifting market

Economic changes over the past 15 years also have contributed to a more competitive environment in which smaller and less prominent private schools like Darrow found it more difficult to attract students.

Previously, parents and students might have applied to an elite prep school and also to a school like Darrow as a second choice, Vadnais

explained.

"If they didn't get into their first choice, they'd come here," he said. "But since the recession, the well-known schools eased their admission requirements. That meant students who would have come to Darrow before went to those schools instead."

Another factor in Darrow's case has been a decline in international students. Nationally, the number of international students in K-12 schools fell 41.5 percent between the calendar years 2018 and 2021, according to the NAIS. And the total number of students from China has dropped by nearly two-thirds.

Vadnais said the Covid pandemic was a significant factor in the loss of international students. In addition, he said, some parents in other countries have been concerned about the political and social climate in the United States, including the rise in school shootings.

Although the overall flow of international students to the United States has begun to rebound as the pandemic has faded, the issue remains a problem for schools like Darrow.

"Parents who do send their children to the U.S. for school have become more selective and go for the schools that are more visible," he said. "It's difficult for schools like Darrow who can't send recruiters abroad to reach them."

New focus on mission, contacts

Vadnais said many independent schools, including Darrow, have failed to act swiftly enough to adjust to the economic and demographic changes.

"Many schools should have paid more attention to what was happening and addressed these issues earlier," he said. "At Darrow, we've learned a lot during this crisis, and we're getting smarter. But we should have gotten smarter sooner."

The recent crisis revealed, for example, that Darrow had not been as effective in maintaining relationships with alumni and other supporters as it could have been, he said.

"When we called alumni during the recent phone-a-thon, a significant number said they had not been contacted by the school in years," he said. "They were unaware of our problems. But once they were informed, they quickly



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- from Pittsfield: 1 hour, 30 minutes
- from Saratoga Springs: 45 minutes
- from Williamstown: 1 hour

See map on page 11

offered to help.”

That has made communications a priority.

“It showed us that we need to be more proactive, open and transparent in our outreach,” Vadnais said.

On another level, he continued, the crisis pushed the school to define its identity and mission in more specific terms.

“As a school, you have to figure out what your niche is and market the heck out of it,” he said. “When we were trying to identify reasons to support Darrow during the campaign, one of the things we struggled with was identifying what that niche is for Darrow.”

In a general sense, Darrow has always emphasized providing a setting that supports students on an individualized basis within a diverse community. Its small class sizes – the school has a student-teacher ratio of about 4-to-1 – allow for a lot of individual attention.

Darrow also has drawn students who may have had difficulty learning in traditional academic environments or have experienced social or emotional challenges.

‘Darrow changes lives’

In addition to allowing close interactions

between students and their instructors and advisers, Darrow’s program is activity based, with extracurricular activities and programs such as Hands to Work, in which student crews perform community service or on-campus tasks such as harvesting vegetables for the Darrow kitchen.

“We knew that even when Darrow is not the first choice for a student, once they come, they have a positive experience,” Vadnais said. “But we had to identify exactly what the reasons for that were and identify the type of students Darrow would be perfect for.”

They decided to ask current students, alumni, parents and faculty for feedback and collected their testimonials into a booklet to support the drive.

“The responses we got back were powerful, and very heartening,” Vadnais said. “And when put them together, we found similarities that extend from the experiences of those who attended in the 1960s to today’s students.”

Common themes were an appreciation of the size and setting of the campus, the personalized approach to learning, and a strong sense of community among students, faculty and staff.

One student, for example wrote: “Darrow changes lives and I know that because it has changed mine. Darrow’s commitment to diversity, growth, and community helped me get out of a prison where I thought I’d be stuck forever. I think about my future and for the first time I feel excited and positive, not just scared and nervous.”

The mother of another student wrote: “As I’ve reached out looking for help for Darrow, people have asked me, ‘Why, what’s so special about Darrow?’ And my responses have boiled down to heart. Darrow has heart: a big, encompassing, kind, inclusive heart. A heart that values learning, how to learn and learning how to be the best self you can be. ... The intentional community of Darrow is unique.”

Vadnais said the crisis has been difficult but also has reinforced the sense of commitment within the school’s community and provided a renewed baseline to tackle its problems and move forward.

“It made clear to us that Darrow is a welcoming space for kids who learn differently and that it encourages self-discovery,” he said. “The next challenge is how to get word of that out to the public.”

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See map on page 11

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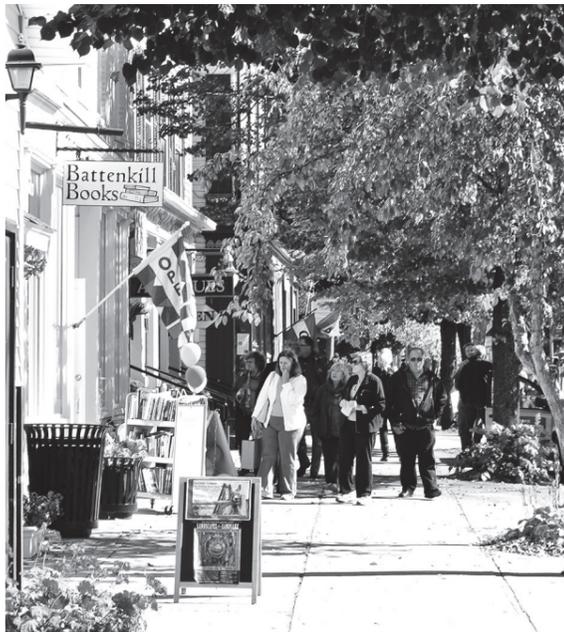
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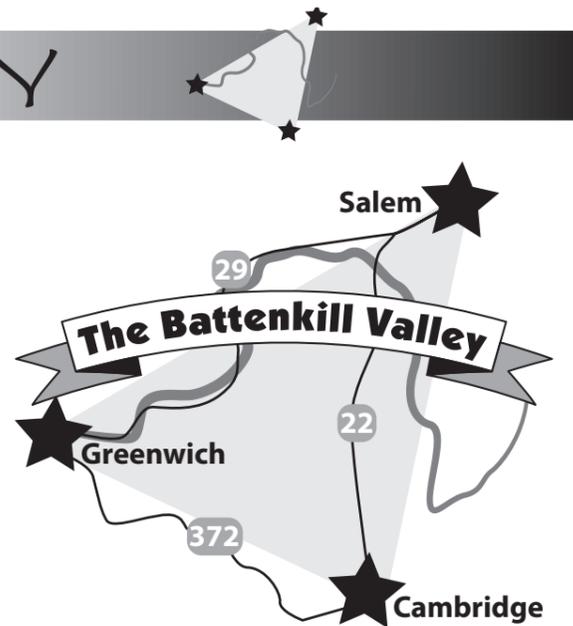
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EDITORIAL

N.Y. GOP flips the script on early vs. mail-in voting

Back in January 2019, when state legislators took up the question of whether to allow a lot more New Yorkers to vote by mail, the idea received overwhelming bipartisan support.

A proposal to amend the state constitution to allow “no excuse” absentee voting passed the state Senate by a vote of 56-5 and the Assembly by 136-9. The Yes votes included those of area Republican Sens. Betty Little and Jim Tedisco and GOP Assembly members Jake Ashby, Dan Stec, Christopher Tague and Mary Beth Walsh as well as Democrats Didi Barrett and Carrie Woerner.

But by June 2021, when the identical proposal came up for a vote in the next legislative session (as required before a constitutional amendment can be put to a statewide vote), the support was a lot less lopsided. The proposal passed the Senate by 43-20 and the Assembly by 115-34.

The No votes now included Tedisco and Stec (who by then had been elected to fill Little’s Senate seat), as well as Tague, Walsh and Matt Simpson, a Republican who replaced Stec in the Assembly. Among the local legislative delegation, Ashby was the only Republican to join Democrats Barrett and Woerner in supporting the legislation.

What changed between 2019 and 2021, of course, was that Donald Trump lost the 2020 presidential election and spent months loudly proclaiming, without any real evidence, that the dramatic expansion of mail-in voting in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic had something to do with it. Suddenly, for some Republicans, the question of how we cast ballots became a partisan issue.

It didn’t matter that state elections officials of both parties found no evidence the 2020 election was compromised in any way. (The Trump administration’s top cyber-security official reached the same conclusion before Trump fired him.)

And it didn’t matter that when Trump’s allies filed more than 60 legal challenges claiming voting irregularities, the courts tossed them all out for lack of evidence. Trump and some supporters have persisted in circulating allegations of fraud or malfeasance, and the idea that the 2020 election was somehow tainted has taken hold among a big chunk of GOP voters.

In November 2021, New York’s voters rejected the proposal to allow no-excuse absentee voting. Government reform groups that had long supported the idea assumed it would be popular and didn’t really campaign for it, while conservative groups organized against it – no doubt swayed in part by Trumpist misinformation.

And that brings us to the situation discussed in this month’s cover story, with U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik and other GOP leaders in New York encouraging more Republicans to cast their ballots at early in-person polling stations – while at the same time fighting in court against a new effort to expand voting by mail.

It’s a curious turnabout for the GOP. Back in January 2019, when legislative Republicans mostly backed the use of no-excuse absentee ballots, they were less enthusiastic about the simultaneous push to allow early in-person voting: All of the Republicans in the local legislative delegation except Little voted against it.

One reason might be that in-person early voting is far more costly to administer, because it requires staffing polling places across nine days. And there’s no evidence that it boosts overall turnout.

Widespread voting by mail, in contrast, has been shown to be secure and convenient in Vermont, Massachusetts and many other states, and it does appear to increase voter participation. It deserves another look in New York.



Letters to the editor

Only indicted four times? Maybe he had a bad day

To the editor:

I may vote for Donald Trump this year.

After all, he was impeached only twice. He has only been charged in four criminal cases.

There is the hush-money case, in which he is alleged to have falsified business records in connection with a payoff to conceal a sexual encounter with porn star Stormy Daniels. There is the classified documents case, in which he is alleged to have brought classified material to Mar-a-Lago and left it unsecured.

There is the Georgia election interference case, in which he is alleged to have pressured Georgia officials to “find” 11,580 votes, which would have made him victorious in that state. And then there is the federal election interference case, in which he is alleged to have impeded the peaceful transfer of power and encouraged the Jan. 6 insurrection.

Of course these charges are all politically motivated and have absolutely no merit. Anyone can make a mistake. Even a president can have a bad day. We are just being too sensitive.

Former president Trump is misunderstood. We should give the poor guy a break.

G. Richard Dundas
Bennington, Vt.

Help southern neighbors, not Ukraine and Israel

To the editor:

Our neighbors to the south need our help and the help of other countries.

It’s high time that we decide to “bring it all back home” and forget about paying out billions to war-torn Ukraine and Israel. Putin and Russia are Ukraine’s problem, and the Hamas terrorists are Israel’s concern, not America’s problem.

Yes, we support Israel and Ukraine, but not to the extreme where we send our resources and troops and weapons to them. Why support a war? We never learned anything from the Korean and Vietnam wars. North Korea is more dangerous than ever, and South Vietnam is gone.

These wars we support are not our responsibility and are terrible mistakes. Let the United Nations deal with it.

America and Canada need to help Mexico and Central America. Sending American technology, our men and women and resources there is the right thing to do. Making a better life for them is our responsibility as good neighbors. Our borders to the south will be less of a problem.

No more wars and supporting killing machines. Let’s build homes and businesses instead.

Tom King
Shaftsbury, Vt.

Your letters

The *Observer* welcomes letters from readers. To be considered for publication, letters to the editor must be signed and must include the writer’s address and phone number for verification pur-

poses. We reserve the right to edit letters for length so as to allow presentation of a wider range of viewpoints. Send your letters by mail to Hill Country Observer, P.O. Box 158, Cambridge, NY 12816. Fax them to 518-677-8898. Or e-mail them to fdaley@hillcountryobserver.com.

From Troy, a world champion in era of boxing 'exhibitions'

Maury Thompson

It was billed as family entertainment. “The management desires to announce that these contests will be no slugging matches but simply a scientific exhibition that all can witness with pleasure as pure harmless fun,” *The Granville Sentinel* reported on Sept. 28, 1894.

The former world boxing champion Patrick “Paddy” Ryan of Troy was to face the Canadian champion Austin Mills in a five-round “sparring exhibition” that would be the headliner in a boxing card at the Grand Field Day on Oct. 2 at Middle Granville Driving Park.

Other scheduled activities included harness racing, bicycle racing and music. Admission to the grounds was 50 cents — the equivalent of \$18.41 in today’s dollars — for men, and free for women.

Noncompetitive sparring exhibitions were a way of getting around laws at the time that prohibited professional prizefighting. Professional boxing would not be legalized in New York until 1920.

Ryan was paid \$250 for his appearance — the equivalent of about \$9,200 in today’s dollars, but a far cry from payouts of as much as \$5,000 per match he received in his heyday.

He was paid \$10,000 — the equivalent of more than \$313,000 today — for a series of boxing matches in England in 1883, *The Argus* of Albany reported on April 10 of that year.

The big-dollar events were the exception rather than the norm, however. Ryan often

“The management desires to announce that these contests will be no slugging matches but simply a scientific exhibition that all can witness with pleasure as pure harmless fun.”

— *The Granville Sentinel*, Sept. 28, 1894

settled for much less as he barnstormed the nation and region in sparring exhibitions.

“Paddy Ryan seems to be showing off his skin in nearly every town in the county,” the *Washington County Advertiser* of Fort Edward reported on Dec. 8, 1880. “Tuesday, he exhibited in Cambridge.”

Turnout for the 1894 sparring exhibition at Middle Granville was not what organizers had hoped for — a consequence of what the event’s backers said were misconceptions about boxing. The exhibition lasted three rounds, instead of the five rounds advertised.

“Paddy Ryan of Troy and Austin Mills, champion of Canada, had three lively rounds. Both delivered blows so rapidly that the eye could hardly follow them,” *The Granville Sentinel* reported on Oct. 5. “Many who stayed away, thinking that if they were present, they would witness a brutal prize

fight, were surprised when they learned that no such thing occurred.”

Ryan, who in 2020 was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, N.Y., was an Irish immigrant who worked as a blacksmith, construction laborer and saloon owner. He had worked on construction of the Erie Canal.

Jimmy Killoran, the athletic director at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, offered to teach Ryan boxing after the coach observed Ryan bouncing an unruly patron out of the saloon Ryan owned in Troy.

At various times, Ryan also owned saloons at Albany, Chicago and elsewhere, but he always seemed to find his way back to Troy.

At Collier’s Station, W.Va., on May 30, 1880, Ryan, in what was technically his first professional fight, defeated Joe Goss in an 87-round match to become the World Bare Knuckles Champion. Months later, Ryan was arrested for his role in the illegal fight, but it is not clear if he was prosecuted.

“Yesterday, Chief of Police Sweeney of Wheeling, West Virginia, and Detective Ruland of New York arrived in Albany for the purpose of arresting Paddy Ryan, the champion pugilist of the world, for his connection to the Ryan-Goss fight in West Virginia last summer,” the *Washington County Advertiser* reported on Feb. 16, 1881.

The arrest was made about 7 p.m. at Paddy’s saloon on State Street in Albany, and officers took Ryan to the Albany train station with the intention of boarding a 1 a.m. train

continued on next page

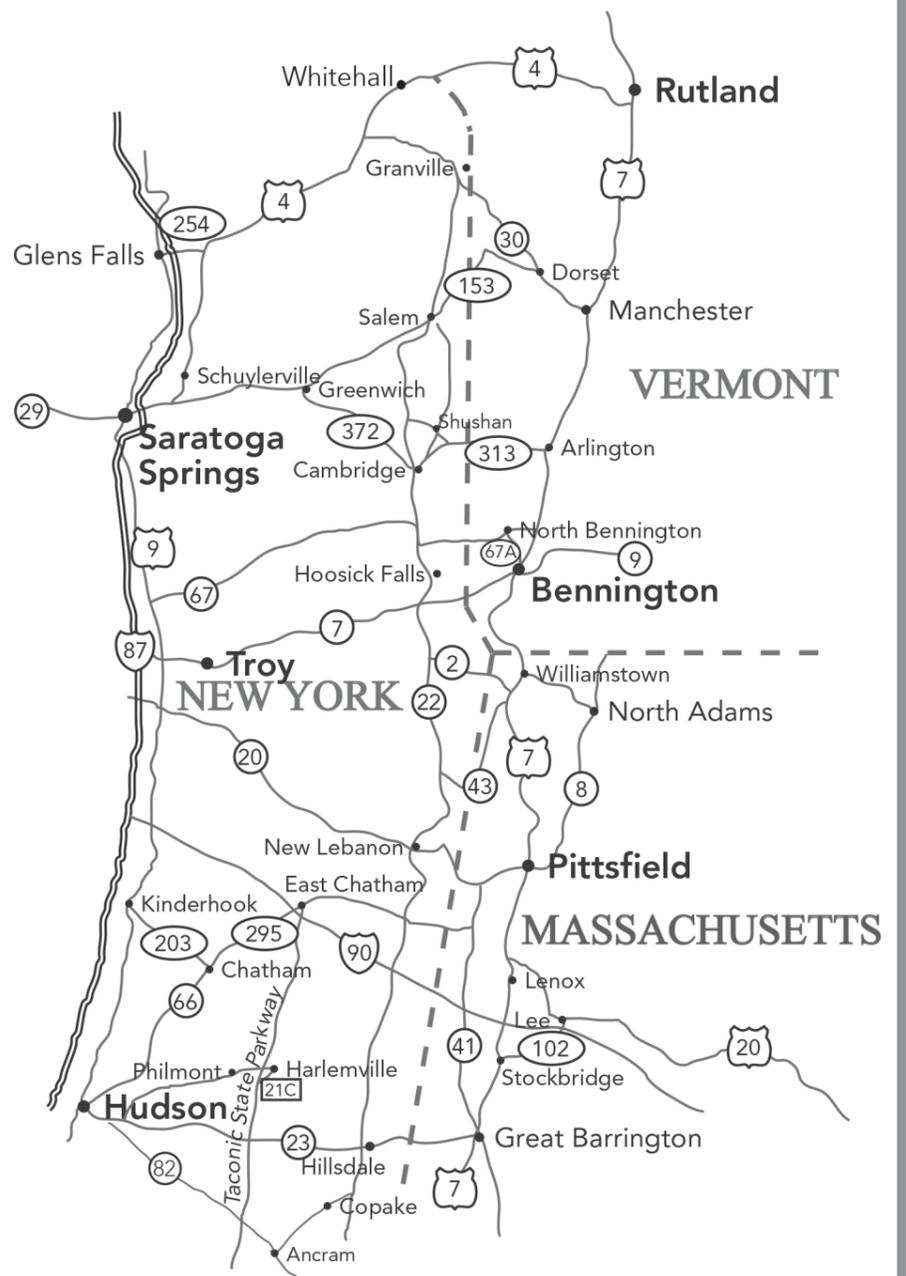
News that’s slow-brewed for a high-speed age

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.



toward West Virginia.
 "Just before the train was going to leave, Paddy's friends appeared with a Habeas corpus," an order to require a hearing before a local judge, the Advertiser reported. "Paddy was taken to The Globe Hotel, where he passed the balance of the night in the custody of officers."

Ryan lost his title as world champion to John Sullivan on Feb. 7, 1882 in a nine-round fight at Mississippi City, Miss., about 70 miles from New Orleans. Newspapers reported that Ryan did not return to Troy for some time after the fight because he was embarrassed to face the residents of his hometown.
 "When the news was flashed from New

Orleans that Mr. Sullivan had bested Paddy, his mother-in-law bared her arm to the shoulder and declared her ability to knock out the champion herself," the *Cincinnati Inquirer* reported in an article republished in *The Argus* on June 22, 1885.
 Ryan was known as a fancy dresser. "Ryan always wore a beaver hat of the

most fashionable model, and clothing that was richly embellished with silk facings and velvet collars," *The Morning Star* of Glens Falls reported on Feb. 11, 1884. "He wore clean and gaudy scarfs and never considered himself quite right unless he had a half-smoked cigar in his mouth."
 By 1885 he was back in Troy for a visit.

"Paddy Ryan was in town yesterday morning and visited several of his old friends," *The Argus* reported on June 22, 1885. "The ex-champion is looking the picture of health, and he wore the usual smile. He was neatly dressed in a grayish suit with a white high hat to match."
 After living in San Francisco for a period,

Ryan returned to the Troy area in the late 1890s after retiring from boxing. He died in 1900, at age 49, from kidney disease.
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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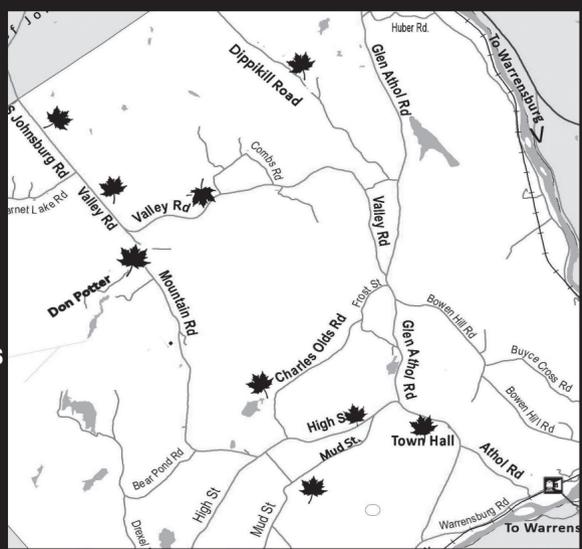
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Farm-to-table meal service adds its own line of hot sauces

By **STACEY MORRIS**
Contributing writer

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y.

When Gordon Sacks created his meal subscription service 15 years ago, his mission was clear: to make it easy for busy people to eat healthy, locally produced food.

Sacks, a native of Connecticut, and his wife, Mary, moved to Saratoga County 18 years ago to buy a 29-acre farm in the town of Northumberland, just outside Schuylerville. They spent almost three years improving the soil and building their expertise in growing vegetables. Then they turned to producing plant-centric meals augmented with vegan, vegetarian and traditional protein sources.

Today, their bushels of organic greens, purple cabbage, tomatoes, carrots and sweet potatoes star on the menu of 9 Miles East Farm. Although their production kitchen in Saratoga Springs serves customers at an on-site cafe, the main focus remains creating healthy meals for people to consume at home or work. The meal service is specifically designed for the beleaguered working professional who doesn't have the time or energy to cook a proper meal from scratch at the end of the day.

In the early years, Sacks said, they delivered meals mainly to customers in the Capital District region. Today, they've pushed their geographic

boundaries — to Lake George and even to Boston — and shifted to serving more corporate and institutional customers.

"Boston and the surrounding area is a fit for us, and we're still growing that market," Sacks said.

His farm-to-table salads, soups and bento boxes are as colorful as floral arrangements. Sacks said he stuck with his convictions on nutrition, even though more people saw ingredients like kale and quinoa as exotic and unapproachable 15 years ago. Now, those are items his customers expect.

Although Sacks tries to steer clear of the relentless merry-go-round of dietary and nutrition fads, he is also mindful of more long-lasting preferences taking root, such as many customers' desire for fewer refined carbohydrates and breads. Without adopting diet-culture tactics such as demonizing or banishing particular food groups, Sacks offers options such as zucchini noodles topped with arugula pesto and the use of riced cauliflower and quinoa in place of white rice in the cafe's Korean-style bowls.

"There are no shortcuts to good nutrition," he explained. "We believe it comes through a diversity of foods and focusing on the pleasure of a really great tomato or head of lettuce."

And recently, condiments have taken on a more prominent role on the 9 Miles East menu — not only



Joan K. Lentini photo

Gordon Sacks holds a bottle of one of the new line of hot sauces made from ingredients grown at 9 Miles East Farm.

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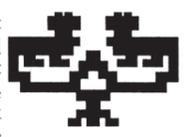
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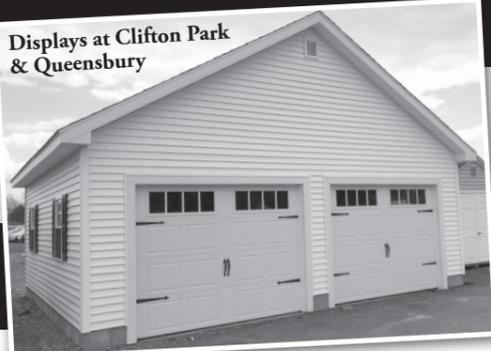
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Homegrown hot sauces

From the start, Sacks and his kitchen staff would top their popular GO boxes with a fermented carrot chunk, a probiotic tradition in Asian culture to aid digestion.

But now 9 Miles East has developed its own line of hot sauces — all lacto-fermented and made with vegetables grown in Saratoga County.

Adam Bigelow, a chef at 9 Miles East since 2016, was instrumental in developing flavor profiles of the new probiotic hot sauces. When Bigelow was hired to take the helm of the prepared-meal operation, his initial focus was to experiment with protein and vegetable options for entrees, salads and the GO boxes — ready-made meals consisting of organic greens, whole grains, cooked vegetables and house-made dressings.

In addition to vegan and vegetarian dishes, meals can include traditional protein options such as turkey, chicken, pork and beef. There's also an entire pizza menu using the house sourdough crust recipe.

"Our niche in the market is that everything is ready to eat — there's no prep work involved," Bigelow said.

Even the condiments and garnishes such as dressings, sesame seeds and sauces are already incorporated.

Because lacto-fermented foods are an integral part of the 9 Miles East philosophy, Sacks and Bigelow decided the three new varieties of hot sauces, which are available on the menu and also for sale by the bottle, should follow suit.

"The hot sauces came out of a program we do called retail items, which are small, interesting handcrafted items on a rotating basis as a supplement to add on to delivery orders," Bigelow said.

"Sometimes it will be a dozen farm-fresh eggs or a loaf of our fermented sourdough bread. I've always been a hot-sauce head, so I began experimenting."

Probiotic pickling

To create the new sauces, 9 Miles East used the same process that was already in place for the lacto-fermentation of carrots, pickles and peppers for menu items. That process involves coaxing a natural lactobacillus (a commonly used probiotic or 'good bacteria') grown in the hospitable environment of a salt solution. It all takes place in the commercial kitchen's airtight, pickle-fermenting buckets. Bigelow said the anaerobic environment helps the bacteria to multiply.

"The salt solution also keeps yeast and bad forms of bacteria from multiplying," he explained. "The lactobacillus consumes some of the carbohydrates in the food pickling and produces carbon dioxide and lactic acid, which all work together to pickle the vegetables."

As a result, entrees and appetizers ranging from tomato-rice soup to turkey chili, vegetable stir-fry, curried chicken and burritos now can be splashed with three flavors of hot sauce in varying colors and degrees of heat. Green is made with jalapeno and garlic and is somewhat mild. Orange is a carrot-habanero blend, which Sacks said "has some zip, but is nicely balanced by the sweetness of the carrot." And Red, the most fiery of the three, is made with cayenne peppers.

Bigelow said even a small quantity of the lacto-fermented hot sauce will yield probiotic benefits.

"Just a teaspoon of our hot sauce has millions to billions of probiotic elements in it," he said.

Customer feedback so far suggests the mild and medium sauces are the most popular, but all three are "selling really well," he added. The sauces sell for \$8 for a five-ounce bottle, and the

Saratoga Springs cafe has a small retail section for items such as condiments, sourdough loaves and boules, quick breads and desserts.

From farm to many tables

Although 9 Miles East still delivers meals to local homes and individuals, its scope has expanded to corporate customers and large-scale deliveries to schools and medical facilities. Sacks' role as chief executive keeps him busier than ever. On any given day, he can be found at his command center, hunkered behind a laptop at an empty restaurant table, coordinating food orders, deliveries and inventory shipments.

For more than a decade, Sacks and his staff worked from the farm kitchen nine miles east of Saratoga Springs (hence the name of the business). But in 2020 ("just in time for the pandemic," Sacks noted dryly), he opened a sit-down restaurant with a generously proportioned commercial kitchen and a parking lot large enough to accommodate delivery vehicles.

"We outgrew our kitchen on the farm and wanted to move closer to customers," Sacks explained. "The cafe gives people a chance to see our products and learn more about available service options. Plus it's a natural extension of our mission."

In spite of the operation's growth, Sacks seems pleasantly surprised by the shifting tastes of at least some of the population.

"What we do is the most boring thing in world — it's what your grandmother ate: plant-based," he observed. "It's really interesting. We always stayed away from trends, and what we do is the trend now."

Visit www.9mileseast.com for information about 9 Miles East Farm's line of hot sauces. They are available for purchase via delivery service or at the 9 Miles East restaurant at 64 Excelsior Ave. in Saratoga Springs.

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ARTS & CULTURE

From oppression to liberation

New show at Williams museum explores the journey of Black Americans

By KATE ABBOTT
Contributing writer

WILLIAMSTOWN, Mass.

A girl in a blue dress is riding a seesaw. She is holding on at the apex, and her dark hair falls over her shoulders in summer braids.

The artist and photographer Letitia Huckaby sets her portrait in a hinged oval frame, like a locket to wear at someone's throat, and in the other half, a set of steps leads up a grassy bank to a winter field — where a house used to be.

A body of work called "Two Greenwoods" brought Huckaby to the center of a community that rose to national prominence a hundred years ago.

W.E.B. Du Bois knew the Greenwood neighborhood of Tulsa, Okla. He walked the busy streets of the thriving Black downtown, and so did Booker T. Washington, the founder of Tuskegee University. Visiting Greenwood in the 1910s, the two early civil rights leaders saw a place where Black entrepreneurs had created an economic and cultural hub in that era of segregation — a neighborhood with Black-owned stores, restaurants, a theater and live music in a city where, according to the Greenwood Cultural Center, Count Basie first encountered big-band jazz.

And then violence struck. One day in the spring of 1921, a white mob attacked with guns, bombs and fire, killing and injuring hundreds of Greenwood's residents and reducing most of its buildings to rubble.

"The 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre desecrated the Greenwood neighborhood — one of the most prosperous African-American communities in the early 20th century," Huckaby writes, describing themes in her work.

In her paired images, she recognizes loss, she said in a phone interview from her home in



Photos courtesy of Williams College Museum of Art

John Quincy Adams Ward's 1863 bronze sculpture "The Freedman," left, helped to inspire an exhibition by seven contemporary Black artists exploring the meaning of emancipation in the 21st century. Hugh Hayden's 3-D printed "American Dream," right, offers a direct answer to Ward's work.

Texas, and she wants to respect all the generations alive today — and the spirit in the community that has grown and persisted in all the years since the massacre.

This winter and spring, Huckaby will consider ideas of courage and community as one of seven internationally acclaimed contemporary artists taking part in "Emancipation: The Unfinished Project of Liberation," which opens Feb. 16 at the Williams College Museum of Art.

The show, opening here a year after 160th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, explores ideas of liberation — what it means to move into the broader society, to be considered a citizen, to have legal rights and to imagine new futures, said guest co-curator Maurita N. Poole, who is executive director and chief curator at the Newcomb Art Museum at Tulane University.

Many views of freedom

Colors cascade like banners in Maya Freelon's tissue ink monoprints. She calls to beauty, transcendence, ancestry and celebration, she says in her notes for the show, with love for her grandmother and for her godmother and namesake, Maya Angelou.

Alfred Conteh's celebrated sculpture "Float" hovers in the air. A figure seems to rise surrounded in helixes, and they are budding like vines. The figure is scarred and flowering, and she is made from the atomized dust of steel and

bronze.

From many perspectives, these artists are looking closely at the roots of the nation's ideas of freedom and how they play out in the 21st century, Poole said in an interview over Zoom with co-curator Maggie Adler.

"I hope that people, when they see the show," Poole said, "will think about these artists responding to issues that are foundational and, at the core, ... fundamental to what it means to be an American."

The idea for the show began with a conversation in 2018 between Poole and Adler, who is curator of paintings, sculpture and works on paper at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art — and an alumna of the art history graduate program at Williams College.

Adler said the catalyst was a bronze sculpture from the Carter's collection, "The Freedman," created by the abolitionist and artist John Quincy Adams Ward in 1863 after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

Sitting on a tree stump, a man looks toward the horizon. Broad-shouldered and muscular, thoughtful and direct, he holds tension in his body and reflection in expression, as though he is moving and making decisions.

He "seems to be grappling with the idea that freedom will demand a new way of being," Poole writes in the show's catalog.

Adler wanted an exhibition that gave contemporary artists the flexibility to visualize emancipation in their own ways. She reached out to Poole, who was then director and curator at Clark Atlanta University Art Museum. Poole has also served as a Mellon curatorial fellow for diversity in the arts at Williams College, and together she and Adler approached Horace D. Ballard, who was then curator of American art at the Williams College Museum of Art, before he moved on to become curator of American art at Harvard Art Museums.

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"Emancipation: The Unfinished Project of Liberation"

Seven nationally acclaimed contemporary artists offer new and recent work visualizing Black freedom, agency and the legacy of the Civil War today and beyond: Sadie Barnette, Alfred Conteh, Maya Freelon, Hugh Hayden, Letitia Huckaby, Jeffrey Meris and Sable Elyse Smith.

Where: Williams College Museum of Art
When: Feb. 16 through July 1, with an

opening celebration from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 23

Special event: Frances Jones-Sneed, professor of history emerita at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, will explore the question "What does emancipation mean in the Berkshires?" at 6 p.m. March 7.

Admission: Free

Information: artmuseum.williams.edu

"I was excited about it," Poole said, "because I thought it would be an opportunity for a new generation to reflect upon those issues, and particularly in the 21st century to figure out how we understand the meaning and implications not only of freedom, but of citizenship.

She feels students can explore those meanings in greater depth, especially for Black Americans. The artists have opened up these questions here in contemporary sculptural work, she and Adler said.

Sadie Barnette explores repression and abolition and resistance in her installations, with fantastical and celebratory elements like glitter. Jeffrey Meris traces challenges in healing and in lived experiences as transient and renewing as snow.

Sable Elyse Smith reveals forms of violence in incarceration. And Hugh Hayden brings "The Freedman" into the 21st century with a precision, 3-D printed contemporary man echoing his strength and breaking his shackles.

Connecting two communities

In her "Two Greenwoods" project, Huckaby explores two communities related by family and time. Many of the founders of the Greenwood neighborhood in Tulsa came from Greenwood, Miss., she said, where her father was born. He served in the military, and his last duty station was in Oklahoma, so Huckaby has roots in both places.

In the decades after the Civil War, she said, freedmen's towns, communities of free Black families, were growing across Oklahoma and Kansas. Oklahoma had so many, it nearly became a freedmen's state.

These newly formed states had land and resources — seized from Native nations — and people from the Deep South were moving to the Plains.

"The community in Tulsa prospered to the point where they were called the Black Wall Street," Huckaby said. "They had their own businesses, their own schools, their own hotels, their own theaters, their own ... you know, everything. And all but one block was completely annihilated in this event."

The event was a coordinated attack by a substantial number of white residents in the still-segregated city. Over two days, from May 31 to June 1, 1921, 35 blocks of homes and businesses burned to the ground.

More than 300 African-Americans were murdered, more than 10,000 were left homeless, and more than 2,000 business destroyed, according to the Greenwood Cultural Center, making it one of the single deadliest and most destructive acts of racial violence in U.S. history. No one was ever criminally charged in connection with the attack.

And the effects are still visible, though the community continues to work together for change today.

When Huckaby first came to Tulsa, she said,

she talked with descendants of the Greenwood neighborhood's founders. And she found generational trauma within the community. The centennial three years ago brought them into the news, she said, but they felt sensationalized, turned into a spectacle where no one was giving them anything constructive in return.

So she explored the past through her own family connections.

"I ended up photographing a city block in Tulsa, near where the Greenwood community was, that had no houses," she said. "All that was left was stairs that would have led to porches, ... and it was a poetic representation of the

community that was lost."

She knows the first Greenwood, in Mississippi, very well, because her grandmother lived there, and Huckaby went back to photograph the block of houses where her father was born and raised. Her mother went with her.

"My father's deceased," Huckaby said, "and after he passed away, my mother left Oklahoma and went back to Louisiana, where she was originally from. ... And so we drove to Greenwood, Mississippi, which is in the Delta.

"And the drive brought back so many memories to her. That was probably the most precious part about my making that body of work, to listen to her reminisce about driving up to visit him in Greenwood and meet his parents. ... She's the one that was able to point out to me exactly where the house was. ... So I learned a lot about him through her, but I also learned more about her."



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Tracing history through families

The roles of family and family history have become a through-line in the show, Adler said.

Maya Freelon also remembers her grandmother in her work, creating vibrant hues and cascading shapes with found objects.

"My grandmother used to tell me we came from a family of sharecroppers that never got their fair share," she writes in the exhibition catalog. "She grew up during the Great Depression and knew what it was like to need and not have. ... She taught me how to make something out of nothing, how to make a way out of no way, and how to make quilts piece by piece."

One day, Freelon writes, looking through her grandmother's attic, through old Jet and Ebony magazines and books signed by James Baldwin and Alex Haley, she found tissue paper that had soaked up color from the dampness.

"This watermark," she writes, "what many would call an accident from an old leaking pipe, changed the trajectory of my artistic career."

Huckaby too invokes her family and her past in the cloth that carries her images.

"I was printing on heirloom fabrics for a while — quilt tops that my great-grandmother had sewn," she said. "So there was this connection to past generations — sometimes people I hadn't even met before. They had passed before I was born, but they left these artifacts that I then was able to use in my practice and create a whole conversation with them."

"And I'm really attracted to a kind of Southern aesthetic when it comes to color," Huckaby continued. "Especially in Louisiana, there's a lot of color in the architecture in low-income communities, in the Black community. You see a lot of vibrant color."

"And there's a richness just to the landscape in the South. ... It's kind of like that red clay, and I don't even know how to explain it, but I feel like that influences my color more than

anything else, just the look of the South."

Silhouettes form on cotton cloth like people seen through a window. Washes of color touch the walls behind them.

Preserving generational links

Silhouettes form on cotton cloth like people seen through a window. Washes of color touch the walls behind them.

In "Bitter Water Sweet," a new body of work, Huckaby has talked with descendants of the founders of Africatown in Mobile, Ala.

"It's the only freedmen's town that I know of that was actually started by Africans," she said. "They hadn't been enslaved for a long period of time. So their descendants still know who their ancestors were."

In 1860, 110 people of the Dendi, Fon, Isha, Nupe and Yoruba in West Africa — living in and near Dahomey, now Benin — were abducted and brought to the United States as slaves aboard the Clotilda, one of the last known slave ships to arrive in this country. A white Alabama businessman, Timothy Meaher, smuggled them in illegally even by U.S. laws at the time.

And in a rare convergence, their families today know their names: Abile, Gumpa, Jaba, Zazoola, Kehounco, Kupollee.

Some were couples, some families and some children, according to Margaret Brown's recent documentary film, "Descendants." They were forcibly divided and sold in Mobile and Selma and elsewhere, a kind of forced separation of families that white slave owners inflicted constantly on enslaved people — one reason the kind of knowledge Africatown has held onto has become so rare.

But emancipation and the Civil War came, and a group of the survivors from the ship formed a community in 1867. They shared relationships, experiences, culture, and passed them down through their families. And their descendants have fought for generations to

preserve that knowledge.

"They know what areas their ancestors were from in Africa — and customs, something they still hold onto," Huckaby said.

The descendants built a heritage house, she said, a museum of their own with photographs taken across generations along with writings and artifacts. They have family stories.

"And in some cases they know what their ancestors looked like, because when they came, there was images made of them," Huckaby said. "That's mind-blowing to me."

The families connected to Africatown also have oral histories. In 1927, Cudjoe (Kazoola) Lewis, the last survivor of the group that arrived on the Clotilda, shared his story with the internationally acclaimed folklorist, novelist and playwright Zora Neale Hurston. Hurston wrote a book, "Barracoon," based on her interviews, Huckaby said. (A barracoon is a jail where enslaved people were held.)

Lewis "was a bit of a storyteller," Huckaby said, "so people would come into Africatown to hear his stories and record their own."

On her own trip, she photographed descendants of the founders. They have held elements of their community together for more than 150 years, she said, even though for generations they were not allowed to talk openly about their shared past, for fear of retaliation.

"But now they can openly talk about it, and they don't want to stop," she said. "They want to just keep telling their story."

"I think that's the part that they cherish the most, being able to know something about their ancestors, the way they lived, the kind of things they said, and have that passed down and be able to continue to pass that down. When you go to community meetings, it's all generations there. It's grandparents, it's working adults, it's teenagers, it's little kids — they're all there to absorb and keep their history alive."

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

BerkshireMuseum.org • 39 South St., Pittsfield, MA • 413-443-7171
• Feb. 3-May 5: Painted Pages: Illuminated Manuscripts 13th to 18th Centuries

CarrieHaddadGallery.com • 622 Warren St., Hudson, NY • 518-828-1915
• Opening Mar 1: "Tangled Up In Blue"

ChapmanMuseum.org • Glens Falls, NY • 518-793-2826
• Ongoing: "Explore the History of Glens Falls & Queensbury" & "Experiences of Hometown Life"
• through Apr. 2: Adirondack Cabins & Camps
• Feb. 3-May 12: Hometown Teams

ClarkArt.edu • Williamstown, MA
• through Feb. 11: "50 Years & Forward: British Prints & Drawings Acquisitions"
• through Mar. 10: "50 Years & Forward: Works on Paper Acquisitions"
• Feb. 10-Jan. 26, 2025: David-Jeremiah "I Drive Thee"
• Mar. 9-Jun. 23: Paper Cities

CollarWorks.org • Troy, NY
• through Mar.1: Marcus Kwame Anderson: "Instinctive Travels" at 100 Montessori Pl, Rensselaer, NY

Courthouse Gallery • Lake George, NY • www.lakegeorgearts.org • Masks
• through Feb. 24: Nathan Meltz: "The Utopia Machine"

510WarrenStreetGallery.com • Hudson, NY • 518-822-0510
• Mar. 1-31: Nina Lipkowitz: "Other Worlds"

Folklife Gallery • www.CrandallLibrary.org/
Folklife-Center • Glens Falls, NY
• Folk Arts All Around Us & On View

HartCluett.org • Troy, NY • 518-272-7232
• "Transportation in Rensselaer County" (on display at Albany-Rensselaer Amtrak Station)
• "The Pursuit of Happiness"

HudsonHall.org • Hudson, NY • 518-822-1438
• Mar. 9-Apr. 14: "E(n)ternal Light: The Eternal Ecosystem Exposed"

HydeCollection.org • 518-792-1761
• through Apr. 21: Venetian Vistas
• through Apr. 21: Decorating in Style: Furniture from the Permanent Collection
• through Jun. 2: Paul Anthony Smith: Passage

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

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

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

The Left Bank Maurice Kahn Gallery • 5 Bank St., N. Bennington, VT
• Feb. 4-29: Joe Bishop's "Places, Spaces and Favorite Faces"

Norman Rockwell Museum • Stockbridge, MA • nrm.org • 413-298-4100
• multiple virtual exhibitions at URL
• through Feb. 25: Norman Rockwell: Winter Wonderland
• through May 27: "Between Worlds: The Art and Design of Leo Lionni"
• opening Mar. 2: "Mystery & Wonder: Illustration Highlights from the Permanent Collection"
• "Norman Rockwell: The Business of Illustrating the American Dream"
• 323 "Saturday Evening Post" Covers

NorthCountryArts.org • Glens Falls, NY • 518-222-1471
--The Shirt Factory • 71 Lawrence St.
• through Feb. 24: Imagine
--2nd Floor Gallery at City Hall • 42 Ridge St.
• through Apr. 12: Hannah Williams & Anthony Richichi

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

PamelaSalisburyGallery.com • Hudson, NY
• Feb. 3-Mar. 3: Lois Dickson

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

Rooted In Salem • 196 S. Main St., Salem, NY • 518-772-9332
• opening Mar. 1: Zack Lobdell's "The Fire Remembers"

Saratoga-Arts.org • Saratoga Springs, NY • 518-584-4132
• through Feb. 2: 2024 High School All Stars

SeptemberGallery.com • Kinderhook, NY
• Feb. 10-Apr. 7: Nell Brookfield's "Humans of course are animals"
• Feb. 10-Apr. 7: 10 local & int'l artists: "In the pale moonlight"

ShakerMuseum.us • Chatham, NY • 518-794-9100
• Feb. 3-Apr. 28: "Palm to Poplar: Devotional Labor"

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

Southern Vermont Arts Center • Manchester, VT • 802-362-1405 • www.svac.org
• through Mar. 3: Fall/Winter 2023 Member Exhibition
• through Apr. 21: Nayana LaFond: "Portraits in RED: Missing & Murdered Indigenous Peoples Painting Project"
• through Apr. 21: Cat Del Buono: "Voices"

SpringStreetGallerySaratoga.org • Saratoga Springs, NY
• through Feb. 4: Anne Diggory: "Near and Far"

SusanEleyFineArt.com • Hudson, NY
• through Feb. 17: Angela A'Court & Karin Bruckner: "Keeping Memories"
• Feb. 1-Mar. 24: Heather Boose Weiss, Carolyn Monastra, Leah Oates: "Landscapes of Transcendence: Part II - Scenes of Ethereality"
• Feb. 22-Apr. 6: Carole Eisner, Margaret Fitzgerald, Michael Wright: "Enchantments: Ode to New Mexico"

Tang.skidmore.edu
• Feb. 3-May 19: Isaac Julien: "Lessons of the Hour"
• Feb. 3-Jun. 19: Studio/Archive: portraiture & archives as tools for agency, empathy, & justice
• through Sep. 7, 2025: Yvette Molina "A Promise to the Leaves" (evolving installation centered around earth, air, water, fire, & the cosmos)

UsdanGallery.bennington.edu • One College Dr., Bennington, VT • 802-440-4547
• Feb. 27-Apr. 27: Milford Graves: A Mind-Body Deal

ValleyArtisansMarket.com • 25 E. Main St., Cambridge, NY
• through Feb. 12: Mary Lou Strode: "Then and Now, a Retrospective"
• Feb. 15-Mar. 11: 2nd Annual Small Works Show, 2024

VTSU Castleton Bank Gallery • 104 Merchants Row, Rutland, VT
• through Mar. 15: "Historic Figures & Nature" by Ddji Koudakpo

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



Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2024

Sun

Mon

Tues

Wed

Feb. 3 *cont'd.*

NRM.org • "Inheriting the Legacy: Convo w/Rockwell Fam." • 4 pm • Tix req'd. for link

misc.

Tang.Skidmore.edu • Family Sat.: "Floating Sculptures" • Ages 5+ • 2 pm • Free

Feb. 9 *cont'd.*



WCHS-NY.org • Loc. Hist. (Asa Fitch books) • 12 pm • 167 Broadway, Ft. Edward

misc.

'62Center.Williams.edu • Queering Festival Community Lunch • 12-1 pm

Parks.ny.gov/moreau • Luminary Walk • 6 pm • 24 hrs. adv. res. REQ'D.

Feb. 10 *cont'd.*

Theatre Festival Benefit • 6:30 pm

DeweyHall.org • Celestial Ball • 7-10 pm • 413-429-1322

Feb. 20 *cont'd.*

Identity, Love, & Being Black in American Fiction" • 4 pm • Reg. req'd. for link

Bennington.edu • Holding Pepsi Accountable for Its Plastic Pollution • 7-8 pm • Reg. REQ'D for Zoom link: Fbook: BeyondPlasticsAction

misc.

Parks.ny.gov/moreau • Eagle Watch • 8:30 am • 24 hrs. adv. res. REQ'D. at 518-793-0511

BerkshireMuseum.org • Big Bubble Bonanza - Sensory Friendly • 2-3 pm

Feb. 24 *cont'd.*



• Glens Falls Comm. Theatre

TheFoundryWS.com • Project Herlarious: Celeb. in Black History Mo. • 7:30 pm



GildedAge.org • Robert Oakes: "Ghosts of the Berkshires" • Ages 12+ • 8 pm • Res. rec'd.

misc.

BerkshireBotanical.org • Annual Bulb Show (through Mar. 17) • Free • 9 am-4 pm • Fitzpatrick Conservatory

Parks.ny.gov/moreau • Full Moon Hike • 5:30 pm • 24 hrs. adv. res. REQ'D. at 518-793-0511

March 2 *cont'd.*

DragStoryHour.org • DSHB Launch Party, w/PoppyDaBubbly • 2-4 pm • Free • 34 Depot St., Pittsfield, MA

THEATER LISTINGS

Dorset Players.org • Dorset, VT • 802-867-5570 • Dorset Playhouse • 19th Annual One-Act Festival • Mar. 1-3 • Sun. & Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun., 2 pm

GhentPlayhouse.org • 6 Town Hall Place, Ghent, NY • Tickets online ONLY • 518-392-6264 • "All My Sons" • Feb. 9-11 and 16-18 • Fri. & Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun., 2 pm

Glens Falls Community Theatre • Wood-Theater.org • 207 Glen St., Glens Falls, NY • 518-480-4878 • boxoffice@woodtheater.org • Sam Shepard's "Fool For Love" • Feb. 23-25 • Fri. & Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun., 2 pm

4 February



RBLodge.com • Jazz Brunch w/Michael Junkins Trio • 12-3 pm • Stagecoach Tavern

Bennington.edu • Sage City Symphony • 4-6 pm • VAPA Greenwall Aud.

CrescendoMusic.org • Renaissance Motets • 4 pm • St. James Pl., Great Barrington, MA



DeweyHall.org • "Broadway Goes to the Movies" • 2 pm



CrandellTheatre.org • "American Fiction" • 1 & 4 pm

ADK-GFS.org • Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival • Doors 6 pm • Wood-Theater.org

ImagesCinema.org • "The Great Muppet Caper" & "Poor Things" • Showtimes at URL



ClarkArt.edu • Tim Medland & Robert Wiesenerger in convo: "We Tried to Warn You! Environmental Crisis Posters, 1970-2020" • 4 pm

5



ImagesCinema.org • "Poor Things" & "The Great Muppet Caper" w/Jay Tarses • Showtimes at URL



CastletonPublicLibrary.org • After Dinner Book Club: Flynn Barry's "Northern Spy" • 7 pm

6



ImagesCinema.org • "Poor Things" • Showtimes at URL

CrandallLibrary.org • "Fannie Lou Hamer's America" • 6:30 pm



ClarkArt.edu • Laure de Margerie ("French Sculpture: An American Passion") • 5:30 pm

misc.

Parks.ny.gov/moreau • Lake Bonita-Lake Anne-Waterfall Trail Hike (5.5 mi) • 9:30 am • 24 hrs. adv. res. REQ'D. at 518-793-0511

7



atUPH.org • Women Aren't Funny - Liz Glazer • 7:30 pm



ImagesCinema.org • "Poor Things" & "Robocop" • Showtimes at URL



CaffeLena.org • Open Mic Poetry & Reading w/Samira Sanare & SG • Doors, 6:30 pm

misc.

Parks.ny.gov/moreau • Eagle Watch • 2 pm • 24 hrs. adv. res. REQ'D. at 518-793-0511

11



RBLodge.com • Jazz Brunch w/Tristan Geary • 12-3 pm • Stagecoach Tavern

GildedAge.org • "Songs in the Cycle of Love," w/ Sherri Buxton & Bob Shepherd • 3:30 pm

CEWM.org • The Art of the String Quartet--The Avalon • 4 pm • Saint James Place, Great Barrington, MA



• Ghent Playhouse

ClarkArt.edu • C.P. Taylor's "Good," filmed live in London • 3 pm



ImagesCinema.org • "American Fiction" & "Who Framed Roger Rabbit?" • Showtimes at URL

misc.

ClarkArt.edu • Valentine Making Stations • 2-4 pm

12



CaffeLena.org • Open Mic Night • 7-9 pm



ImagesCinema.org • "American Fiction" • Showtimes at URL

misc.

Parks.ny.gov/moreau • Eagle Watch • 2 pm • 24 hrs. adv. res. REQ'D. at 518-793-0511

13



ImagesCinema.org • "American Fiction" & French Film Fest: "Lost Illusions" • Showtimes at URL

CrandallLibrary.org • "Town Destroyer" • 6:30 pm

misc.

Parks.ny.gov/moreau • Cottage Park and Western Ridge Loop (2.4 mi) • 9:30 am • 24 hrs. adv. res. REQ'D. at 518-793-0511

14



CastletonPublicLibrary.org • Open Mic Night • 6-8 pm

StoneValleyArts.org • Community Music Jam • 7-9 • 1 Brennan Cir, Poultney, VT

DeweyHall.org • Drop-In: Jazz Jam • 7 pm

CaffeLena.org • Michael Mills • 7:30-9:30 pm

FortSalem.com • Valentine's Day Cabaret feat. Brittany Rolfs • 7:30 pm



ImagesCinema.org • "American Fiction" • Showtimes at URL

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2024

Thurs

Fri

Sat

1

 **CaffeLena.org**
--Slow Jam: Folk, Bluegrass & More! • 1-3 pm
--Aleksi Campagne • 7-9 pm

 **CaffeLena.org** • 1st Sun. Playwright's Jam • 1-4 pm • Saratoga Springs Public Library

 **CrandellTheatre.org** • "Poor Things" • 7 pm

ImagesCinema.org • "Poor Things" • Showtimes at URL

 **BattenkillBooks.com**
Bk. Club: Kim Van Alkemade ("Counting Lost Stars") • 6:30-7:30 pm

Saratoga Jewish Community Arts • The Braid presents "I Loved Jew, I Loved Jew Not" Live on Zoom • 7 pm • Reg. REQ'D, reg. info at sjca.sjcf@gmail.com

misc.

Parks.ny.gov/moreau • Baker Trail to Moreau Overlook Hike (2.4 mi) • 10 am • 24 hrs. adv. res. REQ'D. at 518-793-0511

8

 **ClarkArt.edu** • "The Bus" • 6 pm

CrandellTheatre.org • "American Fiction" • 7 pm

ImagesCinema.org • "Poor Things" • Showtimes at URL

 **BattenkillBooks.com**
• Author Talk: Kim Van Alkemade ("Counting Lost Stars") • 6 pm

Skidmore.edu • Mickalene Thomas (visual homages to Black women) • 6 pm

CrandallLibrary.org • Virtual Author Talk: Tessa Bailey: "Spice, Spirit, & Swoon - A Guaranteed Happily Ever After" • 8 pm • Reg. req'd. for link

15

 **CaffeLena.org**
--Slow Jam: Folk, Bluegrass & More! • 1-3 pm
--Jonathan Greene Album Release • 7:30 pm

 **ClarkArt.edu** • "Drylongso" • 6 pm

HydeCollection.org • "Jeff Koons: A Private Portrait" • 6 pm

ImagesCinema.org • "American Fiction" • Showtimes at URL

 **Olana.org** • 3d Thursday Tours & Programs • 11 am-5 pm • Free

RBLodge.com • Twilight Tales by the Fire: Blackwood's "The Willows" read by Victoria Finney • 7-11 pm

2

 **atUPH.org** • Yonder Mountain String Band • 7:30 PM

Unihog • Rees Shad & the Conversations w/Quixote Project & Andrew Dunn • 7-10 pm • 2 Center St., Hoo-sick Falls, NY

CaffeLena.org • Joy Clark • 8-10 pm

 **ADK-GFS.org** • Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour 2024 • Doors 6 pm • WoodTheater.org

CrandellTheatre.org • "American Fiction" • 7 pm

ImagesCinema.org • "Poor Things" • Showtimes at URL

misc.

Parks.ny.gov/moreau • Groundhog Gathering • 11 am • Res. at 518-793-0511

Ballston.org • 9th Annual Chocolate Fest • 4-8 pm • Events at URL • Ballston Spa, NY

9

 **Blue Cat** • Scott Forest • 6-9 pm • 575 Main St., Castleton, VT

SalemCourthouse.org • Jason Alexander • 7 pm • Free, pay what you will

TheFoundryWS.com • Topsy Carol's Valentine Mas-sacre Sing Along • 7:30 pm

atUPH.org • VOCES8 • 8 pm

CaffeLena.org • Crys Matthews - Black History Month Tour • 8-10 pm

 **'62Center.Williams.edu** • --"TALAGA, Performance Lecture Demonstration" •

6-7:30 pm • CenterStage --"This Show is available for Touring" • 8-9 pm • Adams Mem. Theatre

 Ghent Playhouse

TheFoundryWS.com • "Affairs of the Heart," Stand-up Comedy & Storytelling Workshop w/Mina Hartong • 1 pm

 **ImagesCinema.org** • "American Fiction" • Showtimes at URL

RBLodge.com • Social Realism of Loach ("Kes" [1969]) & Ramsay ("Ratcatcher" [1999])

cont'd. on page 20

16

 **Blue Cat** • Laura Molinelli & Bay Campbell • 6-9 pm • 575 Main St., Castleton, VT

StoneValleyArts.org • SVA Open Mic • 7-8:15 pm • 1 Brennan Cir., Poultney, VT

atUPH.org • Passport Series: Bassekou Kouyate & Ngoni Ba • 7:30 pm

Skidmore.edu • Carnegie Hall Ensemble Connect • 7:30 pm • Zankel

CaffeLena.org • Folk Heritage: Christine Lavin • 8-10 pm

 **'62Center.Williams.edu** • Zambezi Dance Party! • 7-8

pm • CenterStage
 Ghent Playhouse

'62Center.Williams.edu • Theatre Honors: RUSH: A Greek Tragedy, by Mati Rogers '24 • 7:30-8:30 pm • Directing Studio

 **KinderhookLibrary.org** • Pop Docs! (arcade bars documentary) • 5 pm

 **ClarkArt.edu** • Gallery Talk w/Emerging Art Historians • 12 pm • Free, no reg. req'd.

3

 **Berkshire Strings Jams**
--Slow Jam, all ages, 10 am
--Moderate Jam, all ages, 11:30 pm

ClarkArt.edu • Umi Garrett • 2 pm

CaffeLena.org
--Little Folks w/Dan Bern • 3-4:30 pm
--Dan Bern • 8-10 pm

ClaverackLibrary.org • The River Trio • 3 pm

BerkshireTheatreGroup.org • Rev Tor's Annual Dead of Winter Jam • 7:30 pm • 111 South St., Pittsfield, MA

atUPH.org • Uptown: A Celebration of Motown & Soul • 7:30 pm

 **DeweyHall.org** • "Broadway Goes to the Movies" • 7 pm

DorsetPlayers.org • "Eating Richard Parker" Staged Reading • 7:30 pm

 **CrandellTheatre.org** • "American Fiction" • 1, 4 & 7 pm

ADK-GFS.org • Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival • Doors 6 pm • Wood-Theater.org

ImagesCinema.org • "Poor Things" & "The Great Muppet Caper" • Showtimes at URL

 **Parks.ny.gov/moreau** • History of Snowshoes • 11 am

BerkshireMuseum.org • Painted Pages by Scott Schweigert • 1 pm

cont'd. on page 20

10

 **BerkshireTheatreGroup.org** • Kids Concert: Terry A La Berry & Friends • 12 pm • Colonial

BerkshireTheatreGroup.org • Best of the 70's w/DizzyFish & the Uptown Horns • 7:30 pm • Colonial

CaffeLena.org • Mark & Jill w/Erin Harpe Country Blues Duo • 8-10 pm

 **RBLodge.com** • Bronco Bullfrog & Mod Dance Party • 7-10 pm • Race Brook Lodge

 Ghent Playhouse

TheFoundryWS.com • Comedian Mina Hartong w/ Jamie Machotka • 7:30 pm

 **ImagesCinema.org** • "Who Framed Roger Rabbit?" & "American Fiction" • Showtimes at URL

 **ClarkArt.edu** • "When Justice Fails" by Mark Howard • 2 pm

GildedAge.org • Robert Oakes: "Ghosts of the Berkshires" • Ages 12+ • 8 pm • Res. rec'd.

misc.

WoodTheater.com • Pep Rally 2024: 30th Adirondack
cont'd. on page 20

17

 **WoodTheater.org** • "Letters of Love: A Valentine's Day Cabaret" • 7:30 pm

Berkshire Strings Jams • Slow Jam, all ages, 10 am

CaffeLena.org • Gibson Brothers Band • 5-7 & 8-10 pm

 Ghent Playhouse

'62Center.Williams.edu • See Feb. 16

misc.

HudsonHall.org • Clothing Club, co-presented by Sideways Art • 10 am-2 pm • Ages 12-17 • Free • Reg. req'd.

Tang.Skidmore.edu • Family Sat • 2 pm • Free

atUPH.org • Dramaturgy: Henry Johnson: Ballad of a Forgotten Hero • 11 am

BerkshireTheatreGroup.org • Magic Tree House Merlin Missions: Winter of the Ice Wizard • 2 pm • Colonial Theatre

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR

Sun

Mon

Tues

Wed

18 February

 **RBLodge.com** • Jazz Brunch w/Chad McLoughlin Trio • 12-3 pm • Stagecoach Tavern

CaffeLena.org
--Kids' Open Mic w/host Rick Bolton • 2-4 pm
--Flurry Festival Decompression: Hubby Jenkins • 7-9 pm

 • Ghent Playhouse

misc.

Parks.ny.gov/moreau • Beginner Bird Walk • 8:30 am • Res. at 518-793-0511

19

 **CaffeLena.org** • Open Mic Night • 7-9 pm

misc.

Parks.ny.gov/moreau • Beaver Walk • 2 pm • Res. at 518-793-0511

BerkshireMuseum.org • Big Bubble Bonanza • 2-3 pm

25

 **RBLodge.com** • Jazz Brunch: Bobby MacVeety • 12 pm

FortSalem.com • Music From Salem • 4 pm

CaffeLena.org • Global Voices: Emilio Solla & Antonio Lizana • 7-9 pm

 • Glens Falls Comm. Theatre

ClarkArt.edu • "King Lear," filmed live in London • 2 pm

misc.

BerkshireMuseum.org • Wingmasters World of Owls • Ages 6+ • 12:30-1:15 & 2-2:45 pm

26

 **CaffeLena.org** • Open Mic Night • 7-9 pm

 **CastletonPublicLibrary.org** • Michael Hiser: Civil War & Battle of Antietam (Stephen Sears) • 6-7:30 pm

20

 **CaffeLena.org** • Rochmon Record: Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On" • 7-9 pm

 **CrandallLibrary.org** • "Running with My Girls" • 6:30 pm

 **CrandallLibrary.org** • Jason Mott: "Exploring

cont'd. on page 20

27

 **CrandallLibrary.org** • "The Harvest: Integrating MS's Schools" • 6:30 pm

 **ClarkArt.edu** • Sora Han: Littoral Law • 5:30 pm • Aud.

misc.

Parks.ny.gov/moreau • Baker Trail Hike (2.4 mi) • 10 am • 24 hrs. adv. res. REQ'D.

21

 **CaffeLena.org** • Bluegrass Jam, host Red Spruce • 7-9 pm

 **Olana.org** • 3d Thursday Tours & Programs • 11 am-5 pm • Free

CastletonPublicLibrary.org • Bk Club: Susan Cain's "Bittersweet: How Sorrow & Longing Make Us Whole" • 1 pm

DeweyHall.org • Drop-In: Storytelling Evening • 7 pm

misc.

Parks.ny.gov/moreau • Public Ice Fishing • 10 am-1 pm • 24 hrs. adv. res. REQ'D. at 518-793-0511

BerkshireMuseum.org • Fun with Energy • 2-3 pm

HubbardHall.org • Inclusive Breaking Bread Potluck • 6:30 pm • Beacon Feed

Salem Astronomy Club • 7 pm • Starfish Library, Salem, NY • 518-854-7212

28

 **DeweyHall.org** • Drop-In: Talent Share • 7 pm

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

 **HudsonHall.org** • "It's Basic" • 6 pm • Free, res. rec'd.

misc.

 **CrandallLibrary.org** • Author Talk: Kim Scott: "Be a Kick-Ass Boss W/o Losing Your Humanity" • 2 pm • Reg. req'd. for link

Parks.ny.gov/moreau • Eagle Watch • 8:30 am • 24 hrs. adv. res. REQ'D. at 518-793-0511

Fri. March 1

 **Blue Cat** • Rebecca Padula • 6-9 pm • 575 Main St., Castleton, VT

CaffeLena.org • Aztec Two-Step 2.0 • 8-10 pm

 • Dorset Players.org

 **BerkshireMuseum.org** • Oscar-Nom. Short - Animation • 7-9 pm

Sat. March 2

 **Berkshire Strings Jams**
--Slow, all ages, 10 am
--Moderate, all ages, 11:30 pm

CaffeLena.org • Little Folks: Deb Cavanaugh & Dandelion Wine • 3-4:30 pm

HudsonHall.org • Sean Jones Quartet • 7 pm

atUPH.org • David Nail • 7:30 pm

BerkshireTheatreGroup.org • Trib. to Led Zeppelin & Bad Company • 7:30 pm • Colonial Theatre

TheFoundryWS.com • Grosse Isle • 7:30 pm

 • Dorset Players.org

WoodTheater.org • 24 Hour Playfest • 8 pm

Sat. March 2

cont'd.
 **BerkshireBotanical.org** • Fergus Garrett: 'A Flower Garden Can Support Threatened Species' • 2-4 pm • Tix at URL or 413-320-4794

Sun. March 3

 **RBLodge.com** • --Jazz Brunch w/Don Mikelsen Trio • 12-3 pm • Stagecoach Tavern
--Global Kids Music w/Elena Moon Park & Friends 4-7 pm • Race Brook Lodge

SaratogaChamberPlayers.org • Violinist Jill Levy & pianist Renana Gutman • 3 pm • 175 5th Ave., Saratoga Springs, NY

CaffeLena.org • Garnet Rogers • 7-9 pm

 • Dorset Players.org

CaffeLena.org • 1st Sun. Playwright's Jam • 1-4 pm • Saratoga Spr. Pub. Lib.

Mon. March 4

 **CaffeLena.org** • Open Mic Night • 7-9 pm
 **CastletonPublicLibrary.org** • After Dinner Book Club: Bradford Pearson's "Eagles of Heart Mountain" • 7 pm

Tues. March 5

 **CaffeLena.org** • Storytelling Open Mic, feat. Alden (Joe) Doolittle • 7-9 pm

Wed. March 6

 **CrandallLibrary.org** • Virtual Author Talk: Nina Totenberg: "The Power of Friendships" • 4 pm • Reg. req'd. for link

CaffeLena.org • Poetry Open Mic, feat. Barbara Ungar • 7-9 pm

Thur. March 7

 **CaffeLena.org** • Momentum Series: Missy Raines & Allegheny • 7-9 pm

 **BattenkillBooks.com** • Fict. Bk. Club: Kai Thomas ("In the Upper Country") • 6:30-7:30 pm

Fri. March 8

 **Blue Cat** • Jared Johnson • 6-9 pm • 575 Main St., Castleton, VT

TheFoundryWS.com • Rees Shad and the Conversations Galahad Blues • 7:30 pm

Fri. March 8

cont'd.
atUPH.org • The Seven Wonders: Live Tribute to Fleetwood Mac • 7:30 pm
CaffeLena.org • Ryan Montbleau w/opener Brooks Forsyth • 8-10 pm

RBLodge.com • Secret Planet's "Almost Spring Weekender" • 8 pm-1 am • Acts & Events at URL

 **BerkshireMuseum.org** • Oscar-Nom. Short - Live-Action • 7-10 pm

WCHS-NY.org • Local History Book Club ("An Intro to Historic Resources in Wash. Co, NY") • 12-1 pm • 167 Broadway, Ft. Edward, NY

Sat. March 9

 **BerkshireTheatreGroup.org** • Kids Concert: Terry A La Berry & Friends • 12 pm • Colonial

RBLodge.com • Secret Planet's "Almost Spring Weekender" • 1 pm-1 am • Acts & Events at URL

CaffeLena.org • Ryan Montbleau w/opener Brooks Forsyth • 8-10 pm

 **62Center.Williams.edu** • Step Competition • 7-8:30 pm • Mainstage

Sat. March 9

cont'd.
 **SpencertownAcademy.org** • "The Ninth Hour: A Beowulf for the Modern Age" • 2 pm

BerkshireTheatreGroup.org • Andy Gross Live: Are You Kidding Me? Tour • 7:30 pm • Colonial Theatre

TheFoundryWS.com • Comedian Carolyn Plummer • 7:30 pm

 **HydeCollection.org** • The Met: Live in HD - "La Forza del Destino" • 11:55 am

Sun. March 10

 **TheGlensFallsSymphony.org** • "The Original Paul & George" - 100 years of Rhapsody in Blue • 4 pm • SUNY Adirondack Theatre

CaffeLena.org • Paul Thorn & Steve Poltz • 7-9 pm

Mon. March 11

 **CaffeLena.org** • Open Mic Night • 7-9 pm

 **CrandallLibrary.org** • "3 Drowned Sisters: Women in Songs of Sara Cleveland" • 7-8:30 pm

Tu March 12

 **CrandallLibrary.org** • "Deciding Vote" • 6:30 pm

We March 13

 **CastletonPublicLibrary.org** • Open Mic Night • 6-8 pm

StoneValleyArts.org • Community Music Jam • 7-9 • 1 Brennan Cir, Poultney, VT

Th March 14

 **CaffeLena.org** • The Ruta Beggars • 7-9 pm

CrandallLibrary.org • Folklife Concert: Northern Resonance • 7 pm

 **CrandallLibrary.org** • Virtual Author Talk: Christopher Paolini: "20 Years of Dragon-Riding in YA Fantasy" • 4 pm • Reg. req'd. for link

BattenkillBooks.com • Author Talk: Kai Thomas ("In the Upper Country") • 6 pm

Arts & Culture

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2024

Thurs

Fri

Sat

22 February

 **CaffeLena.org** • Heather Pierson Trio • 7-9 pm

 **'62Center.Williams.edu** • "Your Sexts are Shit: Older Better Letters" • 7-8 pm • CenterStage

 **ClarkArt.edu** • "Dreams Are Colder Than Death" • 6 pm



BattenkillBooks.com • Poetry Night • 6:30-8 pm

misc.

Parks.ny.gov/moreau • 24 hrs. adv. res. REQ'D. at 518-793-0511
--Black History Month Taxidermy • 10 am
--Nature Trail Hike • 1 pm

ClarkArt.edu • Drop-in Cyanotype-Making • 2-4 pm

KinderhookLibrary.org • Barbie as the Movie Star! • Grades 5-12 • 2 pm • Costume door prizes

23

 **CaffeLena.org**
--Captain Fun Lunchtime Listening Hour, w/ TBA • 12-1 pm • Free
--Momentum Series: Alexis P. Suter Band • 8-10 pm

Blue Cat • Des & Jim Gilmour • 6-9 pm • 575 Main St., Castleton, VT

'62Center.Williams.edu • "Bigmouth Strikes Again" (The Smiths Show) • 8:30-10 pm • Main Stage



• Glens Falls Comm. Theatre

'62Center.Williams.edu • See Feb. 22



BerkshireMuseum.org • Oscar-Nom. Short - Documentary • 7-10 pm

misc.

ClarkArt.edu • Printmaking Workshops • 1 & 2 pm • Adv. reg. REQ'D.

24

 **'62Center.Williams.edu** • See Feb. 23

ClarkArt.edu • Ice Rasta and Father Hotep • 7 pm

BerkshireTheatreGroup.org • Changes in Latitudes: Jimmy Buffett Tribute • 7:30 pm • Colonial Theatre

BerkshireMuseum.org • Pittsfield's 10x10 Upstreet Winter Arts Fest: "10 by Duke," celeb. of Duke Ellington's 125th Bday • 7:30-9 pm

SpencertownAcademy.org • Gary Lucas: Solo Electric & Acoustic • 7:30 pm

CaffeLena.org • Mary Fahl • 8 pm

RBLodge.com • Flamenco Night w/Alba Musik • 8-11 pm



atUPH.org • 2024 Empire State Youth Dance Ensemble • 4:30 pm

DeweyHall.org • Sheffield Contra Dance • 6 pm

cont'd. on page 20

29

 **RBLodge.com** • Music Inn Meetup • Bring your stories • 5-8 pm • Stagecoach Tavern

CaffeLena.org • Larry & Joe • 7-9 pm



ClarkArt.edu • "As Told To G/D Thyself" • 6 pm

Jazz show offers love songs for Valentine's Day

MANCHESTER, Vt.

The singer Charenee Wade, accompanied by the Oscar Perez Trio, will offer songs of love on Valentine's Day as Taconic Music presents the second show in its 2023-24 Jazz in the Barn series.

The concert, at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14, at the Inn at Manchester's Events Barn, will pay tribute to the great jazz singers Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald, Carmen McRae and Betty Carter, with Wade accompanied by Perez on piano, Elias Bailey on bass and Shirazette Tinnin on drums.

Ward, the recipient of the 2017 Jazz at Lincoln Center Millennial Swing Award, has performed at top venues and at major festivals worldwide, including the Montreux, Copenhagen, Istanbul and Bern jazz festivals.

Fellow New York City native Perez has performed, traveled and recorded in the musical groups of Phoebe Snow, Christian McBride, and the Mingus Big Band, to name a few.

Visit taconicmusic.org for tickets, which are \$30.

Fri. March 15

 **Blue Cat** • Pat Daddona • 6-9 pm • 575 Main St., Castleton, VT

atUPH.org • Leahy • 7:30 pm



WoodTheater.org • Comedian Brian Glowacki • 7:30 pm



HydeCollection.org • National Theatre Live - "Hamlet" • 1 pm

Mo March 18

 **CaffeLena.org** • Open Mic Night • 7-9 pm

Tu March 19

 **CaffeLena.org** • Rochmon Record: Tracy Chapman's Self-titled Debut LP • 7-9 pm

We March 20

 **CaffeLena.org** • Bluegrass Jam, host Red Spruce • 7-9 pm

Th March 21

 **CaffeLena.org** • The Rough & Tumble • 7-9 pm

CrandallLibrary.org • Folklife Concert: Jocelyn Petit & Ellen Gira • 7 pm



CrandallLibrary.org • Author Talk: Madeline Miller: "On Retelling Greek Classics: Exploration of the Modern Epics" • 4 pm • Reg. req'd. for link

Fri. March 22

 **Blue Cat** • Krishna Guthrie • 6-9 pm • 575 Main St., Castleton, VT

StoneValleyArts.org • SVA Open Mic • 7-8:15 pm • 1 Brennan Cir., Poultney, VT

BerkshireTheatreGroup.org • Running on Jackson: Premier Jackson Browne Tribute Concert • 7:30 pm • Colonial Theatre

TheFoundryWS.com • Cuarteto Rotterdam • 7:30 pm

CaffeLena.org • Adam Ezra Group • 8-10 pm

Sat. March 23

 **HudsonHall.org** • Lady Moon & The Eclipse • 7 pm

CaffeLena.org • Hot Club of Cowtown • 8-10 pm

 **DeweyHall.org** • Sheffield Contra Dance • 6 pm



HydeCollection.org • The Met: Live in HD - "Romeo et Juliette" • 12:55 pm

misc.

MediaSanctuary.org • More Trees Arborist Collective's Pruning & Grafting for Tree Lovers • Bring your own pruners • 1-3 pm • Meet at 35 5th Ave., Troy, NY

Tang.Skidmore.edu • Family Sat • 2 pm • Free

Sun. March 24

 **CaffeLena.org**
--Kids' Open Mic w/host Rick Bolton • 2-4 pm
--Nordlys Global Voices: Lena Jonsson Trio • 7-9 pm

Mo March 25

 **atUPH.org** • 2024 Cap. Reg. Thomas Edison Hall of Fame • 6 pm

CaffeLena.org • Open Mic Night • 7-9 pm



CrandallLibrary.org • Author Event: Amy Aronson ("Crystal Eastman") • 7 pm

Tu March 26

 **Empac.rpi.edu** • Indigiqueer artist Theo John Cuthand: • 7 pm

We March 27

 **MediaSanctuary.org** • Indigiqueer artist Theo John Cuthand: Participatory Radio Workshop • 5-9 pm • Reg. req'd. at URL

Sat. March 16

 **Berkshire Strings Jams** • Slow Jam, all ages, 10 am

CaffeLena.org
--Wild Adriatic • 3-5 pm
--Lucy Wainwright Roche • 8-10 pm

BerkshireTheatreGroup.org • Leppard: The Def Leppard Experience • 7:30 pm • Colonial Theatre

Sun. March 17

 **CaffeLena.org**
--B'fast Fundraiser School of Music Scholarships • 10 am
--Kevin McKrell • 7-9 pm

CEWM.org • Celtic Baroque Band Makaris--A Bach Family Concert with an Irish Twist • 4 pm • Mahaiwe PAC

Th March 28

 **RBLodge.com** • Music Inn Meetup • Bring your stories • 5-8 pm • Stagecoach Tavern

CaffeLena.org • Lizzie No w/opener Eliza Edens • 7-9 pm



BattenkillBooks.com • Poetry Night • 6:30-8 pm

Fri. March 29

 **CaffeLena.org**
--Captain Fun Lunchtime Listening Hour, w/Laura Sterling • 12-1 pm • Free
--The Sea The Sea • 8-10 pm

Sat. March 30

 **CaffeLena.org** • William Fitzsimmons - The Sparrow & The Crow 15th Anniv. Tour w/Baerd • 8-9 pm

Joan Baez headlines Triplex Cinema event

GREAT BARRINGTON, Mass.

The singer, songwriter and activist Joan Baez will attend a special screening of the documentary "I Am The Noise" and discuss the film and her life on March 2 at the Triplex Cinema.

The event is fund-raiser for the nonprofit movie theater, and tickets, priced at \$200, will be available online at thetriplex.org beginning Feb. 2.

Directed by Miri Navasky, Karen O'Connor and Maeve O'Boyle, "I Am a Noise" follows the legendary folk singer's long career. It was named one of the 10 best films of 2023 by *The Washington Post*, which hailed it as a "spellbinding portrait of a revolutionary talent." The film draws upon Baez's archives including newly discovered home movies, diaries, artwork and audio recordings.

The March 2 screening at the Triplex will be followed by a conversation with Baez and the directors Navasky and O'Connor to be moderated by WAMC Northeast Public Radio's Sarah LaDuke.

Voting continued from page 5

public policy institute at the New York University School of Law, contends that early voting offers the advantage of “helping elections run more smoothly by diminishing long lines, improving poll worker performance and allowing earlier detection and correction of any systemic problems with registration, voting machines and ballots.”

Liz Lemery Joy, a conservative political activist from Schenectady who was the Republican challenger to U.S. Rep. Paul Tonko, D-Amsterdam, 2020 and 2022, echoed Trump’s claims that early voting is unreliable, saying it “opens the doors for serious election fraud and errors.”

“I believe that our election should be one day only,” Joy said.

Local elections officials of both parties, however, have maintained that New York’s early voting system is secure and reliable.

Karen Wharton, the Democracy Coalition coordinator for the progressive group Citizen Action of New York, when told of Joy’s concerns, said, “I haven’t seen evidence of that.”

One-day voting prevents people from participating in elections if they have to work or can’t find childcare on Election Day, Wharton said.

Voting by mail

Although some states have adopted mail-in voting as a way to give voters maximum flexibility and to avoid the cost of having to staff early in-person voting sites, the concept has proven controversial in New York.

For decades, New York has allowed mail-in ballots only for absentee voters — those who certify that they will be out of town on Election Day or that they have a disability or illness that prevents them from voting in person.

In 2021, the state’s voters rejected a Democratic-backed ballot proposal to amend the state constitution and allow any voter to obtain a “no-excuse” absentee ballot.

But in September, Gov. Kathy Hochul signed a new law to allow all voters to cast ballots by mail. Hochul and other supporters say the new law doesn’t conflict with the constitution’s language on absentee ballots because it simply applies to early voting by all voters.

Stefanik and other Republicans promptly went to court to challenge the new law, saying it would indeed run afoul of the constitutional language as well as the results of the 2021 referendum.

In late December, a state Supreme Court justice in Albany rejected the GOP effort to stop the new law from taking effect, ruling that Re-

publicans “cannot establish that they will suffer electoral disadvantages” as a result of the mail-in balloting. Republicans have appealed the judge’s ruling.

In the meantime, in-person early voting has increased the cost of election administration in New York, mainly to staff polling sites throughout the nine-day early voting period.

The New York State Association of Counties has been advocating for a change in state election law to allow more flexibility in the number of early-voting polling places in areas with low turnout, spokesman Mark Lavigne said.

“We’re not walking the halls of the Capitol saying, ‘Early voting is bad,’” he explained. “But we’re trying to get some flexibility in areas where there is no turnout.”

Among local counties, Washington County had the lowest share of early voters in four of the past five years. In some off-year elections, turnout at the county’s lone early voting site averaged fewer than 35 voters per day.

But Wharton said Citizen Action has been pushing to open more early-voting polling places and to ensure that these sites are centrally located.

“It gives people who want to vote options,” she said. “Here in New York, it’s a work in progress.”

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*Map not to scale



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