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# observer

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

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JULY 2020

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# HILL COUNTRY observer

JULY 2020

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



### Changing a culture of policing

When a team hired to review Bennington's police practices issued its report this spring, town officials took comfort in one key finding: The team from the International Association of Chiefs of Police didn't find any evidence of systemic racial bias. But the 55-page report, compiled over eight months based on extensive local investigation and interviews, also concluded that the town's police department lacked any policies to prevent racial bias -- and that its practices have sown "deep distrust" among a significant portion of the community it's supposed to protect. Now, against the backdrop of nationwide protests over racial bias and police brutality, the town is weighing a series of reforms recommended by the report. .... Page 3



### For restaurants, a menu of constant change

Covid-19 has caused sweeping change in local restaurants since it forced them to close their dining rooms in mid-March without warning. Restaurateurs around the region have adapted with varying degrees of success. Some remain closed, and some will not reopen. .... Page 7



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Cover photo by Tony Israel: Police cruisers are parked outside the Bennington police station in a file photo taken in 2012.

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# Changing a culture of policing

## Bennington weighs how to transform officers from warriors into guardians

By EVAN LAWRENCE  
Contributing writer

BENNINGTON, Vt.

When a team hired to review Bennington’s police practices issued its report this spring, town officials took comfort in one key finding.

The report’s most important conclusion, Town Manager Stuart Hurd stressed, was that the local police department has no systemic racial bias. That conclusion, he said, wasn’t a surprise.

“We did expect that,” Hurd said.

But the 55-page report, compiled over eight months by a team from the International Association of Chiefs of Police, also concluded that the town’s police department lacked any policies to prevent racial bias – and that its practices have sown “deep distrust” among a significant portion of the community it’s supposed to protect. The report urged the town to move away from a “warrior mentality” it said is pervasive in the local police force.

Those findings have emboldened local activists and critics of the department, some of whom have gone so far as to call for the resignations of Hurd and Bennington Police Chief Paul Doucette. The two leaders have served the town for decades, and critics say they are too entrenched to be able to carry out the reforms needed to change the culture of the local department.

“It’s not a personal vendetta,” said Mary Gerisch, the co-chairwoman of Rights and Democracy-Vermont, a statewide advocacy group that put up an online petition in May calling for reform of the Bennington police and the removal of Hurd and Doucette.

“Bennington is not the only town in Vermont with a town manager and police chief who have been in office for 30 years,” Gerisch said. “We want to expand awareness to Vermont that we need a cultural shift.”

Now, against the backdrop of nationwide protest over police brutality and racist police practices that began with the Memorial Day killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Bennington is being joined by lots of other states and municipalities that have begun to review the structure and priorities of their police forces.

Last month, the town hired Curtiss Reed Jr., executive director of the Vermont Partnership for Fairness and Diversity, to lead a six-month process aimed at implementing the reforms recommended in the police chiefs association’s study. An online meeting in late June was the first step in that process, which is expected to include



Tony Israel file photo

The town of Bennington is crafting a series of reforms to its policing policies after a report issued this spring found the local department’s practices had sown “deep distrust” in the community it serves.

a series of workshops for town and police officials and residents in the months ahead.

### Racial harassment sparks review

The review of Bennington police practices by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, or IACP, was the indirect result of a state inquiry that began after the resignation of state Rep. Kiah Morris in 2018. Morris, D-Bennington, was the only black woman serving in the Vermont Legislature and was running unopposed for a third term when she abruptly abandoned her campaign, saying she had been the target of death

threats and harassment by white supremacists for more than a year.

Morris and her husband, James Lawton, have charged that Bennington police belittled their complaints and botched investigations into incidents of harassment. Town officials have disputed those claims.

State Attorney General T.J. Donovan reviewed Morris’ case and the town’s handling of it in a written report issued early last year. He concluded that Morris and her family were the victims of a series of property crimes and online messages that were “clearly racist and extremely offensive.” But he concluded that there wasn’t

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enough evidence to identify any suspects in the property crimes – and that the online comments were likely protected by the First Amendment’s guarantee of freedom of speech.

Donovan turned down requests from the American Civil Liberties Union and the NAACP to look into how local police handled evidence in Morris’ case. Instead, he recommended that the town commission an independent assessment of its police department. The town followed up by hiring the IACP to conduct the review.

Morris’ case wasn’t the only instance in recent years in which Bennington police have been accused of mishandling cases involving race.

In 2016, the Vermont Supreme Court threw out the drug conviction of Shamel Alexander, who was stopped and searched while riding in a taxi in Bennington. Alexander, who is black, claimed the town police stopped him on the basis of race and searched him illegally. Although the search turned up drugs and Alexander was convicted of possession of heroin, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled unanimously that his rights had been violated and overturned the conviction. Last month, the town Selectboard agreed to pay \$30,000 to settle Alexander’s civil suit.

Also in 2016, a study by researchers at the

University of Vermont and Cornell University found that the proportion of black drivers pulled over in Bennington traffic stops was nearly 2.5 times higher than their representation in the county population. Black drivers were more likely than white drivers to be searched, but less likely to be found with illegal cargo, the study concluded. After some law enforcement officials criticized the study as methodologically flawed, a second study by the same researchers in 2018 confirmed the original findings.

‘Deep distrust’

The International Association of Chiefs of Police dispatched a four-member team to Bennington in September to begin a comprehensive review of the local police force, looking specifically at whether the department was racially biased. The team interviewed and held focus group meetings with town and police department leaders, about half of the department’s 36 sworn and civilian staff, and a range of community members. The team also reviewed the department’s policies, procedures and arrest data and studied public perception of the police.

The team presented its 55-page report on

April 20. It found no systemic racial bias in the department’s policies and procedures, but also no policies that would prevent bias. The report also said Bennington police had not compiled data that could have allowed a clearer view of how the department handles race.

The IACP team found that the department focused on traffic enforcement as a way to reduce crashes and find criminal activity. Although the report said this is an effective strategy, it pointed out that this approach can alienate parts of the community – especially those who are keenly aware that in many cases elsewhere, routine traffic stops have ended in the deaths of black drivers.

“Over time, Bennington’s police practices have sown deep distrust between parts of the community and the department, undermining the agency’s law enforcement legitimacy,” the report said.

In a table showing responses to survey questions about perceptions of trust and fairness, 70 percent of respondents said the local police department had never discriminated against them. But 30 percent said it had, from “a little” to “a great extent.” Most respondents, 77.6 percent, said they had a positive perception of the

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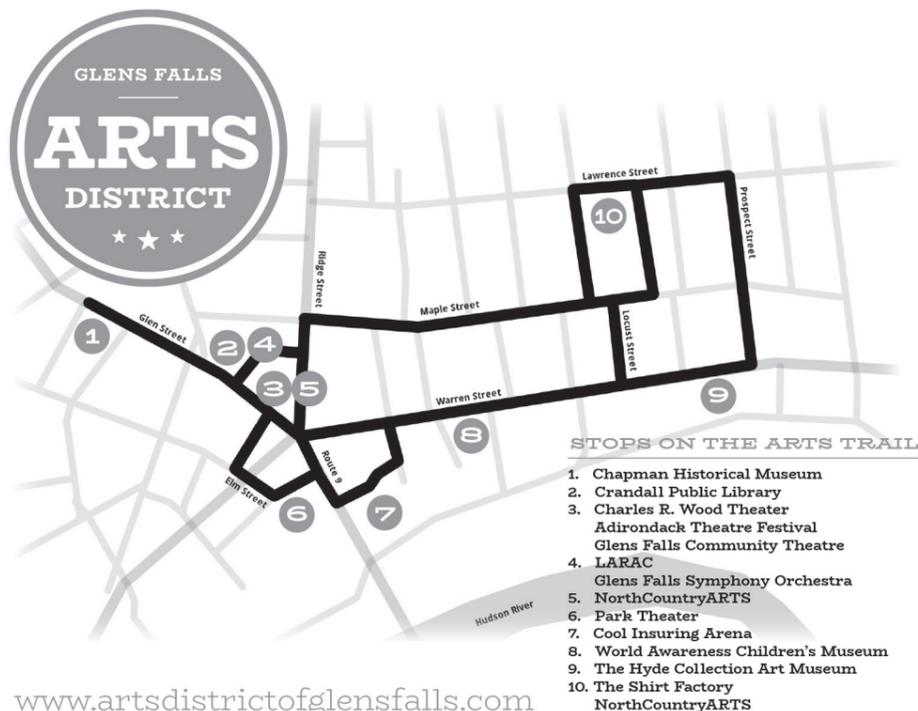
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department from “a little” to “to a great extent,” but 22.4 percent said their perception was not at all positive. Almost a quarter said they did not trust the department at all.

Although responses to that part of the survey represent only 4.2 percent of Bennington’s population of 8,800, the report noted that interviews and focus groups also revealed a strong sense of a division between those who receive police services (“good citizens”) and those who do not (“bad citizens”). And despite the department’s emphasis on traffic safety, community members were more concerned with illegal narcotics, safe schools and quality-of-life issues such as property crimes, and crimes against people.

Other troubling findings were that almost no one, even employees of the department, knew what the department’s mission statement was or where to find it. Nor were officers or the public aware of how to file a complaint against the department. The department also had no protocol for reporting hate crimes.

“These are serious deficiencies that are having adverse effects on trust and legitimacy,” the report said, adding that the department would benefit by shifting from a “warrior” to a “guardian” mentality and actively building relationships with the community.

The report concluded with 25 recommendations to be addressed by the police department itself, the town government and members of the public. Some, such as updating the police website, could be done immediately. Others would require action by the town Select Board and community involvement to research and recommend changes.

**Weighing a new approach**

Hurd, the town manager, said many of the

report’s findings and recommendations didn’t surprise him.

“I expected a healthy number of recommendations,” he said. “The police department is rural and not up on all the latest techniques.”

But he added that the number of people who were unhappy with the department “surprised me a little bit.”

“We pride ourselves on being in touch with the people we serve,” Hurd said. “When people’s perceptions become reality, we have a row to hoe to regain the trust we thought we had.”

The “warrior mentality” began overtaking police departments after 9/11, when local police departments were caught up in the effort to prevent any additional terrorist attacks, Hurd said. The sense of being under siege continued with the rise of the opioid epidemic and officers’ concerns about facing off against armed drug traffickers.

“We need to move away from tactical policing to community policing,” Hurd said.

Bennington’s police budget for the current fiscal year is \$3.8 million out of a total town budget of \$13.3 million.

“I think it’s being spent appropriately,” Hurd said. “Are there other ways we could spend it? I don’t have a feel for a new direction and what it might cost us.”

Doing more community policing could require more or fewer personnel and different training, he said.

Bennington Police Chief Paul Doucette did not respond to a request in late June to be interviewed for this story. But in a guest column published earlier this spring in the local daily paper, the Bennington Banner, he criticized the team from the police chiefs association for failing to contact all of the community leaders he had

recommended – and for not interviewing all of the department’s employees.

“Unfortunately, the report does not appear to fully capture much of the great work of the Bennington Police,” Doucette wrote.

Doucette pointed out that his department has undertaken a number of community initiatives, such as delivering donated food or toys to the needy.

“We offer a balance of community policing and enforcement,” he wrote.

Doucette said the department would approach all of the report’s recommendations with “an open mind” and had already taken some actions. By late June, for example, the department’s home page had replaced a photo of police in tactical gear with an image of a snowy road. The website now prominently displays the department’s mission and guiding principles and has added “compliments or concerns” to the dropdown menu under the “contact us” button.

**Protection for all?**

Gerisch, of Rights and Democracy-Vermont, said she found no surprises in the report.

“I believe a lot of people weren’t heard,” she said.

Although the team from the police chiefs association held several public forums, few people showed up, she said. But when her group organized an invitation-only meeting with the team, Gerisch said, more than 50 turned out. Even then, some people were afraid to speak privately with team members because of fears the team could inadvertently share something with the police “and the person would suffer,” she said.

Members of racial and ethnic minorities aren’t the only people in Bennington who distrust police, Gerisch added. The list includes poor



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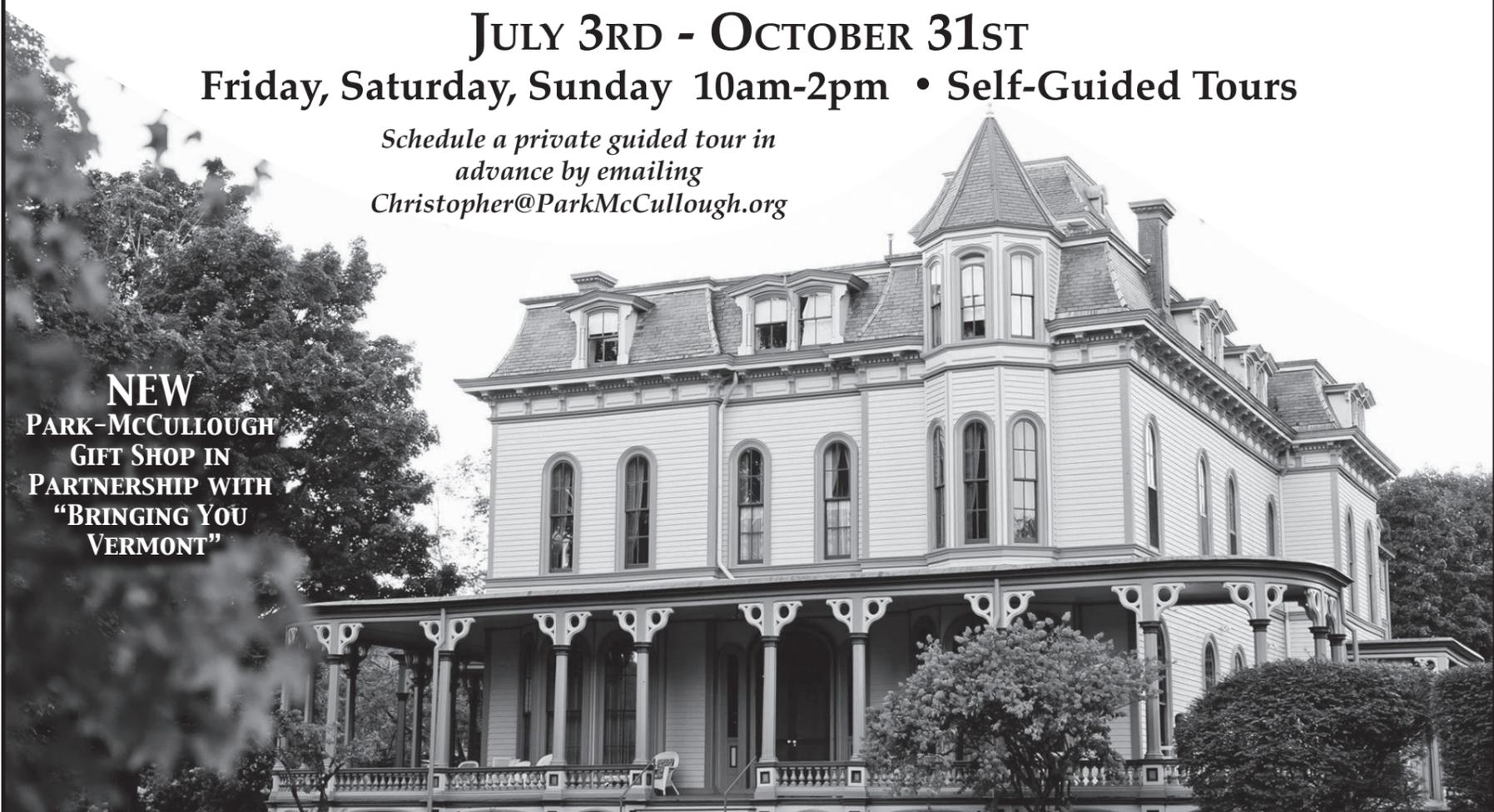
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people, those with mental health or substance abuse problems, members of the LGBTQ community, people who are disabled, and “really anyone who’s a little bit different,” she said.

People who feel they are at society’s margins may hesitate to call the police, even to report a crime, because of fear that the police will harass them, “particularly if someone has a previous offense, even if the case was dismissed,” she said.

“It has to do with a lot more than the police,” Gerisch said “But it starts with the police.”

After the town hired Reed last month to guide the process of implementing the IACP report’s recommendations, Gerisch attended the first meeting, held via video conference, on June 24.

If Reed and his organization “really collaborate with the community, then we can improve things,” she said.

Over the next six months, Reed will organize

workshops for town and police officials and residents, facilitate professional development and coaching for town and police officials, and help create two three-person committees to research civilian review boards and community policing practices in rural communities.

Although Gerisch took part in the June 24 session, she said she’d “like to see someone more vulnerable than me join a committee.”

She said it’s possible the department can change even if Hurd and Doucette stay on. But she said her experience has been that “a culture is hard to change.

“Leaders don’t recognize it exists,” Gerisch said. “We need systemic change nationwide. People are struggling.”

The assessment by the police chiefs association cost the town \$66,000.

Reed is charging \$21,700 for his organization’s

work, plus \$3,000 to compensate the people who will serve on the committees. Anonymous donors came forward to cover \$20,000 of the total, and Hurd said the town will find the remaining \$4,700 in its budget.

**States push police reforms**

The nationwide push for policing reforms has been playing out at the state level in Vermont, as well as in Massachusetts and New York.

Just before Vermont lawmakers recessed on June 26, both houses of the Legislature unanimously passed S.219, a bill that establishes community policing and a “guardian mentality” as the state’s expectation for law enforcement.

Among other provisions, the bill would require law enforcement agencies in Vermont to collect data on race in traffic stops and use-

*continued on page 10*

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# NEWS & ISSUES

## A menu of constant change

### Restaurants struggle to navigate pandemic, partial reopening

By **KATE ABBOTT**  
Contributing writer

GREAT BARRINGTON, Mass.

At the Prairie Whale, strings of lights are gleaming in the evening light above the tables and chairs on the lawn.

Most of the chairs are full on a Friday night, and voices carry over the grass. One group asks a server about the menu. The diners and the waiters are all wearing masks.

Around the corner, picnic tables are set out in the garden, near the rose bushes and the strawberry beds, alongside a newly built pizza oven.

Covid-19 has caused sweeping change in local restaurants since it forced them to close their dining rooms in mid-March without warning. After many weeks when they could operate only for takeout and delivery, restaurants across the region are working to adapt.

State regulations are changing as Massachusetts, New York and Vermont gradually reopen. Massachusetts began allowing outdoor dining on June 8, as the state started its second phase of reopening, and limited indoor dining on June 22.

Now, a few blocks from the Prairie Whale in Great Barrington, Railroad Street, with its row of restaurants, is closed to traffic for the night and filled with tables. Spring Street in Williamstown is closing to traffic on Saturday afternoon, and Lenox voters passed a new bylaw – at a reconfigured, physically distanced, drive-in town meeting – to allow restaurants to set up outdoor tables on town-owned land.

Sweeping change has called for sweeping responses.

“It’s like opening a new restaurant every two to three weeks,” said Stephen Browning, the chef at Prairie Whale.

Restaurateurs around the region have confronted the continuing changes based on their individual circumstances – and with varying degrees of success. Some whose menus or physical spaces were not set up for takeout have not had the same resources to adapt. Some have closed until indoor seating can resume. And some will not reopen.

#### New menu, new oven

Until the pandemic, Prairie Whale had never served food to go. Browning changed the menu with the seasons, and the restaurant has been a sit-down place serving locally sourced, locally raised comfort food – the kind of place



Scott Langley photo

Railroad Street in Great Barrington is car-free on a Friday night in June, allowing the street’s many restaurants to serve more customers at outdoor tables.

that offers Sunday brunch in a renovated dairy barn with farm sausage and bacon, polenta and scones with clover honey.

When Covid-19 struck, owner Mark Firth explained, they had to re-organize the whole operation.

Serving only takeout orders meant letting go of their wait staff and wholly changing their menu. Firth and Browning had to find food that would travel well. Their regular menu was not designed to withstand a ride in a cold car on a March night.

“You wouldn’t want a whole roast fish or a rare steak,” Firth said. “It won’t hold up while you drive 20 minutes home and the french fries

get soggy.”

They developed a new range of family style dinners that a group could share, like fried chicken and a collection of five or six sides to

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Firth and his wife and son answered the phones and took the orders, and the kitchen crew turned to preparing family meals at high speed.

The restaurant also launched a website, Firth said. It had never had one before, and they needed make the menu available online.

For five or six of weeks, they served only food to go, Firth said. They expanded the menu – and in a way, the kitchen. They bought a wood-fired pizza oven and spent three weeks building an outdoor shelter for it, and Firth brought in a chef from New York to teach them to bake crisp Neapolitan-style crusts at 750 to 800 degrees.

Now that the state has allowed restaurants to open for outdoor dining and begun to allow limited indoor seating, the Prairie Whale is reorganizing again.

“We’re trying to rehire our staff,” Firth said, “and the kitchen can’t handle both the outdoor service and the high-volume fried chicken” for to-go orders.

They have brought back some of their bartenders and waiters, and they’re offering a limited to-go menu, including pizza, and rebuilding a restaurant menu for the people who opt to dine on-site.

Browning said they are also rebuilding their stock of foodstuffs. He sources ingredients locally even in the cold season and traditionally makes many of his own condiments, pickles and preserves to keep the summer and fall harvest going through the winter. But the rapid changes dictated by the pandemic disrupted all of his systems and sources of supply; he would have been making pickles and sauces and bacon this spring.

Firth, who has traditionally raised his own pigs for the restaurant, says they have just been able to get farm-raised pigs again, in late June, from a local farm.

So they are rebuilding this summer, with the restaurant’s operation centered on 15 outdoor tables on two-thirds of an acre of lawn and gardens.

“We have a lot of outdoor space,” Browning said. “We’re lucky.”

Not everyone has that choice.

#### Feeding the front line

Flavours of Malaysia in Pittsfield has always had a steady takeout business along with its usual dining room service, chef Sabrina Tan said. But Covid-19 forced fast and substantial changes this spring.

When the pandemic first hit, people in the community sponsored the restaurant as it prepared and donated meals to the staff at Berkshire Medical Center and people working on the front lines, Tan said.

Flavours also worked with Berkshire United Way and the Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund for Berkshire County to make lunches for children while schools were closed. Many schools were distributing meals on weekdays, with federal assistance, but those programs do not cover weekends, and local restaurants collectively made thousands of meals to fill in.

Flavours’ regulars still drop by for dumplings and shumai and fried rice to go. But in a cold spring with no indoor seating, the usual traffic slowed, Tan said.

“We’ve seen sales drop by maybe 65 percent – and no alcohol sales,” she said.

Flavours has not set up tables outdoors, because there would only be room for one or two at most. The alley beside the restaurant is a fire lane, Tan said, and the space out front is not only small but very hot in the evenings, because it faces directly west.

Now that Massachusetts has allowed indoor dining, Flavours can offer beer or wine with dinner again. With tables now carefully spaced to achieve required physical distance between groups, guests can enjoy their spring rolls in informal picnic style. Tan always cooks her entrees to order, but she will serve them to go.

As at any restaurant in the coronavirus era, people need face masks to enter, and Tan has masks for anyone who needs one. She has sewn them herself and gives them out free. She has been making them since March, she said, when the quarantine began – adult and children’s masks, and communicator masks with a transparent vinyl window to show lips moving,

for people who are deaf or hard of hearing and need to lip-read.

Tan said she has made nearly 2,000 cotton masks now and given many of them to people working in vulnerable places – and to anyone else who needs one.

#### Closing a community hub

In Cambridge, N.Y., Scott and Lisa Carrino opted not to reopen the Round House Bakery Cafe, a popular breakfast and lunch spot in the center of the village. Instead, they will continue to make and sell food from their bakery and kitchen at Pompanuck Farm, five miles to the east in the town of White Creek.

The Carrinos had run their downtown cafe for eight years. The first five were in a historic bank building, and this summer would have marked their third anniversary in the old general store space on the ground floor of the Hubbard Hall Center for the Arts and Education.

“People would call it the core of the community,” Scott said, talking by phone in late June as he and Lisa were quietly working to empty out the cafe.

Their bakery at Pompanuck Farm, which produced the breads, scones, muffins, cookies and many other items sold at the cafe, will continue to offer those items for pickup (pre-order at pompanuck.org), along with summer picnic dinners, sandwiches, fruit salads and desserts. They also are making plans to resume the Wednesday jazz lunches and pizza nights they introduced at the cafe.

The Carrinos’ farm-based bakery actually preceded the cafe operation by a couple of years, and Pompanuck Farm had hosted community events and classes for many years before that.

“We’ve always been community-minded,” Scott said. “We have run youth programs at the farm. We had a Memorial Day arts and music festival for 20 years. ... We decided to open the cafe to bring that energy downtown.”

The community has rallied behind them, he said, through their move to Hubbard Hall – and through his recovery from cardiac surgery last year.

“When they heard we were shut down,

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See map on page 15

people in the community offered their financial commitment to help us start up,” Scott said. “But it would be like restarting the business all over again.”

When Covid-19 first struck, the Carrinos made plans to keep the cafe open for takeout, which had always been a large part of their business. But soon after they announced that plan, Hubbard Hall closed completely, and the restaurant had no choice but to close with it, Scott said.

The Carrinos said they then had to remove their entire stock of perishable food. The restaurant’s state licenses and insurances came up for renewal while they were closed. They would have had to invest in their liquor license and inspections on the kitchen equipment – significant expenses – and the state would not allow any period of grace, even while restaurants were closed and the state’s guidelines on reopening were subject to change.

“All this has caused such turmoil,” Scott said. “The Payroll Protection rules were changing by

the week.”

As the Carrinos considered the cost of reopening, they felt the footprint of the restaurant would not allow enough indoor seating to be sustainable. Setting up more outdoor seating would have required an investment in tables, umbrellas and other improvements.

So on June 2, they announced the cafe would not return. Though they are saddened by the change, the Carrinos said coming back to their farm gives them the flexibility to experiment more as they cook and bake and serve their customers.

But the cafe’s closing leaves a void in the village and at Hubbard Hall. The popular Country Gals Cafe, a few doors down, still serves the breakfast and lunch crowd, but there are fewer choices for food before and after shows and classes at the hall.

“The cafe helped the hall with the amount of foot traffic, and the audience at the shows enjoyed coming in pre-show and for dinner,” Scott said. “It was a symbiotic relationship.”

**A void to fill**

David Snider, the executive and artistic director at Hubbard Hall, said losing the cafe has been a blow. He and the Carrinos had often worked together to hold community events, he said.

When Hubbard Hall held summer outdoor Shakespeare performances, the Round House would prepare picnics and stay open late. The cafe catered the Hubbard Hall gala and dinners before mainstage shows.

And the Carrinos held informal events year-round. Hubbard Hall brought in open mics and poetry readings, and Snider launched a series of “Breaking Bread” potlucks at the cafe, including one for the LGBTQ community.

Snider said he will miss working with the Carrinos, but he added that he fully understands the challenges they have faced this spring and summer. With the arts center’s classes and rehearsals shut down, the normal flow of traffic in the village has slowed. Many of the cafe’s regular customers and staff were at heightened

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risk from Covid-19, and there's limited space out front for outdoor tables.

In New York, seating will be limited to half of normal occupancy when indoor dining is allowed to resume. That means the cafe, which used to seat 40, would be limited to a maximum of 20 customers inside, Snider said.

At the same time, as the summer warms up, Snider suggested the cafe space could work well if it were augmented by a new outdoor seating area in the park-like area behind Hubbard Hall's main building.

"I've been at the farmers market since it reopened" May 17 on the school grounds, Snider said. "And I'm seeing a real mix – enthusiasm and trepidation. People are wary. We're asking, 'What

does this mean?' With space and safety protocols, people are figuring out how to navigate safely."

Breaking Bread events returned to Hubbard Hall in June in the form of outdoor picnics. Participants don't share food but do sit on blankets, six feet apart, wearing masks.

The arts center plans an outdoor Shakespeare performance in August with "All's Well that Ends Well." Hubbard Hall's one-hour adaptation will have eight actors, and Snider is looking at ways to work with a new sound system to reach a spread-out audience.

But with the cafe closed and the pandemic continuing, the likelihood of lingering over dinner after the show will be even less than usual.

"I spent 20 years in New York and Washington

D.C. before I came here," Snider said, "and I'd think, 'What do you mean there's nowhere to go on opening night?' People like to have a beer or a glass of wine and talk about what they just saw."

He said he encouraged Argyle Brewing's decision a couple of years ago to open a pub and tasting room in the historic railroad station across the tracks from the Hubbard Hall campus, just as he encouraged the Carrinos to move to the ground-floor space in the old opera house that houses the hall's main stage.

Now Snider is actively looking for new tenants for the cafe space. He said he hopes they will become as fully a part of Hubbard Hall's programming as the Carrinos have been – and as fully a part of the community.

## Police *continued from page 6*

of-force incidents or lose state funding. The bill also would effectively prohibit the use of chokeholds and require officers to intervene if another officer tries to apply one. It establishes penalties for officers who cause severe injury or death through a prohibited restraint, and it would require state police to have and use body cameras by August 2021.

State Sen. Richard Sears, D-Bennington, who is chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said Gov. Phil Scott has not yet signed the bill but is expected to do so.

The Legislature is scheduled to resume its

session on Aug. 25 and will continue to address issues between law enforcement and Vermont's communities of color, Sears said. Before adjourning, the Senate, at the House's request, passed a bill to create a statewide policy on the use of deadly force by law enforcement officers.

"It will be taken up by the House later," Sears said.

Also under discussion are revisions to the state's "justifiable homicide" law, which shields law officers from prosecution in certain circumstances.

"The language is very archaic," Sears said.

In June, New York lawmakers passed four bills that allow disclosure of law enforcement disciplinary records, ban chokeholds by law

enforcement officers, prohibit 911 calls based on a person's race, and appoint the state attorney general as independent prosecutor for deaths where police are involved.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo also signed an executive order requiring every local government with a police force to do a comprehensive review of its procedures and adopt specific reform plans in partnership with the community. Municipalities have until April 1 to submit their plans or risk losing state funding.

Locally, activists in Saratoga Springs have renewed calls for a civilian review board that could investigate complaints against the city police department – an idea that was raised after an unarmed black man was fatally injured while fleeing from police in 2013. In that case, police said Darryl Mount Jr. fell from scaffolding in an alley behind a building, though there were no witnesses to support this account. The police chief at the time, Gregory Veitch, who has since retired, told reporters his department was conducting an internal investigation of the incident. But in a sworn deposition several years later, he admitted there was no such investigation.

State officials in Massachusetts are considering several initiatives to improve policing, including state certification of police and peace officers, requiring independent investigation of all police-related deaths, limiting police use of force, collection of data on race when people are arrested or subjected to police force, and creation of a state commission on structural racism.

Massachusetts is one of only six states that does not have a Peace Office Standards and Training program. Vermont certifies law enforcement officers through the state's Criminal Justice Training Council, which runs the Vermont Police Academy. In New York, the Municipal Police Training Council sets training standards for police officers.

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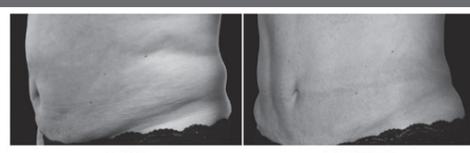
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# From hemp, cures for body and soil

## Hudson Valley operation stresses mission of regenerative farming

By **STACEY MORRIS**  
Contributing writer

LIVINGSTON, N.Y.

On a scorching June afternoon at Old Mud Creek Farm, the unrelenting sun is exactly the fuel needed for five acres of newly planted hemp seedlings to get a growth spurt.

By late August, they'll have morphed from a their current height of a few inches to a towering 7 feet and will resemble verdant, if rather shaggy, Christmas trees.

But a Christmas tree farm this is not. By the end of August, the plants will be harvested, dried and transferred to an extraction facility where the farm distills the hemp flower's sought-after oils for medicinal use.

Hudson Hemp was incorporated in 2017, turned out its first products the next year and is now preparing to launch a rebranding of its CBD-rich hemp oils in varying potencies later this summer.

Last year, the company created Treaty, a second line of hemp-based oils, blended with plant essences native to the region. Bottles of the deep green oils are also sold at food co-ops, spas, and other wellness emporiums across the Northeast, and already are developing a global following. Its fans say cannabidiol, or CBD, offers a wide range of health benefits.

Brand director Freya Dobson said the company's mission is purity.

"Our oil is 75 to 85 percent CBD," Dobson explained. "We work to improve full-plant potential for qualities such as cannabinoid and terpene development as well as stable seed production."

As she walked toward the drying facility, Dobson stopped to observe several hundred new hemp plants, still in their plastic containers, waiting to be transplanted in a nearby field.

Innovation in plant medicine is only part of the mission. Hudson Hemp's motto – "sustainability is good, regeneration is forever" – sums up the company's commitment to nourishing the land on which its hemp grows. A large composting patch, at the back of one of the fields, is made up of everything from hemp stalks to manure, cornhusks and biochar.

"Nothing goes to waste," Dobson said.

The compost will be used for this season's hemp crop as well as the nearby meadow of cover crop, a mixture of native grasses and wildflowers that will grow this summer instead of hemp.

### Carbon-capturing benefits

About three years ago, Hudson Hemp



Scott Langley photo

Hemp seedlings are ready for transplanting at Old Mud Creek Farm in Columbia County. The farm raises hemp to meet the demand for CBD oil, but the health of the soil is a big part of its mission.

became one of the first farms licensed by New York to grow industrial hemp, the non-intoxicating cousin of marijuana, under a pilot program. Changes in federal law have since allowed farmers across the nation to begin growing hemp legally for the first time in eight decades.

Most of the plants Hudson Hemp uses for its products are grown at the 390-acre Old Mud Creek Farm, but the growing operation there is allied with and supported by work at the neighboring Stone House Farm.

"The collective acreage of both farms is 2,700 acres, and whenever we're not growing a staple crop, we plant a cover crop," Dobson said.

Rotating hemp with cover crops helps to keep the soil fertile and healthy, she explained, and avoids the pitfalls of industrial farming's "monocultures."

"Each crop demands something different of the soil," Dobson said. "In monoculture, where the same crop is planted year after year, the soil becomes depleted, which is why petrochemicals and herbicides are used."

She pointed to the native grasses and thatches of red clover as examples of the cover crops Hudson Hemp uses.

"Clover is a big nitrogen-fixer for the soil," she explained.

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agricultural and conservation groups have been preaching the value of cover crops as a way to maintain healthy soil. But in recent years supporters have begun to tout another benefit to the wider world: Cover crops soak up carbon from the air and integrate it into the soil, thereby curbing the effects of climate change.

New this year at Old Mud Creek Farm is the installation of a dome-shaped pollinator facility. The walk-in structure houses non-honey-producing bees that spend the summer pollinating the cover crop.

Hudson Hemp's commitment to regeneration comes from the top. Owner Abigail "Abby" Rockefeller, eldest daughter of the late David Rockefeller, bought Old Mud Creek Farm in 2012. She also owns Stone House Grain, a grain-forage and livestock operation on the property just north of Old Mud Creek Farm.

Stone House Grain produces certified organic grains and hay for livestock, helping to support organic dairy farms as well as some food and beverage producers across the region.

Together the two farms represent Rockefeller's realization of a dream to show how farming practices can be used to restore ecosystems, Dobson said.

**Restoring stressed soil**

The Rockefellers have long had ties to the Hudson Valley, with the late David Rockefeller, Abby's father, maintaining his primary residence in Westchester County at Pocantico Hills as well as his Four Winds Farm in Columbia County.

Old Mud Creek Farm had been left dormant for a decade when its former owner, the petrochemical company Syngenta, left the region in 2003. When Abby Rockefeller took ownership of the property, she immediately began the process of restoring the land, which Syngenta had used for pesticide trials, using organic and regenerative farming methods.

Rockefeller hired Dobson's brother, Ben Banks-Dobson, to manage both farms. Beyond her goal of soil restoration, Rockefeller also wanted to use the project as an experiment to gauge the timing and progress of how a conventional farm transitions to a regenerative one.

"She wanted the progress tracked and data of the transition recorded so other large, conventional farms can do the same thing," Freya Dobson explained. "Abby wants to show that you can farm using these systems. It doesn't cost more and will produce good yields."

Besides managing Stone House Grain and the hemp crop at Old Mud Creek Farm, Banks-Dobson also oversees a nonprofit soil laboratory called Hudson Carbon, which studies how organic, regenerative farming can maximize carbon capture and restore ecosystems.

"The way we farm, we bring more carbon into the land than we let out," Banks-Dobson said. "The lab monitors the carbon, nitrogen and water cycles in order to understand how regenerative management affects these cycles."

**Plants to products**

The idea of growing hemp commercially at

the Rockefeller properties was sparked by New York's pilot program, which the state created after Congress moved in 2014 to allow limited production of the long-prohibited crop.

Banks-Dobson had long been passionate about the medicinal benefits of hemp and cannabis as well as the hemp plant's natural soil-cleaning ability.

"Hemp is a great soil remediator," Freya Dobson said. "There are studies of it removing heavy metals in Chernobyl."

Also adding to its appeal as a crop for upstate New York was hemp's relatively short, 110-day growth cycle.

Hudson Hemp's first growing season in 2018 involved planting and raising 10 acres of hemp. Though it was a successful yield, there was no concrete plan to market it.

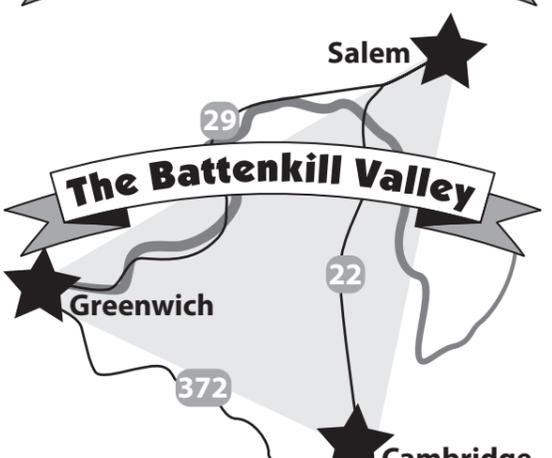
That's when Dobson and her sister Melany came on board to research and develop a product line.

"I was living in California and working in the cannabis industry," Freya Dobson explained. "Cannabis is a new and emerging industry in New York, and I wanted to be a part of shaping the narrative. It's a great opportunity in the Northeast to revolutionize the growing of hemp as an agricultural crop that can provide fuel, food, fiber and medicine while mitigating the effects of climate change."

Banks-Dobson said Hudson Hemp oils are in the midst of rebranding and will relaunch this summer.

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*continued on page 22*

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# EDITORIAL

## Sun Belt's Covid surge raises questions here

The month of June has seen our region slowly venturing forward after so many weeks of coronavirus-related shutdowns.

Restaurants that had been limited to selling takeout meals since March have begun to offer outdoor table service – and in Massachusetts and Vermont, limited indoor seating. Museums and galleries are preparing to reopen. Retail stores, hair salons and some offices are up and running again, albeit with limited occupancy.

In our corner of the Northeast, new cases of Covid-19 have slowed to a handful per day – a sign that all that physical distancing, mask wearing and hand washing is paying off. Vermont in particular has “flattened the curve” of new cases nearly to zero, and New York and Massachusetts both are on a downward slope after large outbreaks in their urban centers in the pandemic’s early stages.

But as June turns to July, we’re watching a huge surge in coronavirus cases across the South and West. Over the last week of June, states from the California to the Carolinas have repeatedly set daily records for new infections. Nationally, the number of new cases per day, having peaked at more than 30,000 in April and then fallen back toward 20,000 for many weeks, spiked past 40,000 for the first time and then to 50,000 on July 1.

The surge across the Sun Belt raises some pressing questions for our region. One is whether states that moved earlier and more aggressively to reopen their economies are showing us what our own future could be if we try to go too far in returning to normal. Another is whether, with Covid-19 surging so dramatically in nearly half the country, we’re really equipped to keep that new wave of infection from spreading to the Northeast.

No one wants to go back to stay-at-home mode. The pandemic has already taken a terrible toll on our economy, with lots of local businesses still operating at a fraction of their normal volume. And many of the events define summer in our region – music and theater festivals, county fairs, softball games, even Fourth of July parades – have been canceled, with resulting damage to our economy as well as our quality of life.

The virus is still out there, though, spreading efficiently when given the chance, and potentially deadly for some of us. An effective vaccine could take another year to develop, and perhaps much longer. Until then, containment remains the best option for saving lives – and for limiting the economic damage.

Around the globe, the countries that have managed Covid-19 most effectively – including Taiwan, South Korea, New Zealand and Germany – have pushed their caseloads down to near zero through aggressive testing, contact tracing and isolation of infected patients. But incredibly, even five months into the pandemic, our own federal government still lacks any national testing strategy beyond the default of letting individual states figure it out. As a result, we have the highest number of infections and the highest death toll in the world.

U.S. testing capacity has improved significantly since the early weeks of pandemic, and by late June we were testing about 500,000 people per day. But some public health experts say we might need 5 million tests a day to bring our current outbreaks under control.

With their Covid-19 caseloads trending downward, Massachusetts, New York and Vermont all worked in recent weeks to ramp up their testing and tracing capacity as a strategy to control new outbreaks. We may soon find out whether those efforts have gone far enough.



## Letters to the editor

### Less traffic, more dining for downtown Saratoga

To the editor:

Governor Cuomo has allowed sidewalk dining to resume in Saratoga Springs. This should turn out to be a win-win for its residents, tourists and the finances of our city, provided our Covid-19 cases remain suppressed.

According to most health experts, gathering outside – as long as masks are worn before being seated and social distancing is abided by – is considered a low risk for spreading Covid-19.

Now Saratoga is considering letting restaurants basically take over some sidewalks on some side streets and creating walkways on the streets with cement “jersey barriers” as safety buffers.

So why stop there?

Let’s ask permission from the state to let Saratoga Springs have one of the travel lanes of Broadway for parking (as a safety buffer) so tables can be put where the parking is now. This would hardly impede traffic flow, as one lane would remain open in both directions, and there would be minimal loss of on-street parking. Deliveries could be made at a few designated parking spots for trucks only.

In other words, this would repurpose existing curbside parking lanes as expanded pedestrian and public space for Broadway restaurants and other businesses. The winning would be huge for all.

Charlie Samuels  
Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

*The writer is a former board member of the Complete Streets Advisory Board in Saratoga Springs.*

### Pandemic heightens need for health-care overhaul

To the editor:

I watch the coronavirus spreading across the nation, first on the East and West coasts and now in the heartland in a spotty fashion. We lead the world in Covid-19 cases and deaths, yet our federal government still has no comprehensive plan to counter the pandemic.

President Trump would like us to believe that the danger is past and that we can resume our previous lives. This is all part of his disinformation policy, which he uses to confuse the American people. The Washington Post has documented more than 16,000 false or misleading claims uttered by the president since he took office.

To complicate the situation, almost half of U.S. adults have no health insurance or have high-deductible plans that don’t cover basic health care needs such as primary care. Millions of Americans can’t get health care because of high health care costs and lack of insurance coverage. Health insurance is often job-related: Lose your job, and you lose your coverage.

When Covid-19 causes your workplace to shut down, you probably get furloughed and lose your insurance, if you had it in the first place. According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, as many as 43 million people are expected to lose their health insurance because of the pandemic. Many will be unable to find alternative plans that are affordable.

Now more than ever, we need Medicare for all, which would cover all U.S. residents from birth to death. No one would need to worry about losing their insurance. It would eliminate all out-of-pocket costs such as co-pays and deductibles.

*continued on page 16*

# A statesman whose dairy cows were his pride

Making the rounds of the late summer Agricultural fairs has long been a tradition for politicians.

But it's not all that often that a prominent politician takes home a prize, unless it's in a celebrity cow-milking contest, which typically is more of a stunt than a feat of skill.

One politician from the region, though, served in his lifetime both as vice president of the United States and vice president of the American Guernsey Cattle Club. He also had a reputation for selling milk from Dutchess County, N.Y., that was of higher quality than the milk produced on the

Isle of Jersey, off the northwest coast of France.

"Levi P. Morton keeps at his home in New York the finest herd of Guernsey cows in America," the *Indianapolis Journal* reported on April 16, 1894.

It was a dual career that Morton kept up even when serving in national office – with help, of course, from farmhands back home in Rhinebeck.

"Vice President Levi P. Morton's herd of Guernsey cattle carried off the prize at the New York State Fair," *The Glens Falls Messenger* reported on Oct. 10, 1890.

Morton was elected vice president in 1888 on a ticket with Benjamin Harrison. He served one four-year term and later was elected governor of New York in the 1890s.

While the 1888 presidential campaign was under way, Morton had won 17 cattle-breeding prizes at agricultural fairs by late September,

including two first-place prizes, two second prizes and best of herd at the New York State Fair, the *Abilene Reflector* of Abilene, Kan., reported on Sept. 27, 1888.

The Massachusetts State Fair was among the fairs he entered that fall, the *Evening Journal* of Wilmington, Del., reported on Aug. 4, 1888.

In 1889, his first year as vice president, Morton won six first-prize awards and one second prize at the Dutchess County Fair, the *Poughkeepsie Eagle* reported on Oct. 12, 1889.

## Maury Thompson

### At home in Rhinebeck

Morton's favorite place to be wasn't Washington but Ellerslie,

his 1,000-acre agricultural estate and mansion on the east bank of the Hudson River at Rhinebeck.

"A word about Ellerslie: It is considered by experts the finest country place in the world," the *San Francisco Call* reported on July 30, 1899.

When home from Washington, Vice President Morton sometimes welcomed groups of young visitors to the farm, where he also raised horses and Plymouth Rock chickens.

On one occasion, 20 students, some from other states, visited Morton at Ellerslie.

"The vice president received them cordially," the *Poughkeepsie Eagle* reported on June 19, 1889. "Mr. Morton regretted that the rain would not permit the party visiting the farm, inspecting the cattle, etc., but he showed them his mansion, his stables and fine horses."

A couple of weeks later, a group of altar

boys from St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church of Poughkeepsie visited Ellerslie as part of a daylong excursion in the country.

"There were about 40 in the party, and each boy carried a lunch basket," the *Eagle* reported on July 3, 1889.

Banking and finance brought Morton wealth, politics brought him prestige, but it was cattle raising that brought him satisfaction.

"Governor Morton never looked more charming than when at work with the churn," Chauncey Depew, another prominent New York Republican, quipped in 1897.

Morton, born in Shoreham, Vt., served as a congressman and diplomat prior to his term as vice president.

He served as governor in 1895-96 and unsuccessfully sought the Republican presidential nomination in 1896, losing to William McKinley.

By then he was 72, and Morton retired to his farm, devoting full attention to his cattle.

"Levi P. Morton, wiry old athlete and man of wealth, survives and is strong and well in his seventy-fifth year," the *San Francisco Call* reported on July 30, 1899.

"The life of the ex-vice president of the United States is singularly simple," the report continued. "He has become so attached to his country place that he seldom leaves it, and, though he allows his family the luxury of a Fifth Avenue home in winter, he does not always remain with them."

Raising cattle was not without its sorrows.

Morton's barn at Ellerslie burned twice and was rebuilt twice, with 90 cows and bulls

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

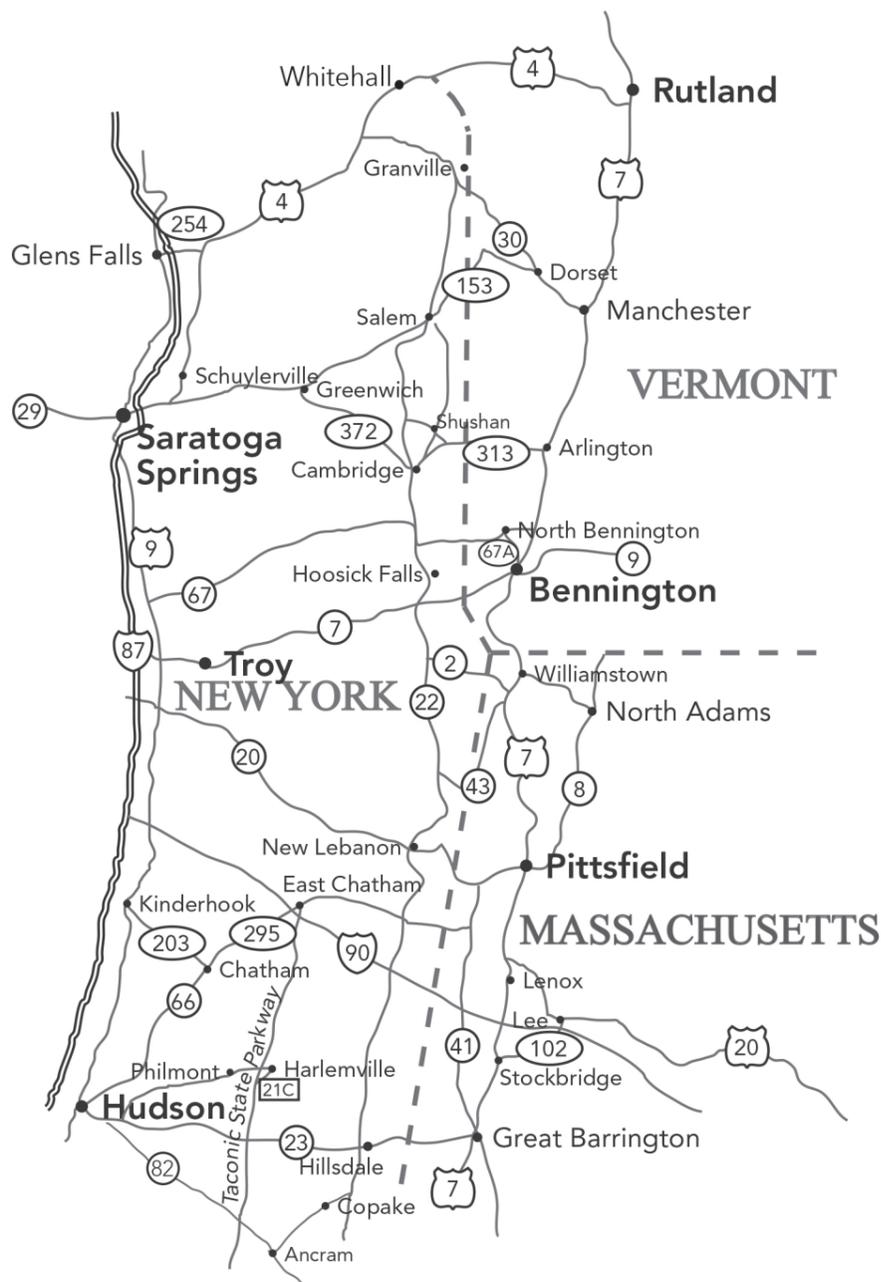
We're told we live in an information age, yet the traditional gathering of news is in decline.

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.

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## Thompson from preceding page

perishing in the second fire on Aug. 3, 1893.

"The ashes were not yet cold when Mr. Morton gave the order to rebuild on the old site," *The Olean Democrat* reported on Sept. 18, 1894, when construction of the new barn was completed.

Disease also threatened the herd.

In 1894, 19 of Morton's cattle, valued at \$7,000 – the equivalent of more than \$200,000 in today's dollars – had to be killed because the animals had contracted tuberculosis, which could spread to other cattle or indirectly to humans that drank milk from the diseased cows, *The Watertown Times* reported on Jan. 18, 1894.

Again in 1899, about 50 or 60 cattle, "a large percentage of his herd," were set to be killed because they had contracted tuberculosis, *The Evening Times* of Washington, D.C. reported on July 28, 1899.

Morton died in Rhinebeck on his 96th birthday, on May 16, 1920.

*Maurry 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.*

## Letters continued from page 14

Premiums would be replaced by federal taxes, and the wealthy would pay more than the poor.

Medicare for all would have a single payer, which would markedly reduce the administrative costs and red tape created by the commercial insurance companies, thereby saving billions of dollars. The taxes collected would pay for your health care, rather than going to stockholders, chief executives or corporate lobbyists.

G. Richard Dundas, M.D.  
Bennington, Vt.

## Public deserves details on economic rescue funds

To the editor:

In these dark and confusing times, with news and events rushing at us in a constant stream, it's easy to miss the significance of an event as it flies by. I am writing to remind one and all of the significance of one event that deserves our continuing attention and concern: The federal government just finished disbursing more than \$500 billion through the Payroll Protection Program, or PPP, as part of the larger CARES act stimulus package.

In theory, this support for small businesses and the average worker is a good thing. The problem is that Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin is refusing to disclose who got this money and how much they received, calling that information "propri-

etary."

Half a trillion dollars is a great deal of money, and it comes from the taxpayers. How can the government justify keeping the list of recipients secret?

Surely the taxpayers, who will be on the hook for these "loans" – many of which will be forgiven under the terms of the loan agreements – have a proprietary interest in knowing where that mountain of money went.

Even more concerning, this PPP money is just the tip of the iceberg. The Fed has rolled out a multi-trillion-dollar loan guarantee and asset buy-back program to help large corporations that got themselves too deeply into debt during this period of low interest rates. They squandered record profits buying back stock when they should have been paying off that debt.

Given the administration's determination to conceal who's on the PPP loan list, it's a good bet that some of this money went to businesses that should not have received it.

This is not a liberal or conservative issue. Everyone in America should be concerned whether the money in this program went to people who needed it and whether it was used to help keep our economy on track. Shadowy corporate bailout deals are not the way to go. The public deserves to know who got this money.

Shame on you, Mr. Mnuchin. And shame on us if we let the administration get away with it.

Paul Q. Kolderie  
Hoosick, N.Y.

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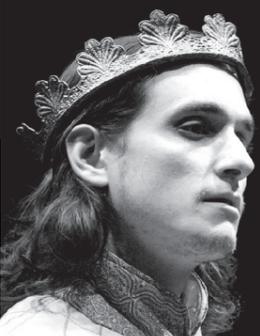
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# ARTS & CULTURE

## The art of venturing outside

Grounds, gardens become destination for visitors to cultural sites

By **KATE ABBOTT**  
Contributing writer

GHENT, N.Y.

In the grass near the pavilion, stone blocks stand in rough steps, the color of quartz and clamshells.

In an ordinary year, children would be climbing on them freely, and on hot days they could have a drink of cold water.

This summer, they will have to keep a few feet away from the sculpture. But they can come with their families and run across the lawn.

Agustina Woodgate's work stands out from a distance, said Jessica Puglisi, the communications director at Art Omi. Up close, she can see the fossils in the rock.

The sculptures are made of limestone, but not the local stone where ferns and columbines grow at Bartholomew's Cobble or the marble along the Hoosic and Housatonic rivers. These blocks are oolite from southern Florida. They're the bedrock of Miami and the keys, condensed from sand and coral and fossil sea urchins. And each one holds a water fountain.

Woodgate created them out of a growing concern for clean water, Puglisi explained. It's a matter for public debate in Florida, where the seas are rising, and here in the river valleys of New York and New England, where generations of industry left many rivers polluted.

And now, amid the Covid-19 pandemic, Woodgate's fountains are raising the question in a new way, as the museum keeps them turned off to ensure health and safety.

*continued on next page*



Scott Langley photo

Atelier Van Lieshout's "Blast Furnace" is among the works in the sculpture park at Art Omi in Ghent, N.Y. The arts center's grounds have remained open to visitors during the Covid-19 pandemic even as its indoor galleries have been shuttered. Many other cultural sites across the region have continued to welcome visitors to their grounds and gardens.

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Woodgate's "The Source" has come as a new work to the Omi International Arts Center this summer, installed even in the upheaval of this spring, as the center closed its indoor spaces and took other precautions against the coronavirus outbreak.

Art Omi's sculpture park has remained open as a park. And as New York moves gradually to reopen, the museum staff has been able to finish several new outdoor installations, Puglisi said. They plan to open the galleries in July, if area health statistics continue to look good.

Creative places across the region are opening as state guidelines allow, balancing a need for health and safety with a need to keep going, to connect, and to support their communities and local economies.

From Columbia County northward in New York, and from the Berkshires into southern Vermont, museums, arts centers and historic sites have opened their gardens and grounds to visitors. Some have created online content related to their outdoor artwork and exhibits, and some are adding new outdoor attractions, even cafe service.

As Massachusetts began reopening in late May and June, the state allowed parks and gardens to open, and the next phase of that process is expected to let historic houses and museum galleries welcome visitors indoors under careful conditions.

Vermont began allowing museums to invite visitors inside in June, and the Bennington Museum announced it would reopen July 3.

### In a writer's garden

At The Mount, Edith Wharton's historic

house in Lenox, Mass., locals are listening to the fountain running over stone in the Italian garden, and young dancers with Berkshire Pulse are holding classes on the lawns.

Even in unusual times, this is a landmark summer: 2020 is the centennial of "The Age of Innocence." Wharton completed the novel in 1920, and she would win the Pulitzer Prize for it and become the first woman to win that honor for fiction.

Before the pandemic struck, The Mount had launched a yearlong celebration. This spring and summer, the museum had to move its events and exhibits online, offering a series of free writers' talks and conversations. For those wanting more than a virtual experience, the gardens and grounds have been open free to all comers.

In late June, the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded the museum a grant of \$300,000, the largest possible amount, to support its staff through the summer as they prepare for reopening, said Rebecka McDougall, The Mount's communications director.

On the museum's grounds, on a warm afternoon day before the rain, the air is sweet with the flowering vines along the garden walls. People rest on the terrace and walk the paths through the tended woods and the meadow by the water.

The Mount hopes to reopen its outdoor cafe in early July, McDougall said, partnering with Mike Mongeon and KJ Nosh in Pittsfield and Lee. Visitors can get a picnic and find a quiet spot for it under the trees. The historic house and bookstore will follow by mid-July.

"People have been very respectful," McDougall said. "They wear masks ... and take care in the enclosed gardens."

They may hear Cantilena Choir holding outdoor rehearsals on the grounds, and new voices in Wharton's rooms. The Mount is creating a new audio tour for the house, and it is adding new virtual programming to the lineup announced in June.

McDougall said The Mount's staff has seen a warm response to its virtual programs, which have regularly drawn more than 100 people, many from far beyond the Berkshires.

As these programs continue this summer, Julie Scelfo, a journalist, justice advocate and former staff writer at The New York Times, will talk with a series of writers about their work. On July 6, for example, she and Kerri Greenidge will explore Greenidge's new book, "Black Radical: The Live and Times of William Monroe Trotter." Trotter was the Harvard-educated editor of the Boston Guardian, a weekly newspaper that stirred people in the black working class to build political power against the violent racism of post-Reconstruction America.

Fiction holds the stage too, as Heidi Pitlor, editor of "The Best American Short Stories," returns with contemporary novelists, including bestselling writer Lily King on July 19. King's newest novel, "Writers & Lovers," enters the life of a woman at a crossroads, trying to become an artist.

Wharton would have understood that struggle when she lived here. She became a writer in her time at The Mount, in her 40s, in a time of transitions. Writers may not be

## Summer Farmers Markets 2020

*Standard coronavirus-era requirements: One shopper per family, mask and gloves, avoid touching product (let vendors serve you), follow directional signs. Many markets reserve opening hour for customers who have greater risk for exposure to Covid-19. Some sell only online or by advance orders; others offer pre-ordering and market shopping. Vermont requires pre-ordering capability. Check online before you go.*

### MASSACHUSETTS

#### Berkshire County

##### Roots Rising Virtual Farmers Market

- Order noon Monday through 7:30 p.m. Tuesday
- Delivery within county
- [www.rootsrising.org/virtualfarmersmarket](http://www.rootsrising.org/virtualfarmersmarket)

##### Berkshire Area (Lanesborough)

- 8a-2p Wednesdays and Saturdays through Nov. 21
- Berkshire Mall lot, Route 8
- Fb: Berkshire-Farmers-Market

##### Great Barrington

- 9a-1p Saturdays through Nov. 14
- Pre-order w/vendors requested at [www.greatbarringtonfarmersmarket.org](http://www.greatbarringtonfarmersmarket.org)

##### Hancock

- 10a-3p Wednesdays, June 28-Oct. 11
- Appletree Hill Organic Farm, 3210 Hancock Road (Route 43)
- Fb: Hancock-Farmers-Market

##### Lee

- 10a-2p Saturdays through Oct. 10
- 25 Park Place
- [www.leefarmersmarket.com](http://www.leefarmersmarket.com)

##### Lenox

- 2-6 p.m. Fridays, June 5 to Oct. 2
- 21 Housatonic St.
- [www.lenoxfarmersmarket.com](http://www.lenoxfarmersmarket.com)

##### Monterey

- 4-6 p.m. Tuesdays till Aug. 25
- Roadside Store & Cafe
- 275 Main Road (Route 23)

#### North Adams

- Virtually order only, 3 p.m. Mon. to 3 p.m. Wed.
- Orders delivered (\$5 fee) or pick-up on Saturdays at A-oK Berkshire BBQ courtyard [northadamfarmersmarket.square.site](http://northadamfarmersmarket.square.site)

#### Otis

- 9a-1p Saturdays, May-Oct. 2000 East Otis Road
- Fb: [otisfarmersmarket](https://www.facebook.com/otisfarmersmarket)

#### Downtown Pittsfield

- Online only through July 4: [www.rootsrising.org/virtualfarmersmarket](http://www.rootsrising.org/virtualfarmersmarket)
- Deliveries on Saturdays
- In person, July 11-Oct. 10, 9a-1p at The Common Park, First Street

#### Sheffield

- 3-6p Fridays through Oct. 9
- First Congregational Church lot, 125 Main St.
- Pre-order & pickup available w/each farmer at [www.sheffieldfarmersmarket.org](http://www.sheffieldfarmersmarket.org)

#### West Stockbridge

- 3-6 p.m. Thursdays through Oct. 1 at The Foundry Green
- [www.WestStockbridgeFarmersMarket.org](http://www.WestStockbridgeFarmersMarket.org)

#### Williamstown

- Pre-order only, 10a Mondays through 7p Wednesdays at [wfmessentials.org](http://wfmessentials.org)
- No-contact pickup, 11a-1p Saturdays at Williamstown Elementary School, back parking lot, 66 School St.

### NEW YORK

#### Upper Hudson & Capital Region

- [moxie-box.com](http://moxie-box.com)

- online farm-to-doorstep food box service
- Enter zip code to determine availability

#### Columbia County

##### Copake-Hillsdale

- 9a-1p Saturdays through Oct. 31
- Roe Jan Park, 9140 Route 22
- [www.copakehillsdalefarmersmarket.com](http://www.copakehillsdalefarmersmarket.com)

##### Hudson

- 9a-1p Saturdays through Nov. 21
- 6th and Columbia streets
- [www.hudsonfarmersmarketny.com](http://www.hudsonfarmersmarketny.com)

##### (Hudson) Upstreet Farmers' Market

- 4-7 p.m. Wednesdays, June 3 through Oct. 28
- 7th Street Park, Warren Street, Hudson
- Facebook: [upstreetmarket](https://www.facebook.com/upstreetmarket)

##### Kinderhook

- 8:30a-12:30p Saturdays through October
- 1 Hudson St.
- [www.kinderhookfarmersmarket.com](http://www.kinderhookfarmersmarket.com)

##### New Lebanon

- 10a-2p Sundays, June through October
- 516 State Route 20
- Fb: [newlebanonfarmersmarket](https://www.facebook.com/newlebanonfarmersmarket)

#### Rensselaer County

##### Hoosick

- 3-6:30 p.m. Fridays, June 25 through Oct. 15
- 5342 State Route 7
- [www.hoosicklocalmarket.com](http://www.hoosicklocalmarket.com)

#### Troy Waterfront

- 8:30a-3p Saturdays, Russell Sage Campus, on-site and pre-order
- Also, online store for Sunday pickup at Carioto Produce Warehouse, 80 Cohoes Ave.

#### Saratoga County

##### Ballston Spa

- 3-6:30p Thursday; 9a-1p Sat. June 13-Sept. 26
- Wiswall Park

##### Clifton Park

- 2-5p Mondays at Shenendehowa Methodist Church parking lot
- 971 Route 146

##### Saratoga Springs

- 3-6p Wednesdays & 9a-1p Saturdays
- Wilton Mall, Bon-Ton & Bow Tie parking lots
- pre-order, curbside options [saratogafarmersmarket.org](http://saratogafarmersmarket.org)

##### Spa City (Saratoga)

- 10a-2p Sundays year-round
- Lincoln Baths at Saratoga Spa State Park, 65 South Broadway, Saratoga Springs
- [spacityfarmersmarket.com](http://spacityfarmersmarket.com)

#### Warren County

##### Glens Falls

- 8a-noon Saturdays through Oct. 31
- South Street Pavilion
- [glensfallsfarmersmarket.com](http://glensfallsfarmersmarket.com)

#### Washington County

##### Cambridge Valley

- 10a-2p Sundays
- Outdoors, May-October

- Cambridge Central School, Route 22
- Shop in person and/or pre-order with/without curbside pickup
- Online order at [www.cambridgevalleyfarmersmarket.com](http://www.cambridgevalleyfarmersmarket.com)

##### Fort Edward

- 4-7p Thursdays, June 4-Sept. 24
- Canal Street Marketplace
- preorder on Facebook

##### Greenwich

- 3-6 p.m. Wednesdays at Gather, 103 Main St.
- shop in person; pre-orders through individual farms

##### Whitehall

- 1-4p Tuesdays, June through late October
- Skenesborough Canal Park

### VERMONT

#### Bennington County

##### Arlington

- 4-7p Fridays; opens July 10
- Arlington Inn grounds, Routes 7A & 313 West
- [www.arlington-vermont.com/farmers-market](http://www.arlington-vermont.com/farmers-market)

##### Bennington

- 10a-1p Saturdays through Oct. 31
- 150 Depot St.
- Pre-order, w/pickup every other week; pickup times by alphabet
- In-person shopping: June dates TBD
- [benningtonfarmersmarket.org](http://benningtonfarmersmarket.org)

##### Dorset

- 10a-noon Sundays year-round
- Pre-orders available/ad-

- vised; vendors rotate due to limited space
- H.N. Williams General Store, 2732 State Route 30
- [www.dorsetfarmersmarket.com](http://www.dorsetfarmersmarket.com)

##### Manchester

- 3-6p Thursdays till Oct. 3
- Adams Park, Route 7A
- [www.ManchesterFarmers.org](http://www.ManchesterFarmers.org)

#### Rutland County

##### Brandon

- 9a-2p Fridays from June 19
- Central Park, Route 7
- Fb: [BrandonVTFarmersMarket](https://www.facebook.com/BrandonVTFarmersMarket)

##### Fair Haven

- 3-6p Thursdays
- June opening TBD through Oct. 22
- Fair Haven Park
- [vtfarmersmarket.org/markets/fair-haven-market/](http://vtfarmersmarket.org/markets/fair-haven-market/)

#### North Rupert-Mettowee Valley

- 3-6p Fridays through October
- Route 30
- [mettoweevalleyfarmersmarket.wordpress.com](http://mettoweevalleyfarmersmarket.wordpress.com)

#### Poultney/Lakes Region

- 9a-2p Thursdays through October
- Main Street, Poultney
- Main St
- [vtfarmersmarket.org](http://vtfarmersmarket.org)

#### Rutland

- 9a-2p Saturdays through Oct. 31
- Depot Park
- [vtfarmersmarket.org/markets/summer](http://vtfarmersmarket.org/markets/summer)

*If your market isn't listed, send updated info to [calendar@hillcountryobserver.com](mailto:calendar@hillcountryobserver.com)*

gathering on the terrace this summer, but visitors can rest there with a glass of iced tea – and linger over Wharton’s short stories, where she used to read Walt Whitman’s newest poems out loud with her friends on summer nights.

**Tales of a whale – and of love**

Up the road in Pittsfield, writers are coming to Arrowhead. The Mastheads writing residency program will return in a carefully modified form this year, said Lesley Herzberg, the executive director of the Berkshire Historical Society, which runs Herman Melville’s historic farmhouse.

The visiting writers, she said, will be able to focus on their work in the big field, in one of five spaced-out Masthead studios that will be set up for the summer.

Because of the pandemic, Arrowhead had to retool its summer season. Herzberg will be hosting livestream events in July and August, including an evening with 19th century suffragist Lucy Stone, a talk on the collections with curator Erin Hunt and a virtual “Moby-Dick” read-a-thon.

And Hunt is curating an outdoor exhibit of Jim Jasper’s artwork based on “Moby-Dick.” He has interpreted the novel in 140 drawings, and Hunt will set them in weatherproof

panels, turning Melville’s hayfields into a wide, expansive gallery under the open sky.

The house will also open for tours beginning June 29, Herzberg said, and Melville fans have been gathering virtually since the spring. Arrowhead’s writer-in-residence, Jana Laiz, has started a book group on the recent biography “Melville in Love,” and the book’s author, Pulitzer finalist Michael Sheldon, has met virtually with the group.

Sheldon tells the story of Sarah Morewood, Melville’s neighbor, whom Herzberg describes as a passionately intelligent and forceful woman.

“She knew she was attractive, interesting and beguiling, and she used that,” Herzberg said.

Morewood rode a horse named Black Quake, galloping in the local hills. She threw parties. She roamed outdoors. Herzberg remembers reading an account of a hike she led up Mount Greylock.

“And no one knows about her,” she said. “She’s buried here. And she died very young — of consumption, a month after her 40th birthday.”

Arrowhead has also opened its fields and grounds and nature trails, which are free to all. Although the visiting writers in their cabins are taking in the quiet, locals are walking through the meadows and watching iridescent blue

dragonflies dart over the tall grass.

**Places to escape and reflect**

Up and down Berkshire County, museums with grounds and gardens and trails are welcoming visitors for outdoor pursuits. The Clark Art Institute has seen steady visitors to its trails on Stone Hill this spring and summer, director of communications Vicki Saltzman said.

The museum has been planning to open its first outdoor exhibition, “Ground/work,” this summer. And although two of the Clark’s major summer shows are now postponed until 2021, the museum still plans to offer these site-responsive installations by six contemporary artists on its 140-acre campus, though the exact opening date of the exhibit had not been announced as of late June and was dependent on state health guidelines.

“Ground/work” will gather new work by international artists Kelly Akashi, Nairy Baghramian, Jennie C. Jones, Eva LeWitt, Analia Saban and Haegue Yang, who have each in their own way created work in conversation with the Clark’s campus – the pasture and the wildflowers, and the granite buildings with their reflecting pools and beehives.

In Stockbridge, the gardens at Naumkeag, built in the 19th century as the summer home of the lawyer and diplomat Joseph Hodges



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Choate, opened at the end of May, in time for the tree peonies to bloom.

Chesterwood, another grand Stockbridge estate (it was the summer home of sculptor Daniel Chester French) is opening its gardens and trails with outdoor sculpture. And the Norman Rockwell Museum has opened its lawns and paths among the apple trees down to the Housatonic River.

Tanglewood will also open its grounds as the music festival goes virtual in July and August.

At Hancock Shaker Village, this spring's calves and kid-goats, lambs and piglets are basking in the sun, and the historic Shaker gardens are in bloom.

In Vermont, Park McCullough House has opened its gardens and is opening for limited tours in early July, and the historic Lincoln family home at Hildene in Manchester is now open, with its gardens and grounds, farm dairy and hiking trails.

Southern Vermont Arts Center at the foot of Mount Equinox will open solo shows on July Fourth and a "Women Take Wilson" group show on July 11 in honor of women's suffrage.

And in New York, Salem Art Works' Cary Hill sculpture park is open dawn to dusk, gathering regional, national and international artists on almost 120 acres with views of the hills of southern Washington County.

**Sculpture, architecture and skateboarding**

Art Omi has more than 60 works across 120 acres in its Sculpture and Architecture Park, including new outdoor artwork this summer

by Dan Colen, Anna Sew Hoy and Will Ryman, and Bianca Best, a young artist creating her first outdoor work.

Best often works with materials like papier-mache, Puglisi said, and her work at Omi brings in massive, brilliantly colored figures like abstracted human forms. They are lithe and acrobatic, and twice life-sized, and they show clearly in the trees along the pond. The museum has cut away the undergrowth to give clear sightlines.

Best's figures are bright, positive and gestural, Puglisi said. They have a feeling of forward movement. Coming upon one in the woods feels like finding an abstract painting hanging out by the water, in contrast to the steel and stone of the works around it.

On the architecture side, Art Omi is finishing work designed by Steven Holl. The artist Wendy Evans Joseph, based in Columbia County, offers a sensory experience in the park, Puglisi said, something like a labyrinth, inviting people to take in views in different places, sights and scents. It draws them into focus.

And Cameron Wu's "Geodesic Promenade" invites people to look out at the quiet scene from changing directions and perspectives

The park and grounds will remain quieter than usual, this summer. Omi has postponed all of its spring and summer artist residencies until 2021, from the writers who would have come from March to June to the dancers, musicians and artists who would have gathered there now in high summer.

Art Omi brings in artists from around the world; a residency of 30 people may have artists from 20 different countries. Puglisi said

OMI does not yet know when it will welcome artists-in-residence back again.

But it expects reopen its indoor galleries on July 18 – if the state continues on its current course of reopening.

Omi's galleries will offer a long-planned retrospective of American abstract artist Howardena Pindell, widely known her work in major national shows from the Whitney Museum of American Art to the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles to the Metropolitan Museum of Art's "Delirious" in 2017, a wide-ranging group show of American and international artists from 1950 to 1980, and the Brooklyn Museum's tribute the same year, "We Wanted a Revolution: Black Radical Women, 1965-1985."

Pindell is known for her abstract paintings and explorations in deconstruction and reconstruction, with canvases she cuts, sews, stencils and reshapes into vivid kaleidoscopic forms. This new solo show at Omi will principally explore her work in film and photo collages.

And in the fields outside, Omi is working now with Puerto Rican artist Chemi Rosado-Seijo to build a skateboarding bowl that's expected to open in August.

Rosado-Seijo has created one on his island, in La Perla, that has recognition now around the world. He worked neighbors in La Perla and around the island to build that a skateboarding bowl by hand outside the Old San Juan walls, on reclaimed land along the Atlantic. It encompasses a handmade pool, built of blocks of stone, that fills with water from the ocean.

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# Arts & Culture

## AREA EXHIBITIONS

MANY VENUES ARE CLOSED. VISIT ONLINE. CALL BEFORE YOU GO.

**Art Omi International Arts Center** • 518-392-4747 • [www.artomi.org](http://www.artomi.org)  
 • Sculpture & Architecture Park • outdoor, self-guided tour, download from website  
 • Guided tours, ages 6-12, on GeoTourist app  
 • Maintaining Creative Momentum – Weekly projects emailed

**Bennington Museum** • 802-447-1571 • [benningtonmuseum.org](http://benningtonmuseum.org)  
 • July 3: Reopening Fri. 1-8 pm; Sat. 1-6 pm

**Berkshire Botanical Garden** • [www.berkshirebotanical.org](http://www.berkshirebotanical.org)  
 • Required timed ticketing at website or 413-298-3926 • Free, Sun. & Mon; half-price Tuesday-Sat.

**Berkshire Museum at Home** • 413-443-7171  
 • [explore.berkshireremuseum.org](http://explore.berkshireremuseum.org)  
 • through Oct. 9: "Art of the Hills: Narrative"

**Carrie Haddad Gallery** • 518-828-1915 • [carriehaddadgallery.com](http://carriehaddadgallery.com)  
 • through Jul. 26: "Natural Worlds," by Jeri Eisenberg, Louis Laplante, Allyson Levy, Lori Van Houten  
 • through Sep. 13: "Pattern Play," by Donise English, Bruce Murphy, Vincent Pomilio, Susan Stover, & Stephen Walling

**Chapman Historical Museum** • 518-793-2826 • [chapmanmuseum.org](http://chapmanmuseum.org)  
 • ongoing: Seneca Ray Stoddard photos of water scenes • "Hands-On History Galleries: Experiences of Hometown Life"  
 • July 7 – Sept. 20 (& online): Let's All Fight: The Linc Cathers Collection of WWII Posters

**Chesterwood** • 4 Williamsville Rd, Stockbridge, MA • [chesterwood.org](http://chesterwood.org)  
 • Open for self-touring • Thursday-Sunday; 10 am-4 pm • Timed parking pass req'd; link on website

**(Sterling & Francine) Clark Art Institute** • 413-458-2303 • [www.clarkart.edu/museum/clarkconnects](http://www.clarkart.edu/museum/clarkconnects)  
 • The Clark Connects • virtual programs • new every Monday, Wednesday & Friday at noon  
 • through Sept. 2021: "Ground/work," outdoors featuring Kelly Akashi, Nairy Baghramian, Jennie E. Jones, Eva LeWitt, Analia Saban, & Haegue Yang

**Columbia County Historical Society** • 518-758-9265 • [cchs@cchsnny.org](mailto:cchs@cchsnny.org)  
 • ongoing online: "Early Hand Tools & Farm Implements;" "100 Years of Collecting;" "Delft Ware;" "Cased Photographs"

**(Virtual) Courthouse Gallery** • 518-668-2616  
 • [www.lakegeorgearts.org/courthouse-gallery/](http://www.lakegeorgearts.org/courthouse-gallery/)  
 • July 11 - Aug. 14: Live Stream Artist Talk with Jenny Kemp • 4 pm

**Historic Salem Courthouse Community Center** • 518-854-7053 • [salemcourthouse.org](http://salemcourthouse.org)  
 • through July 31: Bob Skinner

**Housatonic Valley Art Gallery** • [www.hvart.org](http://www.hvart.org)  
 • online July 6-31: "Our Berkshires"

**HVCC Virtual Gallery** • <https://www5.hvcc.edu/art-show/advanced/index.html>  
 • through Aug. 31: "The Before, The After and In Between" End-of-Year Show

**The Hyde Collection VIRTUALLY** • <https://hydecollection.org> • 518-792-1761  
 • through Sept. 13: "Transformations: The Art of John Van Alstine"  
 • J.S. Wooley, Adirondack Photographer

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

**The Laffer Gallery** • 96 Broad St., Schuylerville, NY • [thelaffergallery.com](http://thelaffergallery.com) • Wed. - Sun., 12 pm to 5 pm, or by appt.  
 • through July 26: "A Cultivated Vision" feat. Robert Moylan, Tracy Helgeson, and Regina Wickham

**LARAC Virtually** • 518-798-1144 • [www.LARAC.org/lapham-gallery/current-exhibition](http://www.LARAC.org/lapham-gallery/current-exhibition)  
 • July 3-Aug. 5: "The Ghost Who Walks" with Mike Fallon, Hannah McCasland, Bonnie Tompkin

**(The) Mount (Edith Wharton's home)** • 413-637-1899 • [www.edithwharton.org](http://www.edithwharton.org)  
 • ongoing: "Life in the Dale: Augustus Martin's Lenox;" "Edith Wharton and the First World War;" "The Backstairs Project"

**National Museum of Dance VIRTUALLY** • 518-584-2225 • [www.dancemuseum.org](http://www.dancemuseum.org)  
 • July 10- Dec. 2020: "Carl Van Vechten On Dance"  
 • "Dance! Square Dance!"  
 • Art in the Foyer: "Ageless Dancers – Photographs by Betti Franceschi"  
 • through Spring 2021: "Merce My Way" by Mikhail Baryshnikov

**Norman Rockwell Museum VIRTUALLY** • <https://www.nrm.org> • 413-298-4100  
 • Quick Pics (K-6); Videos; From the Archives; Sketch Club; Listen and Learn; & more

**North Bennington, VT** • Various locations through Nov. 1: North Bennington Outdoor Sculpture Show

**North Country Arts Center VIRTUALLY** • [www.northcountryartscenter.org](http://www.northcountryartscenter.org)  
 • Online: "Ancient New Worlds," drawings, prints & sculptures by Jack R. Montoya • Valeria Orozco, paintings • Sandra Jabaut, architectural paintings  
 • "What's Old is New"

**Olana State Historic Site** • 518-828-0135 • [www.olana.org](http://www.olana.org)  
 • OLANA EYE Skycam at [olana.org/OLANA EYE](http://olana.org/OLANA EYE) • follow @olanashs  
 • Olana's Historic Landscape Video Tour • <https://www.olana.org/tour-category/virtual/>

**Pamela Salisbury Gallery** • 361 ½ Warren St., Hudson, NY • [www.pamelasalisburygallery.com](http://www.pamelasalisburygallery.com) by appt. OR online • check Instagram every day at noon  
 • through July 26, consecutively: Willard Boepple: Wood and Paper; Sculpture and Prints  
 • Maud Bryt: Here I'll Show You • Richard Kalina: Selected Work • Ying Li: Alterity

**Rensselaer County Historical Society** • 518-272-7232 • [www.rchsonline.org](http://www.rchsonline.org)  
 • "Rensselaer County Then and Now"  
 • through Nov. 30: "How We Work(ed)"

**Salem Courthouse** • [salemcourthouse.org](http://salemcourthouse.org) • 518-854-7053  
 • through July 31: Bob Skinner

**Salmon Falls Gallery** • 413-625-9833 • [salmonfallsgallery.com](http://salmonfallsgallery.com)  
 • through Aug. 2: Kate Whittaker: "Visual Poems: Original Prints"  
 • through Aug. 2: David Ernster & Chris Archer: "Transitional Structures" works in clay  
 • through Aug. 2: Daniel Bellow, pottery  
 • through Aug. 2: Lori Pietropaoli, glass art

**Sand Lake Center for the Arts** • 518-674-2007 • [slca-ctp.org](http://slca-ctp.org)  
 • through Aug. 31: Summer Juried Art Show "The Power and the Glory"

**Saratoga Arts** • [www.saratoga-arts.org](http://www.saratoga-arts.org) • 518-584-4132  
 • online classes, tutorials, discussions and more  
 • online through Sept. 5: "Breaking the Grid"

**Saratoga Performing Arts Center** • <https://spac.org/education/learninglibrary/>  
 • SPAC Virtual Learning Library – online video lessons and activities

**Schantz Galleries** • 413-298-3044 • [www.schantzgalleries.com](http://www.schantzgalleries.com)  
 • Martin Rosol and more than 60 artists online

**SEPTEMBER Gallery** • [septembergallery.com](http://septembergallery.com)  
 • through Aug. 9: Ashley Garrett: "Aegis"

**Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon VIRTUALLY** • <https://shakerml.org>  
 • "Water and the Word" free app for 16-stop driving tour

(Frances Young) **Tang Teaching Museum and Gallery** (at Skidmore College) • 518-580-8080 • <http://tang.skidmore.edu>  
 • Tang at Home  
 • Tang Extra Credit: re-create art of the Tang  
 • online through Aug. 2: Eleanor Linder Winter Internship: Caroline Coxé '20: "Lover Earth: Art and Ecosexuality"

**Valley Artisans Market** • 518-677-2765 • [www.valleyartisansmarket.com](http://www.valleyartisansmarket.com)  
 • through July 7: Kevin Kuhme – Water Color

**World Awareness Children's Museum** • 518-793-2773 • [www.worldchildrensmuseum.org](http://www.worldchildrensmuseum.org)  
 • Fb: "Living Room Explorers" activities weekly

## Arts &amp; Culture

## THE CALENDAR JULY 2020

Sun

## THEATER LISTINGS

**Adirondack Theatre Festival** • through Aug. 7: Any donation of \$50 or more prompts an emailed password and provides unlimited access to past digital content on [www.ATFestival.org/ATFonDemand](http://www.ATFestival.org/ATFonDemand)

• **In the Box Entertainment** ([www.intheboxentertainment.com](http://www.intheboxentertainment.com)): Live entertainment from the comfort of home • Tickets at [woodtheater.org/events](http://woodtheater.org/events) • \$45 per household, unless noted otherwise • Subscription \$115 for 4 shows (Magic [choose production]; Cruise; Mystery; Painting) • If tix purchased less than 5 days in advance of event, there is no guarantee your box will arrive in time

• Sept. 10-12, 7:30 pm: "Virtual Reality: Magic in a Box • Remote Control with Max Major: A Virtual Mindreading Experiment"

• Sept. 15-19, 7:30 pm: "Virtual Reality: Magic in a Box • Glitches in Reality with Simon Coronel"

• Oct. 15, 7 pm, through Oct. 18, midnight: Adirondack Film Festival • for content-bingers, all films will be available "on demand" on Sun., Oct. 18 from 8am until midnight. • Special pricing: VIP - \$75/household – access to all films and the full FILM FESTIVAL IN A BOX experience mailed to your door OR Basic - \$45/household – access to all films except headliners (major studio features), no box is included with this package

**Ancram Opera House** • [www.ancramoperahouse.org/2020-spring-summer-season](http://www.ancramoperahouse.org/2020-spring-summer-season)

• "Crystal Radio Sessions Update" • July 11 • 8 pm • Local Writers Local Voices

• "Series Premiere: Local Characters" • July 25 • 8 pm

**Berkshire Theatre Group** • [www.Berkshiretheatregroup.org](http://www.Berkshiretheatregroup.org)

"Hershey Felder: Beethoven" • July 12 • Livestream from Italy • 8 pm • \$55/household • Dramatizing Dr. Gerhard von Breuning's factual memoir, "Aus dem Schwarzspanierhaus," (Out of the House of Black-Robed Spaniards, Beethoven's last residence), Hershey Felder brings Ludwig van Beethoven to life through the eyes of the Viennese Doctor Breuning, who spent his boyhood by the Maestro's side.

**Great Barrington Public Theater** • "Bear Tales: Six Feet Together" • 10 full-length, free, online streaming Solo Performances, filmed and directed from a safe distance • [www.GreatBarringtonPublicTheater.org](http://www.GreatBarringtonPublicTheater.org) • The shows are:

1. "Baker's Revenge," by Jessica Provenz
2. "The Cherry Orchard 2020," by Carl Srague
3. "Dorothy Kilgallen," by David Mamet, with Rebecca Pidgeon
4. "Eye of the Needle," by Andy Reynolds
5. "Final Words," by Michael Brady
6. "King Lear Boogie," by Will LeBow
7. "Meet The Deadlies," by Anne Undeland
8. "Old Straight Female White," by Alexandra Angeloch
9. "Playing the Part," by Elizabeth Nelson, with Aimee Doherty
10. "WomAnimal," by Cindy Parrish

**Hudson Valley Radio Theater** • Online at <https://www.murdercafe.net/radio-theatre> • Free, donations accepted

• **Murder Me** • The 1940s come to life as hardboiled detective Archie Morgan enters Café Malta searching for an escaped con. He discovers Waldo de Winter, the café owner, was murdered and his widow wants Archie to solve the crime and find the guilty party from a group of shady suspects.

• **Sorry, Wrong Number** • Classic radio suspense drama, written by Lucille Fletcher, first broadcast in 1945, involves an invalid woman who overhears what she thinks is a murder plot and her attempts to prevent it. She becomes increasingly desperate as she tries to work out who the victim is so the crime can be prevented.

• **The Lodger** • Based on Marie Belloc Lowndes' novel, the story concerns a serial killer known as "The Avenger" who is murdering young women. Before the evening is over another body is found. Who is "The Avenger" and has he struck again?

• **Murder At The Speakeasy** • Infamous bootlegger Dutch Schultz has opened a new speakeasy, the Abba Dabba Club, to give girlfriend Lu Lu a place to sing but flapper Rosie isn't having it.

• **Death By Chocolate** • Danny Crunkle, owner of Dan-Dee-Can-Dee, is merging his company with Hershel Crackleberry, his biggest competitor. Before Danny finishes his announcement gun shots ring out, a body falls and everyone scrambles for a piece of Danny's will. Who poisoned Danny's sweet deal and can his brother, rumbled detective Rick the Dick, be able to establish means and motive with this sketchy gang of suspects?

5



**Caffe Lena** • Stay Home Sessions: Marty Wendell Trio LIVE • 8 pm • [CaffeLena YouTube channel](https://www.caffelena.com)

misc.

**Fish Creek Rod & Gun** • Pick-up only Fish Fry • 3-6 pm • Place order at 518-695-3917

**Hancock Shaker Village** • Outdoors • 10 am-3 pm • 12 & under free; pre-reg req'd for ALL at 413-443-0188

12



**Music From Salem** • Garage Lawn (rain date Jul. 13) • 6 pm • Brown Farm, 154 Priest Rd, Salem • [musicfromsalem.org](http://musicfromsalem.org)

misc.

**Hancock Shaker Village** • Outdoors • 10 am-3 pm • Pre-reg req'd for ALL at 413-443-0188

19

misc.

**Hancock Shaker Village** • Outdoors • 10 am-3 pm • Pre-reg req'd for ALL at 413-443-0188

26

misc.

**Hancock Shaker Village** • Outdoors • 10 am-3 pm • Pre-reg req'd for ALL at 413-443-0188

Hemp *continued from page 13*

variety, the bottles contain broad-spectrum CBD oil ranging from 600 to 1,500 milligrams per bottle, or about 14-28 milligrams per dose.

"Each variety represents a particular landscape on the property, and they have myriad benefits," Dobson said. "Focus is our forest formula, with its white pine and ginseng, while Recover evokes the riparian buffer in between the waterway and our farmlands with its yarrow, goldenrod and burdock."

The plants used in Treaty products are all grown and extracted on the farm, then blended with small amounts of essential oils for terpene synergy, which in turn creates a particular aromatic compound.

"Depending on the terpene synergy, you'll feel a different way after taking the oil," Dobson said.

Once the hemp crop has matured, it is harvested in late August, and the extraction process begins.

"From seed to bottle, the whole process takes place on the

farm," Dobson said.

After the hemp is dried, the flowers undergo an ethanol extraction process, which yields a medicinal hemp oil comparable to THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana.

"CBD is the main extraction from the flower," Dobson explained. "The hemp flower is the resinous part where all oils and cannabinoids are found, CBD being the most prominent."

This year, 30 acres on Old Mud Creek Farm are dedicated to growing hemp, which will yield more than 100,000 pounds of plants.

"It's a lot of upkeep, and we don't want to produce more than can handle," Dobson said. "Because the process is more laborious, we would rather focus on high-quality flowers. Hemp has myriad benefits, and medicinal is just one aspect of it."

"There are thousands of uses, and it's a shame we don't have a system set up to grow hemp on a large scale, which could change the United States economy," she said.

# Arts & Culture

## THE CALENDAR JULY 2020

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thur

Fri

Sat

**5**

**Berkshire Jewish Film Festival** • www.berkshire-jewishfilmfestival.org • 413-446-4872, x 10  
 • 7 pm • "Mrs. G," "Life through a Lens"  
 • 8 pm • "Golda"

**The Mount** • Discourse & Process w Kerri Greenidge ("Black Radical: The Life & Times of William Monroe Trotter") • 4-5 pm • Zoom • edithwharton.org

**6**

**Berkshire Jewish Film Festival** • www.berkshire-jewishfilmfestival.org • 413-446-4872, x 10  
 • 7 pm • "Mrs. G," "Life through a Lens"  
 • 8 pm • "Golda"

**The Mount** • Discourse & Process w Kerri Greenidge ("Black Radical: The Life & Times of William Monroe Trotter") • 4-5 pm • Zoom • edithwharton.org

**13**

**Berkshire Jewish Film Festival** • www.berkshire-jewishfilmfestival.org • 413-446-4872, x 10  
 • 4 pm: "Give It Back!," "Maabarot" • 8 pm: "Belle and Sebastian"

**The Mount** • Discourse & Process w Kimberly Hamlin ("Free Thinker") • 4-5 pm • Zoom • edithwharton.org

**20**

**Music From Salem** • Garage Lawn (rain date Jul. 21) • 6 pm • Brown Farm, 154 Priest Rd, Salem • musicfromsaalem.org

**Berkshire High Peaks Festival** Virtually: "Music with Altitude" • Berkshirehighpeaksmusic.org

**27**

**Berkshire Jewish Film Festival** • www.berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org • 413-446-4872, x 10  
 • 4 pm • "Latter Day Jew"  
 • 8 pm • "The Rabbi from Hezbollah"

**7**

**Music From Salem** • Garage Lawn Event (rain date Jul. 8) • 6 pm • Brown Farm, 154 Priest Rd, Salem • musicfromsaalem.org

**Northshire Live** (from home) • Mamta Chaudhry ("Haunting Paris") in convo w Jim Shepard • 5 pm • northshire.com

**7**

**Music From Salem** • Garage Lawn Event (rain date Jul. 8) • 6 pm • Brown Farm, 154 Priest Rd, Salem • musicfromsaalem.org

**Northshire Live** (from home) • Mamta Chaudhry ("Haunting Paris") in convo w Jim Shepard • 5 pm • northshire.com

**14**

**Northshire Live** (from home) • Lisa Alther ("Swan Song") in convo w Gov. Madeleine Kunin • 5 pm • northshire.com

**21** No events

**28** No events

**1**

**Northshire Live** (from home) • Amy Meyerson ("The Imperfects") & Alli Frank & Asha Youmans • 5 pm • northshire.com

**Caffe Lena** • Stay Home Sessions: Poetry Night: Joseph Bruchac & Bunkong Tuon • 8 pm • CaffeLena YouTube channel

**8**

**SPAC** • Virtual Launch of Adirondack Trust Company Festival of Young Artists • student art shows, poetry slams, live performances of dancers, singers, & musicians • 2 pm • spac.org/creativeconnections

**15**

**Northshire Live** (from home) • Jennifer Weiner ("Big Summer") in Conversation • 5 pm • Tickets req'd. • northshire.com

**22** No events

**29** No events

**2**

**Battenkill Books** • Fiction Book Club with "A Boy and His Dog at the Endo the World" • 6:30-7:30 pm

**Hancock Shaker Village** • Outdoors • 10 am-3 pm • Pre-reg req'd for ALL at 413-443-0188

**9**

**Jacob's Pillow** • VIRTUAL Festival • Details at jacob-pillow.org

**Northshire Live** (from home) • Alice Miller ("More Miracle Than Bird") • 5 pm • northshire.com

**Berkshire Botanical Online** • Daryl Beyers & "The New Gardener's Handbook" • 6:30-7:30 pm

**Hancock Shaker Village** • Outdoors • 10 am-3 pm • Pre-reg req'd for ALL at 413-443-0188

**16**

**Northshire Live** (from home) • Natalie Jenner ("The Jane Austen Society") & Nguyen Phan Que Mai ("The Mountains Sing") • 5 pm • northshire.com

**Hancock Shaker Village** • Outdoors • 10 am-3 pm • Pre-reg req'd for ALL at 413-443-0188

**23**

**The Mount** • Stephen Heyman ("The Planter of Modern Life") • 4-5 pm • Zoom • edithwharton.org

**Northshire Live** (from home) • Mystery Double Feature: Paul Doiron ("One Last Lie") & Sarah Stewart Taylor ("The Mountains Wild") • 5 pm • northshire.com

**Berkshire Botanical Online** • Marta McDowell & "Emily Dickinson's Gardening Life" • 6:30-7:30 pm

**30**

**Music From Salem** • Garage Lawn (rain date Jul. 31) • 6 pm • Brown Farm, 154 Priest Rd, Salem • musicfromsaalem.org

**3**

**Caffe Lena** • Stay Home Sessions: Mark & Jill Sing the Blues Album Release LIVE • 8 pm • CaffeLena YouTube channel

**Ballston Spa** • 1st Friday VIRTUALLY • Facebook • Ballston.org

**Hancock Shaker Village** • Outdoors • 10 am-3 pm • Pre-reg req'd for ALL at 413-443-0188

**10**

**Hancock Shaker Village** • Outdoors • 10 am-3 pm • Pre-reg req'd for ALL at 413-443-0188

**17**

**Hancock Shaker Village** • Outdoors • 10 am-3 pm • Pre-reg req'd for ALL at 413-443-0188

**24**

**Hancock Shaker Village** • Outdoors • 10 am-3 pm • Pre-reg req'd for ALL at 413-443-0188

**Northshire Live** (from home) • Barbara Bonner ("Inspiring Forgiveness") in convo w Barbara Morrow • 5 pm • northshire.com

**4**

**Underground Railroad Education Center** • July 4th Oration: the Struggle for Justice Continues • 11 am-12 pm • Pre-reg req'd: https://undergroundrailroadhistory.org

**Hancock Shaker Village** • Outdoors • 10 am-3 pm • Pre-reg req'd for ALL at 413-443-0188

**11**

**Ancram Opera House** • Crystal Radio Sessions Update • 8 pm • Free; virtually • Adv. res.

**Ventfort Hall** • Drop-in yoga • 8-9 am • \$15

**Hancock Shaker Village** • Outdoors • 10 am-3 pm • Pre-reg req'd for ALL at 413-443-0188

**18**

**Music From Salem** • Garage Lawn (rain date Jul. 19) • 6 pm • Brown Farm, 154 Priest Rd, Salem • musicfromsaalem.org

**Ventfort Hall** • Drop-in yoga • 8-9 am • \$15

**Hancock Shaker Village** • Outdoors • 10 am-3 pm • Pre-reg req'd for ALL at 413-443-0188

**25**

**Clermont** • "In the Key of C: a Concert for Clermont" • online 7 pm • Reg. preferred on Event Brite

**Ancram Opera House** • Local Characters: Series Premiere • 8 pm • Free; virtually • Adv. res.

**31 Fri** No events

**Destination:** MANCHESTER, VT & VICINITY

Author Lisa Alther and former Vermont Gov. Madeleine Kunin in an online literary conversation presented by Northshire Bookstore  
 Log on from home • 5p Tuesday, July 14 • info/tickets at [www.northshire.com](http://www.northshire.com)

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- from Hudson: 2 hours (Dorset, 2:10)
- from Pittsfield: 1 hr, 20 min (Dorset, 1:30)
- from Saratoga Springs: 1 hour, 20 min (Dorset, 1:10)
- from Williamstown: 50 min (Dorset, 1 hour)

See map on page 15

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