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Intimate spaces, innovative shows



Courtesy of Adams Theater

Region's small theaters blaze a path through post-pandemic upheaval

Story on Page 2

Plus

Big winner in
online betting:
State coffers

Page 6

Farmstead
cheeses from
happy goats

Page 9

The wine
and buzz of
summers past

Page 12

Arts, cultural
events from
eight counties

Pages 15-19

Intimate spaces, innovative shows

Region's small theaters blaze a path through post-pandemic upheaval

By KATE ABBOTT
Contributing writer

ANCRAM, N.Y.

"And there are drums on the mountain ..."

On a July night, Martha Redbone will come to the banks of the Sankhenak river to compose music drawn up from her own folk, blues, gospel and Native roots.

"Often times we don't get to hear the viewpoints of elders and their role in the world we live in today," she said, talking with Ancram Center for the Arts co-founders Jeffrey Mousseau and Paul Ricciardi.

"The piece we're developing will be based on intimate conversations with elders who have been in my life for decades, family members and advisers I have longtime personal relationships with," Redbone explained.

She will turn their stories into songs, working with her husband and longtime creative partner, Aaron Whitby, and in partnership with The Civilians, a Brooklyn theater company that works with artists in field research and in-depth residencies.

As the summer season warms, theater artists are gathering across the region. In the aftermath of the pandemic's long shutdown, local theaters have re-emerged, and new work is taking root in smaller, innovative and flexible spaces.

Jay Sefton opens a full production of his one-man show, "Unreconciled," at the Chester Theatre in Chester, Mass., and Fern Katz and Ricardo Paz fuse contemporary dance with Chinese pole acrobatics at Adams Theater in the northern Berkshires.

Anne Boleyn and Catherine of Aragon are coming alive in the voice of a Nashville singer-songwriter as "The King's Wife" comes to the Adirondack Theatre Festival in Glens Falls, exploring the bond between the first two wives of Henry VIII.

And Jessica Frances Dukes, known for her acclaimed multi-season television role on "Ozark" and her Broadway debut in "Trouble In Mind," performs her own show, "Worth: An Intimate Exhibition," an investigation of value and the art and



Courtesy of Adams Theater

After decades in which it was mostly dormant, Adams Theater now regularly draws crowds to downtown Adams, Mass. Since reopening in 2021, it has been building a diverse array of programming including music, dance, theater, comedy and multimedia arts.

artist, also at the Adirondack festival.

At Bennington Theater, director Kevin Carlon, who took the reins a year and a half ago, met the summer solstice with Pamuya, an Inuit musical group holding tones of soul and R&B, and the theater moves into contemporary comedy in July.

Finding a way forward

Across the country, many traditional theater organizations are still rebuilding after two or three seasons of closed spaces, dispersed audiences and other changes set in motion by the pandemic. Some are cutting back deeply on their programming, and some are redesigning their core economic structures.

Locally, some are navigating changes of leader-

ship, as Williamstown Theatre Festival, Barrington Stage and WAM Theatre turn to new artistic directors, and Hubbard Hall also is in transition. Some, like Oldcastle in Bennington, Vt., have dissolved their troupes and passed into new hands.

But directors of a few of the region's smaller theaters and performance spaces seem to be finding their footing after the disruptions of the pandemic. They are discovering and creating a landscape of new partnerships, growing a community of theater makers with a focus on supporting new work and widening their audiences.

"There are the people who live in the region, who live within 50 miles of the Ancram arts center," Ricciardi said, "and then there are the artists who come through our doors, and they're part of our community too. And so, in the same way that we support the community by providing free workshops and storytelling and all that kind of thing, we want to nurture the artists – because we're nothing without them."

"We want to give our local community and our audience a connection to the world. And we also have a commitment to hiring and working with and supporting local artists. We can provide an opportunity to artists living in our region. And we're proud to be an incubator for the economy."

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Different kinds of work can connect with different people at different times, he and Mousseau said. Audiences may find one kind of pleasure in coming to an evening of brilliant comedy and another from an evening of storytelling or a love story, and yet another from deeply timely conversation that rides the current of events.

Yina Moore also has found momentum in variety. Since she took over the Adams Theater in 2021, Moore says she has seen clear signs of transformation in her former mill town. She has brought regular programming to the theater for the first time in generations – with a vigor the town has seldom seen since the cinema that originally occupied the space closed in 1967.

“A photographer came in to take pictures of the Neil Young tribute band Harvest and Rust, one of our best-attended performances in the spring,” Moore recalled. “And he captured a picture of the front when the marquee light is up and every single parking spot is filled.

“I was very touched to see that photo, because I

heard people walking the door saying, ‘I can’t believe you can find a parking spot in Adams – that never happens.’ But now, with our seasons introduced, it has happened over and over again.”

Small space, powerful story

In their own rural town, James Barry and Tara Franklin, co-artistic directors at Chester Theatre Company, have seen contemporary theater speak to current issues that have drawn strong responses from audiences.

In July, as Franklin closes out her season-opening performance in “The Thin Place,” Barry will direct Jay Sefton in “Unreconciled,” in which Sefton tells his own story of the abuse he suffered as a boy from a Catholic priest.

Sefton performs every character in the show, moving in subtle shifts of body and voice. He plays many roles in his hometown, his school, the working class Philadelphia neighborhood where he grew up – and the church where he performed as Jesus in a passion play when he was 13.

Barry speaks with admiration of Sefton’s courage in telling this story, the strength of his writing and his skill in characterization. Sefton, he said, can become his father with a shift of weight and the rhythm of his voice:

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If graduated from Bonner too. I always liked that, the thought of me and my boys all walking the same halls, sitting in the same desks that smelled like the inside of a pencil sharpener. I joined the Army and went to Korea just before Vietnam. And for most of the next 40 years of my life, while I was alive, I was a claims adjuster for Keystone Triple A.

"The play is about such real, immediate things," Barry said, "and he creates these kinds of expression. ... He can speak with the dead, and it all just works. He can make time leaps. His external events and his personal mission are so sincere, he can bring speculative fantasy to correct or support our perceptions."

It is a testament, he said, to Sefton's courage and willingness to face the depth of events that had a devastating effect on his life and many people's lives. Sefton moves fluidly from one character to another, without costumes or props: He becomes the lawyers for the Catholic Church who try to prevent him from speaking out, or a classmate who gave him a warning he did not at first understand.

It's an intense work, Barry said, and Sefton carries the importance of the message: He wants people who have gone through what he has gone

through to feel seen and heard and advocated for.

In the space of the town hall, Barry said, people listen, sitting close to the performer, and when Sefton workshopped "Unreconciled" at Chester last summer, the audience responded strongly to the pain and the humanity he invokes. Sefton also is a licensed mental health practitioner, and his profession gives him tools in writing and performing and talking about his experiences.

As it confronts violence, Barry added, the play also sends a love letter to working class families and a recognition of challenges they face. He hears Sefton's father, working weekends, wanting more for his son when he does not have the resources or the time.

Barry has had time to come to know the story intimately as he and Sefton have worked together. They met through Leonard Berkman, a professor of theater at Smith College, as Sefton was working on the script, and after last summer's workshop the play returns now in a full production, with scenery and projections by Tony-nominated Off Broadway and international designer Nick Hussong.

In Chester, "Unreconciled" is joining a summer of new work – two world premieres and an

American premiere – as well as a performance from 2019. Barry said he and Franklin have made contemporary voices a priority since they became artistic co-directors at Chester in the fall of 2022.

They have taken in hand a long-running institution. Chester Theatre Company has performed at the Chester Town Hall for 34 years and was founded by Vincent Dowling, former artistic director of Dublin's Abbey Theatre. Barry and Franklin have known the theater for a generation as actors.

Chester is designed for intimate spaces and small casts, Barry said. For each season, they have the resources to bring in 12 actors, spread among four or five performances.

While many theaters across the country have traditionally relied on a core of theater-loving subscribers who could come to many shows in a season, the experience in Chester and Ancram suggests a shift to a different model. Barry and Franklin say they have seen single-ticket sales on the rise, and they are working to broaden their audiences by making people feel involved and included.

Though Chester's audience includes a long-time loyal base, Barry said they are also working to

continued on page 13

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See map on page 12

GETTING TO GREENWICH

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

See map on page 12

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NEWS & ISSUES

Online-betting windfall stirs debates

As states cheer revenue, critics point to costs of gambling addiction

By MAURY THOMPSON
Contributing writer

Two years after New York legalized mobile sports betting, it appears the biggest winner by far has been the state government.

From early 2022 through the beginning of this year, Albany raked in more than \$1.55 billion from its 51 percent tax on gross revenue from online betting.

"Over the last two years, New York is the clear leader in providing responsible entertainment for millions while bringing in record-shattering revenue for education, youth sports, and problem gambling prevention," Gov. Kathy Hochul said in a Jan. 12 news release marking the two-year anniversary of the program.

States began legalizing mobile sports betting after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a federal ban on state-sanctioned sports betting in 2018. Although New York's entry into the industry in 2022 was comparatively late, the state has since vaulted into the third-ranking position for sports betting handles, trailing only Nevada and New Jersey among the 38 states that allow it, Hochul boasted.

But critics say the industry has been a Trojan horse that has ushered in an increase in

gambling addiction while setting a dangerous fiscal precedent.

"It comes with a cost," said state Assemblyman Matt Simpson, R-Lake George, who voted several years ago against legalizing mobile sports betting in New York.

In the two years since New York got started, Massachusetts and Vermont also have entered the industry.

Massachusetts launched mobile sports betting last year with a 15 percent tax, purposely set lower than many other states with the intent of making up for the state's comparatively late start, according to reporting by Boston public radio station WBUR.

Vermont, which just got into the game this year and was the last state in the Northeast to do so, collected \$1.1 million in January and \$731,000 in February, the first two months of operation, from its 31.7 percent tax on mobile sports betting revenue.

State Sen. Irene Wrenner, a Chittenden County Democrat, said legalizing mobile sports betting in Vermont was not controversial.

"Some of us had misgivings in that this was taking a step toward gambling, which Vermont has traditionally been against," she said.

But Vermont was losing revenue to other states, because Vermont residents were able to place online bets in states where mobile sports betting already was legal, she explained.

"The money pressures worked on a lot of us," Wrenner said.

Vermont legislators did specify that about \$500,000 a year of the new revenue will be used to increase mental health services for problem gamblers.

Calls for tougher regulation

At least one area lawmaker says the government needs to do much more to confront the effects on online betting on people who are prone to compulsive gambling.

U.S. Rep. Paul Tonko, D-Amsterdam, whose district covers Saratoga County, says mobile sports betting has caused a public health crisis that necessitates structural change, not just increased counseling.

The instantaneous nature and personalized offering of betting opportunities sets mobile sports betting apart from other forms of gambling, said

Tonko, who is preparing to introduce legislation under which federal regulators would curtail "predatory" advertising practices in the industry.

"In short, we are dealing with a massive public health crisis dealing with a known addictive product," he said at a virtual press conference in April.

Tonko, who chairs the House Addiction Treatment and Recovery caucus, said there were 270,000 calls to the National Council on Problem Gambling hotline in 2021, the most recent year for which statistics are available. That was an increase of 45 percent over the previous year — and that was before New York, Massachusetts and Vermont began offering state-sanctioned sports betting.

Nationwide, an estimated 7 million people are addicted to gambling, and that estimate is probably low, Tonko said.

Some of the increased addiction may be due to an increase in gambling in general, as mobile sports betting does not appear to be cutting into the revenue of other forms of legalized gambling. For example, the Belmont Stakes, which were run at the Saratoga Race Course in June, had a record all-sources handle for a non-Triple Crown year, according to Gaming Today, a newspaper that covers the gambling industry.

"There's not been a decline in people who want to bet on the horses," said Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner, D-Round Lake, who serves on the Assembly Committee on Racing and Wagering.

Thirty of the 36 states with casino gambling saw increased casino revenue in 2023, including New York, which had an 11.6 percent increase to nearly \$4.2 billion, according to the American Gaming Association, a casino industry trade group.

As of June 24, the final language of Tonko's proposed legislation, to be dubbed the SAFE Bet Act, was still being drafted, and it had not yet been formally introduced. But Tonko outlined the basic features at his April 24 press conference:

- * Prohibit advertising of free or bonus bets and instant specialized bet options, and restrict advertising to hours when children and young adults typically are not watching television. "Advertising should be limited simply to brand awareness, rather than inducing betting and promotions," Tonko said.

- Require operators to limit customer deposits in gambling accounts to five times in any 24-hour period. Require operators to refuse to accept deposits via credit card — and to conduct an analysis of frequent customers' ability to pay.



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Tonko compared this provision to laws that prohibit bars from selling alcohol to someone who is visibly intoxicated.

- Prohibit mobile sports betting operators from using artificial intelligence to personalize betting offers to customers. Tonko said one of his biggest concerns is the industry’s “use of massive super-computing power and artificial intelligence to deliver thousands of instant micro-bets that are carefully tailored to each customer’s gambling profile.”

- Direct the U.S. surgeon general to study the impact of mobile sports betting on public health.

Tonko said his legislation would not prevent people from placing mobile sports bets but is intended to require companies that handle these bets to act responsibly.

Three officials of the Public Health Advocacy Institute at Northeastern University also spoke at the April press conference and endorsed Tonko’s proposal.

“We hear the term ‘gambling revenue.’ Every dollar of revenue ... represents a dollar of loss to the public,” said Harry Levant, a policy adviser to the institute who is also a gambling therapist at Ethos Treatment Center at Philadelphia.

Revenue vs. addiction

Among area state legislators in New York, no one has called for the breadth of oversight Tonko is pushing at the federal level, though some remain skeptical of the overall benefits of online sports betting.

Simpson, the Warren County assemblyman, said he knows people who enjoy placing an occasional online sports bet, but he also knows others who’ve become addicted.

“I have seen the ugly side too,” Simpson said.

And aside from the addiction factor, he argued that it’s not fiscally prudent for the state to rely on revenue from increased gambling to cover its spending growth.

“You have to question,” he said. Woerner, who co-sponsored a 2021 bill to allow state-sanctioned mobile sports betting, offered a more laissez-faire view.

“I take kind of a libertarian approach to questions of gambling,” so long as there are measures to address addiction, she said. “It’s really a matter of personal choice.”

Woerner cautioned, however, that even

though the infusion of new revenue from sports betting has enabled the state to provide record school funding, gambling revenue will not increase at the same rate forever. Recognizing that, she said, state officials are exploring how to allocate the most funding to school districts that have the least ability to raise taxes from the local economy.

Industry officials stress that the expansion



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of gambling has created jobs and helped cash-strapped state governments.

"As gambling expands, more communities than ever are now benefiting," said Bill Miller, president and chief executive officer of the American Gaming Association, a casino trade group, in the association's recent annual report. "We are proud to create jobs across the country, provide world-class experiences that offer safe alternatives to the pervasive illegal gambling market, and generate tax revenue to support critical public projects."

In New York, sports betting generated \$103.7 million for education in the most recent month for which figures were available, ending May 24, and \$97.3 million for the previous month, according to the state Gaming Commission.

Debate over a federal tax

Among other proposed sports gambling legislation at the federal level, Rep. Marcus Molinaro, R-Catskill, is co-sponsor of a proposal to repeal a 0.25 percent federal excise tax on sports betting and for-profit lottery handles. The tax revenue goes into the general fund and is not dedicated for any specific purpose.

Rep. Dina Titus, D-Nev., the repeal effort's

principal sponsor, has said the tax makes U.S. gambling operators less competitive with unregulated off-shore online gambling operators. The proposed legislation, HR 1661, had nine co-sponsors, six Republicans and three Democrats, as of June 22. Senate companion legislation had not been introduced.

Another proposal, introduced by Rep. Andrea Salinas, D-Ore., in the House, and Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., in the Senate, would dedicate 50 percent of the revenue from the federal excise tax to a block grant program to states for gambling addiction treatment — and to establish a National Institute of Drug Abuse program to study gambling addiction.

"Unlike alcohol and drug addiction, there are currently no federal funds dedicated solely to helping prevent problem gambling," Salinas said in a news release.

Titus, the Nevada representative, opposes the Salinas-Blumenthal bill and has argued that gambling operators and states already have extensive initiatives to combat problem gambling.

Seven sports betting operators recently collaborated to establish the Responsible Online Gaming Association, a trade organization for research, education and marketing, and to

operate an independent data clearing house and gambling operator certification program. The seven companies collectively provided \$20 million for the first year of operation.

Jennifer Shatley, the executive director of the new association, most recently was president of Nevada Council on Problem Gambling. Efforts to contact the organization for comment were unsuccessful before the deadline for this issue.

At the state level, the New York Senate passed legislation in early June to allocate 1 percent of the state's sports betting excise tax revenue to gambling addiction counseling and prevention initiatives.

"While I recognize that some may lack enthusiasm for mobile sports betting, I hope everyone can appreciate that many education services and youth sports have sustained because of the additional revenue from mobile gaming," said Sen. James Abbaddo Jr., D-Queens, the bill's sponsor.

The legislation did not pass the Assembly.

In Massachusetts, there is discussion in the Legislature about banning sports gambling operators from cross-promoting betting at retail stores and restaurants the operators own, *Gaming Today* reported.

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Happy herd, tasty cheese

At Ardith Mae Farm, the flavor starts with rambunctious goats

By **STACEY MORRIS**
Contributing writer

STOCKPORT, N.Y.
It may be early afternoon, but Shereen Alinaghian has about seven more hours to go in her workday at Ardith Mae Farm.

It's a job with never-ending demands and little to no vacation time. But Alinaghian wasn't looking for a cushy schedule when she chose to become a cheesemaker and owner of a goat farm. It's her love of the animals and the craft of making cheese that attracted her in the first place, and it's this love that has kept her in the game for nearly 20 years.

On a weekday afternoon in May, Alinaghian took a brief pause from a batch of chevre for a visit to the sunny pasture to check in on the herd of snowy white Saanen does (a highly productive breed from western Switzerland).

The goats immediately trotted over to her for a snuggle, their tails wagging enthusiastically.

"Goats are extremely smart ... and sensitive," Alinaghian said. "They're similar to dogs in some ways. Once someone asked me to sell them one to have as a pet, but they're herd animals."

And they're clearly very content to be where they are: on Alinaghian's compact farm, where they're treated with TLC. Her dairy operation has earned Animal Welfare Approved certification for more than a decade.

The goats enjoy climbing and exploring as they forage in the farm's rotational grazing system. They're fed organic grains and never given hormones or "preventative" antibiotics. Ardith Mae also has established an every-other-year breeding program that relieves the stress of annual pregnancy and improves the herd's longevity.

And in contrast to many farms, Alinaghian keeps her milkers even after they've aged out of their job, letting them live out their golden years with a leisurely routine of grazing, resting and socializing with the other goats.

"I've been with the animal welfare program for 12 years," Alinaghian said. "It's a lot of paperwork and record keeping, but it really helps you organize the things that are necessary to keep track of anyway."

The guidelines involved in animal welfare certification range from cortisol testing (to gauge the goats' stress level) to documenting the farm's use of organic and non-GMO feed, hygienic drinking water, parasite management, proper outdoor access, and the spaciousness of indoor quarters.

The herd of 50-plus does at Ardith Mae is a "closed tested and cleaned herd," with breeding bucks the only outsiders ever permitted. Before they're permitted to mingle, the bucks are tested and quarantined. And during the frigid months



Scott Langley photo

Farmstead cheesemaker Shereen Alinaghian walks among the goats at Ardith Mae Farm in Stockport, N.Y. The farm has earned Animal Welfare Approved certification for more than a decade.

of winter, the herd is kept protected when conditions get too harsh.

"If it's below 5 degrees, we lock the barn and they don't go out," Alinaghian said. "Also, they're pregnant at that time and saving energy reserves."

City to farmstead
Although Alinaghian makes it clear she loves what she does, she's the first to admit that running a goat dairy is one of the most arduous endeavors on the planet.

"Right before I left my cheese-making internship, I wrote in my journal how I could not wait – I thought it would be like vacation," she recalled. "But my first day on job I was in tears because it was so difficult."

A native of Orange County, Calif., Alinaghian left the West Coast in 2003 for Brooklyn, where she worked as a bread baker for two years.

"I've always loved making food," she recalled.

But it was while perusing farmers markets such as Manhattan's Union Square Green Market that Alinaghian felt an increasing pull toward agricultural life. Two years of city living were enough for her, and in 2005, she convinced her then-husband to start a farm in rural Pennsylvania near the New York state line.

Alinaghian dreamed of making farmstead cheese. But the couple needed to learn the craft, so they pursued an internship at Does Leap Farm in East Fairfield, Vt., about 45 minutes northeast of Burlington. For 10 months, they learned

everything about making cheese as well as caring for goats — including the proper installation and use of electric fences — from wife-and-husband team Kristen Doolan and George Vlaanderlen.

"George was fun but very strict," Alinaghian recalled. "His wife was the polar opposite. It was interesting to pull so much knowledge from both."

Alinaghian was so grateful for intensive learning experience that she ended up naming one of her soft-ripened cheeses after Doolan.

The name Ardith Mae came from her husband's late grandmother.

"I love the name," Alinaghian said. "It just fit for the business. And it separates me out from the farm. I'm a private person by nature; I just like working the farmers market stands and being a farmer."

After getting started in Pennsylvania, Alinaghian and her husband had a successful seven year-run selling their cheese locally and to city farmers markets. But she felt the setting wasn't quite right.

"Northeastern Pennsylvania was a beautiful area, but there was fracking going on," she recalled.

There also wasn't a cohesive farming community in that region, she explained. So Alinaghian decided to relocate to the fertile Hudson Valley, known for its robust community of farmsteaders and artisan food makers.

It proved to be a fresh start in more ways than one. Alinaghian and her husband divorced; he

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moved back to the city, and she bought his share of the business while simultaneously leasing a farm in the Columbia County town of Stuyvesant.

Arriving in the region in early 2013, she continued to perfect her craft. Then, after a decade of leasing farmland, Alinaghian decided she was ready for the move to ownership. She found an ideal location a few miles away in the town of Stockport.

The 10-acre package included a house, barns, ample pasture space for rotational grazing, and a building perfect for the dual purpose of cheese-making facility and retail store. Customers who visit can peer in through a plate-glass window to see cheesemakers Katie Doyne and Kim Strohmaier toil away on the latest batch of soft-

ripened goat cheese.

On a recent afternoon, the duo were crafting a variety known as Bigelo, a vegetable ash-coated pyramid of cheese. Rows of the bright white cheese sat in plastic pyramids with holes in the bottom, biding their time as the whey separated from the curds. By the end of the process, the size of the cheese pyramid would shrink by half with the liquid drained off. Then each would be hand-wrapped in paper, labeled, and designated for farmers markets, wholesale distribution or the farm's retail store, which recently opened for business.

Making cheese and connections

Ardith Mae carries five varieties of soft-

ripened goat cheeses, most of which retail for \$38 per pound. Four varieties of chevre (plain, garlic scape, honey lavender, and red pepper) retail for \$11-\$12 for six ounces. The French-style feta is 100 percent goats' milk and retails for \$11 for six ounces. (Another French-inspired touch: delicate flowers from Alinaghian's garden accent scoops of chevre sold in four-packs.)

Goat yogurt retails for \$8 for 32 ounces. There are also cow-goat cheese blends such as a soft-ripened smoked paprika variety, herbed cow's milk feta, and a soft-ripened disc coated with herbes de Provence.

Although her cheese has won rave reviews, Alinaghian stresses that Ardith Mae is a farmstead brand that isn't aiming for uniform

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“There are a couple different styles of cheesemaking,” Alinaghian said. “Some styles are the award winners, but they don’t raise the animals, so they’re able to pour all their energy into making really beautiful, consistent products. But with farmstead cheesemakers, you have animal emergencies and all kinds of variables. I’ve had to stop ladling because goats escaped the electric fence.

“We definitely take a lot of time for the goats,” she said. “I have a small staff, and it can take away from the cheesemaking. As much as you want to be spot-on with everything, I’ve had to learn not to expect perfection.”

But the vagaries of daily farm life don’t seem

to have hurt the popularity of Ardith Mae’s cheese, which is sold at farmers markets and specialty shops from Columbia County to New York City – and to restaurants from Brooklyn to the Grazin’ diner in Hudson.

“We sell our cheese to Michelin-star restaurants and beautiful cheese shops,” Alinaghian said. “We have a wonderful following and are so grateful for it.”

She said she loves the Hudson Valley’s community of fellow farmers, growers, food makers and even kindly veterinarians who make her nonstop labor a little easier.

“Hudson Valley neighbors are very supportive, and there’s a high concentration of female farmers,” she added.

Raven and Boar Farm in New Lebanon, which raises pigs for artisan charcuterie, gets Ardith Mae’s whey for its heritage pigs, and the two farms sometimes collaborate on deliveries.

During winter months when her goats aren’t milking, Alinaghian buys organic milk from Hawthorne Valley, the biodynamic farm in Ghent, so she can make mixed milk cheeses throughout the winter.

“It’s slower for us in the winter — we have hardly any milk,” she explained. “Hawthorne Valley also makes our goat yogurt for us. And MX Morningstar Farm in Hudson sells our cheese.”

Now that she’s finally settled in a bucolic spot in Stockport, Alinaghian said she feels Ardith

continued on page 14

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The high-pitched buzz of summers past

Maury Thompson

To some, the common mosquito represented an engineering marvel. “A scientist computes that with the aid of a machine constructed on the principle of the boring, drilling and pumping apparatus of the mosquito, a hole could be bored to the center of the earth in less than a day,” *The Morning Star* of Glens Falls reported on Nov. 6, 1890.

Mosquitoes and black flies were a common topic of humor and advice in the region’s 19th century newspapers.

“If Noah had foreseen the future and killed the two mosquitoes which took refuge in the ark, he would have rendered some of the strongest words in the English language unnecessary,” the *Washington County Advertiser* quipped on Feb. 9, 1881.

For people living in upstate New York and New England in that era, mosquitoes were more perplexing than an August thunderstorm.

“Excessively hot — yes, indeed. This is mosquito’s holiday,” the *Ticonderoga Sentinel* wrote on Aug. 3, 1877. “A healthy, well-proportioned, live skeeter can elicit more adjectives these days than a thunder gust. The latter dies out. The skeeter, never.”

Even after the end of the mosquito season, there was little cause for rejoicing.

“Mosquitoes have retired from business only to recuperate for the coming season,” the *Ticonderoga* paper reported on Feb. 14, 1879.

The South Granville correspondent was poetic in the May 9, 1879 issue of *The Granville Sentinel*: “Growing longer — the days. Growing

warmer — the weather. Growing plentier — the mosquitoes.”

Another *Sentinel* correspondent penned a few lines, “no doubt dashed off on the inspiration of the moment,” published on June 22, 1888: “The June bug disappears in June, the cut worm late in May. The mosquito takes his bonnet off, and says, ‘I’ve come to stay.’”

At times, the summertime plague of mosquitoes seemed beyond human understanding.

“The state entomologist, in discoursing on the subject of mosquitoes, says that ‘while the people are familiar with the mosquito, they, in fact, know nothing about it.’ If this is so, it certainly is no fault of the mosquito,” *The Granville Sentinel* wrote on May 27, 1887.

The Morning Star of Glens Falls pointed out the upside of late-season frosts in a report published May 30, 1895: “The frosts which occurred about two weeks ago, of course, did some damage. But farmers say they were really blessings in disguise because they destroyed insects that were getting in shape to do mischief later on.”

“Fishermen are as plentiful as mosquitoes in summertime,” the *Washington County Advertiser* reported on April 25, 1888. “All report indifferent success.”

It seemed the insects were particularly bothersome in the late spring of 1887.

“Mosquitoes are here in such numbers

to be a perfect pest,” the *Advertiser’s* Wilton correspondent reported on June 8, 1887. “The oldest inhabitants never knew anything like it before. They are such a torment to horses while at work that in several instances men who were plowing have been obliged to leave the field with their teams.”

In contrast, the mosquitoes weren’t too bad in 1885.

“Burt Williams and Charles Schofield went fishing and have returned, having met few mosquitoes and fewer fish. They had a good time though,” *The Lansingburgh Courier* reported on June 13, 1885.

Some news stories explored remedies for keeping the insects at bay.

“It is said that a piece of red ribbon about two inches width, stretched across the open space of a window, will keep out mosquitoes,” *The People’s Journal* of Greenwich reported on Sept. 5, 1895. “For some unknown reason, the little pests never pass the red ribbon. It seems improbable, but one who has tried it says that it never fails.”

Another idea may have been a forerunner of the modern bug zapper.

“An imminent scientist is arranging the method for the killing of mosquitoes by electricity,” *The Granville Sentinel* reported on Aug. 5, 1892.

The Lansingburgh Weekly Chronicle in its Sept. 11, 1865 issue detailed a method for making oneself into a mosquito trap: “At this season, when mosquitoes are so troublesome ... take a few pounds of rosin, a little pitch, a little glue,

continued on page 14

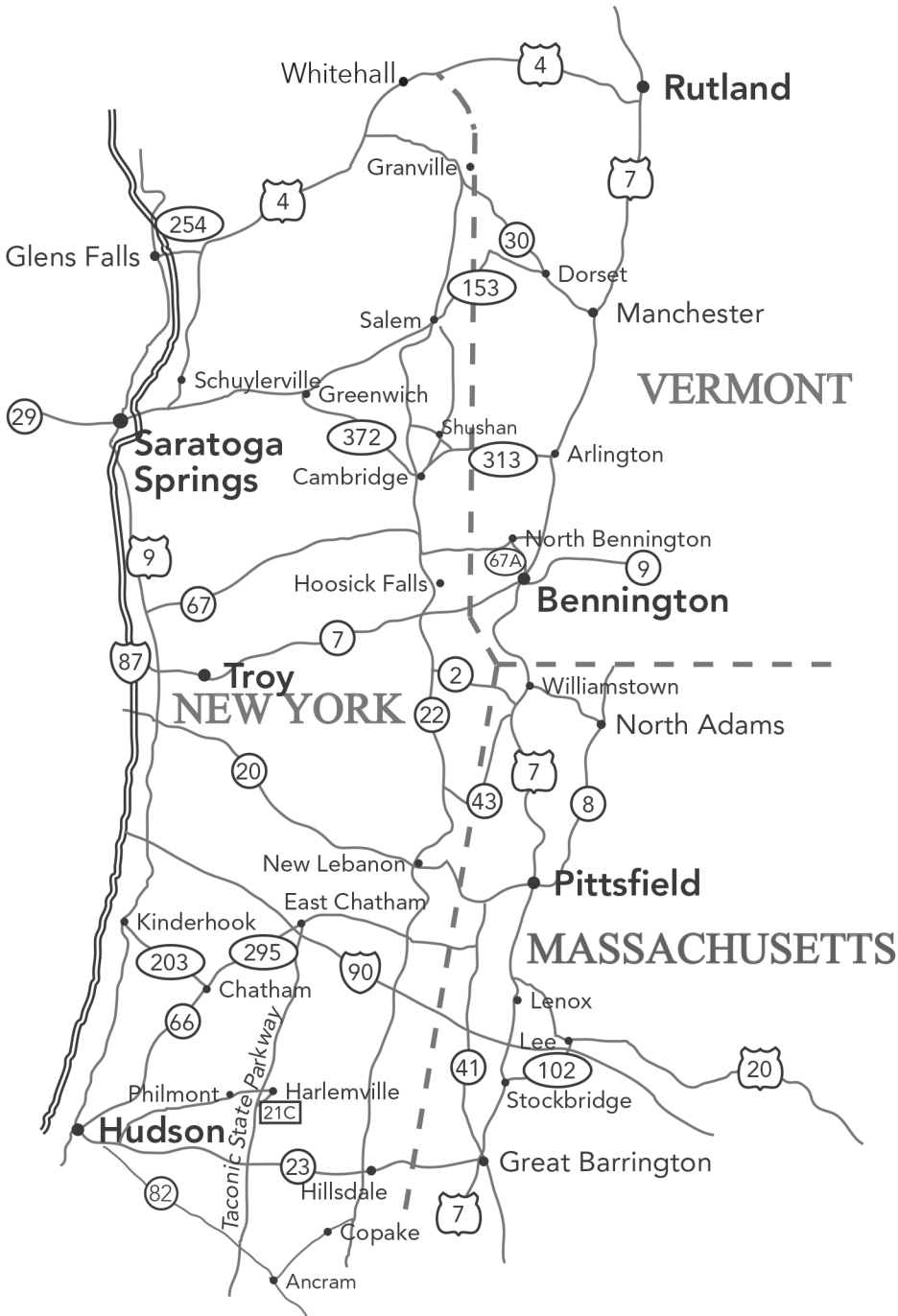
News that’s slow-brewed for a high-speed age

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.



Theaters *continued from page 4*

reach out within the community. Chester Theatre offers \$10 tickets for townspeople. This summer, the theater will hold a benefit for the local fire department, donating proceeds from the Aug. 1 performance.

Reviving a dormant hub
In the northern Berkshires, Moore has been learning on the ground since she came to Adams Theater in 2021.

She said she first came north from New York as an architecture consultant with Tom Krens, the former Guggenheim Museum director who in 2017 had proposed creation of an extreme model railroad and contemporary architecture museum in North Adams. That project was still in the incubation stage, Moore said, and Krens needed someone who understood the technology of 3D printing, urban planning, design and prototype making. She worked with him for 18 months while her family was still based in the city.

“But it was the pandemic that made my family take up a house in North Adams,” she said. “That’s when I really started to discover the beauty, and then all these different projects in the Berkshires. To find an unfinished building, a deteriorated building, and fix it and bringing new life to it – that sounds like a dream project for an architect.”

She has found challenges in reviving a performance space in a small, rural town where the economy swings seasonally even in mild winters. But she continues to expand the scope of her revitalization efforts — she bought the former Topia Inn in Adams in early 2023, in partnership with an old friend, Kate Chen, and Chen’s husband, Dimitrios Kolaxis – and she sees the theater’s future bound up with the success of the community.

Although flexible work situations accelerated in the pandemic, and virtual, remote or hybrid interactions have helped to bring theater artists to more rural communities, many people also have been called back to the office.

“People came out here then and attracted artists,” she said. “But do we have the right infrastructure for people to stay here and keep coming here? I think that’s the bigger question.”

“Are we still going to have an influx of creative professionals who come here wanting to invest, not only in property but also in a small business to start life and family here? I don’t know. I think in order to have more of the critical mass to be here, we need to have new things to offer.”

She has continued to grow the programming at Adams Theater, in part through a growing network of local partnerships in many media — comedian Charlie Nadler, the dance community of Berkshire Pulse, the Floating Tower artist residency in North Adams. Amy Brentano at The Foundry in West Stockbridge has introduced her to the award-winning music duo Arkai, and they are bringing the musicians to both venues in July, and also the theater artists of the Voloz Collective in August. Moore also is exploring collaborations with Great Barrington Public Theater.

Creative links in a rural town
At the newly renamed Ancram Center for the Arts, Mousseau and Ricciardi say they have seen

growth in their theater community since they came to town in 2016, and again since the end of the pandemic.

In their August play, “Constellations,” they have cast a local couple, two New York actor-artists who moved to Sharon, Conn., around the time of the pandemic and are now fully ensconced and living and working locally.

Ancram has grown its programming steadily, Mousseau said, even from last summer to this one, with new Play Lab residencies and partnerships with The Civilians, the Brooklyn theater group that works “at the intersection of the theatrical and the real,” and with Robert Lyons, the former artistic director of the New Ohio Theatre, who now lives in Pine Plains. (New Ohio, a pillar of New York City’s independent theater scene for 30 years, shut down last summer.)

“Jeff and I lived in Hudson for a long time before Ancram Art,” Ricciardi said. “We’ve been working in theater for years – Jeff’s trained as a director, I’m trained as an actor, and I’m also a teacher.”

So they were aware of the former Ancram Opera House, he said, and when the building became available in 2015, they came to it make their

creative home.
“We both come from a small-theater background,” Ricciardi said. “Intimacy has always been important to both of us in terms of the kind of theater we want to make. And so this seemed like the perfect opportunity and the perfect space for us to live and work.”

“Centuries,” a new blend of theater and music scheduled to premiere in October, has grown here from scratch. The artists came together at Ancram during Covid, and some of the songs that they created then may end up in this new piece that they’re developing. They follow a family in a small Ohio town across generations, Mousseau said, beginning in the 1970s. The landscape changes with the creep of suburban sprawl, as climate change affects culture and the natural world.

Stories of family and land carry through this season’s shows, he said, with a July performance by Rizo, a New York nightclub musician and vocalist
continued on page 20

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Thompson continued from page 12

and a little lard and bile 'em. Stir and boil until is it about as thick as guava jelly, then apply, while hot, to the entire surface of the body. The mosquitoes will fly onto you and stick, and you can have a penknife in your right hand and cut their heads off at leisure."

Inquiring minds want to know if the following mosquito remedy might have had an unintended consequence of attracting mice.

"A citizen of Cincinnati has discovered that a small quantity of Limburger cheese taken to bed with him every night keeps the mosquitoes away," *The Mechanicville Era* reported on Sept. 28, 1882, adding that "this certainly shows good taste on the part of the mosquitoes."

Even when one feels utterly under siege, it seems a particularly bad idea to try to kill mosquitoes with a shotgun.

"Our nights were spent waging war with the mosquitoes," reads a travel narrative of 12 Chatham residents who took an otherwise

"delightful" carriage trip through the Adirondacks, including stops at Schroon Lake and Lake George.

"The first battles were fought before dark," explained the narrative published in the *Chatham Courier* on Aug. 17, 1881. "One of the boys undertook to fire a shotgun, but failing in that we manufactured our own weapons, which consisted of wet towels rolled in round balls, which we fired with a vengeance known only to those who have long tried."

The effort ultimately proved fruitless.

"After we were settled in bed for the night, an army of mosquitoes invaded our rooms and completely surrounded us," the travelers wrote. "Valiantly we struggled, vainly we endeavored to kill them. Still they came, hourly refreshed by the meals they were taking."

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

Farm continued from page 11

Mae is hitting its stride.

"It's been a nice transition since moving here," she said. "On our previous farm, the infrastructure was failing and it was mentally and emotionally exhausting. Now, it's great to be able to put my time into just the business."

She hopes to make enough of a profit to hire more employees and even take some long overdue time off to visit her mother in California.

"Once I get over the hump, I hope I can have a life again," Alinaghian said. "As much as farming has given me, it has taken some away. But that's how it is when you commit to something."

But there are undeniable perks, she added, including being in the best shape of her life from the constant activity. Her favorite upside by far, however, is the goats.

"Most people don't get to hold baby goats every day," Alinaghian said with a smile.

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Arts & Culture

AREA EXHIBITIONS

ArtOmi.org • 518-392-4747 • Sculpture & Architecture Park • outdoor, self-guided tour, multiple artists
• Jul. 6-Sep. 3: "Nathan Young: Tune It Or Die!"

Art on Main Gallery • 38 Main St., W. Stockbridge, MA • 413-298-2288
• Jul. 18-28: Gail Gelburd: "The Nature of our Mind"

BenningtonMuseum.org • 75 Main St., Bennington, VT • 802-447-1571 • Online, too
• through Nov.: North Bennington Outdoor Sculpture Show (NBOSS) at the Museum!; artists at www.nbossvt.com/2024
• through Nov. 10: "Vermont Rocks!"
• through Aug. 11, 2024: Dark Goddess: Sacroprofanity
• through Aug.: Vermont Female Farmers: Photgraphs by JuanCarlos González

BerkshireBotanical.org • 5 W. Stockbridge Rd., Stockbridge, MA • 413-298-3926
• through Aug. 4: Peter D. Gerakaris: "Microcosms"
• Aug. 10-Oct. 6: Todd McGrain's "The Lost Bird Project"

BerkshireHistory.org/InvisibleCommunity •
• The Invisible Community: African Americans in Berkshire Co. (1830-2012) • Links at URL & Berkshire Co. Hist. Soc. YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpvu1J8etvdgSsr2bmDeSEuuzV2DNIFMu>)
• Link at URL to Berkshire Co. Literary History driving tour

BoltonHistoricalMuseum.org • 4924 Main St. (Rte. 9N), Bolton Landing, NY • 518-644-9960
• through Sep. 2: "H-2-OH!" featuring:
• Darrin Freshwater Inst. "Jefferson Project:" "Creating the World's Smartest Lake"
• Lake George ...
-- Assn.: "Our Treasured Water's Advocate"
-- Land Conservancy: "Protecting the Land that Protects the Lake"
-- Mirror: "The Voice of the Lake"
-- Park Comm'n.: "Caring for NYS's Only Park Within a Park"
-- Steamboat Co.: "Classic American Ships for Contemporary Touring"

Cambridge Historical Society and Museum • 12 Broad St., Cambridge, NY • Fri. & Sat., 1-4 pm, or appt. • www.instagram.com/Cambridge.NY_Hist.Soc.Museum
• through Dec. 5, 2025: "The Storied Life of Main Street"

CarrieHaddadGallery.com • 622 Warren St., Hudson, NY • 518-828-1915
• through Aug. 11: "The Summer Show"

CarvingStudio.org & Sculpture Center • 636 Marble St., West Rutland, VT • 802-438-2097
• Gallery • Outdoor Sculpture Garden
• through Jul. 7: Members' Exhibition

ChapmanMuseum.org • 348 Glens St., Glens Falls, NY • 518-793-2826
• Ongoing: "Introductory Exhibit: Explore the History of Glens Falls & Queensbury" & "Hands-On History: Experiences of Hometown Life"

• through Sep. 8: James Whitcher Mann, Adirondack Colorist
• through Jan. 5, 2025: "Stitched in Time, 1850-1950 Quilts"

ChildsAndClarkGallery.com • 684 Main St., Unit 1, Great Barrington, MA • 413-645-3450
• Jul. 5-Aug. 5: "Six of Seven"

ClarkArt.edu • 225 South St., Williamstown, MA
• Jul. 4-Oct. 27: "Fragile Beauty: Treasures from the Corning Museum of Glass"
• Jul. 13-Oct. 6: "Edgar Degas: Multi-Media Artist in the Age of Impressionism"
• through Sep. 22: Lunder Center, Stone Hill: Kathia St. Hilaire's "Invisible Empires"
• through Oct. 14: "Guillaume Lethière"
• through Jan. 26, 2025: "David-Jeremiah: I Drive Thee"

Courthouse Gallery • 1 Amherst St., Lake George, NY • www.lakegeorgearts.org • Masks
• Jul. 10-Aug. 10: Cadence Giersbach: "Through the Summer Garden"

510WarrenStreetGallery.com • Hudson, NY
• Jul 5-28: Paul Nueckel: "Cognitationes in Res"

Folklife Center at Crandall Public Library • www.CrandallLibrary.org/Folklife-Center • 251 Glen St., Glens Falls, NY
• Online: Documentaries, Concerts, Stories: <https://www.youtube.com/@thefolklifecenteratcrandal8195>
• Folklife Gallery, Upstairs Gallery:
-- through Aug. 30: "Breaking the Chains: Lincoln & Douglass Linocuts of Stephen Alcorn" AND "Love Stories from 1000 Years Ago" Persian Illustrations by Jacqueline Toubia

The Friends Gallery • Crandall Public Library, 251 Glen St., Glens Falls, NY • www.crandalllibrary.org
• Jul. 1-31: North Country Arts' Annual Photography Show 2024

HancockShakerVillage.org • 327
• through Aug. 31: Artistry of the Shaker Sisters
AND Instruments of Inspiration

HudsonHall.org • 327 Warren St., Hudson, NY • 518-822-1438
• through Jul 28: Ara Osterweil & Allan Osterweil: "Shapeshifters"
• through Nov. 26: "Houses and the Night Sky: The Art of Donna Dennis"

HydeCollection.org • 518-792-1761
• through Sep. 15: "A Long Affair: Surrealism 1924 to Now" **AND** "Daniel Giordano: Crystal Blue Persuasion" **AND** "Richard Estes: Urban Landscapes"

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

JacobsPillow.org • Browse on demand at <https://watch.jacobspillow.org> & <https://www.youtube.com/c/JacobsPillow>
• Blake's Barn, Tue.-Sun., 12 pm through final curtain:
-- "John Lindquist: As of Today"

-- "Fantasy Meets Reality: Through the Eyes of a Denishawn Dancer"
-- Jacob's Pillow Archives/Norton Owen Reading Room: videos, books, Pillow's computer catalog, permanent collections of Pillow programs and photographs from the Archives; recent donations and archival treasures from the Stephan Driscoll Collection
• Ted Shawn Theatre Lobby, Tue.-Sun., 12 pm through final curtain:
-- "Royal Ballet Connections"
• Online Exhibit: Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive at danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org

TheLafferGallery.com • 96 Broad St., Schuylerville, NY • 518-695-3181
• through Aug. 4: Erik Laffer & Ronn T. Mattia: Renewal

LAPINcontemporary.com • 60 Roberts Dr., Studio 308, N. Adams, MA
• Jul. 12-Sep. 28: Douglas Gilbert: "Gradient"

LARAC.org • Lapham Gallery • 7 Lapham Pl., Glens Falls, NY • 518-798-1144
• Jul. 5-Aug. 7: "Signs of Life," feat. Jenny Hutchinson & Russell Serrienne

Lichtenstein Center for the Arts • 28 Renne Ave., Pittsfield, MA
• Jul 5-Aug. 20: CATA's "I Am a Part of Art"

NationalBottleMuseum.org • 76 Milton Ave., Ballston Spa, NY • 518-885-7589

Norman Rockwell Museum • 9 Glendale Rd, Stockbridge, MA • nrm.org • 413-298-4100
• through Oct. 27: "What, Me Worry? The Art and Humor of MAD Magazine"
• through Nov. 5: Tony Sarg: Genius at Play
• through Feb. 9, 2025: "Norman Rockwell: Illustrating Humor"

NorthCountryArts.org
-- Elizabeth (Betty) O'Brien Gallery • The Shirt Factory • Suite 120, 71 Lawrence St., Glens Falls, NY
• through Aug. 3: "My Way 2024"
-- 2nd Floor Gallery at City Hall • 42 Ridge St., Glens Falls, NY • 518-222-1471
• through Sep. 28: Deborah Bryk's "Nature Photography"
• see **Friends Gallery**

NorthLoop.art • 112 Water St., Williamstown, MA • northloopgallery.ma-AT-gmail.com
• through Jul. 28: Haleigh Collins & SR Lejeune AND Edwin Arzeta "Green & Violet Blue"

Olana State Park • Hudson, NY • olana.org
• through Oct. 27: "Afterglow: Frederic Church and the Landscape of Memory"

PamelaSalisburyGallery.com • 362 ½ Warren St., Hudson, NY
• Jul. 27-Aug 25: Valerie Hammond: "Dreamers Awake;" Holly Hughes; Kathy Osborn; Geoff Young
• through Jul. 21: Susan Jane Walp: "Paintings & Drawings on Paper;" Adam Hurwitz, Diana Horowitz, Michael Meehan, Eric Wolf: "Water Works;" Mark Milroy: "Just the Thing;" Ying Li:

continued on page 19

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR JULY 2024

Thurs

4



DestinationWilliamstown.org • Parade & Brass-O-Mania • 11 am

Music From Salem • Open Rehearsal • 4 pm • 154 Priest Rd., Salem, NY

GildedAge.org • Daniel Adam Maltz on Fortepiano • 5 pm • Res. rec'd.

Skidmore.edu • Jenny Of-fill & April Bernard • 8 pm • Murray-Aikins Dining Hall



JacobsPillow.org • 2024 Festival events/venues at URL



• Shakespeare.org



ImagesCinema.org • Sundance Shorts, "Thelma" & "Ghostlight"

misc.

SalemCourthouse.org • Parade & Carnival, feat. Met-tawee Theatre Co. • 4 pm • Main St. • Salem, NY

NPS.gov/Sara --Citizenship Ceremony • 10 am • Visitor Ctr. Lawn --Reading: Declaration of Independence • 2 pm • Visi-tor Ctr. Patio

ClarkArt.edu • Free ad-mission all day • 10 am-5 pm

11



Tang.Skidmore.edu • Future of Broadway • 6 pm • "Crafts on the Grass" at 5:30 • ages 5+



JacobsPillow.org • 2024 Fest. events/venues at URL



• BarringtonStageCo
• BerkshireTheatreGroup
• Shakespeare.org

SpencertownAcademy.org • The Rooted Voya-geurs' "The Tempest" • 7 pm • Free • Spencertown Town Park • 518-392-3693



CrandellTheatre.org • "Thelma"

ImagesCinema.org • "Janet Planet" & "Ghost-light"



W. E. B. Du Bois Free-dom Ctr. • Dr. Marvin Carr • Free • 6 pm • 352 Main St., Great Barrington, MA

CaffeLena.org • Evening of New Fiction: Adam Braver & Rick Moody • 8 pm

misc.

ClarkArt.edu • Guided by Glass: Drop-in-Art-Making • Free • 1-4 pm

SGFOrthodox.org • Ad-irondack Greek Festival (food night only) • 4-8 pm • 55 Main St., South Glens Falls, NY • See Jul. 12 & 13

18



HudsonCrossingPark.org • Rusticator, Casa Reyes, & Argyle Brewing! • 6-8 pm • Pavil-ion & Stage, Schuylerville, NY

Tang.Skidmore.edu • Great Mutations • 6 pm • "Crafts on the Grass" at 5:30 • ages 5+



JacobsPillow.org • 2024 Fest. events/venues at URL --Social Tango Project • 8 pm AND FREE livestream, w/ req'd reg. at jacobspil-low.org/live



• BarringtonStageCo
• BerkshireTheatreGroup
• Shakespeare.org



SaratogaSinai.org • "Broadway Musicals, A Jew-ish Legacy" • 7 pm • Watch at home, then join discussion



CaffeLena.org • Evening w/Caryl Phillips & Binnie Kirshenbaum • 8-10 pm

misc.

ClarkArt.edu • Guided by Glass: Drop-in-Art-Making • Free • 1-4 pm

5



BenningtonMuseum.org • Seven Chords for Sil-ver • 5-7 pm

HancockShakerVillage.org • Concert/Cookout: The Nields • 6-8:30 pm

ParkTheaterGF.org • Rob Flax's Boom Chick Trio • 7-8:30 pm • Crandall Park Bandshell

CaffeLena.org • Poetry & Jazz: Robert Pinsky, Todd Coolman, & Bill Cunliffe, w/ Pat LaB-arbera • 8 pm



JacobsPillow.org • 2024 Festival events/venues at URL



• BarringtonStageCo
• BerkshireTheatreGroup
• Shakespeare.org



CrandellTheatre.org • "Jaws"

ImagesCinema.org • "Janet Planet" & "Ghost-light"

JacobsPillow.org Sum-mer Festival • "Romeo and Juliet: Beyond Words" • 8 pm • Ma-haiwe PAC

misc.

NPS.gov/Sara • Expl. Hist. Park w/camera • 3 mi. hike • *continued on page 16*

12



BenningtonMuseum.org • Washington Co. Band • 5 pm

ParkTheaterGF.org • Stella Ruze • 7 pm • Free • Crandall Park Bandshell

CaffeLena.org • Erin Harkes w/opener Sofia Corts • 8 pm



JacobsPillow.org • 2024 Fest. events/venues at URL



CrandellTheatre.org • "We Grown Now"

ImagesCinema.org • "Robot Dreams" & "Janet Planet"



WCHY-NY.org • Loc. Hist. Bk. Cl: "Shadow of the Poorhouse," (Michael Katz) • 12 pm • Venue: Washington Ctr., Argyle

misc.

CraneMuseum.org • See Pop-Up event, Jul 2

Cambridge (NY) Hist. Soc. & Mus. • See Jul. 5

ParkMcCullough.org • Fam. Picnic w/Annie & Natu-ral Wonder Band • 3 pm

SGFOrthodox.org • Adk. Greek Fest. (events & food) • 12 pm • S. Glens Falls, NY • See Jul. 11



• Adirondack TF
• BarringtonStageCo
• BerkshireTheatreGroup
• Shakespeare.org

Mettawee.net • Mettawee River Theatre Co. selections • 8 pm • Georgi Museum, Shu-shan • Raindate Jul. 13 • 518-854-9357

19



BenningtonMuseum.org • Good Gravy • 5-7 pm

ParkTheaterGF.org • Pascuala Ilabaca & Fauna • 7 pm • Free

CaffeLena.org • Glen Da-vid Andrews • 8 pm



JacobsPillow.org • 2024 Fest. events/venues at URL



• Adirondack TF
• BarringtonStageCo
• BerkshireTheatreGroup
• Shakespeare.org



CrandellTheatre.org • "Dirty Dancing"

StoneValleyArts.org • "You Hurt My Feelings" (2023) • 7 pm • Free

misc.

CraneMuseum.org • See Pop-Up event, Jul 2

Cambridge (NY) Hist. Soc. & Mus. • See Jul. 5

Warrensburgh River Farmers' Market • Blueberry Fest. • 3-6 pm • Recreation Field Pa-vilion, Library Ave.

6



BerkshireBusk.com/ roadside • Daymen • 2 pm • Sheffield, MA

CaffeLena.org • Living-ston Taylor w/opener Pete Muller • 5 & 8 pm

TaconicMusic.org • An Evening of Pops • 7:30 pm • So. VT Arts Ctr.



JacobsPillow.org • 2024 Festival events/venues at URL --Royal Ballet of the UK • 2 & 8 pm AND FREE livestream, w/req'd reg. at jacobspillow.org/live



• BarringtonStageCo
• BerkshireTheatreGroup
• Shakespeare.org

LittleTheater27.org • Hudson River Shakespeare Co.'s "The Bard Meets Broadway" • Donations • 2 & 7 pm



CrandellTheatre.org • "IF," "Thelma," & "Saturday Night Fever"

ImagesCinema.org • "Janet Planet" & "Ghost-light"



BidwellHouseMuseum.

continued on page 16

13



BerkshireBusk.com/ roadside • Jerry Posner • 2 pm • Sheffield, MA

CaffeLena.org --John Dillon: Lighthouse Project CD/Book • 2 pm --Marty Wendell 60th Anniv, Show • 8 pm

Artisan-trails.org • SAW's Music on the Hill • 4 pm • 19 Cary Ln., Salem, NY

HudsonHall.org • Hud-son Festival Orchestra w/ Hudson Comm. Choir • 6-9 pm • Hud-son Waterfront

AstonMagna.org • Music Fest. • "New Perspectives on Early Music " • 6 pm • 352 Main St., Great Bar-ington

HubbardHall.org • Larry Ham/Woody Witt Jazz Quar-tet • 7 pm • Cambridge, NY

TaconicMusic.org • Chamber Concert III • 7:30 pm • Riley Ctr., Burr & Burton



JacobsPillow.org • 2024 Fest. events/venues at URL --The MasterZ at Work Dance Fam. • 6 pm • Henry J. Leir Stage OR FREE livestream, w/req'd reg. at jacobspillow.org/live



• Adirondack TF
• BarringtonStageCo
• BerkshireTheatreGroup
• Shakespeare.org

AncramCenter.org • Crystal Radio Sessions • 7:30 pm



CrandellTheatre.org • "Minions," "Emma," & "The Big Lebowski"

ImagesCinema.org • "Robot Dreams" & "Janet Planet"

continued on page 19

20



GardenGroveFest.com • Garden Grove Music Fest. • 1-10 pm • 380 State Rd., Great Barrington, MA •

BerkshireBusk.com/ roadside • Rees Shad & The Conversations • 2 pm • Shef-field, MA

AstonMagna.org • Aston Magna Music Fest. • "Side-by-Side-by-Side: Schubert, Chopin, & Three Grand Pia-nos" • 6 pm • Venue on Jul 13 event

LittleTheater27.org • Warren Co. Ramblers • 7 pm • Ft. Edward, NY

CaffeLena.org • Tom Chapin • 8 pm

JacobsPillow.org • 2024 Fest. events/venues at URL

--School at Jacob's Pillow Contemp. Program • 6 pm AND FREE livestream, w/ req'd reg. at jacobspillow.org/live



• Adirondack TF
• BarringtonStageCo
• BerkshireTheatreGroup
• Shakespeare.org

AncramCenter.org • Rizo: Home • 8 pm
























misc.

BenningtonMuseum.org • Fabulous Ferns • 10 am

Cambridge (NY) Hist. Soc. & Mus. • 10 am-4 pm • 12 Broad St. --CCSchool Alumni Day! --"Telling Stories w/Light &

continued on page 19

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR JULY 2024			
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed
<div>21</div> <div><p>SPAC • Chamber Mus. Soc. Linc. Ctr. "Enchanting Winds" • Doors 2 pm/perf 3 pm • Spa Little Theater</p><p>HubbardHall.org • Music from Salem • 4 pm • Cambridge, NY</p><p>CaffeLena.org • John Pizarella • 6 & 8:30 pm</p><p>JacobsPillow.org • 2024 Fest. events/venues at URL</p><p><ul style="list-style-type: none">Adirondack TFBarringtonStageCoBerkshireTheatreGroupShakespeare.org<p>TheFoundryWS.com • Workshop for all ages: "Telling a story they'll remember" • 3 pm</p></p></div> <div><p>Tang.Skidmore.edu • Tang Guided Tour • 2 pm</p><div>misc.</div><p>HudsonCrossingPark.org • Full Moon Owl Prowl • 8:30-9:30 pm • Ltd. 20; Adv. reg. REQ'D.</p></div>	<div>22</div> <div><p>BerkshireBotanical.org • BU Students of Tanglewood • 5:30-7:30 pm</p><p>CaffeLena.org • Open Mic Night • 7 pm</p><p>HubbardHall.org • Village Harmony • 7 pm • Pay what you will • Cambridge, NY</p></div>	<div>23</div> <div><p>CaffeLena.org • Willie Watson • 7 pm</p><p><ul style="list-style-type: none">BarringtonStageCoShakespeare.org</p><p><p>GildedAge.org • Tea & Talk: Claire Shomphe & Chelsea Gaia: "Beautiful But Deadly" • 4 pm</p><div>misc.</div><p>ClarkArt.edu • Foraging Walk • 5:30 pm • Free • Adv. reg. REQ'D., ltd. space</p></p></div>	<div>24</div> <div><p>CrandallLibrary.org • Folklife Live & Local • Reese Fulmer • 5-7 pm • City Park lawn</p><p>CaffeLena.org • I Draw Slow • 7 pm</p><p>LittleTheater27.org • The Zorbas Trio • 7 pm • Ft. Edward, NY</p><p><p>JacobsPillow.org • 2024 Fest. events/venues at URL --MOMIX, 8 pm</p><p><ul style="list-style-type: none">BarringtonStageCoLiving Room TheatreShakespeare.org</p></p></div> <div><p>BeyondPlastics.org • Virtual free webinar: "3M's Decades-Long Attempt to Cover Up the 'Forever Chemicals' in Our Blood" • 7-8 pm</p><div>misc.</div><p>Downtown Glens Falls • "Take A Bite" • See Jul. 10</p><p>HubbardHall.org • Breaking Bread Comm. meal • BYOF • 6:30 pm • Cambridge, NY</p></div>
<div>28</div> <div><p>ClarkArt.edu • Glenn Jones & Emily Robb • 5 pm • Free</p><p>CaffeLena.org • Upstate • 7 pm</p><p>SaratogaJewishCulturalFestival.org • "Tradition, Tradition: Song & Story" • 7 pm • Pre-reg. REQ'D. • Congr. Beth Shalom</p><p><p>JacobsPillow.org • 2024 Fest. events/venues at URL</p></p></div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">BarringtonStageCo.orgBerkshireTheatreGroup.orgFortSalem.comLiving Room TheatreShakespeare.org<p>TheFoundryWS.com • "Tumble: A Science Podcast for Kids" live, based on "Did Dino-saurs Burp?" • 3 pm</p><p><p>Tang.Skidmore.edu • Tang Guided Tour • 2 pm</p></p></div>	<div>29</div> <div><p>BerkshireBotanical.org • Brother Sal Blues Band • 5:30-7:30 pm</p><p>CaffeLena.org • Open Mic Night • 7 pm</p></div>	<div>30</div> <div><p>CaffeLena.org • Palmyra w/opener Jobi Riccio • 7 pm</p><p><ul style="list-style-type: none">BarringtonStageCo.orgBerkshireTheatreGroup.orgShakespeare.org</p><p><p>GildedAge.org • Tea & Talk: Victoria Christopher Murray ("The Personal Librarian") • 3 pm • Adv. reg. REQ'D. • Lecture: Trinity Epis. Church; Tea: Ventfort</p></p></div>	<div>31</div> <div><p>CrandallLibrary.org • Folklife Live & Local • Alan & Alex • 5-7 pm • City Park lawn</p><p>LittleTheater27.org • Marty Wendell & his Tour Band 60th Anniv. • 7 pm • Ft. Edward, NY</p><p>CaffeLena.org • Sonny Landreth & Cindy Cashdollar • 7:30 pm</p><p><p>JacobsPillow.org • 2024 Festival events/venues at URL --Camille A. Brown & Dancers, 8 pm</p></p></div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">BarringtonStageCo.orgBerkshireTheatreGroup.orgLiving Room TheatreShakespeare.org<div>misc.</div><p>Downtown Glens Falls • "Take A Bite" • See Jul. 10</p></div>

THEATER LISTINGS	
<p>Adirondack Theatre Festival • Charles R. Wood Theater • woodtheater.org • 518-480-4878</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">"Todd vs. the Titanic" • through Jul. 3 • Thu.-Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun., 2 pm"Worth: An Intimate Exhibition" (performance at LARAC Lapham Gallery) • Jul. 12-14 • SOLD OUT"The King's Wife" • Jul 19-21 • Fri. & Sat., 7:30 pm; Sat. & Sun., 2 pm"Dial 'M' for Murder" • Aug. 1-7 • Thu.-Sat., 7:30 pm; Tue., Wed., & Sun., 2 & 7:30 pm <p>BarringtonStageCo.org • Pittsfield, MA • Box office: 413-236-8888</p> <p>--Boyd-Quinson Stage • 30 Union St.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">"La Cage Aux Folles" • through Jul. 6"Boeing Boeing" • Jul. 17-Aug. 3 <p>--St. Germain Stage • 36 Linden St.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">"A Tender Thing" • Jun. 25-Jul 20"Forgiveness" • Jul. 30-Aug. 25 <p>BerkshireTheatreGroup.org • 413-997-4444</p> <p>--Unicorn Theatre • 6 East St., Stockbridge, MA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">"Abe Lincoln in Illinois" • Jun. 13-Jul. 14 • Tue.-Sat., 7 pm; Wed. & Sun., 2 pmRodgers & Hammerstein's "Pipe Dream" • Jul. 26-Aug. 31 • Tue.-Sun., times vary	<p>--Colonial Theatre • 111 South St., Pittsfield, MA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mel Brooks' "Young Frankenstein" • Jun. 27-Jul. 21 • Tue-Sat., 7 pm; Sun., 2 pm <p>FortSalem.com • 11 East Broadway, Salem, NY • 518-854-9200</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">"Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's Mary Poppins" • Jul 26-Aug. 11 • Fri. & Sat., 7 pm; Sun., 2 pm <p>Living Room Theatre • LRT Pool, Park-McCullough House, N. Bennington, VT • 802-442-5322 • LRTVT.org • ParkMcCullough.org</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">"Amor and Psyche, a Mythological Comedy," writ. & dir. by Randolyn Zinn • Jul. 24-Aug. 4 • Wed.-Sun., 630 pm <p>Shakespeare.org • 70 Kemble St., Lenox, MA • Box office: 413-637-3353</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">"A Body of Water" • through Jul. 21 • Tue.-Sun., 3:30 & 7 pm (times vary) • Roman Garden Theatre"Shake it Up: A Shakespeare Cabaret" • Jul. 2-7 • Tue.-Thu., Sat. & Sun • 1, 3:30 & 7 pm • Tina Packer Playhouse"The Comedy of Errors" • Jul. 13-Aug. 18 • Fri.-Sun., Tue. & Wed. • 7 pmArthur S. Waldstein Amphitheatre"The Islanders" • Jul. 25-Aug. 25 • Tue.-Sun. • 2 & 7 pm • Tina Packer Playhouse

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR JULY 2024

ThursFriSat

25



Tang.Skidmore.edu • Dust Bowl Fairies • 6 pm • “Crafts on the Grass” at 5:30 • ages 5+

CaffeLena.org • Eve. w/ Jane Monheit • 7 pm

**JacobsPillow.org** • 2024 Fest. events/venues at URL --MOMIX, 8 pm



- BarringtonStageCo
- Living Room Theatre
- Shakespeare.org

GrantCottage.org • “Ulysses & Julia Grant: Dancing on the Edge of the Gilded Age” • 2-3 pm

misc.

ClarkArt.edu • Guided by Glass: Drop-in-Art-Making • Free • 1-4 pm

26



BenningtonMuseum.org • Buck2Fifty • 5-7 pm

ParkTheaterGF.org • Soggy Po’ Boys • 7-8:30 pm • Free • Crandall Park Bandshell

CaffeLena.org • Griffin House • 8 pm

**JacobsPillow.org** • 2024 Fest. events/venues at URL



- BarringtonStageCo.org
- BerkshireTheatreGroup.org
- FortSalem.com
- Living Room Theatre
- Shakespeare.org

CrandellTheatre.org • “Pulp Fiction”

**StoneValleyArts.org** • Literary Open Mic • 7-9 pm

misc.

Cambridge (NY) Hist. Soc. & Mus. • See Jul. 5

27



BerkshireBusk.com roadside • Carol & Nick Duo • 2-4 pm • 356 S. Main St., Sheffield, MA

HubbardHall.org • Fiddle Festival • Dance, 4 pm; Concert, 7:30 pm • Cambridge, NY

AstonMagna.org • Aston Magna Music Fest. • “Sonata, What Do You Want From Me?” • 6 pm • Venue on Jul 13 event

HudsonHall.org • Bobby Previte: No Bells, No Whistles • 7 pm

LittleTheater27.org • Western Revue w/Mark Munzert • 7 pm • Ft. Edward, NY

TheFoundryWS.com • Arkai • 7:30 pm

CaffeLena.org • Upstate • 8 pm

**JacobsPillow.org** • 2024 Fest. events/venues at URL -- Dancers of Damelahamid • 6 pm AND FREE livestream,

w/req’d reg. at jacobspillow.org/live



- BarringtonStageCo.org
- BerkshireTheatreGroup.org
- FortSalem.com
- Living Room Theatre
- Shakespeare.org

**CrandellTheatre.org** • “Pride & Prejudice”

**NPS.gov/Sara** --Frederick Douglass Returns to Schuylerville • 10 am-12 pm, & 1-2:30 pm • Schuyler House --Frederick Douglass Speaks on Democracy • 3-4 pm • Town of Saratoga Town Hall, 12 Spring St., Schuylerville, NY

misc.

Cambridge (NY) Hist. Soc. & Mus. • See Jul. 5

ClaverackLibrary.org • Reptile Nook • 12 pm

6 Sat cont’d.

org • “Stories from the Berkshire Militia” • 12 pm

misc.

Cambridge (NY) Hist. Soc. & Mus. • See Jul. 5

Tang.Skidmore.edu • Fam. Sat. • 2-3:30 pm • Free, 1st come, 1st served

ArtOmi.org • Summer Season Opening Party • 5-8 pm • Free • Newmark Gallery

13 Sat cont’d.

**NPS.gov/Sara** • Caravan tour Battlefield • 9:30 pm • meet Visitor Ctr.

misc.

Dionondehowa Wildlife Sanct. & Sch. • “Techno-no-no: A Day on the Land w/o Devices” • 10 am-3 pm • 148 Stanton Rd, Shushan • Reg. at dionon-dehowa@yahoo.com

Artisan-trails.org • Artisan Trails in Wash. Co. (NY) • 10 am-4 pm--incl. Pop-Up Event • 4-7 pm • 166 Brownell Rd., Cambridge, NY

20 Sat cont’d.

SGFOrthodox.org • Adk Greek Fest. • See Jul 12

ClaverackLibrary.org • Owl Education! by Mud Creek Env. Ctr. • 12 pm • Adv. reg. req’d.

ArtOmi.org • Artists’ Open Studios • Free • 1-4 pm

Cambridge (NY) Hist. Soc. & Mus. • See Jul. 5

HancockShakerVillage.org • Farm-to-Table Dinner • 6 pm • Adv. reg. REQ’D.

GildedAge.org • David Raby: Paranormal Investigation • 7 pm

Shadow • shadow puppet-making & theater techniques • 10 am-2 pm • Ages 10+ • Ltd., reg. REQ’D. at info.cambridge.ny.museum-AT-gmail.com

Bennington, VT • Blueberry Festival at the Apple Barn • 10 am-5 pm

SalemCourthouse.org • Al Fresco Comm. Dinner w/Mettawee Theatre Co., Silent Auction

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Exhibitions

continued from page 15

“Paper Trails”

- through Aug. 25: Anina Major: “All Us Come Across Water”

Park–McCullough House • 1 Park St., North Bennington, VT

- ongoing: “Women of the House & Women of the Community”

RoeliffJansenHS.org • 8 Miles Rd., Copake Falls, NY • Free adm.

- Jul. 6-Oct. 6: “Mementos, Maps & Milestones: Copake at 200”

RootedinSalem.com • 196 N. Main St., Unit A, Salem, NY • 518-772-9332

- Jul. 4-30: Anthony Cafritz: “Underneath”

(Historic) SalemCourthouse.org • 58 E. Broadway, Salem, NY • 518-854-7053

- Jul 5-28: Jeri Macdonald: “A Decade and Then Some”
- Opening Aug. 2: Artist Gabi Moore’s “Lunch, Learn, & Play” Students’ Showcase

Saratoga–Arts.org • 320 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY • 518-584-4132

- through Jul. 26: Juried Exhibition 5: Robert Tomlinson, Adrian Lee, Judith Plotner, Nathan Meltz

- Aug. 2-30: 10 x 10 Exhibition

ShakerMuseum.us • at Kinderhook Knitting Mill • 8 Hudson St. • 518-610-8543

- through Sep. 1: “Unexpected Shaker”

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

- through Jul. 29: John Clarke’s “A is for Always”

SVAC.org • 930 SVAC Dr., Manchester • 802-362-1405

- Jul. 20-Nov. 3: Summer 2024 Solo Exhibition
- through Jul 14: Spring 2024 Solo Exhibition
- through Sep. 22: “Sand to Splendor: The Nature of Glass” AND “Pastel Panorama: Journeys with a Medium”

SpencertownAcademy.org • 790 NY-203, Spencertown, NY • 518-392-3693

- Jul. 6-Aug. 4: “Drawn to Precision: In Monochrome”

StoneValleyArts.org • 145 E. Main St., Poultney, VT • Sat. & Sun., 1-4 pm

- through Aug. 18: “Capturing Time: A Neil Rappaport Retrospective”

SusanEleyFineArt.com • 433 Warren St., Hudson, NY

- through Jul. 13: Curio: Recent Monotypes & Watercolors by Eunju Kang AND Heather Boose Weiss & Katherine Curci
- Jul. 5-Aug. 18: Rachel Burgess: “Simple Gifts”
- Aug. 22-Oct. 13: Ted Dixon: “Eighteen”

Tang.skidmore.edu

- Jul. 13-Jan. 5, 2025: Mark Dion & Alexis Rockman: “Journey to Nature’s Underworld”
- through Sep. 22: “Voragine: Yente and Cecilia Biagini”
- through Sep. 7, 2025: Yvette Molina “A Promise to the Leaves”

tANJAgRUNERT.com • 21 Prospect Ave., Hudson, NY

- through Aug. 4: “Russell Steinert - Current Work”

THECOLLAB • 163 North St., Pittsfield, MA

- Jul. 5-31: Noah Beauregard & Mike Carty

ValleyArtisansMarket.com • 25 E. Main St., Cambridge, NY

- through Jul. 1: Meryl Davis: “Color Play”
- Jul. 5-Jul. 29: Regina Wicham: “Vessels”
- Aug. 2-26: Molly Czub: Photography

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

Theaters *continued from page 13*

who has performed with Moby, Reggie Watts and Yo-Yo Ma and earned comparisons to Edith Piaf.

She grew up in Oregon, came to New York and found herself back home again, and on this summer night she is trying to make sense of that trajectory of her life and what it's like to return to a place, Mousseau said.

Sometimes a theme will emerge organically for a season. Mousseau said he and Ricciardi had not set out to build this season's shows around "the idea of home." But they are very aware of their relationships as a theater in a rural community.

Ricciardi described a sense of pleasure when he hears audiences leave surprised by a performance they have just seen, the nature and the caliber of

the work that they're seeing, the artistry involved and the artists making the work.

At the same time, he knows different work may appeal to different people. Their local storytelling program may draw a different crowd from a concert or a two-person play.

"We want our doors to be open for everyone," Ricciardi said. "We think about that, ways in which that we can include people. ... We try and make as much as free as possible. We had 90 events last year, and half of them were free."

He coordinates performances open to local storytellers, "Real People, Real Stories," in June and Crystal Radio readings of fiction in July, and he finds power in the informality and immediacy of these shows. He talks with local people who volunteer to be part of these evenings, helping them to choose the stories they want to tell and to find

their rhythm and focus.

Ricciardi remembers a woman who came to him with an idea for a story about how she let her dog ride in the car, looking out the window. But the story she told ended up being about her struggles as her husband died of brain cancer.

"When she was driving between work at Bard College and feeding her dogs," he said, "and then going to Albany Medical Center, eating her peanut butter and jelly in the car because that's the only time she could eat, she would imagine driving cross country with her dog."

People have deep and powerful stories to share, he said, and some people want to get together and listen to people tell stories, even if they might feel intimidated by seeing a play.

"The reality is," he said, "a person getting up on a stage, telling a story, is theater."

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- from Saratoga Springs 1 hour, 15 minutes
- from Williamstown 20 minutes

See map on page 12

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