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observer

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

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MAY 2023

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Creating a food hub



Joan K. Lentini photo

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HILL COUNTRY observer

MAY 2023

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

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In Bennington, creating a downtown food hub

A new nonprofit market in downtown Bennington aims to bring fresh, healthy food to a town center where some grocery staples have been scarce. The Bennington Community Market, which opened in March at 239 Main St., says its mission is to “support local farmers, increase access to healthy food for all members of our community, and contribute to the revitalization of downtown Bennington.” The new store is designed to fill a need that community leaders began discussing at least a decade ago after the U.S. Department of Agriculture labeled Bennington a “food desert.” Page 3



Tax credit might help to save ‘white elephants’

A historic, five-story mill building in the Saratoga County village of Victory has been vacant for nearly a quarter of a century since Victory Specialty Packaging Co. closed its operations there in early 2000, laying off 75 workers. Since then, a series of developers have proposed redeveloping the structure, mainly for apartments, but so far none has found enough investors willing to back the project. But Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner, D-Round Lake, says cavernous abandoned structures like the Victory mill could help to ease the state’s housing crunch with the aid of an expanded tax credit for repurposing “white elephants.” Page 7

Classic text, today’s context in show about Constitution

As a teenager explaining the meaning of the Constitution in debate competitions around the country, Heidi Schreck set an idealistic tone. But as she grew into an adult woman, she began to ask questions and to come to terms with the limits of the nation’s founding document. This month, Schreck’s acclaimed Broadway play, “What the Constitution Means to Me,” will come to the Berkshires in a production by WAM Theatre. Page 14

Maury Thompson: An editor who toiled till his last breath Page 10

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Cover photo by Joan K. Lentini: Head baker Shayne Williams holds a tray of freshly baked loaves of bread at the new Bennington Community Market.

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Joan K. Lentini photo

Retail manager Riley Flynn, left, and general manager Diana Shepherd show off the selection of craft beer at the new Bennington Community Market.

Creating a downtown food hub

Nonprofit market aims to nourish Bennington's 'food desert'

By JOHN TOWNES
Contributing writer

BENNINGTON, Vt.

A new nonprofit market in downtown Bennington aims to bring fresh, healthy food to a town center that has long been classified as a food desert.

The Bennington Community Market, which opened in March at 239 Main St., says its mission is to “support local farmers, increase access to healthy food for all members of our community, and contribute to the revitalization

of downtown Bennington.”

The new market sells fresh produce, dairy products, beer and wine along with a range of grocery staples and specialty items. It also offers take-home prepared meals and grab-and-go options prepared in its kitchen, and it has a 25-seat cafe for on-site dining. And its organizers want it to serve as a community gathering spot and a venue for educational and social events such as cooking classes and demonstrations by guest chefs.

The new store is designed to fill a need that local community leaders began discussing at

least a decade ago after the U.S. Department of Agriculture designated Bennington as a “food desert.” The classification means the area has at least 100 households without vehicles that are more than a half-mile from the nearest full-service supermarket.

Although Bennington has Price Chopper and Hannaford supermarkets as well as a Walmart with a large grocery department, all of those stores are in a suburban commercial area that’s 2 to 4 miles from the town center. Reaching them can be a hardship for seniors, people with low incomes and others who can’t

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drive or don't own cars.

In addition to those who don't drive, the nonprofit market also hopes to cater to a group of new residents who are being drawn to the center of Bennington through a major downtown revitalization effort. That project, which started construction in 2019, is creating dozens of new apartments in the block just to the east of the new market and promises to greatly expand the population of the town's pedestrian-oriented core.

Local foods, equal access

The Bennington Community Market is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Its inventory and operations are oriented toward meeting the goals of its social and economic mission.

"We emphasize food from many different regional farmers and producers," said Diana Shepherd, the market's general manager. "It's similar to what you'd find at a farmers market, but we're open seven days a week."

The market offers some items from farther afield as well.

"Because we want to provide a variety of staples and essentials, we also carry products that aren't available from local sources," Shepherd explained.

Although natural and locally grown foods can be costlier than the fare available at commercial-scale supermarkets, the community market has cultivated partnerships with local organizations and social-service programs to address the problem of food insecurity. It aims to be welcoming to all and to make healthy food available and financially accessible to people with lower incomes.

The new market accepts benefit-card



Joan K. Lentini photo

Nancy Koziol, owner of the local business couch + cork, serves as the wine steward at the new Bennington Community Market. She selects the market's stock of wine and hosts tastings and other events at the store.

payments from the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, or SNAP, and plans to be able to serve the Women, Infants and Children or WIC program as well.

It also strives to keep its prices as low as possible, such as by working with local producers to market and sell at a discount the produce they don't sell at farmers markets.

The nonprofit group that runs the market also has established a Fresh Food Access Fund

and has earmarked \$5,000 for the ongoing program, which allocates gift coupons to Greater Bennington Community Services, Support and Services at Home, Sunrise Family Center, and Project Against Violent Encounters. These organizations distribute the coupons to clients experiencing food insecurity.

The access fund is supported with 15 percent of the market's membership fees and through donations, including the opportunity

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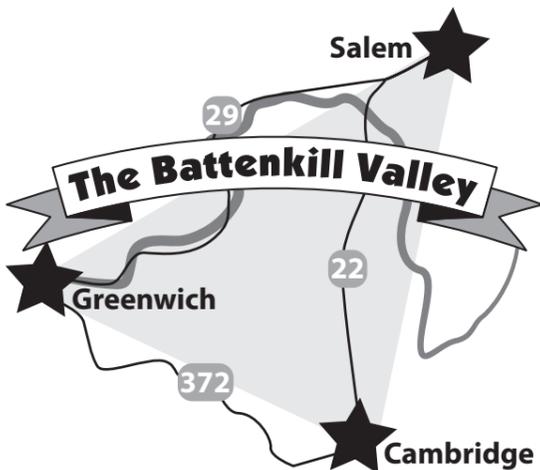
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for shoppers to round up their purchases to the next dollar. (The market sells \$50 annual memberships for those who wish to support its efforts, although it is open equally to members and non-members.)

Shepherd described another strategy through which it aims both to reduce waste and make meals accessible.

“We sell grab-and-go hot prepared meals,” she said. “However, due to regulations, people cannot use SNAP to purchase hot meals. So the ingredients of hot meals that are unsold are used to prepare cold grab-and-go items the next day, which can be purchased with SNAP. Anything left from that is donated to a food bank.”

Shepherd said the initial response to the market has been positive.

“It’s become very popular, and people are very enthusiastic,” she said.

She credited Assistant Manager Riley Flynn and other staff members for its initial successes.

“We have an amazing team,” she said.

Community effort

The new market is a collaborative project set up by area residents with support from Bennington College, the town of Bennington, Southern Vermont Health Center and numerous other organizations. It is owned and managed by a nonprofit organization and board.

Money for its startup costs of about \$550,000 has been raised from individual donations and

memberships as well as from grants and other sources.

The market reflects larger ongoing efforts by a variety of organizations and advocates to strengthen the regional food economy, improve overall access to healthy and local foods, and reduce food insecurity in Bennington County.

Although the downtown area does have some smaller stores that offer grocery items, including the Spice ‘n Nice natural foods shop, several neighborhood corner stores and a Dollar General, the range of food products available in the town center has been limited. The USDA’s “food desert” designation means a significant population has lacked access to significant nearby sources of vegetables, whole grains, milk or dairy alternatives and other foods that make up the full range of a healthy diet.

“People had been talking about the need for a market like this in the center of town for many years, but earlier efforts to start one had not been successful,” said Shannon Barsotti, the town’s director of community development. “More recently, due to a combination of circumstances, it came to the top of the list.”

One stimulus for the market was an initiative by the Center for the Advancement of Public Action at Bennington College, a program through which students and faculty aim to support local initiatives for positive social change.

In 2019, the center was awarded a \$1 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

to address the systemic causes of food insecurity in Bennington County, where studies indicate 14 percent of the population is low income and many households are a significant distance from supermarkets.

The three-year grant is set up as a partnership between the center, Southwestern Vermont Health Care, the Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union, and Greater Bennington Interfaith Community Services.

The process of implementing the grant included the formation of working groups to evaluate the local food system and develop strategies. It also includes a Community Resource Fund, which has allocated grants to food pantries, producers, educational programs and other organizations involved in projects related to food security.

The effort to start a community market is one of the initiatives that received support from this, including a grant for research and outreach to local organizations and producers to develop partnerships and plans.

Reviving a downtown

Another factor that has helped to make the market a reality is the major downtown revitalization effort known as the Putnam Block project. This ambitious public-private partnership includes the restoration of three historic multi-story buildings at the “four corners” intersection in the center of downtown

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NEWS & ISSUES



Joan K. Lentini photo

Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner stands outside a long-vacant mill complex in the village of Victory, N.Y. It's the kind of structure she says could be redeveloped to ease the state's housing shortage -- with help from an expanded tax credit for large historic buildings.

Seeking new life for 'white elephants'

Assemblywoman pushes bigger tax credit to redevelop historic structures

By MAURY THOMPSON
Contributing writer

VICTORY, N.Y.

A historic, five-story mill building in the Saratoga County village of Victory has been vacant for nearly a quarter of a century since Victory Specialty Packaging Co. closed its operation there in February 2000, laying off 75 employees.

"We've been trying to find an angle forever" for how to redevelop the sprawling old mill, Victory Mayor Patrick Dewey said.

A few years after the plant closed, Saratoga County foreclosed on the property for unpaid taxes. In 2008, the county sold the property to Long Island developer Uri Kaufman, who said he hoped to transform it into an apartment complex.

But that project never advanced, and in 2018, Kaufman made a deal to sell the property to developer Larry Regan, who so far has been unable to put together the financing to redevelop it.

The 350,000-square-foot factory complex, originally used as a cotton mill, employed as many as 200 in the latter half of the 20th century.

Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner, D-Round Lake, says cavernous abandoned factories such as the one in Victory could find new uses to address the state's housing crunch — with a little financial jump-start from the state.

The Victory mill is one of 35 properties across the state that meet the criteria for size, longevity and long-term vacancy that would allow them to obtain assistance under a proposed "white elephant" historic tax credit that Woerner is

championing, according to the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Other structures that could qualify for the tax credit include the former Mount McGregor Correctional Facility complex in the towns of Moreau and Wilton, the former Hudson River State Hospital campus in Dutchess County, and the dilapidated Central Warehouse in Albany. The long-vacant former Doane Stuart School in Albany, which was destroyed by fire in late March, also would have qualified.

Woerner's proposed legislation aims to help

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spur revitalization of buildings that are “too expensive to demolish and too expensive to rehabilitate.”

These “old behemoths” too often fall into disrepair and can become safety hazards if left vacant for too long, she said.

Big projects, bigger credit

Woerner introduced legislation in January that would extend the state’s current Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program through the end of 2034 and add a new category for “white elephant” structures. These buildings already qualify for state historic tax credits but would become eligible for a larger credit under Woerner’s legislation.

Woerner’s proposed legislation was incorporated into a one-house budget bill that passed the Assembly.

As of late April, however, the “white elephant” tax credit proposal had not gained support from the state Senate or Gov. Kathy Hochul, although negotiations were still under way for a state budget for the fiscal year that began April 1.

Woerner said there is still an outside chance the legislation could be incorporated in the final

state budget.

“Hope springs eternal,” she said.

If not, she said she would continue to champion the proposal next year, when there may be a greater sense of urgency, as the current historic tax credit program expires at the end of 2024.

State Sen. Timothy Kennedy, D-Buffero, has introduced Senate companion legislation, which had two co-sponsors as of April 21.

The New York Association for Affordable Housing has endorsed the legislation and promoted it at the association’s annual lobbying day, said Judy Calogero, a consultant and former state housing commissioner in Gov. George Pataki’s administration.

Calogero, who is chairwoman of the Glens Falls Industrial Development Agency, said she encouraged Glens Falls Mayor Bill Collins to suggest that the New York Council of Mayors endorse the legislation.

Historic tax credits are a mechanism to raise investment for projects that might otherwise be impractical. The developer uses the tax credits to raise investment.

In essence, the state is providing future

tax relief in exchange for investors providing immediate cash to fund a qualifying project. The developer receives a dollar-for-dollar tax credit, which can be redeemed in the future. The credit can be transferred to an investor.

A tax credit is different from a tax deduction, which reduces the amount of income that is subject to taxation. A credit, in contrast, reduces the amount of taxes owed.

Under Woerner’s legislation, projects could receive up to \$15 million in tax credits, allocated over a five-year period, based on a percentage of certain redevelopment costs. That essentially means a developer or investor could recoup up to \$15 million of their investment through future savings on their state taxes.

To be eligible, renovation of the structure must be “substantial.” The building must have been vacant for at least 10 of the previous 15 years.

The state tax credit would dovetail with a federal historic tax credit program that provides savings on federal taxes.

Woerner said the new tax credit would have no immediate fiscal impact on the state, because the credits could not be redeemed until five years

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after a project is completed.

"It's not the first year, it's not the second year, it's not the third or the fourth or the fifth years," she said.

In theory, the economic benefit of the construction and related development would offset the cost of the future reduction in tax receipts, Woerner added.

Growing while conserving resources

Renovating historic buildings, rather than building new ones, helps conserve open space in addition to stimulating the economy, said Sean Kelleher, the town of Saratoga historian.

"Preserving historic structures like the Victory Mill not only maintains the character and charm of the surrounding community, but also promotes sustainable development practices," he said. "The rehabilitation process can create jobs and stimulate economic growth in the area, while also reducing the need for new construction and conserving natural resources."

Woerner was involved in local historic preservation efforts for many years before she first won election to the Assembly in 2014, including through a six-year stint as executive director of the Saratoga Springs Preservation Foundation. She said she came up with the idea for a "white elephant" tax credit when she was brainstorming ideas with Dewey, the Victory mayor, about the stalled effort to repurpose the old mill in the village.

Regan, the developer who now controls the property, announced a \$60 million plan in 2019 to redevelop the mill, creating 186 apartments and a microbrewery. The town Planning Board approved the project, and the Saratoga County Industrial Development Agency approved a tax abatement plan.

But so far Regan has been unable to line up



Joan K. Lentini photo

The former Victory Specialty Packaging Co. mill has been vacant since that company ceased operation in 2000. A series of developers have proposed turning the complex into apartments but have been unable to attract enough support from investors.

sufficient backing from investors.

"He's tried many different angles to get that redeveloped," Dewey said.

Woerner's proposed tax credit could finally be the ticket to redevelopment, said Kelleher, the town historian.

"It's unfortunate that such a promising proposal has stalled, especially given the support it had from the county," Kelleher said. "Overall, the 'white elephant' historic tax credit program is a promising proposal that could help breathe

new life into historic structures like the Victory Mill."

The mill was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2009 because of its historical significance as a textile mill and as an example of early 20th century industrial architecture, Kelleher said.

Mount McGregor's white elephant

High cost also has been a hindrance to

continued on page 18

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A newspaperman who toiled till his last breath

Even on the day of his death, Editor W.A. Wilkins of *The Whitehall Times* did not miss deadline, although he worked from home instead of the newspaper office.

“He complained of mental lassitude during the day and did not engage in his work with his usual zest and satisfaction,” the newspaper reported in its Aug. 3, 1887 issue. “Still, he finished it, as these pages show.”

The only portion of that issue that Wilkins did not edit and proofread was the editorial announcing his sudden death the previous day.

The news was even more difficult to report than the deaths of U.S. presidents and prominent statesmen, the editorial said.

“The Whitehall Times this week bears to its readers the saddest and most sorrowful message it has ever borne to them: the message of the most sudden and unexpected death of its editor.”

Wilkins’ colleagues were still in a state of disbelief.

“We cannot divest ourselves of the feeling that he is still somewhere here in the village, and that we shall meet him when we go out, and talk over mutual experiences since we parted.”

Death caught even Wilkins himself by surprise, his colleagues reported.

“Almost his last words were about his paper, he having no idea he was so near his end,” the editorial stated. “He had gotten it in shape so he could relax his attention to it a little, and he remarked to his foreman that he had worked hard all his life, but now was in a condition to take a little rest, and the world a little more

Maury Thompson

“With the death of W.A. Wilkins comes the demise of *The Whitehall Times*. Its form may survive, but those who look for the sprightly features that have brought it into prominence will look in vain. The spirit of him who has breathed life into its columns has fled. There was but one Wilkins.”

— The Morning Star, Aug. 3, 1887

easily.”

By all accounts, the death of the 47-year-old Wilkins — editor, publisher, novelist, poet and politician — arrived much too soon.

“The intelligence of the death of W.A. Wilkins of *The Whitehall Times* Tuesday afternoon will be received with surprise and regret by thousands,” *The Granville Sentinel* reported on Aug. 5, 1887.

“No journalist in the state was better known

than the deceased,” *The Morning Star* of Glens Falls reported on Aug. 3, 1887. “His bright witticisms were copied extensively and read in every state in the union.”

More often than not, other newspapers credited quotations to “Editor Wilkins,” with out a first name or initials, as in this witticism *The Morning Star* quoted on June 27, 1887: “Some men are born great, some achieve swallowtail coats, others have tailor’s bills thrust upon them.”

On Jan. 20, 1887, *The Morning Star* republished this pun-filled report Wilkins wrote about a meeting of the Undertakers Society of Warren, Washington and Saratoga Counties:

A grave looking individual presided, while an obsequious mannered man lay in state over the secretary’s desk.

The hall was mourn-full of delegates, and it is not tomb much to say that a funeral air pervaded over the ceremonies.

Unwise resolutions were laid at rest by members coffin them down. ...

There was an urn-est dis-‘cuss’-ion on cremation. The body became much decomposed and attempted to effectually lay out cremation with fiery philippics. To have their business shrouded in ashes up-palled them worse than a ten-dollar funeral customer.

Wilkins died after being ill for two days with cholera morbus, a gastronomical illness, which aggravated a heart condition.

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

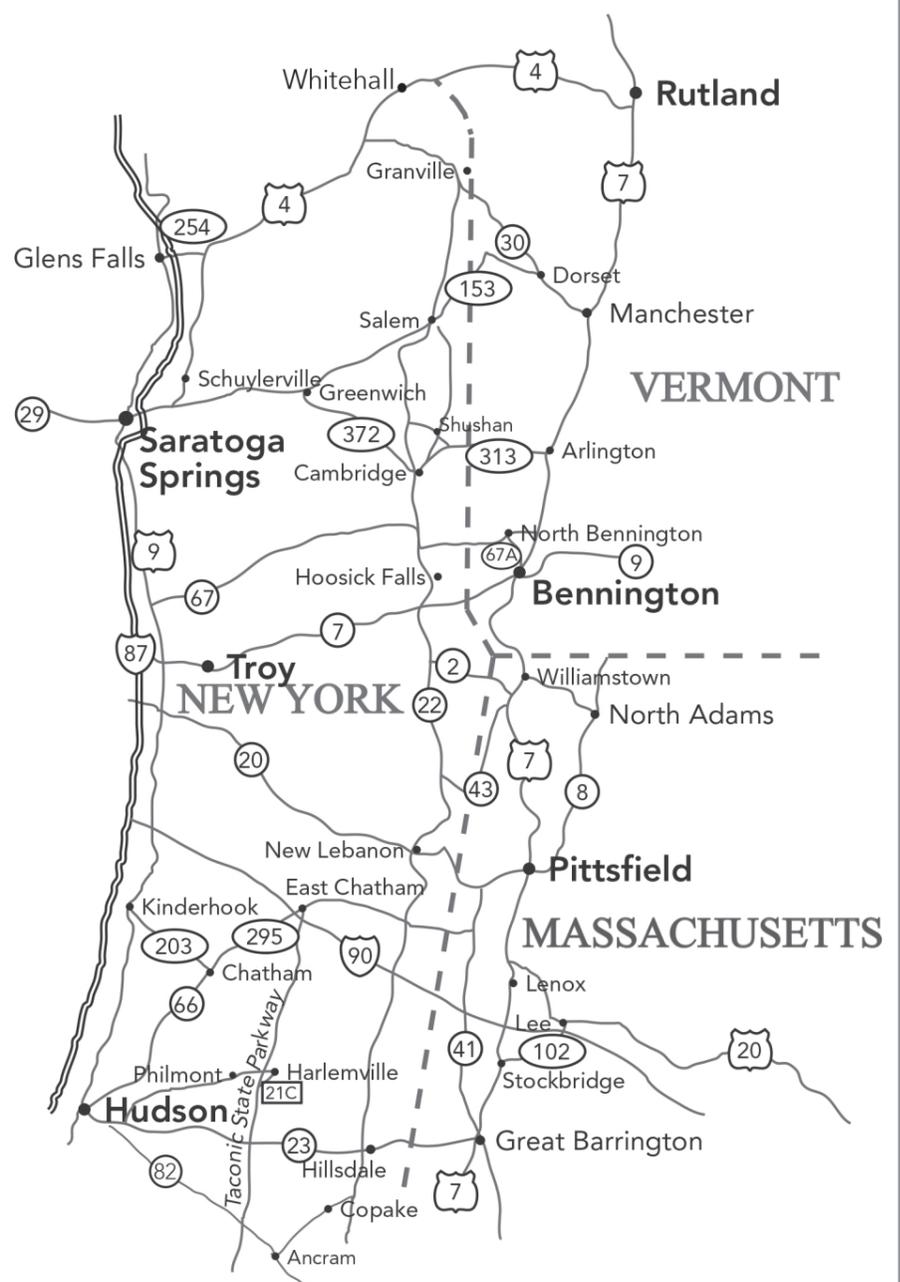
We’re told we live in an information age, yet the traditional gathering of news is in decline.

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?

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observer



A MONTH IN THE HILLS

Local 'wrong house' killing adds to national outcry

The shooting death last month of a 20-year-old Schuylerville woman who turned up the wrong driveway stunned people across Washington and Saratoga counties and quickly became part of a national outcry over gun violence.

Kaylin Gillis was killed after she and several friends were searching for another friend's house about 10 p.m. Saturday, April 15, and drove up a long unpaved driveway on Patterson Hill Road in the rural Washington County town of Hebron. Authorities said the group realized they were at the wrong house and were turning around to leave when the homeowner came out onto his front porch and fired two blasts of a 20-gauge shotgun at the car in which Gillis was a front-seat passenger.

The group of seven young people – traveling in two cars and on a motorcycle – had never left their vehicles or approached the house, police said. Instead, the group quickly left and traveled about five miles before they could get a cellular signal to call for help. Emergency workers met the group on Cemetery Road in Salem but were unable to revive Gillis.

The homeowner, Kevin D. Monahan, a self-employed building contractor, was taken into custody after a standoff with police that lasted several hours. He was charged with second-degree murder.

The *Times Union* of Albany reported that, at a press conference two days after the killing, Washington County Sheriff Jeffrey Murphy described Gillis as “an innocent young girl

who was out with friends looking for another friend's house” and later added that there “was no reason for Mr. Monahan to feel threatened.”

The sheriff said he had known Gillis personally and that “I know for a fact that she comes from a good family.” Gillis' father works for the Sheriff's Office as a correction officer at the Washington County jail.

Monahan, 65, was sent to the Warren County jail, where he remained at the end of April after a judge denied his bail request.

Andrew Gillis, Kaylin's father, told reporters after Monahan's bail hearing that his daughter was a high school honors student who had dreams of becoming a marine biologist or a veterinarian. She had planned to attend college in Florida.

“This man took that away from us,” he said.

The Post-Star of Glens Falls reported that teachers and administrators at Schuylerville High School described the 2021 graduate as a bright, friendly, creative young woman who particularly excelled in art classes and as a member of the competition cheerleading team.

Monahan's defense lawyer, Kurt Mausert, told the Associated Press that he couldn't discuss details of the shooting because of the pending criminal case, but he insisted that the facts of the incident were more complicated than what the sheriff had described.

“I believe we have a series of mistakes that led to a tragedy,” Mausert said. “But I don't believe my client is a villain. ... Not every case

with a tragedy has a villain, and I think this is one of them.”

Several neighbors and local acquaintances of Monahan, however, described him in local and national news reports as difficult, hostile and very concerned about keeping trespassers off his 40-acre property.

The *Times Union* reported that Christian Morris, the Washington County first assistant district attorney, characterized the defendant as “confrontational and hot-tempered.” Morris cited a recent incident at the county Department of Motor Vehicles office in which he said Monahan created a disturbance and began taking photos of county workers after being told he had to set up an appointment. He also pointed to a 2001 arrest in Vermont in which Monahan was charged with aggravated assault with a weapon, although that charge ultimately was dismissed.

Two days before Kaylin Gillis was killed, authorities in Kansas City said an 84-year-old homeowner shot and badly injured a 16-year-

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Thompson *continued from page 10*

“He returned from the canal convention at Rochester considerably frustrated with the heat and fatigue of the journey,” *The People’s Journal* of Greenwich reported on Aug. 11, 1887. “His happy wit and unfailing bonhomie won for him a host of friends, who will learn with sorrow of his sudden death.”

“With the death of W.A. Wilkins comes the demise of *The Whitehall Times*,” *The Morning Star* reported on Aug. 3, 1887. “Its form may survive, but those who look for the sprightly features that have brought it into prominence will look in vain. The spirit of him who has breathed life into its columns has fled. There was but one Wilkins.”

Just weeks before his death, Wilkins was elected president of the New York State Press Association.

“It is a very honorable and responsible position,” *The Granville Sentinel* reported on July 1, 1887. “The Sentinel extends congratulations to Brother Wilkins on being chosen the chief mogul of an organization which has intelligence in its make-up.”

Wilkins was born March 26, 1840, at Cherry Valley, in Otsego County.

Early in life, his family moved to Cohoes, where Wilkins was a student in a class taught by Chester Arthur, who later became president of the United States.

Arthur was a Republican, but Wilkins became a diehard Democrat.

The Whitehall Times was among the first newspapers in the nation to endorse Grover Cleveland for president, according to *The Morning Star*.

As a young adult, Wilkins opened a clothing store in Whitehall and wrote freelance articles for several newspapers using the pen name Hiram Green.

In 1873, he bought *The Whitehall Times* and published it until his death.

“He found it a mere village paper having only a local circulation,” the Times editorialized when Wilkins died. “He left it with a national reputation, and with a circulation far beyond the average country paper.”

Wilkins also was a novelist. His best-known work was “The Cleverdale Mystery,” a humorous work with a plot built around the political machine in Warren and Washington counties.

Wilkins sent a copy of the novel to Chester Arthur, his former teacher, who responded with “a flattering telegram.” The novel can still be

purchased from historic book reprint houses. Wilkins wrote another novel dealing with the role of women in politics, *The Essex County Republican* reported on Feb. 11, 1886.

“Mr. Wilkins is indeed a great humorist,” the paper wrote.

In June 1887, he was working on a novel “For Revenge Only,” a romance set in Chicago.

“Brother Wilkins is anxious that the waiting public understand that there is not a scintilla of politics in the book, even if there is plenty of it in the life of the man who wrote it,” *The Argus* of Albany reported on June 29, 1887.

Wilkins also “turned his hand to poetry,” *The Morning Star* reported on Nov. 11, 1886.

Wilkins was secretary of the Washington County Democratic Committee for several years and served as chairman of the convention that nominated Democratic candidates for state Senate.

He was the Whitehall village treasurer for many years and also held the job of canal collector at Whitehall, a political patronage appointment, for several years.

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.

Destination: MANCHESTER, VT & VICINITY



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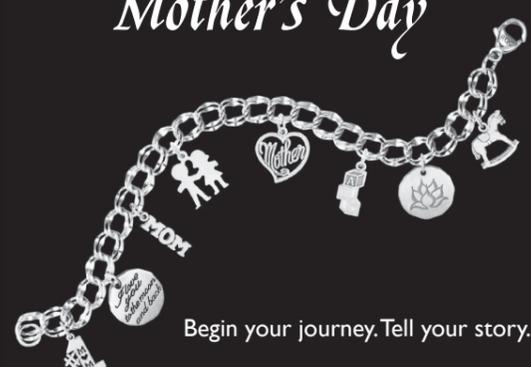
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Market continued from page 5

as well as plans for construction of several new commercial and residential buildings on adjacent sites.

The Putnam Block project is being built and opened in phases. In addition to renovated commercial spaces, the project is creating new living spaces in the long-vacant upper floors of downtown buildings.

Barsotti said the town and the other agencies and organizations have supported the creation of the community market because it fits in with the goals of revitalization in several ways.

“It adds to the vitality and diversity of downtown Bennington,” she explained. “Also the additional residents moving to the town center will expand its customer base.”

The town provided the market with a \$200,000 low-interest loan from the Bennington Revolving Loan Fund. The project also has received economic development grants from the Citizens for Greater Bennington, The Vermont Community Foundation, and the state’s Building Communities program.

But a majority of the cost has been raised through a fund drive and memberships.

The market is located in a 15,000-square-

foot building that had previously been a furniture store. It has three sections that are about 5,000 square feet each. The store and cafe and community space occupy the front portion. The middle section includes a kitchen and storage area. The back section is currently unused, but there are plans to have a fitness center occupy that area as a tenant.

Converting the space into a market required extensive work. The original goal was to open in early 2022. But that timetable was extended because of economic conditions and supply shortages resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The market has a staff of about 20 people. It is managed by Shepherd, who is from Florida and worked in hospitality and food service management there. Shepherd joined the project in 2021 and was heavily involved in its preparation and design.

“I came up for a vacation after leaving my job in Florida, and it turned out to be a one-way trip,” she said. “I met the people who were organizing the market and was invited to interview for the manager position. I was enthusiastic about what they were doing, and it went from there.”

The market also sells specialty beer and wine. Nancy Koziol, owner of couch + cork, a local

business that conducts wine tastings in homes and at other sites, serves as the market’s wine steward. She selects the wines and is regularly at the market to help customers.

“My business is unique in not having a brick-and-mortar location,” Koziol said. “Our goal is to educate people about wine and make the enjoyment of wine accessible. Rather than simply having a wine section, the market invited me to bring the services of couch + cork into the store to help people match the food they purchase with wine.”

She also offers tastings and other events in the store.

“I love it because it is a chance to do this on a community level, and people enjoy it because it’s personalized and fun,” Koziol said.

That arrangement is an example of the potential for the market to stimulate other forms of entrepreneurship, Barsotti said.

“It can provide an outlet and incubator space for new local food ventures,” she said.



Destination: MANCHESTER, VT & VICINITY



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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 10



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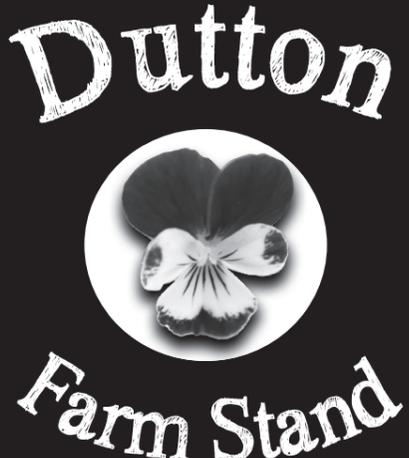
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WAM Theatre presents 'What the Constitution Means to Me'

By KATE ABBOTT
Contributing writer

STOCKBRIDGE, Mass.

As a teenager explaining the meaning of the Constitution in debate competitions around the country, Heidi Schreck sets an idealistic tone.

"The Constitution is a living document," the young Schreck argues. "That is what is so beautiful about it. It is a living, warm-blooded, steamy document."

And as an adult, as a woman, she asks with a deeper understanding: What world could we imagine if that could be true — if it could be true for her, and for everyone?

At a time when rights for women, gay and trans folk and people of color are facing new challenges, and when violence against them has only intensified the pandemic-era sense of isolation, Schreck becomes increasingly aware that a document she has spent years defending has never included her.

"Our bodies — our bodies — had been left out of this Constitution from the beginning," she says in her Tony-nominated and Pulitzer-Prize-finalist play, "What the Constitution Means to Me." The show opened on Broadway in 2019 with the playwright in the lead role as herself.

This month, WAM Theatre will bring Schreck's exploration of the Constitution to the Berkshires, becoming one of the first theater companies in the nation to obtain the right to stage its own production of the show. In partnership with Berkshire Theatre Group, it will have performances May 18 to June 3 at the Unicorn Theatre in Stockbridge.

"Everyone in the theater knew about the play," said Kristen Van Ginhoven, WAM's artistic director. "It has been so popular. ... But the rights have not been available while the play has been running on Broadway."

Associate director Talia Kingston got the local company on the list to hear when the rights would become available, Van Ginhoven



Courtesy photo

The cast and crew meet in late April for the first rehearsal of WAM Theatre's production of "What the Constitution Means to Me," which opens May 18 at the Berkshire Theatre Group's Unicorn Theatre.

said, and when the possibility opened last fall, WAM applied within the first 15 minutes. When she got in touch with Berkshire Theatre Group, its artistic director, Kate Maguire, responded immediately.

"I phoned her it and said, 'So, would you like to co-produce "What the Constitution Means to Me?"'" Van Ginhoven said, laughing. "And she said, 'Yup — we'll work out the details later!' It was such a no-brainer. ... So we were one of the first to get the rights, but it's being done everywhere now."

Two-time Tony Award-nominated Broadway actor Kate Baldwin, known here from many performances on the Berkshire Theatre Group stage, will take the role of Schreck, and award-

winning Berkshire actor Jay Sefton will join her as the Legionnaire. Van Ginhoven will direct.

As they re-create Schreck's teenage and adult debates, the play gathers them together with real debaters from rising generations. From the Berkshires, WAM has cast Zurie Adams, a passionate activist and a senior theater major about to graduate from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, and an alternate debater, Izzy Brown, a Pittsfield high school student and performer and equally fervent activist in the community.

Evolving as times change

Schreck begins the story in her own past, Van Ginhoven said. As a teenager, the playwright raised money for college by competing in constitutional debates at American Legion halls around the country.

And looking back as a woman, she began to reckon with the document's strengths — and its challenges. Some of what it leaves out becomes adamantly clear, Van Ginhoven said, as soon as Schreck looks for it.

"There are 4,500 words in the Constitution, 27 amendments, and the word 'woman' is never once mentioned — not once," she said.

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“We’re completely erased from it.”

As Schreck examines the structures that have defined democracy in this country for 250 years, the play becomes a deeply personal story of family survival through generations of trauma — and a fierce response to events in the daily headlines — as well as a new debate on how to build for the future.

She also adapts to the shifting present. Schreck has given the actors and director space to respond to the rapid changes in national debates and people’s everyday lives, Van Ginhoven said, and with every new development in the debates surrounding abortion rights and the Supreme Court, her message deepens.

“That’s the depressing and the astonishing thing about the play,” Van Ginhoven said. “I think it will remain timely for awhile. And she has said ... in interviews that no matter what has been going on over the last few years of performing it, it always seemed prescient.

“It always seemed that the thing she was talking about was what was going on in the news that day. Because it captures the last 250 years of history, and what’s going on about women’s rights and women’s reproductive health is just ongoing.”

Establishing basic rights

In the opening, through Schreck’s teenage eyes, she shows her longtime fascination with the Constitution’s strengths — the ways it has survived and adapted far beyond the future the founders could see. They recognized a living document’s need to grow, she argues in the play, and created room for it: “Thomas Jefferson himself said we should draft a new Constitution for every generation.”

She focuses on the Ninth and 14th Amendments, which have both come into play, she says, to pass laws that have upheld civil rights and women’s rights, including a woman’s right to choose.

The young Schreck defines the Ninth Amendment with fascination as the amendment that rights exist beyond the words on the paper.

“I’d like to talk about the most magical and mysterious amendment of them all,” young

Heidi says in the play. “Amendment Nine says: The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.”

She sees the writer standing in a vast unmarked space — creating room to move and breathe for the unknowable time ahead, and allowing potential for human connection.

“This space of partial illumination, this shadowy space right here: This is a penumbra,” she says.

And Schreck sees immense power in this fluid space. Van Ginhoven recalled a conversation Schreck held at the 92nd Street Y with a constitutional scholar.

“When she encountered Amendment Nine as a teenager, she fell in love with it, because it was the invitation to be involved,” she said.

And then the 14th Amendment, in the first part, affirms that every person born here is a citizen, that states cannot take away rights the federal government has given, that every person has a right to equal protection under the law. Schreck acknowledges vital gaps here and at the same time sees vital tools for ensuring freedom.

Less than fully equal?

The 14th Amendment has played a role in many arguments for civil rights and women’s rights, Van Ginhoven agreed, though still it has not protected Native peoples, immigrants and many more.

When the Constitution says every person is guaranteed a right, people of color, women, immigrants, people of all abilities and identities and orientations all should be included, she said. And in practice, many people often are

not.

Schreck grapples with the reality that the Constitution is a document drafted by a group of white men, Van Ginhoven said — the same men who were talking about equality as a central ethical principal when they had enslaved people working on their plantations and in their houses.

And as the play deepens, Schreck grapples in increasing intensity with the vulnerability people face when they know the law doesn’t protect them.

“So what I’m trying to understand now,” the adult Schreck asks in the play, “is ... what does it mean if this document offers no protection against the violence of men?”

She gives a bleak and clear accounting of the violence she sees on the rise in the United States, first in numbers.

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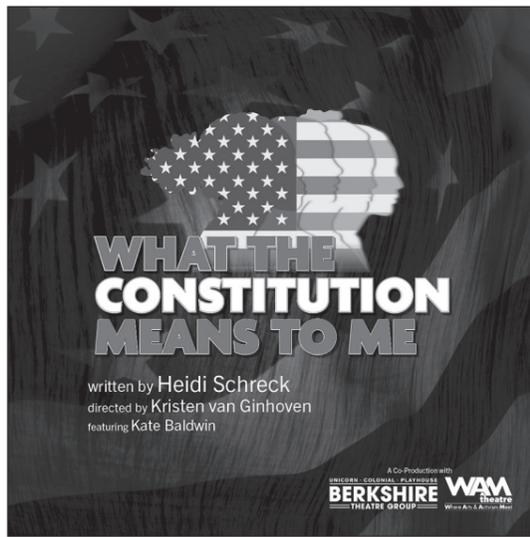
women have been killed by their male partners than Americans have died in the war on terror — including 9/11,” she explains. “That is not the number of women who have been killed by men in this country; that is only the number of women who have been killed by the men who supposedly love them.”

And then she underscores her statistics with real lived experiences. Three generations of her family have known what that violence means — up close, daily. Her mother and her aunt have survived and had the courage to break the cycle before her generation.

Confronting abuse, on stage and off

WAM too is reckoning with the lived experiences of people the Constitution fails to protect. (WAM stands for Where Arts and Activism Meet.)

Van Ginhoven said the theater company has been talking with Janice Broderick, executive director of the Elizabeth Freeman Center, which will receive a share of the proceeds from these performances. The nonprofit center



serves victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault throughout Berkshire County.

Broderick “has shared many times the increase in domestic violence calls that Elizabeth Freeman has been receiving over the past few years,” Van Ginhoven said. “Especially

during the pandemic, home was not a safe place for so many people.”

In addition to making a financial donation to the Elizabeth Freeman Center, Berkshire Theatre Group and WAM will lead a drive to gather household items to benefit the families served by the center — families who often have had to leave everything behind to be safe.

“Four women are murdered every day in this country by a male partner,” adult Heidi says in the play. “One in four girls will be sexually abused before they turn 18. One in four women will be raped by the time they are my age now. And 10 million American women live in violent households.

“My mom lived in a house like this. So did my Grandma Bea.”

Her younger self asks why her grandmother did not leave a violent and abusive man and protect her mother and her aunt and their siblings. She knows her grandmother as strong, powerful, viscerally and actively loving.

“I think as a middle-aged woman she is still grappling with that,” Van Ginhoven said.

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Through the play “and including the audience in the dialogue, she comes to an answer.”

For anyone facing daily life-threatening violence, she said, leaving is a hard and complex process. Often the person under threat has few resources and no safe place to go. And making the attempt to leave the abuser can be deadly.

In the first part of the play, Van Ginhoven said, she sees Schreck grappling with that “and coming to some kind of healing with her past so that she can step into the future.”

Basis for a brighter future

Toward the end, the play moves into a new active rhythm, as Schreck and her new generation of debaters come together to consider what real change can look like. She sees high stakes, Van Ginhoven recalled from the talk at the 92nd Street Y.

“We are in a moment where we cannot rely on the Supreme Court to be making decisions in the best interests of the country,” Van Ginhoven said. “And so the state supreme courts have to step up.”

But the people ultimately are supposed to be the strongest voice.

“We are able to create what our future is,” Van Ginhoven said. “We can’t forget that.”

Even in this year of constant challenges and debates, she has seen a growing strength in voices rising, as people defend a woman’s right to care for and protect her own body, even in states where she might not have expected it.

“The country does not want this,” she said. “We have had the midterms, Wisconsin, Kansas, Michigan. We have had proof over the last year that when push comes to shove, people do not want to inhibit a women’s right to choose.”

And preparing for the play has led Van Ginhoven into new research, she said, and has pushed her to think about the nation’s founding documents, and about engaging with community structures on every level, with new eyes.

“We have one actor who auditioned for the debater ... who is Chinese and wants to become American, and she is passionate about the play because we have a Constitution,” Van Ginhoven said. “We have a document that gives people rights, we have a democracy — and that was more than she has grown up with. ... It’s eye-opening and a potent reminder: Yes, it is flawed, it’s supremely flawed, but we’re lucky to have it.”

She said she has been thinking with a new sense of expansiveness about what Constitution says — and could say — as the play’s debate

invites her to. With a few exceptions, she said, the Constitution is framed around negative rights, defining what the government can’t take away. But other countries have written constitutions based on positive rights — the right to vote, the right to an education, the right to food, medical care, housing or a job.

“I think about my own journey of activism,” she said, “and as a Canadian who has become also an American citizen, and I think about how my whole WAM journey has led to being part of telling this story — of this recognition that nothing changes without us becoming active in the civic world, how civic engagement and voting and advocating for our rights is the only way things will change.

“And I feel it: There’s an apathy around that, because of a lack of faith in our government and in our systems. It’s like, ‘Why bother? Everything is so messed up.’ And this play has provided me hope that there is value in the American democracy and there is value in civic engagement.”

Above all, she feels a call to action.

“I love intellectual debate,” Van Ginhoven said. “And I love putting on plays that feel like an experience, when the audience leans forward in their seats and is invested in the outcome.”

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Month continued from page 11

old boy who came to his door. The teenager was trying to pick up his two younger brothers, who had been visiting a friend, but had gone to the wrong house.

The two cases quickly became linked in national news reports along with other cases of “wrong address” shootings from around the country.

The New York Times, in a story published April 20, detailed a series of them: a maintenance man in North Carolina who knocked on the door of a second-floor apartment to repair damage from a leak and was shot by the tenant (it turned out the damaged apartment was on the first floor); a teenager in Georgia who was shot dead when he knocked on the door of

what he thought was his girlfriend’s apartment after midnight in a complex with a series of nearly identical buildings; a Virginia man accused of shooting at three lost teenagers who had pulled onto his property; a Tennessee man who fired at two cable company workers who mistakenly crossed his land; and a pair of high school cheerleaders who were shot in Texas after one of them accidentally tried to get into the wrong car in a supermarket parking lot.

The *Times* report said activists and researchers attributed the increase in these incidents to a combination of factors – “increased fear of crime and an attendant surge in gun ownership, increasingly extreme political messaging on firearms, fearmongering in the media, and marketing campaigns by the gun industry that portray the suburban front door as a fortified barrier against a violent

world.”

And the *Times Union* columnist Chris Churchill put the blame on what he called a “metastasizing culture of fear.”

“The gun alone can’t explain the insanity. It’s the how, certainly, but not the why,” he wrote. “None of this is to say that it isn’t natural to feel your pulse quicken when there’s a knock at the door or an unfamiliar car in the driveway late at night. But something’s wrong if we automatically assume the stranger has come to do us harm. Maybe the person needs help. Shouldn’t that be our first instinct? Something is far more wrong if the immediate reaction is to grab a gun and begin firing.”

– Compiled by Fred Daley

Redevelop continued from page 9

redeveloping the former Mount McGregor Correctional Facility, Moreau town Supervisor Todd Kusnierz has said.

The former prison occupies the mountaintop location of the former Balmoral Hotel, a resort that was destroyed by fire in 1897. The current buildings, dating back to 1913, were used as a tuberculosis sanitarium, a veterans’ rest camp, a center for the developmentally disabled and, beginning in 1984, as a medium security correctional facility. The campus has been

unused since the prison shut down in 2014.

Possible new uses discussed for the site have included a mixed-use residential, retail and service business complex, a law enforcement training center and a conference center, Kusnierz has said.

The most recent redevelopment proposal, in early 2022, was to reuse the site for a paranormal education center, cultural heritage museum and for architectural history tours, car shows and weddings. That plan hit a snag when interest rates went up, local officials have said.

A new wrinkle surfaced when the state Redevelopment Commission report in December revealed that a constitutional amendment would be required in order to transfer the entire 325-acre property to a single private developer.

Local officials previously thought that an amendment would not be needed because the site is outside the boundaries of the Adirondack Park. But the Redevelopment Commission report explained that state-owned property adjacent to the Adirondack Park can only be transferred to private owners in parcels of 100 acres or less unless voters approve a state constitutional amendment allowing specific larger transfers. Passing a constitutional amendment involves a process that takes a minimum of two to three years to complete.

The only way to redevelop the property without a constitutional amendment would be to subdivide the property and transfer a parcel of 100 acres or less.

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• through Aug. 7: Edward Merritt: "Unearthed"

Southern Vermont Arts Center • 930 SVAC Dr., Manchester • 802-362-1405 • www.svac.org

• through May 7: Spring 2023 Solo Exhibitions
• through Jun. 25: Alberto Rey: Cultural Landscapes

SusanEleyFineArt.com • 433 Warren St., Hudson, NY • 917-952-7641

• through May 28: "Refracted Wilderness" with Katharine Dufault & Michael Wright

Tang.skidmore.edu • 518-580-8080

• through May 14: Hyde Cabinet #20: Bringback
• through Jul 16: Christine Sun Kim: "Oh Me Oh My"
• through Jun. 19: "Parallax: Framing the Cosmos" group exhibition

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

• May 5-30: Maude Maynard "Quilting Like Nobody's Looking"
• Jun. 2-27: Leslie Peck, oil paintings

Williams College Museum of Art • Williamstown, MA • Arts.Williams.edu

• through Jul. 16: "Across Shared Waters: Contemp. Artists in Dialogue with Tibetan Art from the Jack Shear Collection"

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

• Online: "International Youth Art Collection" AND "Art & Artifacts" AND "Covid-19 & Me"

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR MAY 2023

Sun

Mon

Tues

Wed

Berkshire film festival set for June 1-4

GREAT BARRINGTON, Mass.

The 17th Annual Berkshire International Film Festival offers a blockbuster weekend of films, events and special guests from June 1-4 in Great Barrington and Lenox.

With strong international programming and an ongoing commitment to presenting the best in documentary film, the festival brings together films, filmmakers, industry professionals and fans for a four-day celebration. The lineup features 28 documentaries, 28 narrative features, 18 short films, and a free animated shorts selection for kids.

The festival brings stories from 25 countries from Germany to Singapore and Argentina to Pakistan. This year's festival also promises to deliver engaging, powerful and entertaining stories from around the United States and from the Berkshires.

The festival has expanded to the Linde Center at Tanglewood and the Lenox Town Hall, where films will be presented throughout the weekend. Organizers also will offer a curated selection of feature films and three short film slots being presented at the in-person festival, to be screened virtually.

Visit www.biffma.org to see the complete selection of films and events – and to purchase passes and tickets.

7

 **ArgyleBrewing.com/Cambridge** • Sun. Brunch w/Bob • 1-3 pm

ClarkArt.edu • Williams College Chamber Music Gala • 1-2 pm

HouseofSeasoning.com • Afro Beats Sundays • 2-9 pm • 117 Seymour St., Pittsfield, MA

CaffeLena.org
--Playwright Jam • 2-4 pm
--The Sweet Lillies • 7-9 pm
• Live & caffelena.tv

 **Fort Salem**

 **Imagescinema.org**
--Hidden Figures • 11 am
--Polite Society • 2:15, 4:30 & 7:30 pm

CrandellTheatre.org
--Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves • 1 pm
--Air • 7 pm



RoeliffJansenHS.org • "On the Rails in Roe Jan: Memories of NY Central's Upper Harlem Branch" by Ron Vincent • 2 pm • 518-329-3251 • 8 Miles Rd., Copake Falls, NY

KinderhookLibrary.org • Kyle Spencer ("Raising Them Right") • 3 pm

misc.

Parks.NY.gov/Moreau • Family Hike • 9 am • Min. 24-hr Adv. Reg. REQ'D @ 518-917-2174

Clarkart.edu
• First Sun. Free!
• Print Room Pop-Up: Dressed to Impress • 11 am-1 pm

Olana.org • Landscape Tour • 11 am-2:30 pm • Ticketed times

1

 **CaffeLena.org** • Open Mic Night • 7-10 pm

TheFoundryWS.com • An Evening w/Lisa O'Neill • 7 pm

misc.

SalemCourthouse.org • Online Auction! • 24/7 through 5 pm, May 11 • Salem, NY

2

 **CrandallLibrary.org** • "Trees in Trouble" • 2:30 & 6:30 pm



CaffeLena.org/tv • Storytelling Open Mic, feat. Kelvin Keraga • 7-9 pm

3

 **Littletheater27.org** • Washington County Line Band • 7 pm • 518-747-3421 • 27 Plum Rd., Ft. Edward, NY



CaffeLena.org
--Talking Poetry, hosted by SSPL • 5:30-6:30 pm
--Poetry Night, feat. Andrea Carter Brown • 7-9 pm • Live & caffelena.tv

DeweyHall.org • Use Your Words: The Thursday Group w/Maria Black • 6:30 pm

Bennington.edu • Poetry at Bennington: Jennifer Chang • 7 pm • Tishman Hall

misc.

ChapmanMuseum.org • Family: Origami Flower Bouquets • 4 pm • Pre-reg. REQ'D by 5/2

8

 **CaffeLena.org** • Open Mic Night • 7-10 pm

 **ImagesCinema.org** • Polite Society • 4:30 & 7:30 pm

misc.

Olana.org • Landscape Tour • 11 am-2:30 pm • Ticketed times

9

 **CaffeLena.org** • Chuck Lamb Trio feat. Dave Stryker • 7-9 pm

Littletheater27.org • Traditional Bluegrass Jam • 7 pm • See May 3



Hot Plate Brewing Co. • Noche Latina (learn salsa, bachata) • 7 pm-12 am • 1 School St., Pittsfield, MA

 **ImagesCinema.org** • Polite Society • 4:30 & 7:30 pm

CrandallLibrary.org • "Charlotte" • 2:30 & 6:30 pm

10

 **DeweyHall.org** • Dewey Drop-In: Jazz Jam w/Bandleader Luke Franco • 6:30 pm

CaffeLena.org/tv • Andrew Duhon • 7-9 pm

Littletheater27.org • Kim Skoll & Gisella Montanez-Case • 7 pm • See May 3



ImagesCinema.org • Polite Society • 4:30 & 7:30 pm

HudsonHall.org • "All About Eve" • 7 pm



Bennington.edu • Poetry at Bennington: Roger Reeves • 7 pm • Tishman Hall

ChapmanMuseum.org • John Strough: "Why Call a County Warren?" • 7 pm • Free • Adv. Res. REQ'D • 518-793-2826

Music on Main concert series returns May 7

Elements Quartet.

Lin made her New York solo debut at the Weill Recital Hall at the Carnegie Hall as the winner of the Artists International Competition. Concert tours have taken her to Italy, France, Canada, and various cities in Taiwan.

Lin and Seidenberg have been musical partners for more than 20 years and have toured throughout the United States and Taiwan.

The May 7 concert will take place at the First Congregational Church, at 4 Main Street in Stockbridge. The suggested donation is \$30 at the door. For more information, call (413) 298-3137.

STOCKBRIDGE, Mass.

The Board of Music of the First Congregational Church UCC in Stockbridge announces the resumption of its Music on Main concert series with a chamber music concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 7.

The concert features cellist Peter Seidenberg and pianist Hui-Mei Lin performing music of Beethoven, Boulanger, Chopin and Britten.

Seidenberg made his solo debut with the Chicago Symphony, and has since appeared as soloist with many other orchestras. He was also a founding member of the critically acclaimed

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR MAY 2023

Thurs

Fri

Sat

4

 **ArgyleBrewing.com/Cambridge** • Dan Costello • 6 pm

HudsonHall.org • Comm'y Choir • Public • 6 pm

CaffeLena.org/.tv • Seamus Egan Project • 7-9 pm

Simons-Rock.edu • Madrigal Ens., Chor. & Chmbr Orch. • 7 pm • Great Barrington • Masks REQ'D.

SPAC.org • Banda Magda • 7 pm • Spa Little Theatre

UniversalPreservation-Hall.org • Mark Lettieri Grp. • 7:30 pm • Saratoga Springs, NY



• Fort Salem



ImagesCinema.org • Polite Society • 4:30 & 7:30 pm

ClarkArt.edu • Visionary Architecture: H.G. Wells' "Things to Come" • 6-8 pm

misc.

Parks.NY.gov/Moreau • Full Moon Hike • 8 pm • Min. 24-hr Adv. Reg. REQ'D @ 518-917-2174

5

 **ArgyleBrewing.com/Cambridge** • Moon • 5:30-7:30 pm

Berkshire Palate • Vaguely Pagan • 7 pm • 297 North St., Pittsfield, MA

CaffeLena.org/.tv • Dirty Grass Players w/opener Lance & Lea • 8-10 pm

UniversalPreservation-Hall.org • Passport Series: ADG7 • 8 pm • Saratoga Springs, NY



• Fort Salem



ImagesCinema.org • Polite Society • 4:30 & 7:30 pm

CrandellTheatre.org • Air • 7 pm

misc.

Parks.NY.gov/Moreau • Wiggly Wanderers • 9:30 am

FirstFridaysArtsWalk.com • 5-8 pm • Pittsfield, MA

6

 **DeweyHall.org** • Fiddle Tune & Contra Dance Music Jams • Slow Jam, 10 am • Moderate Jam, 11:30 am

CaffeLena.org • Little Folks Series: Folk Talk Trio • 3-4 pm • Heard • 8-10 pm • Live & CaffeLena.tv

CrandallLibrary.org • New Audiences for Old Songs • 3:30-5 pm

Littletheater27.org • Keanen Stark, Orion Kribs, John Kribs & Doug Moody • 7 pm • See May 3

UniversalPreservation-Hall.org • Connie Han • 8 pm • Saratoga Springs, NY



• Fort Salem

BerkshireMuseum.org • Shakespeare at the Museum (with Shakespeare & Co.) • 7-8:30 pm • 39 South St., Pittsfield, MA



CrandellTheatre.org • May Membership Day • Free film-themed activities, 10 am-3 pm

--The Eagle Huntress • 1 pm
--Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves • 4 pm
--Air • 7 pm

ImagesCinema.org • Hidden Figures • 11 am

ImagesCinema.org • Polite Society • 2:15, 4:30 & 7:30 pm



GildedAge.org • Diana Baia Hale: "Lost Lady" sculptor Louisa Lander and a disastrous relationship with Nathaniel Hawthorne • 3:30 pm • Adv. res. REQ'D.

ArtOmi.org • Writers Reading - May Cohort • 5-6 pm

StoneValleyArts.org • Celebration of Writing • 5 pm • 145 E. Main St., Poultney, VT

misc.

Olana.org • Landscape Tour • 11 am-2:30 pm • Ticketed times

Parks.NY.gov/Moreau • I Love My Park Day • Events at fomlsp.org

11

 **CaffeLena.org** • Afternoon Slow Jam • 1-3 pm • Pat McGee • 7-9 pm • Live & caffeLena.tv

HudsonHall.org • Community Choir • Open to public • 6-7:30 pm

ArgyleBrewing.com/Cambridge • Eric Kuffs • 6-8 pm



ImagesCinema.org • Polite Society • 4:30 & 7:30 pm

ClarkArt.edu • Films of '73: "Badlands" • 6-7:30 pm

CrandallLibrary.org • Mayfly Film Fest. • 6:30-8:30 pm

CrandellTheatre.org • Air • 7 pm



Hebron Pres. Society • "Hudson River Highway," by Charlie Duveen • 6:30 pm • E. Hebron United Presby. Ch., 6559 NY-22, Hebron, NY

12

 **TheFoundryWS.com** • Adiós Ghost with System Exclusive • 7:30 pm

CaffeLena.org/.tv • Gil Gutiérrez Trio • 8-10 pm



• Fort Salem



CrandellTheatre.org • Wild Life • 7 pm

ImagesCinema.org • Beau is Afraid • 3 & 6:30 pm • Candyman • 10 pm

misc.

Parks.NY.gov/Moreau • Wiggly Wanderers • 9:30 am

BerkshireBotanical.org • Plants-and-Answers Plant Sale • 11 am-5 pm

Olana.org • Landscape Tour • 11 am-2:30 pm • Ticketed times

Warren Co. Soil & Water Conserv. Dist. • Arbor Day Presentation & Tree Planting • 11 am • Echo Lake Park, Warrensburgh, NY

SPAC.org • CulinaryArts@SPAC: A Southern Opus: Hattie's feat. Chef Mark Graham • 6 pm

13

 **ClarkArt.edu** • Conrad Tao & Patrick Higgins • 6-7:45 pm

Poultney Rotary • Swing into Spring w/Enerjazz Big Band • 6-9:30 • 60 Kerber Ln., Poultney, VT • Res. tickets at 203-727-3951

Littletheater27.org • High Peaks Bluegrass Band • 7 pm • See May 3

SPAC.org • An evening w/ David, Wu Han & Arnaud • 7 pm • Spa Little Theatre

TheFoundryWS.com • Charlie Apicella: Blues Alive • 7:30 pm

CaffeLena.org/.tv • Magpie 50th Anniversary Kick-off • 8-10 pm

Holiday Inn • Latin Night w/DJ Chico Jiminez • 8 pm • 1 West St., Pittsfield, MA

--Wild Life • 7 pm

ImagesCinema.org • Spirited Away • 1:30 pm • Beau is Afraid • 4 & 7:30 pm

misc.

Dionondehowa.org • Bird Walk w/Rey Wells • 9 am-12 pm • 518-320-0502 for Res.

GreenwichFreeLibrary.org • Plant Sale 2023 • 9-11 am • 518-692-7157 • 148 Main St., Greenwich, NY

Berkshire Botanical.org • Plants-and-Answers Plant Sale • 9 am-5 pm

BenningtonMuseum.org • Bennington Garden Club: Nat'l. Native Plant Mo. • 11 am-1 pm

BrooksideMuseum.org • Sheep to Shawl • 1-4 pm

Plant sale, art show raise funds for bell tower

MALDEN BRIDGE, N.Y.

The Second Annual Malden Bridge Community Center Plant Sale & Artisan Market will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday-Sunday, May 19-21.

The weekend-long event features a Plant Wagon from Malden Bridge wholesaler Behn's Best Perennials. Vibrant flowering perennial plantings and herbs will be for sale.

Art and artisan vendors, including Malden Bridge folk artist Allison Marchese and Kinderhook artist Ken Young, will offer their works for sale.

Food and beverage vendors will include Tacos Diablo and Greta's Gourmet Dessert Truck. Wally Stock of Brainard will be indoors playing piano

and spinning vinyl records. The community center is fully accessible.

All proceeds from plant sales and a portion of vendor proceeds benefit the Malden Bridge Community Center Save the Bell Tower Fund. The 1884 bell tower, an iconic feature of the hamlet of Malden Bridge, needs restoration.

Malden Bridge Community Center, formed in 2008 at the former Wesley United Methodist Church, is on the triangle at the crossroads of Route 66, Albany Turnpike and Shaker Museum Road. Visit www.MaldenBridgecc.org for more information or to donate to the Save the Bell Tower Fund.



• Fort Salem



CrandellTheatre.org • My Neighbor Totoro • 1 pm • How to Blow Up a Pipeline • 4 pm

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR MAY 2023

Sun

Mon

Tues

Wed

14

 **ArgyleBrewing.com/Cambridge** • Sun. Brunch w/Bob • 1-3 pm

HouseofSeasoning.com • Afro Beats Sundays • 2-9 pm • 117 Seymour St., Pittsfield, MA

BenningtonMuseum.org • Mother's Day Concert (violin & piano) • 2-3:30 pm

SalemCourthouse.org • Chamber Music • 3-5 pm

CaffeLena.org/.tv • Annie & the Hedonists • 7-9 pm



• Fort Salem

AncramOperaHouse.org • 2023 Play Lab: "You Don't Know the Lonely One" • 4 pm

SaratogaSinai.org • "What a Surprise!" (virtually) • 7 pm • REQ'D reg. by email to sjca.sjcf@gmail.com for Zoom link



CrandellTheatre.org --Wild Life • 1 pm
--How to Blow Up a Pipeline • 4 pm

ImagesCinema.org --Beau is Afraid • 12:30 & 4 pm
--Spirited Away • 1:30 pm

misc.

ClarkArt.edu • Mother's Day at the Clark • 1-4 pm

Parks.NY.gov/Moreau • Min. 24-hr Adv. Reg. REQ'D @ 518-917-2174
--Edible Flowers • 10 am
--Mother's Day Family Hike • 2 pm

21

 **ArgyleBrewing.com/Cambridge** • Sun. Brunch w/Bob • 1-3 pm

HouseofSeasoning.com • Afro Beats Sundays • 2-9 pm • 117 Seymour St., Pittsfield, MA

TheFoundryWS.com • Q-Mob Diva Dance Party Fundraiser • 3-6 pm

BattenkillChorale.org • See May 20.

CEWM.org • Escher String Quartet • 4 pm • The Mahaiwe, Great Barrington, MA

CaffeLena.org/.tv • Al Olender • 7-9 pm

TheColonialTheatre.com • The Lone Bellow Trio • 7:30 pm



• WAM Theatre



CrandellTheatre.org • Ellsworth Kelly: Fragments • 1 pm

ImagesCinema.org --Suzume • 4:30 pm
--Little Richard: I am Everything • 7:30 pm

misc.

Parks.NY.gov/Moreau • Forest Bathing • 9-11 am • Adults only • Min. 24-hr Adv. Reg. REQ'D @ 518-917-2174

Bennington, VT • Gem & Mineral Show & Sale • 10 am-3 pm • 104 Kochoer Dr. • Adults \$5/Kids Free

CambridgeValleyArt.org • Cambridge Valley Fine Art Spring Tour & Sale • 11-4

28

 **ArgyleBrewing.com/Cambridge** • Sun. Brunch w/Bob • 1-3 pm

HouseofSeasoning.com • Afro Beats Sundays • 2-9 pm • 117 Seymour St., Pittsfield, MA

SVAC.org • Concert for a Cooler Climate, feat. local students & David Feurzeig • 2 pm



• Barrington Stage Co.
• WAM Theatre



ImagesCinema.org --Showing Up • 4:30 pm
--R.M.N. • 2 pm
--Howl's Moving Castle • 7:30 pm

misc.

HBWinefest.com • Hudson Berkshire Wine & Food Spring Fest • 11 am-5 pm • Columbia Co. Fairgrounds, Chatham, NY

15

 **CaffeLena.org** • Open Mic Night • 7-10 pm



ImagesCinema.org • Beau is Afraid • 4 & 7:30 pm



ClarkArt.edu • Judith M. Lenett Lect./Recep.: feat. Delaney Keenan & Sojeong Lim • 5-6 pm

16

 **CaffeLena.org/.tv** • Rochmon Record Club: The Who "Tommy" • 7-9 pm



CrandallLibrary.org • "Till" • 2:30 & 6:30 pm

ImagesCinema.org • Beau is Afraid • 4 & 7:30 pm

17

 **ArgyleBrewing.com/Cambridge** • Jon Stewart • 6-8 pm

DeweyHall.org • Dewey Drop-In: Show & Tell (Music & Art) • 6:30 pm

BenningtonMuseum.org • Southern Vermont Sinfonia • 7-9 pm

CaffeLena.org • Bluegrass Jam w/Red Spruce • 7-9 pm

Littletheater27.org • Sugar & the Tree • 7 pm • See May 3



ImagesCinema.org --Beau is Afraid • 4 pm
--Paris is Burning • 7:30 pm

misc.

CrandallLibrary.org • Family History One-to-One • 10 am-12 pm

22

 **CaffeLena.org** • Open Mic Night • 7-10 pm



ImagesCinema.org -- Suzume • 4:30 pm
--Turn Every Page • 7:30 pm

23

 **CrandallLibrary.org** • "See How They Run" • 2:30 & 6:30 pm

ImagesCinema.org --Little Richard: I am Everything • 4:30 pm
--Suzume • 7:30 pm



DeweyHall.org • Dahlia Fest Workshop w/Jenny Elliot, Tiny Hearts Farm • 6-7:30 pm

24

 **Littletheater27.org** • Shine Hill Road Band • 7 pm • See May 3



• Barrington Stage Co.



ImagesCinema.org --Suzume • 4:30 pm
--Little Richard: I am Everything • 7:30 pm

TheColonialTheatre.com • Rammies in Pajamies: 14th Annual Spring-Ford Film Festival • 6:30-8:30 pm

misc.

DeweyHall.org • Dewey Drop-in Game Night • 6:30 pm

29

 **CaffeLena.org** • Open Mic Night • 7-10 pm



ImagesCinema.org --Showing Up • 7:30 pm
--R.M.N. • 4:30 pm

30

 **CrandallLibrary.org** • "A Love Song" • 2:30 & 6:30 pm

ImagesCinema.org • Showing Up • 4:30 pm

31

 **ArgyleBrewing.com/Cambridge** • 7 Chords for Silver • 6-8 pm

Littletheater27.org • The Bluebellies • 7 pm • See May 3



• Barrington Stage Co.



ImagesCinema.org --Showing Up • 7:30 pm
--R.M.N. • 4:30 pm

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR MAY 2023

Thurs

Fri

Sat

18

 **ArgyleBrewing.com/Cambridge** • Peter Maine • 6-8 pm

HudsonHall.org • Comm'y Choir • Public • 6-7:30 pm

CaffeLena.org/.tv • The Ballroom Thieves • 7-9 pm



• WAM Theatre



ImagesCinema.org • Beau is Afraid • 4 & 7:30 pm

ClarkArt.edu • Visionary Architecture: Blade Runner • 6-8 pm

misc.

Int'l Museum Day • Visit your favorite!

- BenningtonMuseum.org
- BrooksideMuseum.org
- ChapmanMuseum.org
- ClarkArt.edu
- Hyde.org
- Tang Teaching Museum
- World Awareness Children's Museum

19

 **FortSalem.com** • "River of Dreams, A Billy Joel Tribute" • 7:30 pm

CaffeLena.org/.tv • Ria Curley w/Chuck Lamb & the Curley Lamb Band • 8-10 pm

TheColonialTheatre.com • Hush: An Immersive Speakeasy Experience • 8 pm • Period attire and dancing shoes encouraged



• WAM Theatre



ImagesCinema.org • Suzume • 4:30 pm



BenningtonMuseum.org • Fenton Family Pottery Ventures: New Discoveries • 3-4 pm

misc.

Parks.NY.gov/Moreau • Wiggly Wanderers • 9:30 am

20

 **DeweyHall.org** • Fiddle Tune & Contra Dance Music Jams • Slow Jam, 10 am • Moderate Jam, 11:30 am

ClarkArt.edu • The Met: Live in HD: "Don Giovanni" • 12:55-4:40 pm • Adv. res. REC'D.

BattenkillChorale.org • "Misa a Buenos Aires" with bandoneonist Hector Del Curto • 4 pm • 81 E. Main St., Cambridge, NY

Littletheater27.org • Stretchin' the Truth • 7 pm • See May 3

CaffeLena.org/.tv • Folk Heritage: Garnet Rogers • 8-10 pm



• WAM Theatre

TheColonialTheatre.com • Colonial Queens Drag Show • 8 pm



ImagesCinema.org • --Suzume • 2 & 7:30 pm • --Little Richard: I am Everything • 4:30 pm

misc.

GrasslandBirdTrust.org • Raptor Fest! • 7:30 am-2 pm • Hicks Orchard, Granville, NY • \$100 to protect Audubon Impt. Bird Area

KinderhookLibrary.org • Drawn to Nature Workshop w/Jean Mackay • 9 am-12 pm • Reg. at website

LakeGeorgeCommunityGardenClub.org • Perennial Sale • 9 am-3 pm • Shepard Park, Lake George

BenningtonMuseum.org • Edible Invasive Plants Workshop • 9:30-11 am

Bennington, VT • Gem & Mineral Show & Sale • 10 am-4 pm • 104 Kocher Dr.

CambridgeValleyArt.org • Cambridge Valley Fine Art Spring Tour & Sale • 11-4

25

 **CaffeLena.org** • --Slow Jam! Folk, Bluegrass & More • 1-3 pm • --Don Flemons Album Release • 7-9 pm • Live & caffeLena.tv

HudsonHall.org • Comm'y Choir • Public • 6-7:30 pm



• Barrington Stage Co. • WAM Theatre



ImagesCinema.org • --Little Richard: I am Everything • 4:30 pm • --Suzume • 7:30 pm

26

 **ArgyleBrewing.com/Cambridge** • Jester Fretless • 6-8 pm

CaffeLena.org/.tv • The Eastern Highs • 8-10 pm



• Barrington Stage Co. • WAM Theatre



ImagesCinema.org • --Showing Up • 4:30 pm • --R.M.N. • 7:30 pm

misc.

Parks.NY.gov/Moreau • Wiggly Wanderers • 9:30 am

27

 **ArgyleBrewing.com/Cambridge** • Thom Powers • 6-8 pm

CaffeLena.org/.tv • The Slambovian Circus of Dreams--Unplugged! • 8-10:30 pm

Tavern at the A • West-side Sneaker Party • 9 pm-12 am • 303 Crane Ave., Pittsfield, MA



• Barrington Stage Co. • WAM Theatre



ImagesCinema.org • --Showing Up • 7:30 pm • --R.M.N. • 4:30 pm • --Howl's Moving Castle • 1:30 pm

misc.

HBWinefest.com • Hudson Berkshire Wine & Food Spring Fest • 11 am-6 pm • Columbia Co. Fairgrounds, Chatham, NY

Dionondehowa.org • The Foreboding - Conversation & Ceremony • 1-4 pm • 518-320-0502 for Res.

THEATER LISTINGS

BarringtonStageCo.org • Sydelle & Lee Blatt PAC, 36 Linden St., Pittsfield, MA • 413-236-8888

• "The Happiest Man on Earth" (World Premiere) • May 24-Jun. 17 • Wed-Sat., 7:30 pm; Thu. & Sat., 1:30 pm; Sun., 1:30 pm

FortSalem.com • 11 E. Broadway, Salem, NY • You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown • May 5-14 • Fri & Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun. 2 pm

HubbardHall.org • Main St., Cambridge, NY • 518-677-2595 • "Listening to the Field: Artists and Arts Leaders Discuss What's Happened and What's Next" • Video & panelists' info. online..

WAMTheatre.com • Unicorn Theater, BerkshireTheatreGroup.org, 6 East St., Stockbridge, MA • 413-997-4444 • May 18-Jun. 3 • "What the Constitution Means to Me" • Thu.-Sat., at 7 pm • Sat., May 27 & Jun. 3, at 2 pm • Sun., 2 pm

'62 Center for Theatre & Dance • 1000 Main St., Williamstown, MA • 413-597-2425 • Williams.edu • The Shakuntala Project • Dir. by Shanti Pillai & Sean Devare; Dramaturgy by Amy Holzapfel • May 4-6, 7 pm; May 5-6, 9 pm

Taconic Music festival opens June 12

MANCHESTER, Vt.

Taconic Music's 7th annual Summer Festival will take place from June 12 through July 10 at the Riley Center for the Arts at Burr and Burton Academy in Manchester.

Taconic Music's artistic directors, violinist Joana Genova and violist and conductor Ariel Rudiakov, will be joined by other teaching and performing musicians from across the nation and abroad to present music by contemporary and lesser-known historical composers alongside traditional favorites.

Four weekly concerts by faculty and guest artists will take place at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays June 15, 22, 29 and July 6.

The June 15 opening concert starts with Mendelssohn's youthful Symphony for Strings No. 6, followed by Grayna Bacewicz's electrifying String Quartet No.3 and Dohnanyi's lush, romantic Piano Quintet No. 1.

Van Cliburn Competition prize-winning Italian pianist Davide Cabassi will open the second concert on June 22 with Chopin's brilliant Scherzo, Op. 20. Guitarist Oren Fader will be featured as a special guest with Eduardo Angulo's breezy, lighthearted Paseos for guitar and strings. Genova, Rudiakov, Tom Landschoot and Cabassi will join forces in Brahms' Piano Quartet in G Minor, Op. 25 for a fiery finale.

Visit taconicmusic.org for more information about the rest of the series and to reserve tickets or season passes.



Hubbard Hall

CENTER FOR THE ARTS AND EDUCATION

25 East Main Street, Cambridge, NY 12816
518-677-2495 • hubbardhall.org

SUMMER PROGRAMS

\$450
per student
Scholarships
available



June 26 - July 22
9 am - 12 pm

Performances:
July 21 at 7pm & July 22 at 2pm

**YOUTH
THEATER**
Ages 8-12

Originally Conceived and Directed by Scott Ferguson | Book by Scott Ferguson, Kyle Hall, George Keating
Music and Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, Bob Dorough, Dave Frishberg, Kathy Mandry, George Newall and Tom Yohe
Directed by Katherine Danforth | Musical Direction by Richard Cherry

\$350
per student
Scholarships
available



June 26 - July 15
1 pm - 4 pm

Performances:
July 14 at 7pm & July 15 at 2pm

**TEEN
THEATER**
Ages 13-18

Book, Music & Lyrics by Lionel Bart
Directed by Katherine Danforth. Musical Direction by Richard Cherry.

\$250
per student
per session

CHILDREN'S THEATER

- two week sessions -

Ages
5-7

June 26 - July 21
9 am - 12 pm

Performances:
July 7th and 21st at 12pm
Directed by Sarah Burke

\$100
per week
per student
\$80 if
coupled with
a morning
program

AFTERNOON ARTS

- four week sessions -

Ages
5-12

June 26 - July 21
Monday - Friday from 12 pm - 4 pm