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observer

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

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Farming for a greener future



Joan K. Lentini photo

New effort guides investment in region's local food system

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The Hill Country Observer is published
10 times per year (monthly except Jan., March)
by Observer Publishing Inc.

HILL COUNTRY
observer

NOVEMBER 2021

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



New effort guides investment in local food production

Jesse McDougall became a farmer a decade ago by twist of fate. Along the way to finding a niche raising grass-fed lamb and pastured poultry at Studio Hill Farm in Shaftsbury, Vt., he began to study and implement the concepts of regenerative agriculture -- and to spread the word about them to the wider community. While speaking to a climate action group at Northshire Bookstore in 2019, he met a retired investment banker who'd recently moved to the area. Soon the two joined forces to form the Regenerative Food Network, a new enterprise that aims for nothing less than the revitalization of regional agriculture over the next decade. Page 4



Redistricting reform leads quickly to partisan deadlock

New York's new Independent Redistricting Commission was supposed to reform the once-a-decade process of drawing new boundaries for congressional and legislative districts. But critics say the end result of the panel's work will likely be more of the same partisan gerrymandering that has typified the state's reapportionment process for decades. Page 8



Farmers reel as organic dairy giant plans to dump them

Several dozen organic dairy farms across Vermont and eastern New York are trying to find a way forward after Danone, the multinational corporate owner of the Horizon Organic brand, announced in August that it will terminate their contracts next summer. Page 10

A Japanese artistic tradition, changing with the world

An exhibit that opens Nov. 30 at the Clark Art Institute traces two movements in Japanese art in the 20th century as they put forward visions of how woodblock prints could develop as an art form into the future. Page 18

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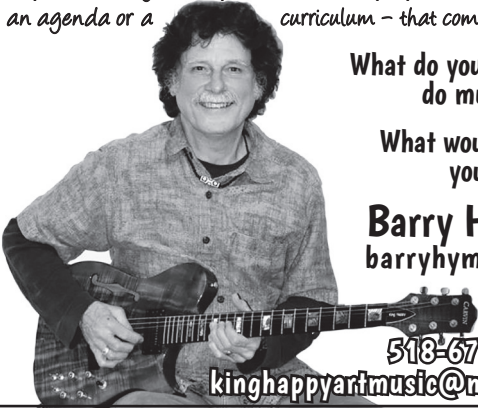
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Cover photo by Joan K. Lentini: The sheep at Studio Hill Farm in Shaftsbury, Vt., are rotated frequently to new grazing areas.

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Telling people’s stories in print

Retired editor ponders newspapers’ decline, collects columns in new book

By MAURY THOMPSON
Contributing writer

GLENS FALLS, N.Y.
Ken Tingley, who retired last year after more than two decades as managing editor of *The Post-Star*, still enjoys reading a daily newspaper from front to back each morning.

But he fears that within a decade, as daily papers continue to cut staff in the face of declining revenue, he might be able to indulge in that pleasure only once a week.

“Maybe it ends up being a weekly,” he said. “I don’t think you’re going to see it disappear.”

He envisions a weekly print edition being filled with in-depth and investigative features, human interest stories and columns – the type of journalism that historically added value to daily newspapers but has fallen by the wayside as the industry cuts costs. Those vanishing elements of journalism, he suggested, are just as vital as reports on breaking news.

“We tend to look at this as events and issues, but it’s people,” Tingley said.

Tingley retired in July 2020. He had worked at the Glens Falls paper for 32 years, including 21 as managing editor. He continued to write a regular column until his retirement, and over the years his writing was recognized with a lengthy series of awards from various journalism organizations.

But as daily newspapers have gone into decline over the past 20 years, columnists have been among the first positions cut. And beat reporters now have so much territory to cover that they don’t have time for in-depth reporting.

In retirement, Tingley has been revisiting his own column writing as he muses about the future of newspapers.

He described how, in 2008, the Rev. Paul Mead, pastor of Gospel Lighthouse Church in Hudson Falls, contacted him at a time when Tingley was considering writing some human-interest columns.

“I said, ‘I really need to get back to real people,’” Tingley recalled.

The pastor wanted to tell his story about recovering from drug addiction.

Ordinarily, this was the kind of story Tingley



Courtesy photo by Jenn March

Ken Tingley, the longtime editor of the Glens Falls daily *The Post-Star*, says the stories of local people are the lifeblood of journalism.

would have referred to a reporter or columnist to pursue, but he decided on a different approach.

“I said, ‘You know what? I’ll do this one myself,’” he recalled.

Soon the agnostic editor was narrating the experience of a Pentecostal preacher who believed he had literally seen Jesus. Tingley related it with a hint of skepticism, but the story was moving.

“That’s part of the role of a writer or columnist – to tell people’s stories,” Tingley said. “That’s something that is slipping away from newspapers.”

A collection of columns
Tingley recently compiled an anthology of 83 of his *Post-Star* human interest columns in a new book, “The Last American Editor,” published by Something or Other Publishing.

The book title came about from a conversa-

tion with his publisher in which Tingley pointed out that the position of managing editor at *The Post-Star* was simply eliminated when he retired.

“I happened to mention to my publisher, ‘I wasn’t replaced,’” Tingley recalled.

He said the book title isn’t intended to imply that he specifically is the last American editor, but rather that his experience is a metaphor for the decline of printed daily newspapers.

Tingley also has written another book, “The Last American Newspaper,” expected to be released next year, about in-depth news stories *Post-Star* reporters wrote over the years – and how those stories made a difference in the community.

“It’s really a memoir of the great work that was done at *The Post-Star* and the people who did it,” he explained.

Tingley said daily print newspapers face two challenges.

The major problem is that retail advertising revenue has dwindled to the point that the industry is no longer sustainable.

“The business model is broken,” he said.

Another challenge is that reader habits are changing.

Many people no longer sit down and read a daily newspaper from cover to cover in the morning but instead get their news on their phones or computers in “little snippets of 20 or 30 seconds” at a time, Tingley said.

“It comes back to the simple habit of reading a newspaper,” he said.

Ken Tingley’s book, “*The Last American Editor*,” is available at area bookstores including Battenkill Books in Cambridge, Northshire Bookstore in Saratoga Springs and the Chapman Museum in Glens Falls, and also online.

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Farming for a greener future

New effort guides investment in region's local food system

By **TRACY FRISCH**
Contributing writer

SHAFTSBURY, Vt.

Jesse McDougall became a farmer a decade ago by twist of fate.

He and his wife, Caroline “Cally” McDougall, moved to southwestern Vermont in 2011 to help her aunt, who had been diagnosed with brain cancer. After the aunt’s death, the couple wound up taking over Studio Hill Farm, which had been in Cally’s family since the 1930s.

After several years of hard work and a few lucky coincidences, they found a niche raising grass-fed lamb and pastured poultry. Along the way, Jesse began to learn about concepts of regenerative agriculture, and at Studio Hill he set out to demonstrate how regenerative practices could be used to restore depleted farmland without chemical inputs.

McDougall also became convinced that better farming practices and healthier soils could help to solve or mitigate a variety of tenacious environmental problems, including climate change. And he became a kind of evangelist for the idea of reinvigorating the region’s agricultural sector and re-localizing the food system.

He would soon be drawn into a broader, ambitious effort to make this transformation a reality.

In February 2019, McDougall was invited to Northshire Bookstore in Manchester to speak to the local group Earth Matters, a node of the state chapter of 350.org, the international climate action organization.

“After my talk, a man in the back of the room announced that, ‘There’s money to do this,’”



Joan K. Lentini photo

Jesse McDougall kneels with Ben, a donkey whose job is to keep the sheep safe from predators at Studio Hill Farm in Shaftsbury, Vt. McDougall has worked to make the farm a model of regenerative agriculture.

McDougall recalled.

The man was Michael Philipp, a longtime investment banker who had moved to the area from Florida a few months earlier. Philipp told McDougall about his career in finance and his involvement in developing large renewable energy installations around the globe. He began to talk about the potential for using electric vehicles to deliver locally grown, carbon-neutral food to people in cities.

But when Philipp invited him to work together on a plan, McDougall responded coolly.

“You do that and call me,” McDougall remembers telling him. “I have two babies and a

farm.”

He was surprised when Philipp soon got back to him.

“Unbeknownst to me, Michael started to talk to everyone in the state of Vermont about the food system,” he said.

For his part, Philipp said McDougall’s talk of revitalizing agriculture to curb the climate crisis left him feeling energized.

“I came home and told my wife, ‘If half of what he is saying is really true, it can really change the world,’” Philipp said.

Before the winter was over, the two men and a third partner – Bill Laberge, the owner of Grassroots Solar in Dorset – had joined forces to form the Regenerative Food Network, a new enterprise that aims for nothing less than the revitalization of regional agriculture over the next decade.

For profit, with a mission

The Regenerative Food Network is a for-profit company. But it’s organized as a benefit corporation, which means it’s designed to produce a public benefit in addition to providing shareholder value.

Philipp said using a for-profit structure makes it possible for the network to raise funds more quickly and easily than a nonprofit organization could.

“We believe that to solve problems of the food system, we need a for-profit company to bring solutions to scale,” he explained. “We are not doing it to get rich or to build up the business and sell it to Google. We view the Regenerative Food Network as a permanent capital vehicle.”

Already the group is working to fill gaps in the region’s agricultural infrastructure by investing in processing and distribution facilities to help local farmers reach a larger base of customers in southwestern Vermont and beyond.

Among other projects, the network has rehabilitated and reopened a livestock slaughterhouse in Wilmington that had been closed for several years. It is preparing to open a



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Bill Laberge, the owner of Grassroots Solar in Dorset, Vt., stands in front of one of his solar power installations in Manchester. He and McDougall are among the founders of the new Regenerative Food Network, which is investing in the region's capacity to produce more of its own food..

nontoxic tannery operation in Manchester. And it has leased a former manufacturing facility in Bennington as the site for a planned “food hub” for distribution of local agricultural products.

At the same time, the Regenerative Food Network is working to transform how agriculture is practiced on the farm. The group has begun creating educational tools about regenerative farming and has committed to paying for its partner farmers to participate in multi-day, in-depth “holistic management” courses. Participating farmers will enroll in a program that measures and verifies ecological outcomes such as soil health and biodiversity, and achieving these goals is expected to add value to the farmers’

products – in much the same way that organic products command a higher market price.

Many of the network’s plans are based on the expectation that, in a future reshaped by climate change, the region will need a more robust and resilient system for producing its own food.

Currently, only 10 percent of the food consumed in the Northeast is produced in the region, and a mere 1 percent of all food is grown organically or with regenerative farming practices.

Several years ago, researchers at the University of New Hampshire’s Sustainability Institute put together a strategic plan to achieve the goal of New England farmers growing 50 percent of the region’s food by 2060.

But the founders of the Regenerative Food Network say the task is more urgent.

“We felt that the year 2060 is too far off,” Philipp said. “Our goal is that by 2030, 30 percent of the food consumed in the Northeast would be grown regeneratively in the Northeast.”

The Regenerative Food Network defines the Northeast as including New York as well as New England.

The network is establishing a nonprofit arm, the Regenerative Food Foundation, for funding research and education.

But like Philipp, Laberge stressed that the benefit corporation is the better vehicle for accomplishing many of the network’s goals.

“The mission is to do the good deed without being motivated by money,” he said. “For the planet’s sake, we want to do this in a hurry.”

Restoring healthy soils

Regenerative agriculture is a relatively new movement whose supporters describe it as going beyond the more limited concept of “sustainable agriculture.” It invokes the idea of restoring the land, using nature as its model and biological processes as its engine, rather than merely sustaining ecosystems as they are.

“The idea that humans need to reduce their negative impact on the planet is not a solution,” McDougall explained. “It is a stalling tactic. We need to change our impact on the planet.”

One of the goals of regenerative farming is to take some of the excess carbon from the atmosphere and put it back into the soil – a process that provides farm fields with more resilience to the extreme weather associated with climate change.

McDougall became interested in the movement based on his early experiences and frustrations at Studio Hill Farm.

continued on next page



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Cally's aunt, Edie Tschorn, had run a horse boarding operation at Studio Hill and used the farm's fields to grow hay and corn. She personally applied the herbicide Roundup, and McDougall said she used to talk about how she loved the smell of the weedkiller.

When he and Cally took over the Shaftsbury property in 2012 after Tschorn's death from brain cancer, one of their first decisions was to stop using any pesticides on the land.

McDougall said they imagined that stopping herbicide use would make the vegetation lush. But the next spring, they observed soil erosion wherever there had been corn. Decades of conventional farming methods had reduced the soil to sand and rock.

"All the biology had been removed," he said, referring to all the living organisms and microbial activity that contribute to the health and fertility of the soil.

He got a glimpse of how to revitalize the farm after he heard a 2013 TED talk by Allan Savory, a Zimbabwean-born ecologist who developed a system of "holistic management" of grasslands. Savory's system advocates planned grazing of livestock, with frequent moves to new pasture, to reverse land degradation.

"Savory said that livestock, if managed in a way that encouraged them to act naturally in a natural environment, could heal the land," McDougall explained.

So the McDougalls began to experiment with Savory's ideas. For two years, they raised pastured poultry in a quest to revitalize their field, but McDougall said he eventually calculated they would need 1 million chickens to regenerate the farm's soils. So they acquired a flock of sheep.

Slowly, as they learned more and expanded their flock, their soils grew more fertile and their grasses more abundant, McDougall said.

Studio Hill does not grow any corn or other

annual crops. Instead, all of its hayfields now are managed as perennial pastures. The McDougalls watch the grass very closely to determine when to move the flock to give the sheep more grass. For optimal soil health, he stressed, the animals should not be left to graze the pasture too short, because the cover of vegetation protects the soil and its microbial life from the destructive effects of the sun's rays, strong winds and the pounding of rain.

"We're trying to give the grass the management that it evolved to thrive under, similar to the way bison roamed the prairie on the Great Plains," McDougall said, summing up his goal for grazing as "bunch, munch and move."

As these practices put more carbon back into the soil, the soil will be able to absorb and retain more excess water from the atmosphere. Water vapor is actually a more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide, so rehydrating the land offers a quicker path to cooling the planet, McDougall said.

Linking farming and finance

Although Philipp and his wife had most recently lived in Florida before moving to the area three years ago, the Northeast was familiar to them. Michael grew up in northern New Jersey, and his wife was from Gloucester, Mass. They first met at the University of Massachusetts as art students.

After a stint as a potter, Philipp went back to school for his master's degree in business administration and, in 1982, embarked on a new career in banking. From 1995 to 2003, he was employed as an investment banker at two European banks. For most of that time, he served on their management boards, an unusual position for an American.

In 1995, he was appointed chairman of Deutsche Bank in South Africa. Later he was

promoted to head global asset management for Deutsche Bank, with regional responsibilities for the Middle East and Africa. He also served as the head of Credit Suisse for Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

In 2008, Philipp went off on his own and, with his son Kyle, started Ambata Capital Partners as a private equity firm focused on renewable energy. The word "ambata," from Swahili, means to bridge, connect or bring together. The Philipps selected that name to convey their intention of building economic bridges between cultures and geographies.

Ambata Capital invests in projects that bring best practices to developing nations, principally in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.

Michael Philipp now is chairman of the Regenerative Food Network, and Kyle Philipp serves as its chief executive. Though neither has prior experience with farming, they bring expertise in project management and finance, and Kyle has extensive prior experience with solar power installations.

Filling an infrastructure gap

As producers of grass-fed lamb and pastured poultry, the McDougalls learned early on about a long-running source of frustration for small-scale livestock farmers in the region: the lack of slaughterhouse capacity for small, independent producers.

"When we started to raise meat birds, we had to drive all the way to Richmond, Vermont, to get them processed," McDougall said.

A one-way trip with truck, trailer and livestock took four hours.

Under a U.S. Department of Agriculture exemption in effect in many states, anyone can slaughter and process up to 1,000 chickens on a farm. But doing so requires the right equipment, and the limit of 1,000 chickens yields too little

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revenue to be worthwhile. McDougall explained that even at a profit of \$1 per bird, a farmer would be able to net only \$1,000 annually from all the work of raising the chickens.

To scale up beyond 1,000 birds a year, the McDougalls needed a USDA-inspected processing facility, but the closest one was in Rhode Island.

With their lamb, they had trouble getting a slot at a USDA-inspected slaughterhouse or processing facility. If they took the lamb to a non-USDA-inspected facility in Vermont, they could legally sell whole or half animals within the state, but not meat by the cut.

When farmers can't get their own livestock killed and processed at an approved facility, the livestock they cared for lose value. They may be forced to sell their animals at a livestock auction or to an aggregator that turns them into meat to be sold under their own brand.

Given the experience of the McDougalls and many other farmers, the region's lack of slaughterhouse capacity became an obvious early focus for the Regenerative Food Network. Last year, the group refurbished the former Adams Farm slaughterhouse in Wilmington, reopening the plant as Higley Hill Processing. It was the network's first physical venture and cost about \$150,000.

The small plant had been closed for several

years. It needed a new well, and RFN replaced all the equipment. It only took a couple months to get it up and running again, whereas building a new facility from scratch would have been a much longer process.

Besides the physical improvements, there were other requirements for USDA inspection.

"We got a lot of help and advice from a former USDA inspector," Kyle Philipp explained.

The network also worked with a consultant from University of Vermont to create a food safety risk management plan. And it hired a consultant to help adapt the facility and its protocols to the processing requirements specific to grass-fed animals.

Old Adams Farm is a seventh generation family farm. RFN is renting the meat plant with an option to buy the whole farm, which for now is not being actively worked. But now, enthused by the renewed activity at the property, the farm family's next generation has expressed interest putting the farm back into production – and in learning more about regenerative agriculture, Kyle Philipp said.

Higley Hill Processing received state approval at the beginning of the year to begin processing custom cuts of meat. It received its USDA certification in August. Also, with USDA inspection, meat from the plant may be sold through distributors and retailers, rather than

being restricted to direct farm-to-consumer sales.

Federal inspectors are only present on slaughter days, which are Thursdays and Fridays. The plant operates three other days per week, but operations on these days are restricted to cutting.

Higley Hill is open to all farmers, regardless of how they raise their animals.

"Overall we are aiming to fill in gaps in infrastructure to enable farmers to have options," Kyle Philipp explained. "If we can give them a market, they can grow into it."

In an ambitious plan to develop the processing capacity needed for livestock producers to grow their farming businesses, RFN aims to open four more facilities like Higley Hill, adding one every year or 18 months. This includes reopening a couple of other shuttered facilities.

Nontoxic tannery

As part of its effort to expand the infrastructure for local agricultural production, the Regenerative Food Network also acquired Vermont Natural Sheepskins, a business in Randolph that had operated a natural tannery without using toxic chemicals. In buying the business, the network inherited a book of clients for the sheepskins.

To run the operation, RFN hired Derek Anderson, a teacher at Burr and Burton Academy

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NEWS & ISSUES

Redistricting reform swiftly reaches partisan deadlock

New York panel offers competing maps amid predictions of failure

By MAURY THOMPSON
Contributing writer

New York's new Independent Redistricting Commission was supposed to reform the once-a-decade process of drawing new boundaries for congressional and legislative districts.

But critics say the end result of the new commission's work is likely to be more of the same partisan gerrymandering that has been the hallmark of the state's redistricting process for decades.

"What we're seeing now is exactly what we predicted, which is gridlock," said Blair Horner, executive director of the New York Public Interest Research Group.

Horner said the process so far validates his organization's opposition to the 2012 legislation and 2014 constitutional amendment that established the independent commission.

Although good-government groups had long called for the state to set up an independent, nonpartisan process for drawing political district lines, the 2012 legislative deal that set the stage for the new commission specified the panel would be bipartisan, not nonpartisan, with equal numbers of members from the two major

parties. The deal also gave the Legislature the final say on drawing the political maps in the event that the commission deadlocks.

In September, the new commission, unable to reach consensus before the start of public hearings on its preliminary plan, submitted two sets of proposed congressional maps – one drawn by Democratic members of the commission, and a separate plan drawn by Republican members.

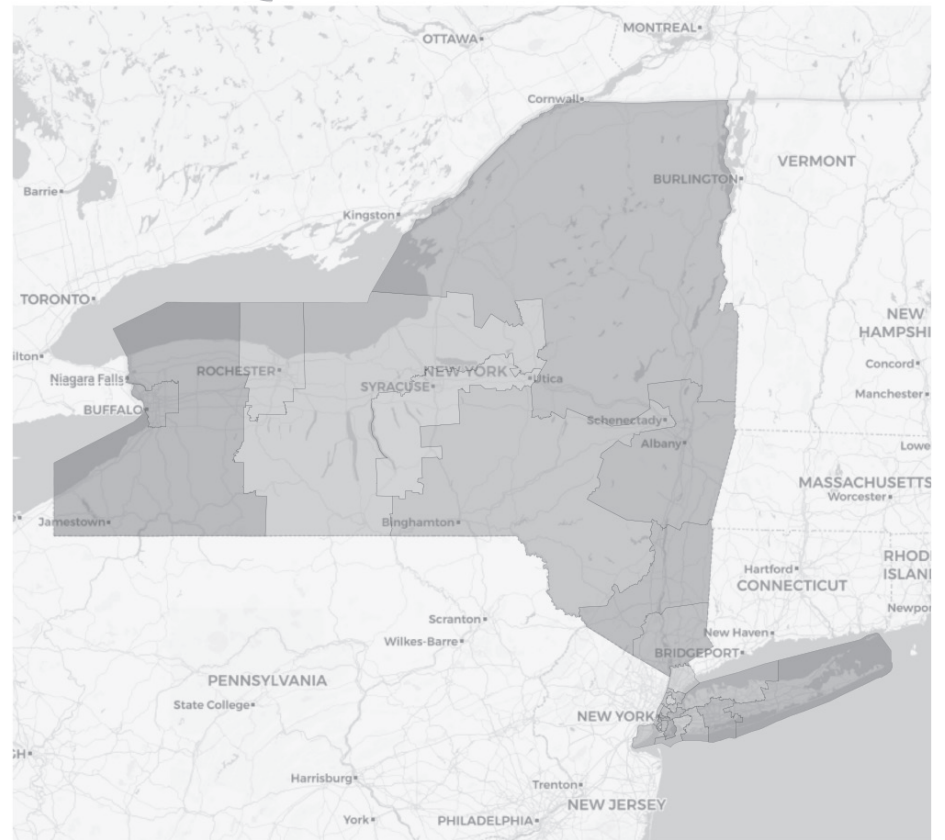
Political leaders from both major parties are dissatisfied with the outcome.

"They need to go back to the drawing board," said Warren County Democratic Chairwoman Lynne Boecher.

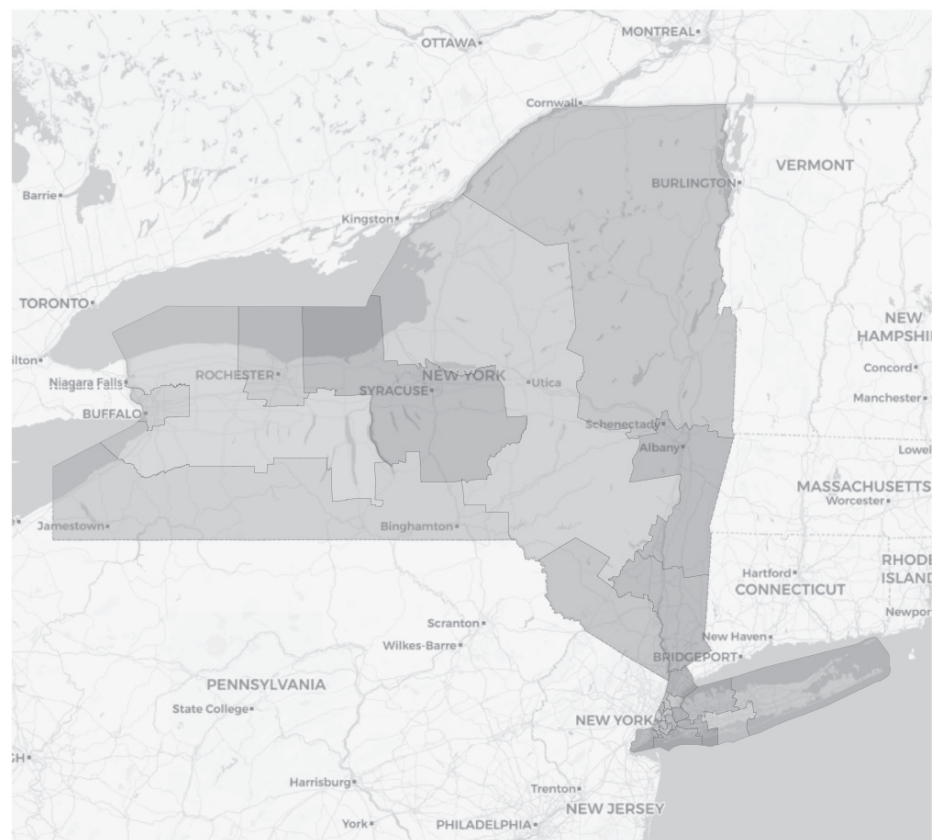
State Republican Chairman Nick Langworthy issued a press release calling the commission's process "a political sham built on a foundation of lies and hypocrisy."

It is still possible the commission could agree on one set of maps before a Jan. 15 deadline to submit a redistricting proposal to the Legislature. But the early conflict does not bode well for the smooth, transparent, nonpartisan process reform advocates had hoped to see.

"It could be something that goes to court," said Jennifer Wilson,



New York's new Independent Redistricting Commission has put forth two alternatives for redrawing the state's congressional districts. The map above was crafted by the panel's Democrats, the one below by its Republicans.



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deputy director of the League of Women Voters of New York State.

Exercise in futility?

Some political observers say that because the Legislature has the final say on drawing district maps, the work of the new commission ultimately is inconsequential.

“The Legislature will be the ones who have the greatest impact,” Boecher said.

An Oct. 13 post on national political analyst Nate Silver’s FiveThirtyEight blog predicted said that either of the congressional maps produced by New York’s commission would be “dead in the water” when they’re submitted to the Legislature, where Democrats hold large majorities in both the state Senate and Assembly.

Silver’s blog suggested that the national Democratic Party will pressure state Democrats to draw New York’s congressional maps to the party’s advantage, because New York is basically the only state where Democrats ultimately control the map-making process and could use gerrymandering to flip several House seats to the Democratic column.

Republicans are expected to gain congressional seats through gerrymandering in some states where they control the map-making process, such as in Texas and Florida. But in several key Democratic-controlled states, including California, Virginia and Colorado, maps drawn by independent redistricting commissions cannot be overridden.

David Wasserman, an analyst for the nonpartisan Cook Political Report, has estimated that if New York Democrats use gerrymandering to maximum advantage, the makeup of the state’s U.S. House delegation, now 19 Democrats and eight Republicans, could swing to 23 Democrats and just three Republicans.

New York is losing one House seat, dropping from 27 to 26 representatives, as a result of the 2020 census. The state’s overall population actually increased by 823,000 over the past decade, to 20.2 million people, but that wasn’t quite enough to keep pace with the growth of other states. If the census had found just 89 additional residents statewide, New York would have avoided losing any of its House seats, according to data the U.S. Census Bureau released in late April.

Competing plans

Wilson, of the League of Women Voters, said

that regardless of the outcome, the redistricting commission’s release of two competing plans has made the process more difficult for the public to follow. Many people will not have the patience to sift through the details of the two plans, she suggested.

“That’s a lot to ask of the average New Yorker,” Wilson said. “It’s a lot to ask of even people in the know.”

Wilson said she fears the public hearings on the proposed maps will be dominated by comments about the process instead of the particulars of either proposed map.

“They’re not going to be able to generate as good of a testimony as if a single set of maps were being considered,” she said.

In past redistricting cycles, before the creation of the new commission, the process traditionally started with two sets of maps, one drawn by the state Senate, which for decades had a Republican majority, and one produced by the Assembly, which had a Democrat majority.

The two plans set up a bartering process in which the governor had the final say.

That led to some odd results. In 2002, for example, under a deal reached just hours before the Legislature adopted the final maps, the Essex County town of Ticonderoga was split between two congressional districts, leaving one area where neighbors were in different districts depending on whether their homes were on one side of the street or the other.

But that type of last-minute deal making is much less likely this year, given that Democrats now hold veto-proof majorities in both houses of the Legislature.

Horner said the state needs to go back to the drawing board and establish a redistricting process that is totally independent from the Legislature, such as the system in California.

“That won’t be done in time for this go around,” he added.

Fallout for area lawmakers

A review of the two maps the commission has released reveals that neither party’s plan would pose much risk to U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-Schuylerville, who in May was elected to House Republicans’ No. 3 leadership post, replacing Liz Cheney of Wyoming.

Both the Democratic and Republican maps extend the boundary of Stefanik’s current 21st district south to include Gloversville and

Amsterdam, the hometown of Rep. Paul Tonko, a Democrat, in a newly drawn district that would still have a heavy Republican enrollment advantage.

This has prompted some political observers to speculate that Tonko might be planning to retire, although he has not announced or hinted at that.

Under both plans, Rep. Antonio Delgado, D-Rhinebeck, would be the incumbent in a newly drawn district with a more favorable Democratic enrollment advantage.

To the west of the region, the Democrats’ proposed map would put the hometowns of Republicans John Katko, a moderate, and Claudia Tenney, a conservative, in a single district, setting up a potential primary between philosophical opposites.

But Boecher, the Warren County Democratic chairwoman, said people should not put too much stock in commission’s maps, as the Legislature likely will make the final determinations.

“They’ve got to protect Delgado, and they’ve got to protect Tonko,” she said.

The commission has a Jan. 15 deadline to submit its final proposed plan to the Legislature.

Horner said it’s possible, but does not look likely, that the commission could reach consensus on a single plan.

“If it can’t come into agreement, the Legislature will draw its own lines,” he said.

Wilson, of the League of Women Voters, said that in theory, the commission could submit more than one plan. Any proposed plan that receives at least five votes of the 10-member commission can be submitted to the Legislature.

The commission has four Republicans, four Democrats and two members who are not enrolled in either major party.

The Legislature can reject the commission’s plan by a two-thirds vote and send it back to the commission for reconsideration.

If the Legislature rejects a second plan from the commission, the Legislature would then take over the redistricting process.

In an apparent effort to give itself more latitude, the Legislature has placed a new amendment on this month’s general election ballot that would allow lawmakers to reject a redistricting commission plan by a simple majority vote.

The amendment also would clarify the time frame for the process, which is important, Horner said.

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News & Issues



Joan K. Lentini file photo

Several dozen organic dairy farms in Vermont and upstate New York, including 17 in Washington County alone, are looking for new buyers for their milk after Danone, the multinational corporation that owns the Horizon Organic brand, announced it will stop buying from them next summer.

Farmers reel as organic dairy giant dumps them

Advocates seek action to aid dozens of farms in Vermont, New York

By **CRAIG IDLEBROOK**
Contributing writer

One area dairy farmer says he's kicking himself for not seeing what was coming.

He recalls hearing a rumor several years ago that Horizon Organic was considering eliminating many New England farms from its milk

truck route, but he didn't believe it. Even after Horizon cut the price it paid him by 10 percent a few years back, he still felt confident enough to invest in increased acreage and an additional robot to automate milking.

But he did worry a bit when one of the drivers described having to dump milk that went bad in half-full trucks on hot days. He said the driver told him there weren't enough farms on the route to keep the milk cold enough to make it to Horizon's processing plant in western New York.

"When you start dumping your product, and you've got to pay the people for it, you've got to do something soon," said the farmer, who didn't want his name published because he fears that speaking out could prompt retribution from the company — and could perhaps cause other dairy processors to shun him.

In August, the farmer was one of 89 organic dairy producers in New England and New York who received notice from Danone, the multinational corporate owner of the Horizon Organic brand, that the company would be terminating their contracts. The company said it wants to consolidate its trucking routes to include only farms within 300 miles of its plant in Elma, N.Y.,

near Buffalo.

The farmers were given the option to sign a final one-year deal with Danone, but they must find another buyer for their milk by Sept. 1, 2022. Many farmers have shied away from discussing their situation publicly because their contract with Danone prohibits them from divulging details of their business relationship.

The change affects 28 dairy farms in Vermont and 46 in upstate New York, mainly near the state's eastern border — including 17 in Washington County alone.

Most of the farmers are now scrambling to find other buyers for their organic milk — and say they can't afford to shift back to producing conventional milk, which commands much lower prices. Some are also struggling to reduce their debt loads and are finding that banks are unwilling to lend them more cash because of Danone's notification.

Distance, trucking costs at issue

In a statement, Danone said it made the decision to drop many of its dairy farmers in the Northeast largely because of the cost of trucking milk to its processing plants.

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ter align with our manufacturing footprint,” the company said. “We are committed to continuing to support organic dairy in the east, and in the last 12 months alone, we have on boarded more than 50 producers new to Horizon Organic that better fit our manufacturing footprint. This decision will help us continue providing our consumers with the products they love.”

Danone’s decision took many dairy stakeholders in the region by surprise. Although dairy processors had cut off some New England farms in the past, no one can recall a single company shedding so many farms at once. The action was more startling because the organic milk industry has long been perceived as offering more economic stability than the conventional milk market for small farmers in the region.

In Vermont, 29 percent of the state’s estimated 189 dairy farms produce organic milk, according to a 2020 state report. State Secretary of Agriculture Anson Tebbetts quickly convened a task force of more than a dozen dairy stakeholders to help provide resources and possible solutions for the affected farmers.

When Tebbetts contacted Danone, the company advised him it would be willing to reconsider its decision if viable milk processing facilities could come online before the August 2022 deadline, according to the task force’s meeting minutes.

Stonyfield Farm, another major processor of

organic milk, has agreed to sign contracts with a handful of the affected farms in the region, and the state task force is working to come up with other possible alternative buyers for the milk. The goal is have some concrete options for farmers to consider by February, said Diane Bothfeld, the state Department of Agriculture’s director of administrative services and dairy policy.

“We kind of want to make sure we’ve got options that are vetted, so they are not just exploratory,” Bothfeld said.

Final year’s price at issue

In New York, dairy industry stakeholders also are working to assess what resources and options are available for the affected farmers. The list of those being cut off by Horizon includes roughly 20 percent of the farms in Washington County alone.

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York says it has been reaching out to those farmers to help.

One of the first tasks is to help farmers verify the price Danone will pay for milk in the severance contract, said Katie Baildon, the group’s organic policy coordinator. She said it appears a cover letter the company sent to some farmers listed conventional milk prices without adding the premium for organic milk.

“What we’ve been communicating to the im-

pacted farmers is that they need to reach out to Danone/Horizon Organic and make sure they are getting the correct price,” Baildon said.

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., has written a letter to Danone posing a series of questions about the decision. Schumer asked Danone to detail what aid it will be offering the farmers – and the exact number of farms affected. In a press release, the senator underscored the negative consequences Danone’s decisions will have on regional dairy farmers.

“For an industry that has razor-thin margins as it is and saw historic losses during the Covid crisis, for many family owned organic dairy farms, losing their contracts with Horizon Organics will be the final pull on the rug under them,” Schumer said. “Danone must do right by these farms and ensure their long-term economic viability.”

Advocates also are attempting to apply consumer pressure at the national level. Several organizations representing organic consumers have joined a coalition that so far collected nearly 13,000 signatures for a petition sent Oct. 26 to Greg Wolf, the chief executive of Danone North America. The petition reminds Wolf that Danone is a certified B corporation — and that such companies pledge to create value for non-shareholding stakeholders like local communities and the environment.

The group’s petition asks Danone to revisit

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its decision to cut off many farmers in the Northeast, give farmers an additional six months before termination — and to offer a severance package or contract retirement package.

Organic refuge under pressure

Danone's exit may seem like déjà vu for many dairy farmers who shifted to organic production methods to avoid some of the turbulence of the conventional milk market. As New England's smaller conventional dairy farmers faced lower prices and increased competition from larger farms in the past few decades, many opted to seek organic certification as a way to stay in business. The result is that many enjoyed stable pricing for their milk as consumption of organic milk grew.

But some say that period of stability might be nearing an end for many small dairies, as organic milk companies have consolidated. Horizon Organic, one of the earliest large-scale organic dairy processors, was first bought by Dean Foods in 2004, then was spun off as a subsidiary of Dean and became part of WhiteWave Foods in 2012. WhiteWave, in turn, was sold to Danone in 2017, but only after agreeing to sell off another dairy brand, Stonyfield, because of concerns raised by federal antitrust regulators that the WhiteWave acquisition would cause lack of competition in the dairy market.

As organic dairy brands consolidate, there has been increased pressure to make sure that dairy delivery routes are as economically efficient as possible. Although Danone's decision is

stunning because of its scope, other milk companies have opted to terminate contracts with some of the region's more remote farms in recent years, Baildon said.

"We've been seeing processors cancel contracts with organic dairy producers over the years," she said. "This is more of like an inflection point and not, maybe, a change."

As the organic milk market was growing over the past five to 15 years, large-scale organic dairies in the West have brought more cows online, Baildon said.

But organic milk consumption in the United States went flat from 2016 to 2018, before decreasing in 2019 and then rebounding in 2020, according to USDA statistics. The milk

continued on page 27

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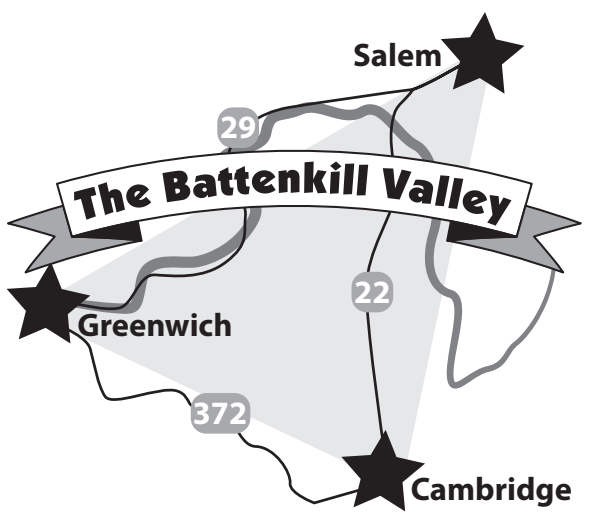
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Farming continued from page 7

in Manchester who had experience in tanning. The network plans to reopen the business soon in Manchester.

Another goal of the Regenerative Food Network is to increase access to “good food” among underserved and low-income communities. Toward that end, Laberge said the group has been talking with the developers of the Putnam Block, a mixed-use residential and commercial project in the center of Bennington’s downtown. The developers would like to incorporate a downtown grocery store into the project.

“That’s the missing piece – a place downtown where people could go to buy good food,” Laberge said.

Although no firm plan has emerged so far, Laberge stressed there’s a need for something more than a gourmet food store or boutique grocery. He cited a presentation in Bennington by Allen Taylor of the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, who highlighted problems with food access

in southwestern Vermont.

Bennington already has two large supermarkets, but both are in car-oriented shopping plazas more than two miles from the walkable downtown area that has the Putnam Block at its center.

Renewed farms, renewable energy

Laberge first met McDougall when the farmer came to speak at SolarFest, the annual alternative energy and music festival in Manchester. Laberge serves as the festival’s president.

The first time he met Michael and Kyle Philipp, he recalled, they got into a conversation about solar carports before the discussion turned to the food system. It didn’t take a lot of convincing for him to agree to a role as a partner in RFN.

“Regenerative Food Network checks off a lot of boxes: agriculture, energy, transportation, food justice and climate justice,” Laberge said.

He likes the group’s emphasis on action on the ground, rather than getting stuck in endless talk.

The founding partners agree that one opportunity to find investment lies in renewable energy – and also that renewable energy projects

can help finance some of the other initiatives the network is developing. And as with electric vehicles and charging stations, Laberge said they are finding people who are willing to invest in a “good food” system.

Beyond his career as a solar energy entrepreneur, Laberge has a long history of working for the values he supports. In 2008, he co-founded Transition Town Manchester, a group that raises awareness about the climate crisis and works for sustainable solutions. He also served on the governor’s climate council, an official body that met for a couple years and then dissolved, though it recently was revived.

Laberge says renewable energy and regenerative agriculture fit together under the overall goal of solving the climate crisis.

“We aim for 30 percent of the food consumed in the Northeast to be regenerative and from the region by 2030,” Laberge said. “It will be healthy, good food, delivered by electric vehicles. We are paying farmers for what they produce and how they produce it.”

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renewable energy as part of the network’s effort to revitalize the infrastructure for local food production.

“The opportunity to find investment is in renewable energy,” Laberge said.

So although the Regenerative Food Network is not interested in owning land for farming, the group has purchased one farm and entered into an agreement to buy another one. Both sites will be used for “solar grazing,” with solar panels installed in fields to produce electricity while sheep or other animals graze around the panels.

Laberge also is developing a series of on-farm solar projects with area farmers. Through these projects, RFN is prepared to take the surplus power from solar panels farmers install on their buildings. The network also is building its own fleet of electric vehicles and working on powering its facilities with renewable energy.

Creating a food hub

Another aspect of RFN’s plan involves retrofitting a 15,000-square-foot industrial building on Shields Drive in Bennington as a food

processing facility and distribution hub, which would make it the fourth such hub in Vermont.

Higley Hill and the network’s other anticipated slaughterhouses will all feed into the Shields Drive facility, which will also serve as an aggregation and distribution site for local farmers’ meats, eggs, vegetables and other products.

Until 2014, the Shields Drive building had housed Plasan Carbon Composites, a manufacturer of automobile parts. The company shut down the local plant when it consolidated operations at a facility in Michigan.

RFN entered into a 10-year lease on the Shields Drive facility. The lease started in September. In the project’s first phase, the group plans to renovate one-third of the facility.

“We will put in a big rail cooler where we will re-hang quarters and primal cuts; a fabrication room; and a large walk-in cooler and freezer,” Kyle Philipp said. “We will also have a packing and loading area and three loading docks,” as well as two lower areas where farmers can pull up their trucks to drop off their products.

He added that converting the former factory

will not be a simple feat.

“We are removing the top 8 inches of concrete so we can put in drainage and insulation,” he said. “The facility has 2,500 square feet of office space, which is ready to use.”

Initially the group will use refrigerated shipping containers, which will later be moved to Higley Hill once the Shields Drive facility has its own cooling.

In the project’s second phase, the network will add an egg handling and packaging room as well as kitchen space for making value-added products such as sausage, meat sticks and bone broth. This commercial kitchen space will also be available for community use.

The Shields Drive location isn’t suited to retail sales, but it will be a good site from which to develop delivery routes that could serve destinations including the local hospital and college.

The food hub will be RFN’s biggest investment yet. Ambata Capital put \$1.5 million in seed money into the Regenerative Food Network during the first two years, and the network’s principals are

continued on page 28


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EDITORIAL

Redistricting reform that fails by design

Sometimes a flawed effort at political reform is still better than no reform at all. And as recently as a few months ago, some of us hoped that would be the case with New York's new Independent Redistricting Commission.

But as summer has turned to fall and next year's deadlines for redrawing New York's political maps draw closer, it has become clear that the new commission is nothing short of a travesty.

As a story in this issue details, the commission is now in the midst of staging public hearings around the state on its proposals for redrawing the New York's congressional and legislative district lines.

But instead of one set of proposals, the commission has two: one crafted by its Democratic members, the other by its Republicans. And no one really expects either plan to become a reality, given that the Legislature holds veto power over any plan the commission puts forth. So what is the point of this charade?

Until this year, New York's political district lines were routinely redrawn every decade in a secretive process overseen by its legislative leaders. The result was gerrymandered districts that favored the majority party in each chamber of the Legislature – and that protected congressional and legislative incumbents of both parties.

Consequently, competitive elections in New York have been rare. Most districts are drawn to give either Republicans or Democrats a clear advantage. And once in office, nearly all incumbents serve until they retire or die.

Government reformers have argued for ages that New York's voters would be better served by an open, nonpartisan process. If the map making were less focused on helping incumbents choose their favorite voters, the reformers predicted, more voters would enjoy real choices in competitive elections. And lawmakers in competitive districts would have a stronger incentive to chart a moderate course and seek out compromises that could attract crossover votes in the next election.

There was a moment about a decade ago, amid public disgust after a series of Albany corruption scandals, when New York's then-new governor, Andrew Cuomo, and many legislators pledged to support nonpartisan redistricting. They soon reneged, but to save face they offered voters the chance to enact a 2014 constitutional amendment to reform redistricting. The voters said yes.

The result is the Independent Redistricting Commission. Alas, the commission was designed for failure, and now we're watching it fail.

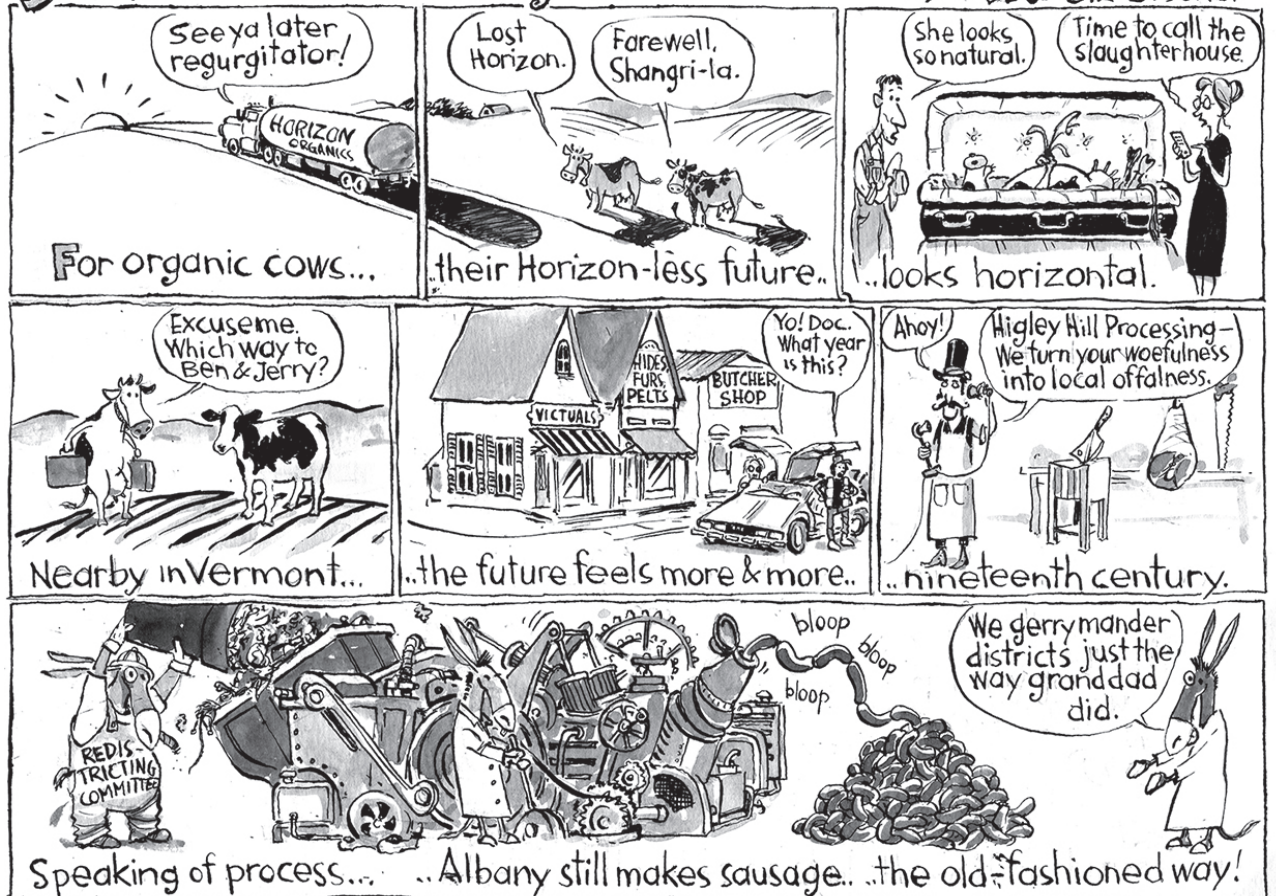
Despite its name, the commission is hardly independent. Eight of its 10 members are appointed in equal number by the Democratic and Republican leaders of the two legislative chambers, and those eight appoint the remaining two. With effectively five members chosen by each party, the natural result is a partisan stalemate – as with this fall's competing sets of maps.

Even on the issue of transparency, the commission has mainly been a flop. The maps it has produced are of such poor quality that it's all but impossible to tell which towns, let alone streets, would fall on one side or the other of district lines. Most of the supporting documentation for the maps is contained in electronic files that can't be opened on the average home computer.

There's still a compelling case to be made for nonpartisan redistricting. Other states have adopted it and are seeing results. But New York's new redistricting process shouldn't be confused with the real deal.

3 HAIKU: Back to the Ag Future

by MARC WILK for Hill Country Observer



Letters to the editor

Mess in Afghanistan began long before Biden

To the editor:

I've been hearing and reading about many people saying the Afghanistan evacuation was the same as Vietnam in 1975 when we left for good.

Saying this mess is "Biden's Saigon" is a Republican talking point, but it's untrue. During the war in Vietnam, 2.2 million men were drafted into military service. The Afghan mess is comprised of an all-volunteer military. Yes, they signed up, and no one was drafted.

It took years to create the Vietnam mess, and the same is true of the Afghan mess. So saying this is Biden's Saigon is wrong and a Republican putdown of President Biden. He didn't create the war in Afghanistan and is not to blame for the mess over there.

Thomas W. King
Shaftsbury, Vt.

For country and planet, separate true from false

To the editor:

How does one convince another that Donald Trump's big lie and Republican complicity are a threat to democracy? Or that our vote is the only

tool we have to thwart autocracy?

How does one assure another that there is far less risk in receiving the Covid-19 vaccine than in not receiving it? Or that wearing a mask is not a serious threat to our freedoms?

How does one persuade another that climate change is upon us, that global warming threatens our existence, and that we will all have to change our way of living to avert catastrophe? That extinction of species is well on its way?

People hold onto their false beliefs even when those beliefs are disproven, and showing them the proof can make them dig in their heels even deeper. There is an emotional inclination to defend one's beliefs, and people will search for affirmation of their beliefs.

An open Internet and social media allow a person to fall in with the wrong crowd (the conspiracy theorists, for example). People search for an easy answer, and it is often easier to deny the facts than to try to understand them.

Beliefs are important in that they sometimes lead to hurtful acts such as the Capitol insurrection. But on the other hand, beliefs can lead to wonderful acts of kindness.

Importantly, there is no room for facts when our minds are occupied by hatred or fear. We need to examine our beliefs and separate the true from the false. It's not so easy to do.

G. Richard Dundas
Bennington, Vt.

Your letters

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

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

A top baseball pitcher's brief run in Rutland

Baseball experts have suggested for some time that the 19th century pitcher Tony Mullane, who ranks No. 30 for all-time wins in Major League Baseball, should be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

While his pitching exploits and short-fused temper are well known in baseball circles, fewer people know that Mullane, who was nicknamed “the Count” and “the Apollo of the Box,” played for the semi-professional team in Rutland, Vt., for about two weeks in June 1887 when he was temporarily banned from professional baseball.

The Cincinnati Red Stockings of the American Association suspended Mullane for insubordination on May 18 of that year and fined him \$100 after he refused to pitch unless the management increased his salary.

Mullane, 28, made the situation worse when he threatened the team’s president, Aaron Stern.

“A policeman was called, and Mullane left,” the *Indianapolis Journal* reported on May 19.

There was speculation that his career in baseball was over.

“As it is now, he is supposed to be permanently retired from the profession,” *The Wheeling Daily Intelligencer* of Wheeling, W.Va., reported on May 20.

But within a couple of weeks, Mullane was headed to Vermont.

“Tony Mullane, the refractory pitcher of the home baseball team, met President Stern of the home management this morning, and they

Maury Thompson

failed to harmonize,” the *Daily Evening Bulletin* of Maysville, Ky., reported on June 4. “He at once packed his gripsack with armor and a few heated shirts, and started for Rutland, Vt., where he will pitch for a local club unknown to fame.”

Rather than firing Mullane outright, Cincinnati placed him on reserve at an annual salary of \$500 – much lower than major league baseball salaries of up to \$4,500 that season.

This tactic prevented any other team affiliated with a major league from hiring him.

The Rutland team, which was independently owned and did not belong to a league, hired Mullane at a salary of \$200 a month – the equivalent of \$5,775 in today’s dollars.

His arrival was heralded in regional newspapers and elsewhere.

“Tony Mullane, Cincinnati’s refractory pitcher, was the salvation of the Rutland team yesterday, and the finest game of the season resulted in a victory for Rutland. Score 5 to 3,” the *Daily Evening Bulletin* reported.

The caliber of play in the area was better than the pitcher expected.

“Tony has expressed surprise at the clubs he found here,” the *Bulletin* reported on June 10, 1887. “Vermont not being in any league, he expected to find a set of country men. But he finds the Rutland nine and their opponents worthy of the best efforts.”

“Someday next week the celebrated Rutlands are expected to cross bats with the Stars,” the *Washington County Advertiser* reported on June 8, referring to the Fort Edward Stars. “Tony

Mullane will probably occupy the box.”

It’s not clear whether Mullane actually did pitch against Fort Edward, but he did play at Glens Falls on June 14.

“The great Mullane, lately of Cincinnati, pitched the last three innings, and his pitching, with fine coaching by himself and Ryan, saved the day,” *The Morning Star* of Glens Falls reported the next day.

Glens Falls led until the ninth inning, when Rutland pulled ahead to win, 8-7.

“The people who gathered at the Second Street grounds yesterday afternoon saw the best ballgame of the season,” the *Morning Star* reported. “They were saddened at the end, however, by seeing the fine lead that the home team had taken cut down score by score.”

Mullane’s exile from Cincinnati was intended to be permanent, but his suspension was rescinded when the Red Stockings management decided it had dire need of his pitching skills. The team had been in a slump since his suspension.

The headline in *The Burlington Free Press* on June 17, 1887, relayed the news: “Rutland loses the ‘Only Mullane.’”

“Tony Mullane has been reinstated by the Cincinnati management,” the *Daily Evening Bulletin* reported on June 18. “The club was weak in pitchers, and the step was taken in the best interests.”

“The directors were averse to making this move,” the *Wheeling Register* of West Virginia reported on June 21, “but Serad’s poor work and the general hard luck of the team

continued on page 27

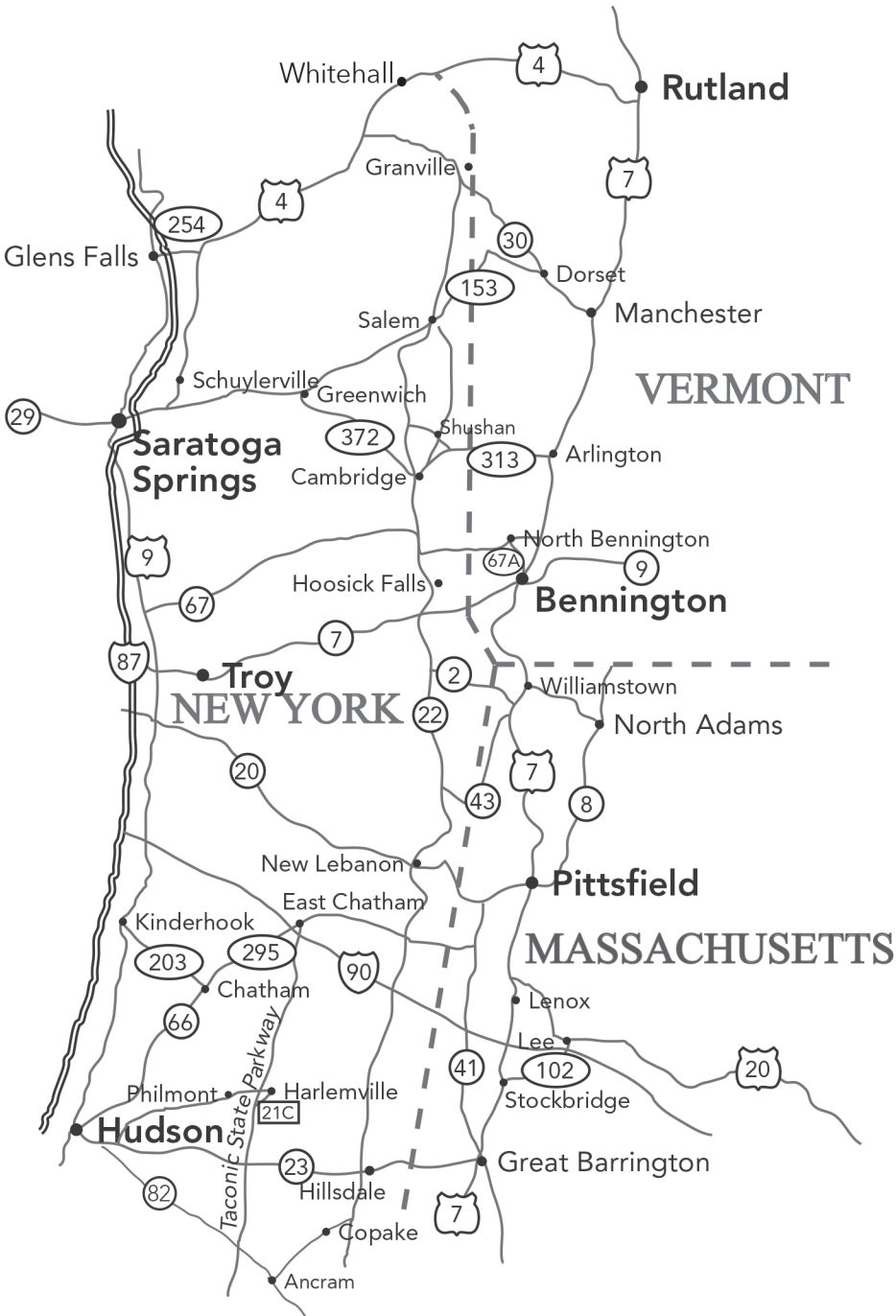
News that’s slow-brewed for a high-speed age

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.

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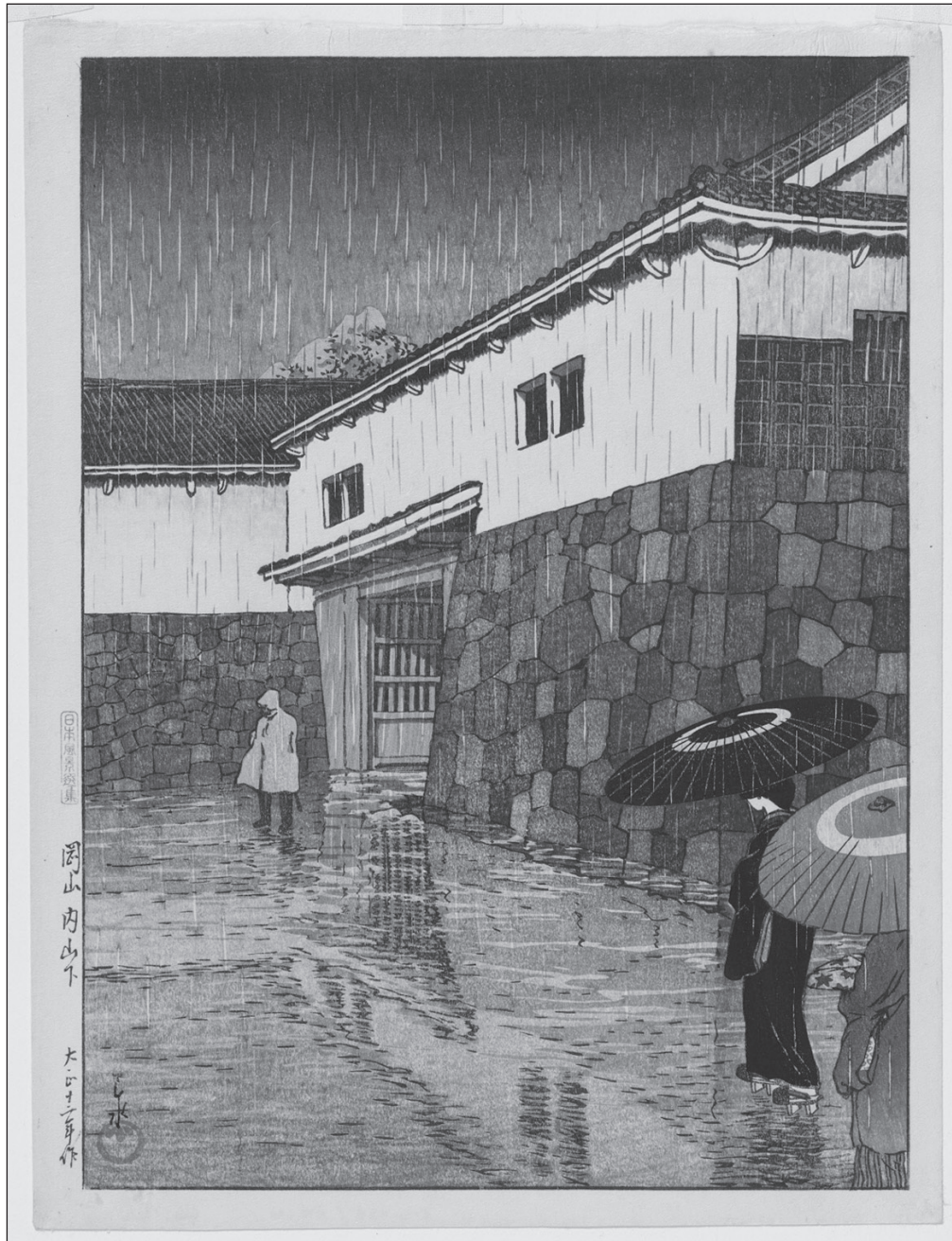


ARTS & CULTURE

Tradition reshaped by a changing world

Exhibit traces evolution of Japanese prints in the 20th century

Kawase Ha-sui's "Rain in Uchiyamashita, Okayama District" (1923) is among the works included in the exhibit "Competing Currents: 20th Century Japanese Prints," which opens Nov. 30 at the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Mass.



By KATE ABBOTT
Contributing writer

WILLIAMSTOWN, Mass.

The ground stretches away to the horizon, and the scuffed earth looks rough and glinting, like a flat sea under a lowering cloud.

In the distance, a low wall stretches in a white streak, with one break and a house out past it. The sky is a deep red ochre, as deep as the leaves that should be falling from the lean, bare trees.

Saito Kiyoshi's "Autumn in Nanzen-ji" (1971) is not an inkbrush painting, and it's not a Kandinsky. But Oliver Ruhl thinks it may be kin to both.

Saito's work has roots in the centuries-old Japanese tradition of wood block printing, in the contemporary style of Sosaku-hanga. And Ruhl is tracing the way those roots have grown.

This fall he has curated "Competing Currents," an exhibit that runs from Nov. 30 to Jan. 6 at the Clark Art Institute, tracing two movements in Japanese art in the 20th century as they put forward visions of how woodblock prints could develop as an art form into the future.

Ruhl first got to know them as a graduate student in art history at Williams College, he said by phone from Los Angeles, where he is working toward his doctorate at UCLA.

At Williams, he was working with Anne Leonard, the Manton curator of prints, drawings and photographs at the Clark. Exploring the museum's collection, Ruhl came to works of Shin-hanga, woodblock prints from the early 1900s.

"I was stunned by them, amazed," he said. "I hadn't seen anything like them before."

Kawase Hasui catches people walking with

Courtesy of Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute



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bright umbrellas under a driving rain and a low overcast sky. Yoshida Hiroshi shows the lights of restaurants shimmering on wet streets at night. These artists came out of a tradition more than 200 years old, and they changed it to show deep and realistic color, city streets and new perspectives.

Their works held his attention, Ruhl said. And he followed them forward, as woodblock prints evolved in and after World War II, and into the 1960s and 1970s. A new movement rose — Sosaku-hanga, creative prints. He finds them experimental, ruggedly visceral and modern. And he is intrigued by the contrast.

Rapid changes, broader horizons
Woodblock prints, Ukiyo-e, became popular in Japan in the 18th and 19th centuries with the growth of a middle class that had the free time and the resources to travel. People wanted beauty and entertainment, a fantasy of geishas and kabuki theater.

For centuries, art had belonged only to the very wealthy, and now wood-block printing meant less expensive images. A merchant could hang a scene on his wall or send a post card from a teahouse.

But in the late 19th and 20th centuries, Ukiyo-e began to seem old-fashioned, Ruhl said. Magazines and photography became popular. It was a time of change, industrialization and political friction.

In 1853, under the threat of U.S. guns, Japan had been forced into new trade agreements with the West. In 1868, the capital moved from the ancient cultural center of Kyoto to the industrial city of Edo — Tokyo — which was and is one of the most populous cities on the planet.

Outside of Japan, Ukiyo-e prints were traveling the world, Ruhl said. They were filling print shops in Paris and influencing Impressionists from Van Gogh to Monet. They were widely popular across Europe and the United States, even as the art form was waning in Japan.

The movement of ideas flowed in both

directions, he said. Artists were studying each other's work, traveling and exhibiting, reading avant-garde periodicals.

Shin-hanga emerged amid the rapid changes of the early 20th century. Shin means new, Ruhl explained. Japan saw many "shin" movements at the turn of the century – new culture, new politics, new energy.

In 1915, the publisher Shozaburo Watanabe first used this name for the art movement Shin-hanga, new prints. Watanabe wanted to reinvigorate the power of woodblock printing, Ruhl said. Under Watanabe's eye, a new generation of artists would come to Ukiyo-e with new perspectives.

Amid upheaval, tranquil scenes
Ukiyo-e has a long tradition of detail, fine shades of color and line, and space shown in overlapping planes. One element may appear large and close in the foreground, like a maple leaves from a nearby tree hovering in front of a view across a valley, and smaller elements behind it give a sense of space.

In prints like Hasui's, Ruhl sees these elements translated. Hasui's images have a new kind of realism, a point of view Western artists had evolved since the Renaissance, a diagonal sense of space that gives an illusion of three dimensions.

Printmaking can be a slow and careful process, Ruhl said, and it has its own set of restraints. In Shin-hanga, the artist would paint the original scene and hand it to woodworkers who carved the blocks and printers who mixed and layered in the hues. They might keep the artist involved — Hasui could take weeks going over test prints and making changes, like a pianist practicing runs to tone his inflection.

The carvers had to work in minute detail, by hand, and they had little room for error. They

could not easily add new elements. They were removing wood to leave only the shape of what they wanted the colored ink to touch. You're carving around what you want printed," Ruhl said. "In drawing, you can put more graphite on the page to create a new form. In wood blocks, you're carving away to create a raised surface."

That relationship and constraint became one of the central differences between Shin-hanga and its newly evolving cousin. In Sosaku-hanga, or creative prints, the artists make their own blocks, roll their own inks and make their work themselves from start to finish.

Sosaku-hanga artists saw Shin-hanga as conservative, re-creating beautiful sites for a foreign audience, he said.

Ruhl sees Shin-hanga artists showing an element of nationalism, rejecting Western influence. He can see in their ideals a reaction against mechanized, manufactured urban spaces and a look back to a pre-modern Japan.

"You can see that in [Shin-hanga's] minute, precise reproductions of the natural world," he said. "Hasui is a master at this."

Hasui is recalling an almost dreamlike pre-

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modern Japan, Ruhl said. His images don't have many power lines or big buildings. He keeps an intentional focus, and his scenes are often outdoors and calm — a stone bridge over a river, or salt marsh and sun on the ocean.

But Hasui's world was rarely tranquil. He was painting between two World Wars. His "Rain in Uchiyamashita, Okayama District" (1923) survived the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923 and the fires that burned through Tokyo — and destroyed the warehouse that held most of his work.

As World War II broke over Japan, Ruhl said, Shin-hanga was ebbing. The war halted many kinds of art as it rearranged artists' lives.

Into the modern era

In and after the war, Sosaku-hanga emerged more strongly. Ruhl sees in it a wider variety of experimentation and expression. In strong lines, geometric shapes and solid color, these artists were leading a movement toward abstraction. Their work heightens a flattening effect — much the same effect the planes in Ukiyo-e had brought to Western eyes.

Now contemporary Japanese artists were playing with that effect in new ways, Ruhl said. They brought their own views to Modernism.

They looked to the past and future, sometimes inspired by Japan's earliest prints, eighth-century Buddhist sutras, and by Buddhist temple architecture and Buddhist clay sculpture images in earth tones. At the same time, Ruhl sees them in conversation with modern artists in the West and with European printmakers, especially the abstract emotion of the German expressionists.

Sosaku-hanga artists often play with a sense of touch, he said. They let the surface of the block show in the print. The textures of the wood curl like folds of cloth in the pattern of

a kimono. Or the grain of the wood informs the way a figure is standing or moving, quiet or taut or coiled to spring.

When the artists have the wood in their hands, Ruhl said, cutting the block and mixing the inks, they can have a different feel for what the wood and the colors will do.

"It goes back to the ways they're working, themselves," he said. "If I'm a designer and I never touch the wood, you can see how a disconnect may arise. When you're creating the design and making the carving, you can have an understanding and connection."

Sosaku-hanga artists had a wider freedom in some ways, he said, not only in making their work, but in sending it into the world. They were not working through a publisher who controlled distribution, so they could exhibit on their own.

In the West, he said, artists were holding their own shows in warehouses and college classrooms when museums refused them. They were opening their own collectives, with actors performing on highway medians and poets printing chapbooks.

In Japan, Sosaku-hanga artists were finding independence both a challenge and a release. More than a few of them worked their way up, Ruhl said.

Saito Kiyoshi, who would become one of the best-known artists in the movement, began as a commercial sign painter. He moved from the country to the city, from Hokkaido in the far north — an island as cold as the Russian steppes — to Tokyo in 1932, and it would take him 20 years to make his name known.

According to the Ronin Gallery, which represents Kiyoshi's work in the United States, in Tokyo he painted in oils and studied at the Hongo Painting Institute, and he began experimenting with woodblock prints and exhibiting his works with the Japan Print

Association in 1936. But he sold his first wood block only late in the war, eight or nine years later.

Kiyoshi began reaching a wider audience among Americans stationed in Japan in the 1950s, Ruhl said, and in 1951 he won international recognition at the inaugural Sao Paulo Biennial. He would go on creating work for a global audience.

In 1967, he designed and printed the first woodcut ever to appear on the cover of Time magazine, a portrait of Japanese Prime Minister Eisaku Sato. He shows the Prime Minister in profile, in shadow with a strong light shining on his face and wood grain rippling in the dark blue background like ocean currents seen from above.

Sosaku-hanga was earning international attention, Ruhl said, and drawing in artists who had never been part of Japan's established art world. But women had a still harder time becoming part of it. Ruhl has included at least one woman in this exhibit, Shima Tamami. The Clark has a print of her work, "A Stand of Trees" (1959), in its collection.

Tamami appears as one of very few women who have shown their work in the Sosaku-hanga movement, Ruhl said. She graduated from Tokyo Women's University of Arts (Women's College of Fine Arts) in 1958 and made more than 60 prints.

In this one, bare trees stand in shades of copper and bronze and gray. A roughened texture shows in the shadows and the surface of the snow. Trails of meltwater or animal tracks trace the slope, and it feels foreshortened, in the way an iPhone photo of a steep hill can look almost flat and level. She gives a sense of distance in the open-sided pavilion just visible through the trees and the grey curve of the mountain on the horizon.

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- from Hudson 1 hour 30 minutes
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- from Saratoga Springs 1 hour, 15 minutes
- from Williamstown 20 minutes

See map on page 17

Arts & Culture

AREA EXHIBITIONS

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

ArtOmi.org • 518-392-4747 • Sculpture & Architecture Park • outdoor, self-guided tour, download from website
• through Jan. 2, 2022: Jeffrey Gibson: “To Feel Myself Beloved on the Earth” (quilts, garments, drums, prints, & video)

ArtistBkFoundation.org • 1327 MASS MoCA Way, Bldg. 13, 2nd Floor, North Adams, MA
• through Mar. 31, 2022: Don Gummer: Wall Reliefs, Drawings, and Sculpture

Arts Center Gallery at Saratoga Arts • 518-584-4132 • www.saratoga-arts.org
• through Nov. 13: Lauren Breedlove, Greg Cuda, Adrian Lee, and Arnela Mahmutovic
• through Nov. 29: Art in Public Places (see locations at website)
• Nov. 18-Jan. 8, 2022: Annual Members’ Show

BenningtonMuseum.org • 75 Mian St., Bennington, VT • 802-447-1571
• through Nov. 7: Robert Frost, “At Present in Vermont” • North Bennington Outdoor Sculpture Show (NBOSS 2021)
• Nov. 26-Dec. 31: “Transient Beauty: Responding to Snowflake Bentley”
• through Dec. 31: “Askwa n’daoldibna iodali: We Are Still Here” • “Love, Marriage, & Divorce”
• “boundless: new paintings and mixed media works by Dusty Boynton”

BerkshireBotanical.org Gardens • 5 W. Stockbridge Rd., Stockbridge, MA • 413-298-3926
• Nov. 6-30: “The Magic of Nicholas Mongiardo”

BerkshireMuseum.org • 39 South St., Pittsfield, MA
• through Jan. 9, 2022: “The Land of the Thunder Dragon: Bhutan Through the Lens of Mead Eagle Photography” • “Objects and Their Stories” • “Muh-he-con-ne-ok: The People of the Waters That are Never Still”
• Nov. 19-Jan. 9, 2022: “Museum of the Moon”

TheBeyondGallery.com • 437 Main St., Bennington, VT • 802-753-7502
• through Nov. 28: Individual Artist Show with photographer Alan Del Vecchio
• Dec. 3-31: “Artist’s Choice”

BrattleboroMuseum.org • 10 Vernon St., Brattleboro, VT • 802-257-0124
• Nov. 11-14 • 14th Annual LEGO Contest & Exhibit

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

CarrieHaddadGallery.com • 622 Warren St., Hudson, NY • 518-828-1915
• through Nov. 21: Fall Exhibit (Dai Ban, Anthony Finta, Ginny Fox, Carl Grauer, & Joseph Maresca)
• through Nov. 21: “Fragments of Time and Space,” feat. paintings by Anthony Finta, Ginny Fox, Carl Grauer, Joseph Maresca, and abstract wall sculpture by Dai Ban

ChaffeeArtCenter.org • 16 S. Main St., Rutland, VT • 802-558-8845
• Nov. 12-Jan. 7, 2022: Annual Member Exhibit & Holiday Shoppe with Gingerbread Contest

ChapmanMuseum.org • 348 Glens St., Glens Falls, NY • 518-793-2826
• through Dec. 31: “Let’s All Fight, WWII Home Front Posters Online Legacy Exhibit”
• through Mar. 31, 2022: “From Nickelodeons to Drive-Ins”

ClarkArt.edu • 225 South St., Williamstown, MA • 413-458-2303 • Masks & vax proof REQ’D
• Nov. 1-Dec. 31: Anne Thompson “Trail Signs”
• through Jan 2, 2022: “Erin Shirreff: Remainders”
• Nov. 6-Jan. 30, 2022: “Competing Currents: 20th-Century Japanese Prints”
• Dec. 11-Mar. 6, 2022: “Hue & Cry: French Printmaking and the Debate Over Colors”

ClaverackLibrary.org • NY Rtes. 9H & 23B • 518-851-7120 • Masks REQ’D
• through Nov. 6: Creativity Amid Chaos: What Did You Make During the Pandemic? • 9 Rte. 9H

CollarWorks.org • 621 River St., Troy, NY • 518-285-0765
• through Aug. 2022: “Flat Files,” curated by Kate Mothes (feat. small 2-D works by over 50 artists)
• through Aug. 2022: “Object Lounge,” curated by Madison LaVallee & YiyiMendoza (feat. small-scale three-dimensional objects by 14 artists)
• through Jan. 30: “Out of Office,” curated by Angelik Vizcarrondo-Laboy

Courthouse Gallery • 1 Amherst St., Lake George, NY • 518-668-2616 • www.lakegeorgearts.org • Masks REQ’D
• Nov. 17-Dec. 18: “Parallel Play,” new work by Barbara Todd

D’Arcy Simpson Art Works • 409 Warren St., Hudson, NY • DarcySimpsonArtWorks.com
• “Requiem for Silence,” by David McIntyre

EclipseMill.com • Studio 109, 243 Union St., North Adams, MA
• through Dec.: “Jerusalem 1960 + Tattooed Ladies” (by Magnum photographer Leonard Freed)
• Nov. 3-30: “Martin Landau’s EXPOSED”

ElizabethMooreFineArt.com • 105 Warren St., Hudson, NY • 646-321-3419
• through Nov. 23: Paul Jacobsen: “Visible Light”

CrandallLibrary.org /Folklife-Center • 251 Glen St., Glens Falls, NY • 518-792-6508
• through Nov. 16: “Shutter Squad” Summer 2021 Photography Show
• through Dec. 31: Crafts of Saga Japan: 33 Years of Gifting By Our Sister City

HancockShakerVillage.org • 413-443-0188 •
• through Nov. 28: “Local and Land Made: Growing a New Textile Economy”
• through Nov. 28: Thomas Barger: “Heaven Bound” and Gary Graham: “Looking Back to Look Forward”

• through Dec. 1: “Climbing the Holy Hill” outdoor exhibition (with Our Native Daughters, Brad Wells, Roomful of Teeth, & Allison Smith)
• through Oct. 30, 2022: James Turrell & Nicholas Mosse: “Lapsed Quaker Ware”

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

HudsonHall.org • 327 Warren Street, Hudson, NY • 518-822-1438
• through Dec. 5: “On Lightness” • “Off the Wall”

HydeCollection.org • Adv. REG., Masks & Distance REQ’D • 518-792-1761
• through Jan. 2, 2022: “Reflecting on 2020: New Sculpture by John Van Alstine” and “Summer Bomb Pop: Collections in Dialogue” (part of “All Together Now” collab. with the Tang)
• through Apr. 24, 2022: Robert Blackburn & Modern American Printmaking
• through May 1, 2022: Georgia O’Keeffe: Pattern of Leaves

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

TheLafferGallery.com • 96 Broad St., Schuylerville, NY • 518-695-3181
• through Nov. 21: “9th Annual Upstate Invitational” with Jon Gernon, Susan Stuart, and Phyllis Kulmatiski
• Dec. 4- Jan. 9, 2022: 10th Annual “Upstate Artists” Juried Group Show

LABSpace • 2642 NY Rte. 23, Hillsdale, NY
• through Nov. 14: Susan Carr: “Yonder”

































LARAC.org • 7 Lapham Pl., Glens Falls, NY • 518-798-1144 • In person or virtually
• through Nov. 3: Show VII: “Alone at Home” LARAC Annual Juried Art Exhibit

MASSMoCA.org • North Adams, MA
• through Oct. 31: “Kissing through a Curtain”
• Nov. 20: Yto Barrada: “Ways to Baffle the Wind”
• through 2021: Richard Nielsen’s “This is Not a Gag”
• through May 2022: Wendy Red Star’s “Apsaalooke: Children of the Large-Beaked Bird”

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

Norman Rockwell Museum • 9 Glendale Rd, Stockbridge, MA • nrm.org • 413-298-4100 • Masks REQ’D indoors

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR NOVEMBER 2021				
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs
<div>31</div> <div></div> <div><p>be emailed</p></div> <div><p>TheFoundryWS.com • The Halloween Happening with Sample the Cat • 6:30 doors, 7 pm concert, 9 pm costume contest, dance until 10 pm</p></div> <div><p>CaffeLena.org • Cassandra Kunbinski • Album Release • 7-9 pm • Livestream • 7-8:30 pm</p></div> <div><div>See Theater Listings</div></div> <div><p>• Bennington Comm. Shakespeare & Co.</p></div> <div><p>Shakespeare.org • “Breaking Dawn: An American Myth” • 7 pm • Link will</p></div>	<div>1</div> <div></div> <div><p>CaffeLena.org • Open Mic Night • 7-10 pm</p></div> <div><div>See Theater Listings</div></div> <div><p>• WAM Theatre</p></div> <div><p>ImagesCinema.org • See Oct. 31</p></div> <div><div>misc.</div></div> <div><p>HudsonCrossingPark.org • All Saints’ Day/Day of the Dead Meditation Labyrinth Walk • Anytime, Dawn to Dusk</p></div>	<div>2</div> <div></div> <div><p>CaffeLena.org • Evening w/ Kathy Mattea • Live (\$69) & Streaming (\$5) • 5-6:30 pm & 8-9:30 pm</p></div> <div><div>See Theater Listings</div></div> <div><p>• WAM Theatre</p></div> <div><p>ImagesCinema.org • See Oct. 31</p></div> <div><p>Northshire.com • Crowdcast • Alison Gaylin (“The Collective”) • 8 pm • Bk. purchase REQ’D for link</p></div> <div><div>misc.</div></div> <div><p>HudsonCrossingPark.org • See Nov. 1</p></div> <div><p>CaffeLena.org • Yo Re Me: Music & Yoga for Children • 10:30-11 am</p></div> <div><p>Cornell.zoom.us • Cookie Party! Webinar • 2-3 pm • Pre-reg. REQ’D • Email for shopping list: chapmc2-at-sage.edu • 518-623-3291</p></div> <div><p>SaratogaJewishCulturalFestival.org • Social Justice Series: Discussion on Netflix film “Mudbound” • 7 pm • Pre-reg. REQ’D for Zoom l</p></div>	<div>3</div> <div><div>See Theater Listings</div></div> <div><p>• WAM Theatre</p></div> <div><p>BerkshireTheatreGroup.org • “Warren Miller’s Winter Starts Now” • 7:30 pm • 111 South St., Pittsfield • Masks & proof of vax REQ’D</p></div> <div><p>ImagesCinema.org • “Dune,” at 4 pm • Social Change Series: “If Beale Street Could Talk,” at 7:30 pm</p></div> <div><p>Northshire.com Virtually • Jo Wimpenny (“Aesop’s Animals: The Science Behind the Fables”) • 6 pm</p></div> <div><p>CaffeLena.org • Open Mic feat. Jessica Cuello • 7-9 pm</p></div> <div><p>ChapmanMuseum.org • “Adapting an Icon for the Big Screen” • 7 pm on Zoom</p></div> <div><div>misc.</div></div> <div><p>BerkshireAHEC.org Zoom Workshop • “Battlemind Plus: Transitioning from Combat to Home” • 3:30-5:30 pm • Free • Pre-reg. REQ’D • 413-842-5160</p></div>	<div>4</div> <div></div> <div><p>CaffeLena.org • Grain Thief • Doors 6:30 pm, concert 7 pm</p></div> <div><p>ShakerMuseum.us Online • Shaker Songs w/Saro Lynch-Thomason • 6:30-7:30 pm • Reg. req’d.</p></div> <div><div>See Theater Listings</div></div> <div><p>• WAM Theatre</p></div> <div><p>ImagesCinema.org • See Oct. 31 (last screening)</p></div> <div><p>Shakespeare.org • See Oct. 31</p></div>
<div>7</div> <div></div> <div><p>GildedAge.org • Celebration Concert and Tea • 3:30 pm • Res. REQ’D 413-637-3206 • Proof of vax, ID, & masks REQ’D</p></div> <div><p>CaffeLena.org • Folk Heritage: Jim Kweskin • Live 7-9 pm; Livestream 7-8:30 pm</p></div> <div><div>See Theater Listings</div></div> <div><p>• Bennington Comm. Hubbard Hall WAM Theatre</p></div> <div><p>ImagesCinema.org • See Nov. 6</p></div> <div><p>Shakespeare.org • See Oct. 31</p></div> <div><p>BrooksideMuseum.org • “Saratoga County Stories” Meet the Authors, Book-signing • 2-4 pm • Historic Grooms Tavern</p></div>	<div>8</div> <div></div> <div><p>CaffeLena.org • Open Mic Night • 7-10 pm</p></div> <div><p>ImagesCinema.org • See Nov. 5</p></div> <div><p>ClavarackLibrary.org • “FDR, War President” • 6-7 pm • Reg. req’d for Zoom</p></div> <div><div>misc.</div></div> <div><p>SalemArtWorks.org • Online Fall Auction (ends 11/14)</p></div> <div><p>Cornell.zoom.us • Enjoy Food that Tastes Great! Workshop • 10-11 am • Info at 518-765-3555</p></div>	<div>9</div> <div></div> <div><p>CaffeLena.org • Jazz: Chuck Lamb Trio feat. Michael Dease • Live 7-9 pm; Livestream 7-8:30 pm</p></div> <div><p>ImagesCinema.org • See Nov. 5</p></div> <div><p>Northshire.com at Home • Nathaniel Ian Miller (“The Memoirs of Stockholm Sven”) • 6 pm</p></div> <div><div>misc.</div></div> <div><p>SalemArtWorks.org • Online Fall Auction (ends 11/14)</p></div> <div><p>CaffeLena.org • Yo Re Me: Music & Yoga for Children • 10:30-11 am</p></div> <div><p>DeweyHall.org • Non-profit Appeal Letter Signing Party • 6-8 pm</p></div> <div><p>Cornell.edu • Apples • 6-8 pm • Reg. for Zoom at GuilderlandPublicLibrary.org</p></div>	<div>10</div> <div><p>ImagesCinema.org • See Nov. 5</p></div> <div><p>Northshire.com at Home • Devon Walker-Figueroa (“Philomath” Poetry) • 6 pm</p></div> <div><p>Bennington.edu/poetry-bennington • Poetry Reading: Camille Dungy (“Trophic Cascade”) & Deborah Landau (“Soft Targets”) • 7-8:30 pm • Zoom link at URL</p></div> <div><p>FriendsOfChamberMusic.org • With Ensemble Decipher • 7:30 pm • Free • Reg. REQ’D for Zoom link</p></div> <div><div>misc.</div></div> <div><p>SalemArtWorks.org • Online Fall Auction (ends 11/14)</p></div> <div><p>ScovilleLibrary.org • Outdoor Family Storytime • 10:45 am</p></div>	<div>11</div> <div></div> <div><p>CaffeLena.org • Karin Allyson • Live 7-9 pm; Livestream 7-8:30 pm</p></div> <div><div>See Theater Listings</div></div> <div><p>• ’62 Center Bridge Street Theatre</p></div> <div><p>Imagescinema.org • See Nov. 5</p></div> <div><p>Shakespeare.org • See Oct. 31</p></div> <div><p>Northshire.com at home • Kate Sweeney (“Catch the Light”) • 8 pm</p></div> <div><div>misc.</div></div> <div><p>SalemArtWorks.org • Online Fall Auction (ends 11/14)</p></div>

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR NOVEMBER 2021

Th(cont'd) Fri Sat

4



Northshire.com
--Amor Towles ("The Lincoln Highway") • 6 pm Virtually
--Crowdcast • Serrano Shea ("Hip-Hop [and Other Things]) • 8 pm • Book purchase REQ'D for link

BrooksideMuseum.org • "The Luther Forest: 5 Generations," then Annual Meeting • 7 pm


misc.

RutlandCountyAudubon.org • West Rutland Marsh Monitoring Walk (3.7 mi RT) • 8 am • Meet at marsh boardwalk on Marble St.

5


BerkshireTheatreGroup.org • The Eagles Band • 7 pm • 111 South St., Pittsfield • Masks & proof of vax REQ'D

CaffeLena.org • The Blues Project • Live, 8-10 pm • Livestream, 8-9:30 pm

 See Theater Listings


- Bennington Comm.
- Hubbard Hall
- MASSMoca
- WAM Theatre

RitesOfPassageProject.org/2020Vision • Virtual Screening w/ Live Artist Talk-back • 8 pm • Live-streaming links on website


ImagesCinema.org • "The French Dispatch" (through Nov. 18), at 4:45, 7:30 pm

BerkshireMuseum.org • "Call Us Ishmael" • 7-8:20 pm

pm
Shakespeare.org • See Oct. 31


HudsonHall.org • "She's Gone Missing: The Epidemic You Don't Hear About – Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women" w/ Heather Bruegl • Free w/ Res. • 6 pm

Northshire.com Virtually • Mitch Albom ("The Stranger in the Life Boat") • 7:30 pm

misc.

HydeCollection.org • "Georgia O'Keeffe: Pattern of Leaves" • 10 am-5 pm

SalemArtWorks.org • Fall Auction Sneak Peek • 4-6 pm • North Main Gallery, Salem, NY


ChaffeeArtCenter.org • Holiday Artisan Gift Show • 4-8 pm

6


CaffeLena.org • Little Folks Show w/Ida Mae & Lila Specker • 3 pm
• Duke Robillard Band • Live 8-10 pm; Livestream 8-9:30 pm

BerkshireTheatreGroup.org • The Linda Ronstadt Experience w/ Tristan McIntosh • 7:30 pm • 111 South St., Pittsfield • Masks & proof of vax REQ'D

DeweyHall.org • Berkshire Strings Jam Sessions (Mod. paced fiddle tune & contra dance music) • 11 am • RSVP by Fri PM • Fbook if cancelled

 See Theater Listings

- Bennington Comm.
- Hubbard Hall
- MASSMoca
- WAM Theatre


Imagescinema.org • "The French Dispatch," at 2, 4:45, 7:30 pm

BerkshireMuseum.org • "The Act of Reading" • 7-8:30 pm

Shakespeare.org • See Oct. 31 & "Speak What We Feel" • 2 & 7 pm • Proof of

vax or Neg. COVID w/in 48 hrs & masks REQ'D


Northshire.com
--At home • How to Write a Family Cookbook w/ Ellen Ecker Ogden • 9:30 am-12 pm (and 11/13) • \$195
--Ken Tingley ("The Last American Editor") Book signing, Saratoga store • 1-2 pm

GildedAge.org • Cornelia Brooke "The Brushwood Farm Story" • 3:30 pm • \$20 • Res. REQ'D 413-637-3206 • Proof of vax, ID, & masks REQ'D

ScovilleLibrary.org • Timothy Egan ("Once There Were Giants, The New Fire Threat in the West") • 4 pm • Zoom & live • Reg. REQ'D

misc.

gmcKillington.org • "Put Trails to Bed Work Day • LT/AT • Call for time & meeting place • L. Walter 802-775-3855 or D. Coppock 802-683-1614

AdirondackFolkSchool.org • Holiday Shopping Day! • 10 am-3 pm • 518-696-2400 • 51 Main St., Lake Luzerne, NY

ChaffeeArtCenter.org •

Holiday Artisan Gift Show • 10 am-5 pm

Martin Van Buren Nat'l Historic Site • "Wee Wonders Saturday: Falliday" • 11-1 pm • 518-758-9689 x 2009 • nps.gov/mava

BerkshireMuseum.org • Kid-friendly
--Kitchen Ka-Boom • 11 am-12 pm
--Chow Time (for Aquarium creatures) • 12:30-1:30 pm

BerkshireBotanical.org • Pre-reg. REQ'D
• Digging Dahlias • 11 am-12:30 pm
• Houseplants by Design • 2-3:30 pm

WCNYHS.org • Historical Soc. Open House (historical toy exhibit & diorama-making [kid-friendly]; book signing) • 11 am-2 pm • 50 Gurney Ln., Queensbury, NY


FriendsOfClermont.org • Herb-Infused Candle Making • 1 pm • 8 yrs+ • Pre-reg. REQ'D

BenningtonMuseum.org • Honor Veterans, Rededicate Civil War Memorial • 1-6 pm

ArtOmi.org • Intro to Art Omi Tour • 3-4 pm

11


12



ParamountVT.org • "Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story" • 7:30 pm

CaffeLena.org • David Ryan Harris • Live 8-10 pm; Livestream 8-9:30 pm

 See Theater Listings

- '62 Center
- Bridge Street Theatre
- Hubbard Hall



Imagescinema.org • See Nov. 5
Shakespeare.org • See Oct. 31


Northshire.com • Phil Bayly ("Back Dirt") Book signing, Saratoga store • 5:30-6:30 pm

misc.

SalemArtWorks.org • Online Fall Auction (ends 11/14)

13


CaffeLena.org
--Dan Hubbs & Banjo Variant: Book Release & Live Concert • 3-4:30 pm
--Bright Series: Yasmin William • Live, 8-10 pm; Livestream, 8-9:30 pm

BerkshireTheatreGroup.com • The Stompers • 7:30 pm • 111 South St., Pittsfield, MA • 413-997-4444 • Masks & proof of vax REQ'D

ParamountVT.org • "The Monster Energy Outbreak Tour presents: Laine Hardy" • 8 pm


TheFoundryWS.com • WS Jazz Series: Armen Donelian w/ Dominique Eade, David Clark, & George Schuller

 See Theater Listings

- '62 Center
- Bridge Street Theatre
- Hubbard Hall


ClarkArt.edu • 2nd Screening! The Met: Live in HD presents Terence Blanchard's "Fire Shut Up in My Bones" • 12:55 pm • \$25/\$22 mbrs/\$18 students/\$7 children <10

SpencertownAcademy.org • "Music Lessons," by Ed Napier • 7 pm • \$20/\$15 mbrs • Masks & vax proof REQ'D


ImagesCinema.org • See Nov. 5

BerkshireMuseum.org • "Borderland: Life & Times of Blanche Ames Ames" • 7-8:30 pm

Shakespeare.org • See Oct. 31


ScovilleLibrary.org • Book Group: "Run Me to Earth," by Paul Yoon • 4 pm • Zoom & live • Reg. REQ'D

GildedAge.org • Ghost Tours w/ Robert Oakes •

7:30 pm • \$25 • Ages 12+ • Res. REQ'D at 413-637-3206 • Proof of vax, ID, & masks REQ'D

misc.

SalemArtWorks.org • Online Fall Auction (ends 11/14)

BerkshireMuseum.org • Chow Time • See 11/6

Cornell.edu • Super Soups (Zoom) • 10 am-12pm • Reg. REQ'D at conted@sunyacc.edu or 518-743-2238

DeweyHall.org • Young at Heart: Science & Art Exploration w/Flying Cloud • 11 am-12 pm • Masks REQ'D

BerkshireBotanical.org • Vegetable-focused Sharefare • 2-5 pm • Pre-reg. REQ'D

American Legion Post 278 • Veteran's Day Dinner • cocktails 6 pm, dinner 7 pm • \$15/ticket • 6 Clan-cy St., Schuylerville, NY • 518-695-3011

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR NOVEMBER 2021

SunMonTuesWedThurs

14



BenningtonMuseum.org • Sentimental Songs – A Phonograph Concert • 2-3 pm

CaffeLena.org
–Reese Fulmer & Carriage House Band Album Release • 3 pm
–Mile Twelve • Live, 7-9 pm; Livestream 7-8:30 pm

SageCitySymphony.org
• Fall Concert • 4 pm • Bennington College

 See Theater Listings

• '62 Center
• Bridge Street Theatre
• Hubbard Hall

**ImagesCinema.org** • See Nov. 5

Shakespeare.org • See Oct. 31

**BerkshireBotanical.org**
• “Rooted in Place” Gardening Symp. • 10 am-4 pm • REQ'D: Pre-reg., Vax/Neg COVID • At Mahaiwe

Schenectady Post 106 • Veterans' Day B'fast & Dr. B. Doherty (“Jews at the Naval Academy”) • Live (\$18) & Zoom (Free) • Res. REQ'D at Galtman903@aol.com

ShakerMuseum.us
Online • Knit-A-Long: About Elvira Hulett: What her story tells us about the Shakers • 4 pm • Reg. req'd.

SalemArtWorks.org • Online Fall Auction (last day)

misc.

21



CEWM.org • Café Music—Classic, Jazz, Rap, Beat-boxing • 4 pm • \$52/\$28 (virtual, too) • Mahaiwe PAC

 See Theater Listings

• Bridge Street Theatre

**ClavarackLibrary.org** •


Book to Film Club • “Frankenstein” (1931) • 2 pm Film, 4 pm Book • In person & Zoom

Shakespeare.org • See Oct. 31


**BenningtonMuseum.org** • Love, Marriage & Divorce w/Collections Manager • 2-3 pm

misc.


28



CaffeLena.org • • John Pizzarelli
• 5-6:30 pm & 8-9:30 pm

 See Theater Listings

• Ghent Playhouse

**ImagesCinema.org** • See 10/22

BenningtonMuseum.org • See Nov. 26

BerkshireBotanical.org
• Beginners Chainsaw Skills Workshop • 8:30 am-3:30 pm • Pre-reg.REQ'D

misc.

15



CaffeLena.org • Open Mic Night • 7-10 pm • Live (Vax Proof REQ'D)

**ImagesCinema.org** • See Nov. 5

misc.

Cornell.zoom.us • My-Plate for My Family: Fruit & Veggie Simple Solutions • 1-2 pm • Info: A. Rodd 518-765-3555

misc.

22




CaffeLena.org • Open Mic Night • 7-10 pm • Live (Vax Proof REQ'D)

**ImagesCinema.org** • Anime & Art: “Weathering With You,” • 7:30 pm

**SaratogaJewishCulturalFestival.org** • Discuss “Partisans of Vilna” • 7 pm • Reg. REQ'D at sjca.sjcf-at-gmail.com

misc.

29




CaffeLena.org • Open Mic Night • 7-10 pm • Vax proof REQ'D


BenningtonMuseum.org • See Nov. 26

misc.

16



CaffeLena.org • Rochmon Record Club: Springsteen: “Darkness on the Edge of Town” • Live 7-9 pm

**ImagesCinema.org** • See Nov. 5


misc.

CaffeLena.org • Yo Re Me: Music & Yoga for Children • 10:30-11 am

Cornell.edu • Adventure Awaits: Paris! • 1-2 pm • Reg. for Zoom link at 518-793-2189

misc.

23



Northshire.com at Home • Ann Patchett (“These Precious Days”) • 6:30 pm

misc.

CaffeLena.org • Yo Re Me: Music & Yoga for Children • 10:30-11 am

misc.

30

misc.

CaffeLena.org • Yo Re Me: Music & Yoga for Children • 10:30-11 am

BenningtonMuseum.org • See Nov. 26

misc.

17



CaffeLena.org • Bluegrass Jam • 7-9 pm

**ImagesCinema.org** • See Nov. 5

ChapmanMuseum.org
• “Gulliver’s Travels” (1939) • 7 pm • Res. req’d 518-793-2826 or mfolk@chapmanmuseum.org

misc.

BerkshireAHEC.org
Zoom Workshop • “Healing Soul Wounds: Moral Injury in Combat Vets” • 3:30-5:30 pm • Free • Pre-reg. REQ'D • 413-842-5160

misc.

24



ScovilleLibrary.org • Outdoor Family Storytime • 10:45 am

misc.

DEC 1



CrandallLibrary.org • Suzie Gilbert (“Unflappable: A Novel”) • 7-8 pm • Zoom


CaffeLena.org • Open Mic • 7-9 pm

BenningtonMuseum.org • See Nov. 26


ChapmanMuseum.org • Family Craft Nights • 5-8 pm

misc.


18




CaffeLena.org • The Rev. Peyton’s Big Damn Band • Live & Livestream
• Early show, 6-7:30 pm
• Late show, 8:30 -10 pm

 See Theater Listings

• Bridge Street Theatre

**ImagesCinema.org** • See Nov. 5 (Last screening)

Shakespeare.org • See Oct. 31



misc.


25

Land Acknowledgement

Hill Country Observer acknowledges with gratitude that we work and publish on land once occupied by the Onkwehonwe (pronounced “own

misc.

2



CaffeLena.org • CaffeLena.org • Scott Sharrard Night One • 7-9 pm

misc.

BerkshireMuseum.org
• See Nov. 26
• Yoga Under the Moon • 5:30-6:30 pm

misc.

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Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR

Th(cont'd) Fri

NOVEMBER 2021

Sat

18

Northshire.com at home • Jeffrey Cranor & Janina Matthewson (“You Feel It Just Below the Ribs”) • 6 pm

misc.

VtFarmToPlate.com • 2021 Farm to Plate Annual Gathering • 9:30 am-5 pm

BenningtonMuseum.org • Museum ABCs: Abenaki Art • Preschool w/ adult • 1:30-2:30 pm

Cornell.zoom.us • One-Pot Holiday Cooking • 6-7 pm • Info: K. Roberts Mort, 518-765-3552

25

gway own way”), among whom were the Mahican, the Huron, and the Mohawk. We honor with gratitude the heritage of the land and the people who have been its stewards.

2

19

 **Petersburgh Veterans Mem'l Community Ctr.** • Open Mic Series! • 6:30 pm • Free

misc.

CaffeLena.org • Darrell Scott • Live, 7-9 pm; Livestream, 8-9:30 pm

 See Theater Listings

• **Bridge Street Theatre**

 **Shakespeare.org** • See Oct. 31

Northshire.com • Catherine Bruns (“The Enemy You Gnocchi”), Marie Williams (“The Revolutionary War in

the Adiron-dacks”), Kevin Wilson (“Sully’s Squad”) Group Book Signing, Saratoga • 6-7 pm


misc.

VtFarmToPlate.com • 2021 Farm to Plate Annual Gathering • 9 am-1 pm


Cornell.edu --Cuisine from Around the World: Germany Virtually • 11 am-12 pm • Reg. at 518-761-8223 --Forest Bathing Under the Moon • 5-6:30 pm • Dress warmly • Reg. at https://bit.ly/272Wdug • 6055 Rte. 23, Acra, NY

BerkshireMuseum.org • Night Out: Astronomy in the Moonlight • 6:30-9 pm

26

 **FortSalemTheater.com** • Ted Vigil in “A John Denver Christmas” • 7:30 pm • Masks & Vax proof REQ'D

CaffeLena.org • Seth Glier w/opener Izzy Heltai • Live, 8-10 pm; Livestream, 8-9:30 pm

 See Theater Listings

• **Ghent Playhouse**

misc.

BenningtonMuseum.org • Exhibition and Closed Bid Silent Auction Opens online (bidding ends Dec. 20)

3

 **CaffeLena.org** • Scott Sharrard Night Two • 8-10 pm

 See Theater Listings

• **Bridge Street Theatre**

• **Ghent Playhouse**

misc.

BenningtonMuseum.org • See Nov. 26

20

 **DeweyHall.org** • See Nov. 6

HudsonHall.org • JD Allen Trio: “A Love Supreme: Celebrating the Legacy of Alice & John Coltrane” • 7 pm

BerkshireTheatreGroup.org • Rev Tor 25th Anniversary Jam • 8 pm • 111 South St., Pittsfield • Masks & proof of vax REQ'D

CaffeLena.org • Jake Blount • Live, 8-10 pm; Livestream, 8-9:30 pm

 See Theater Listings

• **Bennington Comm. Bridge Street Theatre**

 **BerkshireMuseum.org** • “Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home” • 2-4 pm

• Teen Sci-Fi League: Discussion for “Star Trek IV” • 4:30-5 pm

Shakespeare.org • See Oct. 31

 **AncramOperaHouse.org** • Real People, Real Stories: Taconic Hills Central

School Edition Livestream! • Free • 3 pm • RSVP for link


misc.

BenningtonMuseum.org • Museum ABCs: Abenaki Art • Preschool w/ adult • 10:30-11:30 am


BerkshireMuseum.org • Drop-In Space (Arts & Crafts) • 10:30 am-12:30 pm • Art Chats • 11-11:30 am • Chow Time • See Nov. 6

BerkshireBotanical.org • Pre-reg. REQ'D • Beautiful Containers for the Colder Months • 1-3 pm • Herbal Gift Giving • 2-5 pm


27

 **Pawlet Public Library Coffee House** • Open Mic • 7-9 pm • Musicians reg. at 802-325-3123

CaffeLena.org • Annie and the Hedonists • Live, 8-10 pm; Livestream, 8-9:30 pm

 See Theater Listings

• **Ghent Playhouse**

 **GildedAge.org** • “Living with Messages from Heaven” w/ Psychic Medium Rebecca Anne LoCicero • 6-8 pm • \$40 • Res. REQ'D 413-637-3206 • Proof of vax,

ID, & masks REQ'D


misc.


BenningtonMuseum.org • See Nov. 26

FriendsOfClermont.org • See Nov. 14

BerkshireMuseum.org • Yoga Under the Moon • 8:30-9:30 am

4

 **CaffeLena.org** • Little Folks Show w/Mostly Modern Pops • 3-4 pm • Planet Light: A Holiday Concert feat. Members of Heard • Live, 8-10 pm; Livestream, 8-9:30 pm


 See Theater Listings

• **Bridge Street Theatre**

• **Ghent Playhouse**

ClarkArt.edu • The Met: Live in HD presents

“Eurydice” • 12:55 pm • \$25/\$22 mbrs/\$18 students/\$7 children <10

 **BerkshireMuseum.org** • “The Wonderful: Stories from the Space Station” • 2-4:30 pm

misc.

BenningtonMuseum.org • See Nov. 26

BerkshireBotanical.org

• Botanically-Dyed Holiday Gifts • 10 am-4 pm • Holiday Marketplace • 10 am (ends 12/5)

SVAC.org • 2021 Holiday Craft Market • 10 am-5 pm

HudsonHall.org • Winter Walk 25th Anniversary Walk • 5-8 pm

BerkshireMuseum.org • Kitchen Ka-Boom • 11 am-12 pm • Chow Time • See Nov. 6 • Paint & Sip by Moonlight • 6:30-8:30 pm

Exhibitions *continued from page 21*

- Nov. 13 – Mar. 6, 2022: Jan Brett: Stories Near and Far
- Virtual Exhibitions: In Search of the Constitution; In the Age of the Civil Rights Movement; Presidential Elections Illustrated; The Influential Art of Thomas Nast

NorthCountryArts.org
--The Shirt Factory • Suite 120, 71 Lawrence St., Glens Falls, NY
• through Nov.19: “Vista”
• Nov. 20-Jan. 8, 2022: “Celebration”
--The 2nd Floor Gallery • City Hall, 42 Ridge St., Glens Falls, NY

- through Nov. 5: Judith Aratoly Tully
- Nov. 8-Jan. 8, 2022: City Hall Exhibit

Olana.org • 518-828-0135
• Historic Landscape Video Tour • https://www.olana.org/tour-category/virtual/ • Olana Outdoor Tours

PamelaSalisburyGallery.com • 362 ½ Warren St., Hudson, NY
• through Nov. 7: “Landscape & Memory” and Avital Burg: “Journal”
• Nov. 13-Dec. 12: “Exactly: precision and process”

Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary • Lenox, MA • 413-637-0320 • massaudubon.org/artinthebarn

Private Public Gallery • 530 Columbia St., Hudson, NY • By appt. only 212-286-0075 • PrivatePublicGallery.net
• through Nov. 14: “95 North” (feat. Richard Artschwager, Jonathan Borofsky, Richmond Burton, Jackie Ferrara, Jene Highstein, Frank Holliday, Sol Lewitt, Kathryn Lynch, Robert Moskowitz, Matt Mullican, Katherine Porter, Beverly Semmes, and Marjorie Strider)

continued on page 26

THEATER LISTINGS

- '62 Center for Theatre and Dance** • 62center.williams.edu • Williams ID or Proof of vax & Masks REQ'D
- "Yerma," by Federico Garcia Lorca, dir. by Sayda Trujillo • Nov. 11-13 • Nov. 11, 12 at 7:30 pm; Nov. 13 at 2 & 7:30 pm; Nov. 14 at 5 pm • A "body of tragedy . . . dressed in modern clothes, is above all the image of fertility, punished by sterility. A . . . living poem of fertility." Federico García Lorca interview for Luz, Madrid, Spain. August 3, 1934 (The Guardian)
- Bennington Community Theatre** • 331 Main St., Bennington, VT • 802-447-0564 • bpacvt.org/tickets
- "The Haunting of Hill House," by F. Andrew Leslie (from the novel by Shirley Jackson) • Oct. 31 & Nov. 7 at 2-4 pm; Nov. 5 & 6 at 7:30-9:30 pm
 - "Voices from the Grave" • Nov. 20 at 2 & 7:30 pm
- Bridge Street Theatre** • 44 W. Bridge St., Catskill, NY • 518-943-3818 • bridgest.org • Masks & proof of vax REQ'D • Eugene O'Neill's "Long Day's Journey Into Night" • Nov. 11-21 • Thu., Fri., Sat. 7-10 pm; Sun. 2-5 pm
- "My Witch: The Margaret Hamilton Stories" • Dec. 3-12 • Thu., Fri., Sat. at 7:30 pm; Sun. at 2 pm • Synopsis at Hubbard Hall listing
- The Ghent Playhouse** • 19 Jones Ave., Chatham, NY • GhentPlayhouse.org • Masks & proof of vax REQ'D
- The Annual Panto "Rapunzel: The Tale of a Quaran-teen" • Written & directed by Cathy Lee Visscher • Family friendly • Nov. 26-28, Dec. 3-5, Dec. 10-12
 - Fri. & Sat. at 7:30 pm; Sun. at 2 pm • \$23 members/\$28 nonmembers
- Hubbard Hall** • 25 E. Main St., Cambridge, NY • 518-677-2595 • HubbardHall.org
- "My Witch: The Margaret Hamilton Stories" • Nov. 5-14, Fri. and Sat. at 7 pm; Sun. at 2 pm • A one-woman tour-de-force in a funny and moving performance about the life, craft and experiences behind the scenes of the actor behind the green make-up who played The Wicked Witch of the West in "The Wizard of Oz."
- MASSMoca Hunter Center** • 87 Marshall St., North Adams, MA • 413-662-2111
- "Iphigenia: A New Opera" • Created by Wayne Shorter & Esperanza Spalding" • A modern operatic re-imagining of the ancient tale of a daughter sacrificed to the gods. Set designed by luminary architect Frank Gehry. Not so much an adaptation as an intervention into myth-making, music, and opera as we know it • Nov. 5 & 6 at 8 pm • Proof of Vax REQ'D Age 12+
- Shakespeare and Company** • 70 Kemble St., Lenox, MA • Box office: 413-637-3353 • Shakespeare.org
- Tina Packer Playhouse • "The Chairs," by Eugene Ionesco • Oct. 31 at 2 pm (closing night)
- WAM Theatre** • WAMTheatre.com
- Virtual Screening of Kim Senklip Harvey's "Kamloopa: An Indigenous Matriarch Story," dir. by Estefania Fadul • Rec'd high school + up • Streaming Nov. 1-7 at 7 pm • Recorded live at Shakespeare & Company's Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre, Lenox, MA

Exhibitions *continued from page 25*

- Robert Frost Stone House Museum** • 171 VT Rte. 7A, Shaftsbury, VT • 802-447-6200 • bennington.edu
- through Nov. 7: "At Present In Vermont"
- SalemArtWorks.org** • 19 Cary Lane, Salem, NY • 518-854-7674 • Cary Hill Sculpture Park & Trails • Open dawn to dusk to pedestrians & cyclists only
- Nov. 7-14: Online Fall Auction
- SalemCourthouse.org** • 58 East Broadway, Salem, NY • 518-854-7053
- through Nov. 6: Elizabeth Donaldson – photography
- SchantzGalleries.com** • 3 Elm St., Stockbridge, MA • 413-298-3044 or 413-563-4934
- 70 artists in contemporary glass art • Online bios & images • Appt. req'd through Dec.
- The Sembrich** • 4800 Lake Shore Dr., Bolton Landing, NY • 518-605-8965 • thesembrich.org
- Online: "The Hawaiian Nightingale: Studies with Mme. Sembrich, Exploring the Life and Career of Hawaiian Soprano Ululani McQuaid Robertson"
 - On-going: "On the Wings of Song" • The Thatcher Photos (Online)
- ShakerMuseum.us | Mount Lebanon** • 17 Main St., Chatham, NY • Past exhibits online
- "Fringe Selects: An Exhibition of Shaker Objects Curated by Katie Stout"
- SohnFineArt.com** • 69 Church St., Lenox, MA • 413-551-7353
- through Jan. 2022: Jeff Robb: "Capturing the Invisible"
- Southern Vermont Arts Center** • 930 SVAC Dr., Manchester • 802-362-1405 • www.svac.org
- through Nov. 14: "Our Tangled Choices: Art & the Environment" (Pat Musick & Michelle Lougee)
 - through Nov. 28: Fall/Winter 2021 All Member Exhibition
 - Nov. 20 (opens): "Hiroshige and the Changing Japanese Landscape" (Japanese woodblock)
 - Dec. 11-Mar. 27, 2022: "The World Between the Block and the Paper" (A Mokuhanga Exhibition)
- SPAC Virtual Gallery** • spacfoya.org
- Online Visual, Literary, & Performance Galleries
- StoneValleyArts.org Center** • 145 E. Main St., Poultney, VT
- through Dec. 5: Artist Member Show (feat. 17 prominent regional artists)
- Tang.skidmore.edu Museum and Gallery** • 518-580-8080 • ONLINE
- through Nov. 14: "Elevator Music 41: Laura Ortman—Dust Dives Alive"
 - through Nov. 21: "Un-Representation"
 - through Nov. 28: "Ellsworth Kelly: Postcards"
 - through Dec. 5: "Look After Each Other: Intimacy & Community" • "Hyde Cabinet #14: Con todos estos líos: confronting the demons of US history"
 - through Jan. 2, 2022: "Opener 33: Sarah Cain—Enter the Center" • "All Together Now"
 - through Sep. 10, 2023: Lauren Kelley "Location Scouting"
- TanjaGrunert.com** • 21 Prospect Ave., Hudson, NY • 646-944-6197 • through Nov. 7: "James Autery: Agnosia" • "Norman Douglas: . . . a next to the last supper for an image of love"
- ThompsonGirouxGallery.com** • 57 Main St., Chatham, NY • 518-392-3336
- through Dec. 5: Lily Morris: "Aeria Signum"
- ValleyArtisansMarket.com** • 25 E. Main St., Cambridge, NY • 518-677-2765 • Online shop
- through Nov. 21: Ian Creitz: "Paw Pile"
- Vermont Art Exchange** • 29 Sage St., N. Bennington • 802-442-5549 • vtartxchange.org
- through Nov. 7: North Bennington Outdoor Sculpture Show (maps at VAE)
- Warren County Historical Society** • 50 Gurney Lane, Queensbury, NY • 518-743-0734 • wcnynhs.org
- "Warren County 360: Celebrating Place and People"
 - through Jan. 31, 2022: "Toying with History"
- Whiting Studio** • 105 Holmes Rd., N. Argyle, NY • 518-683-3025 • whitingartwork.com
- through Nov. 25: Online "Fall into Winter Sale" (4x6 and 5x7 framed art sale)
- WorldChildrensMuseum.org** • 89 Warren St., Glens Falls, NY • 518-793-2773
- Artifacts Collection Online
 - Online "COVID-19 & Me: Changes in My World" Exhibition Walkthrough



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Dairy *continued from page 12*

from all those extra cows out West has created downward pressure on pricing for dairy farms in the Northeast.

“That milk is sort of flooding other markets, and some of the processors are turning to that cheaper milk,” Baildon said.

Loophole benefits larger farms

The U.S. Department of Agriculture rules for organic dairy farming also may be creating a competitive imbalance for smaller dairies in New England, said Ed Maltby, executive director of Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance. Maltby contends large-scale farmers are taking advantage of several longstanding loopholes in USDA regulations.

Maltby and others have long advocated closing one of these loopholes, known as the “origin of livestock” rule. The rule originally was created as an exception to organic standards – an exception intended to give conventional farmers an easier pathway to transitioning their existing herds to organic standards.

“The farms and the farm families invested ten, 20, 30 years in breeding these animals,” Maltby explained.

But the rule, which was meant to be a one-time exception, has been unevenly enforced by some state regulators, Maltby said. Large-scale dairies have used the ambiguity to continually bring in conventional cows to “transition” to organic, a move that can save large-scale milk producers hundreds and in some cases several thousand dollars per cow, according to estimates by Cornell University’s Organic Dairy Initiative.

In 2018, the co-op behind the Organic Valley brand wrote to the USDA to complain that Idaho regulators were allowing calves born of organically raised cows to be reared conventionally and then transitioned back to organic standards. Such liberal interpretations of the rule are too common, Maltby said.

“Where there’s money, there’s capacity to bend the rules,” he said.

Although previous attempts to close this loophole in 2015 and 2019 have foundered, Maltby and other advocates say they hope a new rule change proposed by the USDA will close fix the problem by 2022.

But Maltby said he worries rule change may come too late for smaller farms.

“The damage is done,” he said. “The price of organic milk has dropped, and the larger organic dairies are in control.”

Long- and short-term help

New England dairy advocates are recognizing they likely will need to work across state lines to help the region’s farmers, and the Vermont and Maine task forces created because of the Danone announcement are sharing information.

To ensure the viability of organic milk farming in New England, Baildon said stakeholders are attempting to find ways to ensure that there is more capacity for milk processing in the region.

“Having more processing access for smaller, more spread-out farms is going to be one of the needs that needs to be addressed,” she said.

Advocates often are simultaneously working on short-term and long-term solutions to help stabilize the affected farms and their families. They say the short-term help needed goes far beyond ensuring access to credit lines.

A notice like the one sent by Danone can cause high levels of anxiety among farmers, farming families and their communities, said Kevin Channell, a coordinator with Farm First, a program set up by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to support the emotional health of farm families.

“For them to have their one buyer disappear is catastrophic to their bottom line,” Channell said. “They quickly go into damage control. They’ve got to find a near-term solution, and the long-term stress of that, and the vulnerability they have felt ... begins to emerge.”

Farm First was created after a several Vermont farmers died by suicide in the midst of an earlier milk-pricing crisis more than a decade ago, Channell said.

He said he is working to encourage farmers and their family members who are affected by the Danone decision to seek help in shouldering the resulting stress.

“If mentally you are having trouble with coping and reckoning with your future, reach out now rather than later,” he said.

Farmers and their family members seeking mental health support in Vermont can reach Farm First at its toll-free hotline at 877-493-6216 or at www.farmfirst.org/get-our-help.

Farmers and farm family members seeking mental health support in New York can reach FarmNet at 800-547-3276 or www.nyfarmnet.org.

For additional resources for farmers and their families to seek mental health support, call FarmAid at 1-800-FARM-AID.

Anyone facing an immediate mental health emergency should call 911 or contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255.

Thompson *continued from page 17*

compelled some movement. They have tried to get a pitcher in every way but failed.”

Mullane immediately turned things around on June 20 at his first game back, which Cincinnati won 8-4.

“Mullane distinguished himself on his return to the club today by defeating the St. Louis team,” the *St. Paul Daily Gazette* reported on June 21. “His support was simply perfect.”

Mullane ended the 1887 season with 37 major league wins, 17 losses, 97 strikeouts and a 3.24 earned run average, according to baseball-reference.com.

Mullane won 284 games in his 14 major league seasons, a statistic that is still among the all-time top tier of major league pitchers. He also is considered the first ambidextrous pitcher in the major leagues.

“It was when he joined Detroit that he

began using both hands in pitching,” the *Detroit Evening Times* reported on April 29, 1944, in a story a few days after Mullane’s death. “A sore right arm that threatened to end his baseball caused Mullane to experiment with his left arm. He became proficient as a south paw hauler, but when his right arm was sound again, he resumed his natural delivery.”

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





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Farming continued from page 15

now working to raise another \$1 million from investors.

"It will take \$5 million to get Shields Drive off the ground," Kyle Philipp estimated.

Looking beyond Vermont

RFN's model starts with the understanding that because local markets are limited, developing adequate markets for Vermont farmers will require reaching urban centers beyond the state's borders.

"There are only 660,000 people in Vermont and not much money," Laberge said. "But if you zoom out a little, there are 40 million people."

One goal is to allow locally based food producers to serve a larger pool of customers than they can currently reach through direct-to-customer sales and community-supported agriculture, or CSA, operations, in which farm customers effectively pay in advance for a share of each season's production.

"We are saying to farmers: There's only a certain

amount you can do with your CSAs and farmers markets," Laberge said. "Give us a negotiated percentage, like half of your production, to take to regional markets, like colleges and also direct-to-consumer sales beyond the local area. This will be Internet-based with delivery via UPS and FedEx."

Early on, the dining service at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst signed up to buy meats from RFN, though the plan was derailed when the pandemic hit. The campus normally serves 50,000 meals a day.

"They said, 'Good food from Vermont? Sign us up,'" Laberge recalled.

The network has created a high-end brand, Southshire Meats, for locally raised meats raised through organic and regenerative processes.

"There is far more demand for these foods than area farms are producing," Michael Philipp said. "If you are raising 80 animals, we might say, 'Raise 10 for us.'"

RFN will sell them for a premium to markets that are more difficult for individual farmers to get into, like institutions. But farms will have to meet certain standards to sell their animals for

this brand, he added.

Although RFN's goal is to support and encourage farmers who embrace regenerative practices, it also aims to provide some essential services for all farmers.

Many farmers today have pulled out the stops in their struggle to survive. A phone call received by RFN one day illustrates an increasingly common predicament. The farmer who called was working all angles to keep his farm afloat, using maple sugaring and his snowplowing business to subsidize his dying dairy operation.

Laberge said he is convinced RFN can help farmers to find a better path.

"We can help farmers to transition to enterprises that are more profitable to the farmer, better for the planet, and produce healthier food," he said.

But farmers do not have to renounce chemical fertilizers, herbicides and other agrichemicals to access services provided by RFN. For example, any livestock farmer can make use of the Higley Hill Processing plant.

"We're not demonizing conventional farmers," Laberge said. "We want to help farms transition to regenerative agriculture."

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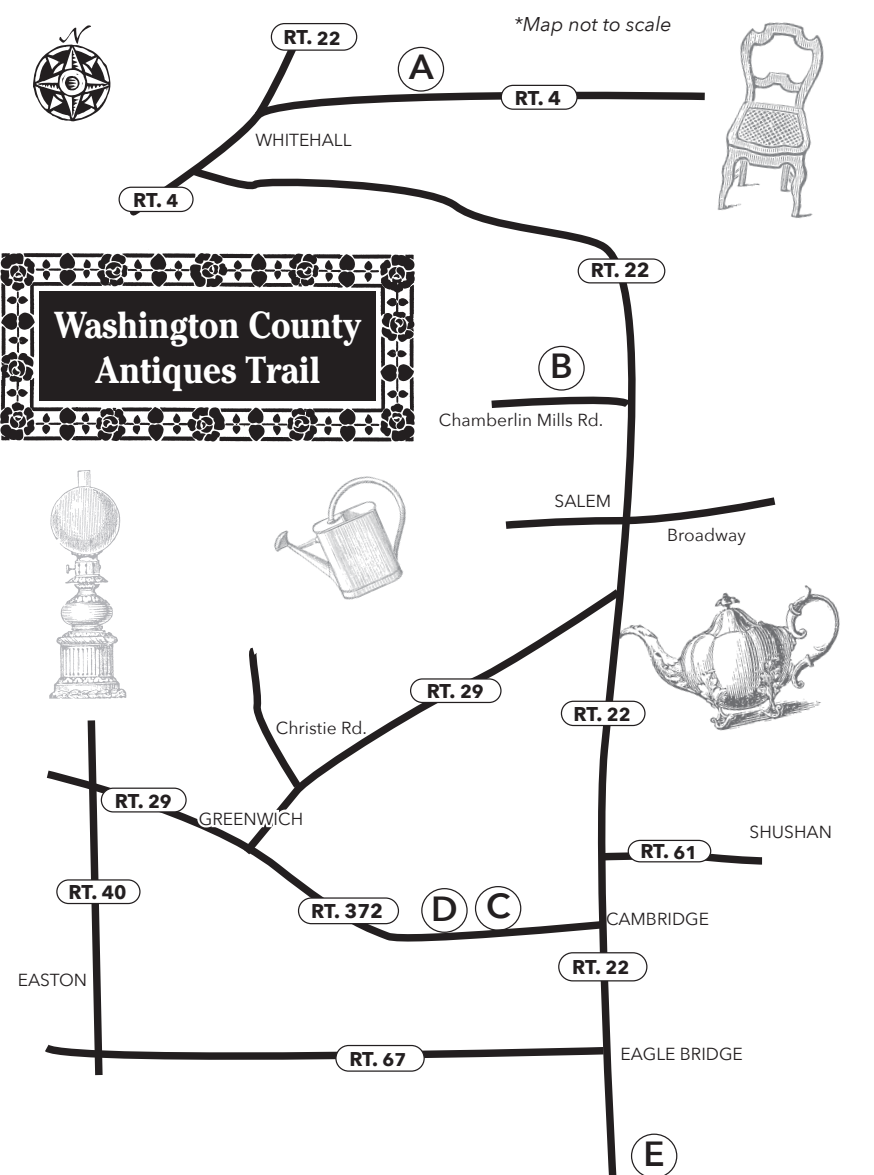
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