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# observer

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

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APRIL 2021

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## New blood *for a* rural region



Joan K. Lentini photo

Urban transplants flee pandemic,  
setting stage for changes — or perhaps not

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### Hill Country Observer

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# HILL COUNTRY observer

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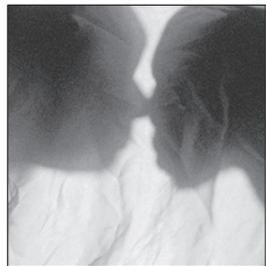
### Pandemic offers new blood for a rural region

Soon after Covid-19 began shutting down the big cities of the East Coast last spring, second-home owners began arriving in Winhall, Vt., to take refuge. Winhall is hardly alone. From Columbia County and the Berkshires north to Vermont and the Adirondacks, local government officials, real estate agents and others have been reporting an influx of people from urban areas over the past year. And though much of the evidence is anecdotal, at least some of these new residents seem to be planning to stay for the long term. .... Page 4



### Critics target Stefanik as redistricting nears

U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik handily won a fourth term in office in November, but voters in New York's northernmost congressional district could be forgiven for wondering if the campaign season ever ended. The storming of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 by supporters of Donald Trump -- and Stefanik's continued questioning of the legitimacy of President Biden's victory -- have sparked a new wave of campaign-style criticism of the congresswoman, and not just from Democrats. .... Page 7



### Darkness, light invoke scenes of protest at MoCA show

Deon Jones is singing the U2 song "Bloody Sunday." In his voice, a protest in Derry, Ireland, comes together with a protest in Selma, Ala., and they become as immediate as a night last summer when people across the nation mourned the death of George Floyd and called for change. On April 3, the Los Angeles artist Glenn Kaino brings his new work, "In the Light of a Shadow," to the vast space of Mass MoCA's Gallery 5. .... Page 16

### In a time of isolation, exhibit explores kinship, intimacy

In a year that has amplified fear, division and protest, the curator Nolan Jimbo, a graduate student in art history at Williams College, has gathered the works of artists who are pursuing themes of kinship and intimacy. .... Page 16

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Cover photo by Joan K. Lentini: A view of the Stratton Mountain ski area in Winhall, Vt., where town officials say weekend and seasonal homes have become full-time residences for people fleeing urban areas amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

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# A hub for food and community

## Columbia County market blends co-op, consignment models

By **STACEY MORRIS**  
Contributing writer

CRARYVILLE, N.Y.

On a warm Sunday in March, the first blush of spring is in the air, with bright sunshine melting the last patches of snow along Route 23 – and a nearly full parking lot at Random Harvest Market.

Customers sit at wooden tables on the market’s wrap-around porch, dining on salads and sandwiches from the deli or sipping Random Harvest’s signature hot chocolate.

Inside, the shelves are loaded with inventory from more than 100 regional vendors. The offerings range from locally made cough syrups from The Healing Plant in Copake to satchels of dried lavender from Vine Gate Lavender Floral Farm in Hillsdale, digestive elixirs from the Albany-based Underground Alchemy, and books by area authors, including “Farming While Black” by Leah Penniman of Soul Fire Farm in Petersburg.

On the other side of the market are refrigerated shelves laden with fruits and vegetables from around the region: apples from Mead Orchards in Tivoli, bunches of herbs from Deep Roots in Copake, emerald heads of cabbage and red potatoes from Hepworth Farms in Ulster County, and carrots from Winter Moon Roots in Hadley, Mass.

Hillary Hawk, the market’s co-owner and visionary, tends to the produce with a spritz bottle while answering customers’ questions and fielding online orders from her nearby laptop.

When Hawk, who’s originally from southern California, moved to Hillsdale a decade ago, the original owners of Random Harvest had just shuttered the business. The couple that ran the market, Christine and Paul Hanafin, lived in the building’s upstairs quarters and also tilled the fields behind the store. They operated the market successfully as certified organic farmers for nearly 30 years before retiring.

Hawk passed the empty building often in her travels.

“I kept thinking, ‘Someone should do something with that place,’” she recalled. “Years went by, and I realized that someone is me.”



Scott Langley photo

When several women banded together to reopen the long-shuttered Random Harvest Market in 2018, they decided they didn’t want a traditional retail model. Instead, they set out to create a consignment-based clearinghouse to allow local food producers to reach a large base of customers.

The realization came after she met Robin Mullaney through a mutual friend, and they discovered they shared the same values and vision for the space. After a three-year renovation, they revived the market, keeping its original name as a nod to the Hanafins and the building’s history.

Just before the market reopened in November 2018, Kogetsu Walker joined Hawk and Mullaney as a third owner.

### Linking producers, consumers

The three women decided they didn’t want a traditional retail model. Instead, inspired by the Argus Farm Stop in Ann Arbor, Mich., which describes itself as “a year-round, every day farmers market,” they set out to create a consignment-based clearinghouse that would allow local food producers to reach a large base of customers.

Vendors set their own prices for their wares, create their own display signs, and keep 75 percent of the retail revenue – substantially more

than they’d earn by selling wholesale.

“It’s a very relational model,” Hawk explained. “The idea is to build relationships with vendors. I love the relational economy we’ve built. We get to know vendors, they get to know our customers, and we get to watch their babies grow over the years – that’s what it’s all about.”

Mullaney, who also serves as market manager, said the link between the market and its suppliers goes far beyond the standard retail arrangement.

“It feels very collaborative, because we’re working together for our mutual success,” she explained.

There’s another perk for vendors: free coffee when they stop in to replenish inventory.

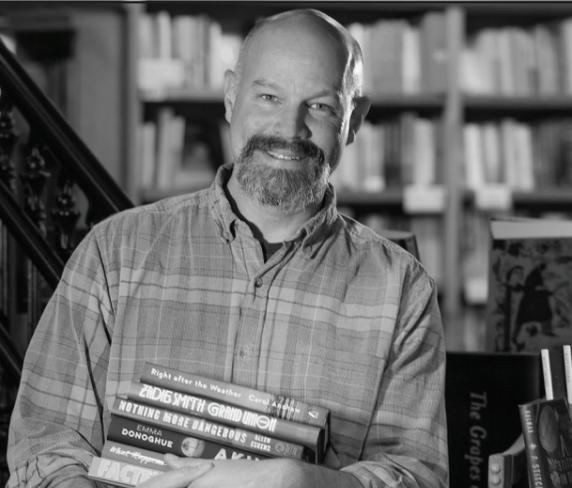
Ron Reinken, owner of Vine Gate Lavender Floral Farm just a few miles east, says the rewards of being a part of the Random Harvest commu-

*continued on page 15*

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# New blood for a rural region

Urban transplants fleeing pandemic set stage for change — or maybe not

By EVAN LAWRENCE  
Contributing writer

WINHALL, Vt.

Soon after Covid-19 began shutting down the big cities along the East Coast last spring, the second-home owners began arriving in Winhall to take refuge.

The town on the eastern edge of Bennington County is the gateway to the Stratton Mountain ski resort and within an easy drive of several other major ski areas. Hundreds of second homes and weekend ski houses line the roads to Stratton's base lodge.

"Our population is typically 800 year-round," said Julie Isaacs, the chairwoman of the town Select Board. "Now there's a lot more people on our rural dirt roads."

Winhall is hardly alone. From Columbia County and the Berkshires north into Vermont and the Adirondacks, local government officials, real estate agents and others have been reporting an influx of people from urban areas since the pandemic began just over a year ago. And though much of the evidence is anecdotal, at least some of these new residents seem to be planning to stay for the long term.

Houses are selling briskly, even those that had been on the market for years, with some being snapped up within hours of listing at higher than the asking price. There are reports of more people shopping at local stores and dumping their trash at local transfer stations, and in some cases more children enrolling in local schools.

Given that the year-round population in much of the region has been stable or declining in recent decades, many local officials say the prospect of a wave of new residents is good economic news.

But local planning experts caution that firm numbers are scarce and hard to interpret. It will



Joan K. Lentini photo

The town of Winhall, Vt., normally has about 800 year-round residents, but over the past year it has seen an influx of people from urban areas seeking a safer haven amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

take a few years, they say, to figure out exactly how the Covid-19 pandemic is reshaping the region's population. Newcomers buying houses might be offset by sellers who leave the area. And to the extent new people are moving in, the big question is: Will they stay?

In Winhall, Isaacs said she has no hard estimate of how many occasional residents have decided to make the town their home for the duration of the pandemic. The town doesn't have municipal water or sewer lines, so it can't look at water use.

"The easiest way for us to make sense of that is just how much busier the transfer station was," Isaacs said. "Most weeks are like holidays used to be. ... The transfer station expenses have definitely gone up. We've had to hire more people."

The town highway department has been busy patching more potholes, the town police (who are also EMTs) have answered more calls, and the town clerk has been deluged with property transfers, she said.

Winhall doesn't operate its own school;

instead, it pays a share of tuition for the town's students to attend public or private schools in the area.

As of September, the local school board had received tuition requests for 54 more children for the 2020-21 school year, an increase of more than 25 percent. The town may have to reconsider the amount it allows for tuition when it holds its town meeting this month, Isaacs said.

So far, the tide shows no signs of reversing. "We're happy to have people," Isaacs said. "We're just adjusting and moving on. People have to be pretty flexible to live in Vermont."

## A population in flux

Although it's clear the pandemic has caused a wave of migration, there's little hard data to gauge the extent or details of that movement. The pandemic struck just as the 2020 census was getting started, so people who moved were packing up as census forms arrived in mailboxes.

"What data do you use? Everything lags," said Richard Watts, director of the Center for Research on Vermont at the University of Vermont.

Vermont's property transfer data for 2020 won't be released until late April, he said. School enrollment numbers come out months after the start of a school year.

A national survey by the Pew Research Center

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found that, as of June 2020, about 22 percent of U.S. adults had moved because of Covid-19, had someone move in with them, or knew someone else who had. More than 37 percent of respondents aged 18-29 fell into that group, mostly because of job losses and the closing of college dormitories.

Of those who relocated, 61 percent moved in with a family member, 13 percent went to a vacation home, and 9 percent moved to a new home, either rented or purchased. As restrictions and infections continued to climb, more people of means started looking for places they perceived as safer from infection and where isolation wouldn't mean being confined to an urban apartment for weeks on end.

In New York and Massachusetts, although areas like the Hudson Valley and Berkshires might benefit from an influx of people, that trend is being overwhelmed at a statewide level by a pandemic-driven exodus from the New York City and Boston areas.

In January, an annual report on moving data by United Van Lines showed New York was second only to New Jersey in outbound migration in 2020, with people leaving the state outnumbering inbound moves by a 2-1 margin. Massachusetts ranked eighth for outbound moves, with 57 percent of the moving company's jobs involving people leaving the state. Vermont had more arrivals than departures, but because the company had fewer than 250 customers in the state, it didn't supply percentages.

**Reconnecting to Vermont**

Last summer, the Center for Research on Vermont and the Vermont Futures Project, a data-driven initiative of the Vermont Chamber Foundation, teamed up to survey people

who were coming to Vermont because of the pandemic. They reached out on social media, through professional networks and other channels and eventually collected 226 responses.

Along with basics such as age, location, occupation, and education, the survey posed three questions: Why did you come to Vermont? What do you need in order to stay? What could the state do to keep you here?

Several themes emerged. First, not everyone had Covid-19 as their main reason for moving in, but most cited Vermont's low infection rate, and their general approval of how the state was handling the pandemic, as important factors in their decision.

"Our previous research indicates that this is a mix of people with connections to the state, have either lived here, went to school here, have a home here or are frequent visitors," Watts said in an email. "In many cases they may be bringing their jobs with them. They have connections here and shared values. They like many of the things that make Vermont Vermont, from the sense of community to the front door into nature."

Most of the respondents settled in areas with good Internet service, mainly in the Burlington area, around Montpelier and to the east, and in southeastern Vermont, closer to Boston.

As a group, they were highly educated: 92 percent were college graduates, and 60 percent worked for for-profit businesses. Others held white-collar jobs in nonprofits, education or government.

Thirty-five percent said they were likely or very likely to stay after the pandemic ends, 30 percent were uncertain, and the rest planned to leave. The older people were, and the longer they'd been in the state, the more likely they

were to stay.

Watts cautioned that his data shouldn't be taken to represent all recent arrivals, because they were a self-selected group at the higher end of the economic scale. But the survey gave some sense of who is moving in and what their priorities are.

Still, apart from the pandemic, the pull of urban living remains strong.

"After 9/11, rural areas like Vermont were supposed to see a big surge from the cities, and that did not happen," Watts said.

Current figures from the online real estate firm Zillow show that nationally, the overall number of people moving into cities still is offsetting the number that are leaving.

Vermont's population, in contrast, has been stagnant for years. The state added only about 500 people in the last 10 years, and its average age is the second oldest in the nation. The Vermont Futures Project's research shows that because of the state's shrinking work force, the number of Vermont jobs held by people out of state is growing – a trend that has grave implications for future tax revenue and school enrollment.

"Vermont's demographic cliff is a real challenge for our future," Watts said. "The state has a critical opportunity here."

Estimates by Jeff Carr, an economist who advises Gov. Phil Scott, suggest Vermont could attract between 8,700 and 10,900 new residents as a result of the pandemic.

But whether they stay on depends on whether the pandemic can be tamed and how well the state meets newcomers' needs.

"This won't solve all the state's problems, but it's one slice of the solution," Watts said. "The state needs to double down on the things that

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make Vermont attractive.”

Those include protecting the state’s environment and supporting its communities, he said.

After years of losing young workers to other states, “clearly people are rethinking Vermont,” Watts said. “This is a huge opportunity.”

Watts said he plans to return to the survey respondents in a month or two and see where they are now, and why.

**A real estate boom**

In much of eastern New York and western New England, the housing market was tight even before the pandemic. Columbia and Berkshire counties and Vermont have long had a shortage of market-rate houses and apartments. So the arrival of many new people from outside the area has increased the competition for what housing there is, driving up prices.

Nathan Mastroeni, a regional manager for Four Seasons Sotheby’s International Realty, said the market in Vermont took off last May, when real estate offices were allowed to reopen, and

the boom had continued through the winter.

“We’re seeing the same thing in all markets, across resort and residential areas: low inventory, high prices, and lots of offers,” he said. “Most of the sales are in resort areas. People are taking advantage of the market to sell houses they may not be using much. In residential areas, people are selling more for traditional reasons – to change school districts or to move closer to work.”

Mastroeni, whose office is in Rutland, said the Killington area mostly attracts people from New York City, New Jersey and Boston. The buyers are a mix, with “a heavy weight toward remote work for people with kids, without kids, and about to retire but able to work remotely.”

He noted that Vermont’s historically spotty Internet service is getting better.

“We can sell houses in areas with fiber-optics,” he said. “Those areas were warmer before the surge started.”

What will happen next is anybody’s guess, Mastroeni said, but “all signs point to a solid continuation.”

“Buyer demand is still high,” he said. “Interest rates are going up a bit, but that’s not going to stop anybody.”

Lyle Jepson, executive director of the Chamber and Economic Development of the Rutland Region, estimated that home values in the Rutland area have risen by 20 percent to 25 percent, based on what he’s heard from real estate agents.

“All towns are seeing interest,” Jepson said. “There are situations where homes have been purchased sight unseen, with the sellers receiving several offers. How long this will last remains to be seen.”

One factor that may be working in Vermont’s favor is that the state “has a reputation of being careful” about Covid-19, both at the governmental level and among citizens, Jepson said. By the end of April, most of the state’s adults are expected to have received at least one vaccine dose.

The Rutland chamber has a program, [realrutland.com](http://realrutland.com), that connects people interested

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# NEWS & ISSUES

## Even in victory, Stefanik raises ire

### Stances on Trump loss, Capitol riot fuel criticism as redistricting looms

By MAURY THOMPSON  
Contributing writer

U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik handily won a fourth term in office in November, but voters in New York's northernmost congressional district could be forgiven for wondering if the campaign season ever ended.

The storming of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 by supporters of Donald Trump – and Stefanik's persistence in questioning the legitimacy of President Biden's victory in the November election – have sparked a new wave of campaign-style criticism of the congresswoman, and not just from Democrats.

The Lincoln Project, a political action committee founded by anti-Trump Republicans, mounted an online advertising campaign calling her "another sad Trump apologist." Another organization founded by conservatives, the Republican Accountability Project, paid for billboards in Queensbury and Fort Ann calling on Stefanik to resign – on grounds she had encouraged the Capitol attacks by backing Trump's claims of election fraud even after courts had repeatedly found they had no merit.

The Greater Capital Region Building and Trades Council took the symbolic step of rescinding its 2020 endorsement of Stefanik. The coalition of labor unions said her refusal to denounce Trump after the Jan. 6 invasion outweighed her support of issues – such as use of project labor agreements and paying of prevailing wages – that had won the organization's support last year.

And the congresswoman's critics have continued to write letters to the editors of area newspapers at a campaign-season pace.

But local Republican leaders say Stefanik, 36, is in no danger politically, because she is well versed in local issues and has a good sense of the predominant political philosophy in northern New York.

Essex County Republican Chairman John



Joan K. Lentini photo

A billboard along Route 149 in Fort Ann, N.Y., calls on U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-Schuylerville, to resign. The message was bankrolled by a group of anti-Trump conservatives.

Gereau said Stefanik won in November with the largest margin of any Republican House candidate in the Northeast. She captured 58 percent of the vote, defeating Democratic candidate Tedra Cobb, a former St. Lawrence County legislator, by more than 17 percentage points.

"This is not just a win," Gereau said. "This is a blowout."

Actually, another New York Republican – Rep. Chris Jacobs of the Buffalo area – won re-election in November by a larger margin of more than 20 percentage points. But Stefanik's lopsided

victory was still significant in a presidential election year with heavy Democratic turnout statewide.

Gereau, who is a regional vice chairman of the Republican State Committee, played down the criticism of Stefanik's ties with Trump.

"While the media loves to view everything through the Trump-or-anti-Trump lens, the reality is that most importantly, Elise Stefanik kept her promises to the North Country going back to when she first ran, and she has a good read on the pulse of the district including regional nuances," he said.

*continued on next page*

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Stefanik also outpolled Trump, who carried New York's 21st Congressional District with 54.2 percent of the vote, according to an analysis by the liberal blog Daily Kos.

Warren County Democratic Chairwoman Lynne Boecher said that to be competitive against Stefanik next year, Democrats will need to field a candidate who is more moderate and more focused on regional issues than Cobb, who lost consecutive races to Stefanik in 2018 and 2020.

"They have to be conscious of a changing world and conscious of the growth and culture here," Boecher said.

The ideal candidate, she said, would be sensitive to the region's fiscal conservatism and who appreciates that gun rights are important to the region's many hunters and sportsmen.

"So, it's got to be a candidate that understands that community," she said.

No potential Democratic challengers had surfaced as of late March.

#### Abandoning moderation?

Much of the political reporting on Stefanik over the past couple of years has focused on her conversion into an enthusiastic supporter of Trump – after initially keeping her political distance from him. At the same time, her political rhetoric has become more sharply partisan – in contrast to the image of bipartisanship she cultivated from the beginning of her congressional career.

Back in 2016, Stefanik backed John Kasich, the moderate Ohio governor, in the Republican presidential primary. After Trump won the nomination, Stefanik often avoided mentioning him by name, at one point explaining after a debate that she was "supporting my party's nominee" but was mainly focusing her own campaign on being "an independent voice" for her district.

By August 2018, though, she had warmed to Trump enough that she shared a stage with him

when he visited her district to sign a defense spending bill at Fort Drum.

And in the fall of 2019, Stefanik, who serves on the House Intelligence Committee, emerged as one of the chief defenders of Trump in hearings leading up to his first impeachment trial. She campaigned for him in Iowa in the run-up to that state's presidential caucuses, and last June she attended a Trump campaign rally in Tulsa, Okla., that was his first such event after many weeks of coronavirus-related shutdowns that halted live campaigning.

Stefanik's journey toward hard-core Trumpism partly reflects the changing nature of the House Republican caucus, in which moderates became ever more scarce over the course of the former president's term in office.

In 2017, for example, Stefanik set a moderate tone when she sponsored a resolution, joined by 23 Republican colleagues, that acknowledged the reality of climate change and called for action to address its causes and effects. Although the measure was largely symbolic, it drew praise from some environmental groups who touted it as a sign of an emerging bipartisan consensus on the issue.

But of the 23 Republicans who joined Stefanik in backing the resolution, only eight are still serving in the House. Eight lost re-election bids in 2018, four did not seek re-election that year, and one resigned. Two more opted to retire in 2020.

Closer to home, since Antonio Delgado defeated one-term Rep. John Faso in the 19th district in 2018, Stefanik is now the only remaining Republican in the region's congressional delegation.

As House Republicans faced a net loss of six seats in 2016 and another 33 seats in 2018, those who survived tended to be more conservative and more fiercely loyal to Trump. Some political observers have suggested that Stefanik needed to find more common ground with these members to advance her own legislative priorities – and to move up in the Republican leadership.

#### Fund-raising powerhouse

Before Jan. 6 at least, Stefanik's embrace of Trump seemed to be boosting her national standing within the Republican Party, and her defense of the former president helped her to become a prolific fundraiser.

Stefanik was the tenth biggest recipient of campaign donations among House candidates in the 2019-20 election cycle, according to the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics, which tracks campaign finance data. She raised about \$13.35 million, or more than seven times the average of \$1.845 million for House candidates.

And E-PAC, the political action committee she organized to recruit and support the campaigns of GOP women, backed a series of winning candidates in 2020 – including 11 who are now freshmen House members, six of whom defeated incumbent Democrats.

But events like the Capitol riot have forced Stefanik to walk a fine line as she tries to balance her message of a more inclusive GOP against her support for Trump and others who've pushed the party toward more extreme rhetoric and policy positions. Some critics say that given her past claims of bipartisanship, she has crossed the line into hypocrisy.

So although she condemned the violence of the Capitol invasion, Stefanik voted against the second impeachment of Trump and has continued to question the validity of the November presidential election results in some states.

Similarly, Stefanik branded as "inexcusable" the statements of freshman Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., a supporter of the QAnon conspiracy theory who has claimed school shootings were staged for the sake of eroding gun rights – and who at one point endorsed violence against leading Democratic politicians. But when the House voted in February to strip Greene of her committee assignments, Stefanik voted no, saying the move violated the will of the Georgia voters who elected Greene.

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Stefanik's political action committee also supported the election of another QAnon subscriber, freshman Rep. Lauren Boebert, R-Colo., who has been the target of ethics complaints alleging she tweeted information about House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's movements on Jan. 6 while the Capitol invasion was under way.

**Redistricting ahead**

Whether any of this makes Stefanik vulnerable in 2022 is far from clear. In its current configuration, the 21st Congressional District has about 50,000 more enrolled Republicans than Democrats among its 452,000 voters, and Stefanik won reelection in November by nearly 57,000 votes. So a substantial chunk of her 2020 voters would have to desert her before she'd be in any jeopardy.

But the district's boundaries are all but certain to be redrawn next year, and given that Stefanik has become something of a lightning rod for Democratic activists, any opponent would have the potential to draw substantial campaign cash from national donors.

Stefanik already has a head start on any would-be opponent, with nearly \$2 million left in her campaign fund from the 2020 cycle as of Dec. 31.

Although final 2020 census figures were not yet available in March, New York is expected to lose at least one, and possibly two, of its 27 congressional districts. The remaining districts will increase in geographic size.

Depending on how the boundaries are redrawn, Stefanik could find her home in Schuylerville, at the southern end of the 21st district, merged into one of two districts to the south that are currently represented by Democrats Antonio Delgado of Rhinebeck and Paul Tonko of Amsterdam.

At the same time, there has been speculation in some Republican circles that Stefanik is weighing a bid for governor in 2022. She was a persistent critic of Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo even before he was engulfed by accusations of sexual harassment over the past two months, and she lately has taken to selling anti-Cuomo merchandise – such as posters proclaiming him the “worst governor in America” – on her campaign website.

Talk of a gubernatorial run also was fueled by a mid-February Zogby Analytics poll that showed her garnering 37 percent of the vote in a hypothetical matchup against Cuomo. Though the governor received 49 percent support in the poll, Stefanik's share of support was the highest among a half-dozen potential challengers.

**Tending to local politics**

Although her support for Trump and her attacks on Cuomo have made headlines and added to a growing reputation for hyper-partisanship, Stefanik has continued to pursue some bipartisan initiatives, particularly on issues of strong local interest.

Among other bills Stefanik has sponsored

or co-sponsored so far this year, for example, is legislation to repeal a law that requires the U.S. Postal Service to pre-fund retirement benefits for 75 years – a provision Trump opposed changing during his administration. Other co-sponsors of that change include Delgado, Tonko and Reps. Peter Welch, D-Vt., Richard Neal, D-Mass., and John Katko, a Syracuse-area Republican.

Stefanik also partnered with Delgado to introduce legislation to extend a program that provides more favorable Medicare rates to rural hospitals with a “critical access” designation, and she and Delgado joined as co-sponsors of legislation to streamline the visa process for foreign agricultural workers.

And Stefanik co-sponsored separate bills with Welch and Rep. Matt Cartwright, D-Pa., to reduce the spread of invasive species in lakes.

Local political observers say that, regardless of her support for Trump, many Republicans have stayed loyal to Stefanik because of her party-building efforts, both nationally and locally.

Boecher, the Warren County Democratic chairwoman, said Stefanik showed better organization and discipline in coordinating her campaign with down-ballot state legislative races – at campaign rallies and in activities like door knocking and distributing lawn signs.

“I really feel that Stefanik's organization did that well, and we did not have that cohesiveness,” Boecher said.

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# EDITORIAL

## In war against virus, a time to stay vigilant

After a year of illness, death and economic upheaval, some of us are daring to feel hopeful about escaping the scourge of Covid-19.

As we head into spring, the pace of vaccinations is accelerating. Nearly 30 percent of people nationally had received at least one vaccine dose by the end of March, and 16 percent were fully vaccinated. Locally, the share of fully vaccinated people was near 20 percent in four of the region's eight counties.

But as we cheer this progress toward vanquishing the virus, signs of danger seem to surround us. The daily count of new cases, though down from the peaks of December and January, remains stubbornly high nationally – and especially across the Northeast.

Measured in terms of the weekly average of new cases per capita, New York and Massachusetts now rank among the top six states in the nation for new infections, with the highest rates in metropolitan New York City.

Even Vermont, which for most of 2020 was held up as a model for controlling the spread of Covid-19, now ranks in the top 10 for new infections. Near the end of March, the state set a daily record for new cases, thanks to outbreaks in the Rutland area and in a string of counties near the Canadian border.

Local health officials around the region say they have traced many new coronavirus cases to unsafe behavior, such as people gathering without masks in social settings or workplaces. Worse, the virus is now spreading so widely in the community that contact tracers in a growing number of cases haven't been able to figure out where a particular person contracted it.

At the same time, state leaders are continuing to roll back restrictions imposed earlier in the pandemic, allowing more people to gather indoors at restaurants, bars, entertainment venues, fitness centers and so on. This is politically popular, and certainly it's a boon to business owners who've endured a year of hardship, but many public health experts have their doubts.

The result is that we're setting up a race between the vaccines and the virus, hoping we can inoculate people quickly enough to stop or slow the next wave of infection.

Because many of the most vulnerable people (e.g. nursing home residents and front-line workers) have already been vaccinated, supporters of reopening say new Covid-19 outbreaks should be less likely to result in hospitalizations and deaths.

But the biggest risk of continuing high infection rates is that we'll make it easier for the virus to mutate, creating new and more dangerous variants. Already the B.1.1.7 variant, which originated in the United Kingdom and has turned up in local counties, is both more contagious and more deadly than the original virus – and more likely to cause serious illness in younger people. The nightmare scenario is the emergence of a new variant that would be resistant to our vaccines.

The only way to reduce the risk of new variants is to reduce the incidence of new Covid-19 infections. And the until we have widespread immunity – meaning something approaching 70 percent of people have been vaccinated or have recovered from Covid – the way to curb new infections is the same as it's been for the past year: wearing masks, keeping our distance, and avoiding large gatherings and unnecessary travel.

We are all weary after a year of isolation and plans deferred. But a few more weeks or months of caution will help us to win the war.



## Letters to the editor

### Rename coronavirus in honor of Trump

To the editor:

Why aren't we calling Covid-19 the "Trump virus"?

As of mid-March, the United States has had 29.5 million cases and 535,000 deaths. According to a report in the medical journal *The Lancet*, it didn't have to be this way. Many of these lost lives can be attributed to Donald Trump's poor leadership in the early months of the pandemic.

Trump's administration mismanaged the federal response to the disease, with inadequate supplies and testing materials. There was no federal plan. He played down the seriousness of the virus even when it was obviously lethal. He released confusing communications with blatant misinformation. Politicians and administrators interfered with the scientists.

One can only hope that, in the future, the country will be astute enough to avoid electing such an inept and incompetent president.

Even now, there are Vermonters who do not believe in masks or social distancing. I find it difficult to believe that Vermonters could have such beliefs.

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

### Stefanik a poor steward of region's environment

To the editor:

We in the North Country have been gifted with mountains, streams and a gorgeous lake. They are sources of recreation and spiritual sustenance, providing space to breathe, grow and honor nature. They fill us with awe and are vital to many livelihoods.

Congresswoman Elise Stefanik wrote her

website, "The environment is the economic lifeblood of the North Country, and it is crucial that the right choices are made now to protect New York, the United States, and the planet for future generations."

I was grateful for her promise to protect our natural world. If we sully its purity, can we ever get it back?

Yet with a lifetime score of 38 percent from the League of Conservation Voters, her record leaves much to be desired.

In 2020 alone, she voted against clean energy and protecting the Grand Canyon and western wildernesses. If she votes against those, can we trust her as a steward of our natural space?

She also voted against the replacement of lead water-service lines. No level of lead is considered safe, especially for children. It accumulates in the body, cannot be removed and can lead to developmental delays and neurological changes.

She also voted to cut funding for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency — funding critical to ensuring the enforcement of policies protecting air, water and lands.

We need leaders who protect our planet from degradation. Congresswoman Stefanik needs to know how we feel about these matters. Pay attention to her votes, and remember her actions come election time.

Michelle Ouellette  
Plattsburgh, N.Y.

### Regeneration offers hope in solving biggest crises

To the editor:

Some of the biggest problems facing Americans are collapsing ecosystems, climate change and an exponential curve in the incidence of chronic disease. There are

*continued on page 12*

# A mountain retreat for a president's last days

**WILTON, N.Y.**  
On the scale of the world's grand peaks, Mount McGregor is more of a molehill than a mountain.

"It's rank of honor is rather that of a king among the hills than that of a noble among mountains," *The Evening Post* of New York City suggested on June 15, 1885.

The mountain in Saratoga County gained its stature not from its height, but from its historical significance as the place where Ulysses S. Grant, the former president and Civil War general, died from throat cancer on July 23, 1885.

Earlier this year, the National Park Service designated Grant Cottage, where the president spent his final weeks and completed his memoir, a National Historic Landmark. The state-owned property normally is open to visitors from May through October.

Nineteenth century optimists held out hope that Grant's mountaintop sojourn at what was then called Drexel Cottage, near the Balmoral Hotel, would be a respite rather than hospice stay.

"General Grant ... is now at Mount McGregor seeking the greatest blessing that can come to old or young — health," *The Lansingburgh Courier* of Rensselaer County wrote in an editorial on June 20, 1885, four days after Grant arrived at the mountain. "That extended life and comfort may be his position is the wish of millions, at home and abroad."

Grant seemed stronger after his first night sleeping at the cottage.

"At six o'clock, the loud caroling of robins from the trees whose branches almost swept the

cottage awakened Gen. Grant," *The Morning Star* of Glens Falls reported on June 19. "There was a brighter look on his face than his attendant had seen for many days as he listened to songs of the birds. The slanting rays of the sun danced cheerily in upon the soft gray carpet with its quaint-looking patches. The morning was clear and almost cold."

Harrison, one of Grant's servants, was encouraged, the paper reported.

"He said to his fellow servants, 'The general is going to be better off after all.'"

At one point, the Rev. John Philip Newman, Grant's personal chaplain, attempted to bolster the general's confidence, telling him that "great men did not die on top of mountains. Moses received the laws on a mountain, Elisha [Elijah] was protected from his enemies while resting on a mountain, and Christ was transfigured on the top of a mountain."

Nevertheless, Newman would preach at Grant's funeral, which was held Aug. 4 at Mount McGregor.

Well before Grant's arrival in Saratoga County, Mount McGregor was known for its therapeutic qualities.

Hay fever sufferers frequently visited over the years and found relief, inspiring the adage, "Who climbs up here leaves his sneezes behind."

"Nature contributes the forest, an unstinted supply of pure air, with sunshine on top at a convenient distance," *The Evening Post* reported.

Grant's doctors, and Grant himself, concluded the healthful environment extended his life.

"The atmosphere enables me to live in comparative comfort while I am being treated, or while nature is taking its course with my disease," Grant wrote in a note that he shared with his physician, *The Morning Star* reported on July 3. "I should not have been able to come here now if I had remained in the city. It is doubtful, indeed, whether I would have been alive."

Grant recognized the mountain's potential as a cure center.

When Judge Henry Holton and his son, James, called on Grant on June 20, Grant wrote on his message pad, "I find the air very fine here. This must become a great sanitarium before many years."

Grant's wish did come to pass.

Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. built a sanitarium on the mountain, treating 3,507 of its employees for tuberculosis between Nov. 24, 1913 and Sept. 1, 1945, *The Post-Star* reported in 1945. After that, the property was used as a rest camp for World War II veterans.

The state of New York took possession of the property, which extends into the neighboring town of Moreau, in 1960. The state initially used the former sanitarium as a home for the developmentally disabled before converting it into a prison in the 1970s. The prison complex has been unused since it closed in 2014, though Grant Cottage has remained open seasonally for visitors.

The view from the mountain's lookout is dramatic, as Mark Twain commented when he came to Mount McGregor to pick up manuscripts of the memoir Grant was writing, which Twain assisted in getting published.

*continued on page 24*

## Maury Thompson

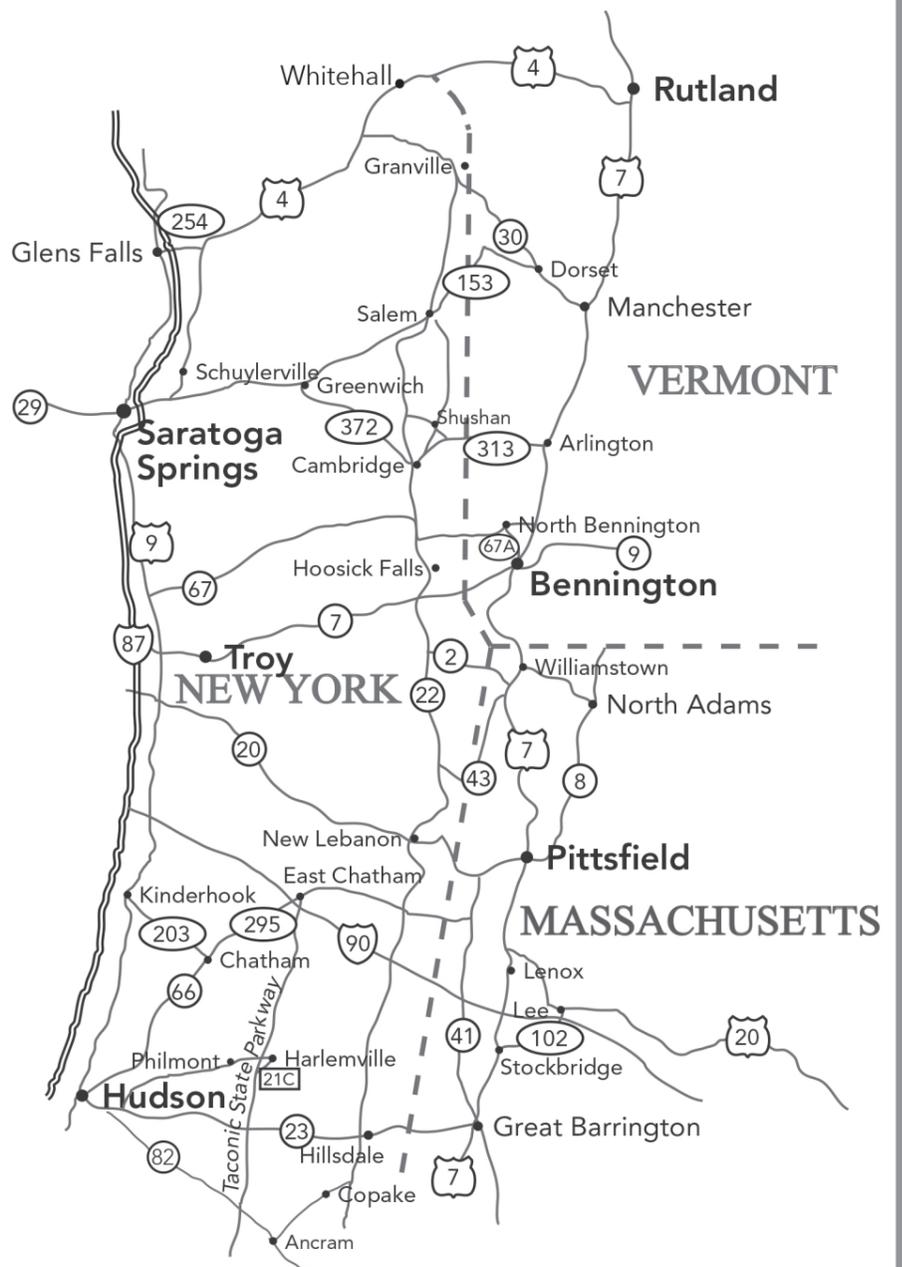
### News that's slow-brewed for a high-speed age

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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# Letters continued from page 10

compelling arguments that any of these alone has the power to collapse our economy and civilization, and their convergence is a stark case study in what "existential crisis" means.

We started our farm in an attempt to take direct action to counter these terrifying crises. Over the 10 years of our business, we have watched a new paradigm emerge that carries the promise of health for humanity by granting it to Gaia, our Mother Earth. This is the paradigm of regeneration, often incarnated as "regenerative agriculture," which has the explicit goal of improving the underlying health of soil as the most effective means to regenerating the water and carbon cycles, healing our chronic disease epidemic and reviving the health of our economies, psyches and spirits.

Essential to this movement is rebuilding the microbiome, in our bodies as well as in the soil, by decreasing the toxicity that negatively impacts it. There is increasing evidence that the largest driver of our chronic disease trajectory is the toxic antibiotic glyphosate, which is used as an herbicide and for desiccating grain crops before harvest.

There is ample evidence that Atrazine, another herbicide, is a major endocrine disruptor that has been shown to cause trans-sexuality in amphibians.

Prohibiting these chemicals in food crops would seem to be a no-brainer if we care about health and the environment. But perhaps that is only the tip of the iceberg. How about the

hundreds of thousands of gallons of Roundup used by homeowners and golf courses to kill dandelions and other weeds?

Reframing our understanding of health and ecology using the regenerative paradigm would give us practical methods for addressing the crises at all levels, giving us innate guidance about how to turn lawn care into a healing practice rather than just another CO2 emission vector.

Principles that increase soil carbon in fields include biodiversity, mob-grazing livestock, eliminating chemical use, and reducing tillage. Why not apply these principles to lawn care?

Build biodiversity in lawns by not killing weeds. Reduce mowing to an occasional mimicry of grazing herds of animals on the savannah. Maybe get some sheep.

The power to change the future resides in how we understand the present. Let's understand it regeneratively.

Ryan Yoder  
Danby, Vt.

region is seldom possible. There are not enough providers to meet the demand.

North Country constituents raising young children cannot depend on Elise Stefanik to represent their needs. She voted against a \$300-a-month child tax credit that would help families afford care. She voted against aid to help child-care facilities remain open in high-need areas, including in her own district.

Anyone thinking of starting a family here, please consider the lack of safe, affordable child care in our region before making your decision. Ask any family with young children, and they will likely tell you how the child-care crisis is a source of constant of familial stress.

The situation is desperate. Children and families in the North Country deserve a congressional representative who is in touch with their day-to-day realities.

Nicole Byrne-Navarro  
Plattsburgh, N.Y.

## Stefanik votes against aid to ease child-care crisis

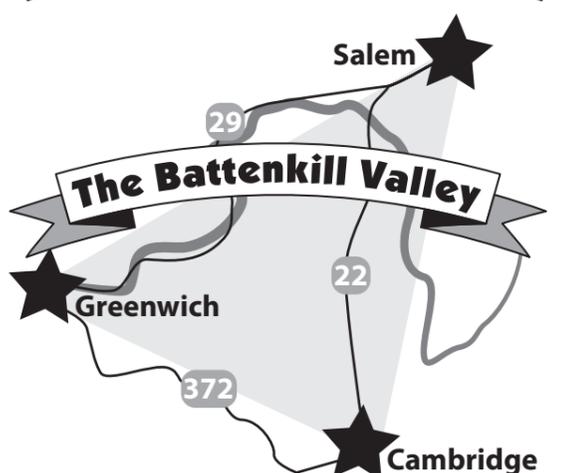
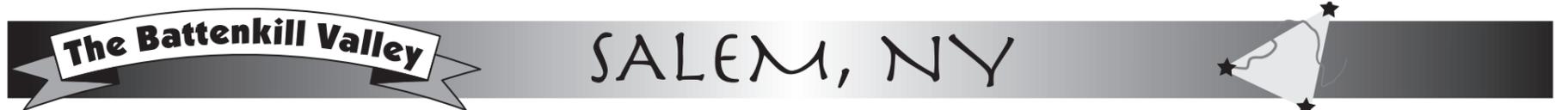
To the editor:

New York is amid a child-care crisis. Even before providers closed because of the pandemic, child-care options were dismal. Finding affordable, quality child care in our

## Verdict reveals a party's utter lack of conviction

To the editor:

So Trump escapes conviction in a 57-43 vote, despite the incredibly damning case presented by the impeachment managers. They meticulously documented the mob's murderous intentions at the direction of a president trying



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See map on page 11

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to hang onto power by any means necessary.  
 New video footage of the riot was even more traumatizing than when we watched it unfold in real time, and we now know how close we came to a bloodbath in the halls of the Capitol.

I wept to see the courageous actions of the vastly outnumbered Capitol police, who were tortured, beaten and even killed by a mob claiming to stand for law and order. Those officers may well have saved American democracy from a psychopathic would-be dictator.

Three are now dead, two by suicide, and at least 138 injured (73 from the Capitol police, 65 from the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department). *The New York Times* reports that Jan. 6 was "one of the worst days of injuries for law enforcement in the United States since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks."

None of this mattered to the Senate

Republican leaders who enabled this monstrous president for four years, who further disgraced themselves during the Senate trial with defiant, asinine acts of disrespect, including skipping out on the presentation altogether (as no real jury would be permitted to do).

Amazingly, Republican leaders continue to crash and burn their own party in deference to a corrupt narcissist who never respected the office or country he was elected to serve. Voters are taking note: Some 140,000 registered Republicans rushed to rid themselves of their party affiliation in the weeks after the riot. Many more will likely do the same.

I applaud the traditional conservatives of the GOP who have finally taken a stand against the violence and lies of Trumpism, especially the seven Republican senators who voted to convict. (Shame on the other 43.) I wish them luck

saving their party. It looks like the odds are 43 to 7 against them.

Robin Vaughan Kolderie  
 Hoosick, N.Y.

### Protect your health: Buy organic, avoid pesticides

To the editor:

Consider these facts:

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*continued on next page*

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See map on page 11

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- The maximum residue level of glyphosate in drinking water is 7,000 times higher in the United States than in the European Union.

- As of 2018, there were 280 different pesticides listed on the Vermont Agency of Agriculture's website, and pesticide use doubled between 2013 and 2018.

- It now takes 25 apples, not one, to keep the doctor away, because that one apple no longer has the nutrients it previously had.

- In 2015, the World Health Organization declared that glyphosate causes cancer, but the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency continues to deny this.

Many health problems are the result of conventionally grown food products containing few nutrients but plenty of toxins from glyphosate, neonicotinoids, dicamba and atrazine. If you eat processed non-organic food, you are most likely eating genetically modified corn and soy that has been sprayed with toxins.

The facts are not only proven by scientific data, but millions have experienced firsthand the debilitating effects of a processed food diet.

I was born in the United Kingdom and was fortunate to have been brought up on a good local, farm-fresh diet. This was still the time when meat was chopped to order and fish, eggs and dairy were delivered to your door. It all

changed in the 1970s.

The scariest fact I have learned is that some of the worst effects of glyphosate can be passed on to your grandchildren and beyond. In other words, if you have ever succumbed to Big Ag and its advertising — and most people have — its effects could go on for generations.

My advice: Buy fresh food from regenerative or organic farms and support your local farmers market. Read the ingredients on packaged food. And don't use Roundup.

Anne D'Olivo  
Manchester, Vt.



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# Market continued from page 3

nity are many.

"I've been selling fresh and dried lavender here for three years after stopping in and asking if I could participate," he recalled. "It went so well, I ended up expanding my product line to include lavender wraps and pillows, sugar scrubs and felted dryer balls."

Reinken also shops at Random Harvest Market regularly.

"They've created a wonderful, welcoming culture," he said.

Another component of Random Harvest's mission is operating the business as a worker-owned co-operative.

"Most people are familiar with the customer-owned model" of food co-ops, Hawk explained. "But we offer employees a path toward ownership if they so choose. It offers employees democratic ownership and profit-sharing."

In addition to the three current owners, the market now has eight employees.

### Changing with the seasons

Drawing on the abundance of small farms in the Hudson Valley and the Berkshires, Random Harvest makes it a point to have fruits and vegetables that reflect seasonal eating.

"We don't do it in a rigid way, because otherwise we'd just be selling root vegetables in the winter," Hawk said. "We do have things like lemons from outside vendors. But I'm still considering bananas and avocados."

And despite numerous requests for tomatoes in the off-season, Hawk said she is reluctant to acquiesce, citing both the quality and carbon footprint of the tomatoes that would be available in the dead of winter.

"And then I get customers who'll say, 'Because of you, I've gotten used to eating in season, and now I really look forward to tomato season,'" she added.

Walker, who is known as Chef Ko, manages the kitchen and decides what's on the ever-changing menu.

"It's in a constant state of shifting to reflect the seasons," she explained. "I try to stick with seasonal foods as much as possible and am getting really excited about changing from root vegetables to asparagus and garlic scapes."

Some of the evergreen items on Walker's

menu are sandwiches, mini-meatloaves, soups and a "Daily Comfort," usually consisting of a curry or dahl.

Walker has an interest in traditional Ayurvedic medicine and has studied at the Kripalu Center for Yoga & Health in the Berkshires.

"My favorite thing to make are the curries," she said. "That's where most of my training comes from. I cook and eat Ayurvedic foods at home and have discovered the customers like it as well."

Walker also keeps in mind the convenience factor at the deli case.

"I think about what people like if they just don't want to cook," she explained. "A mini-meatloaf and a couple of sides, and they've got a meal."

By summer, Random Harvest hopes to be selling smoothies and espresso-based drinks, in a nod to Hawk's past life as a barista.

### Community through food

Renovation of the building took three years. "It's an older building that needed a lot of work," Hawk said.

One of the priorities was transforming the second floor from living quarters to a community space for yoga classes, community dinners, and various workshops. All of those events are on hold because of Covid-19, but the owners want to resume them as soon as it's safe. For now, the bright, sunny space with cathedral ceilings and wood-plank floors quietly awaits a return to activity.

"I ran a coffeehouse in southern California, and I've always been passionate about having a gathering space for community events and good food," Hawk said.

Just off the community room is a commercial kitchen, available for preparing dinners and also as a workspace for local food purveyors to create products.

"I think many people in the community are very happy the market is open again," Reinken said. "The building was originally built as a general store, and many have fond childhood memories of shopping there."

The market's location, halfway between the Taconic State Parkway and the Massachusetts state line, allows it to serve customers from

around Columbia County and the Berkshires as well as hungry travelers who've just left the highway. Although the area has for decades been a magnet for part-time and weekend residents from metropolitan New York City, the pandemic has accelerated that trend, Hawk said.

"The Covid exodus has shifted things dramatically, and we have a lot more full-time residents," she said.

Although that trend may help the market's bottom line, Random Harvest also is working to help people who are struggling because of the economic damage wrought by Covid-19.

The Random Harvest Food Access Fund, supported by community donations, allows people with low incomes to purchase food from the market. Qualifying buyers receive bi-weekly coupon codes that allow them to make online purchases from the market.

"This gives them agency over the food they eat," Hawk said. "And that's a really important element."

The market also raises funds, via customer donations at the register, for Multicultural Bridge, a food distribution effort that serves nearly 100 families in the Berkshires. In addition to raising money for the group, Hawk also helps it to make bulk purchases of food.

"I love our mission," Hawk said. "It's so much work, and we're still trying to get to that break-even point, ... but it's a huge labor of love for us."

*Random Harvest Market Cafe and Community Space is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Visit [www.randomharvestmarket.com](http://www.randomharvestmarket.com) for more information or to place an online order.*



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# ARTS & CULTURE

## Illuminating a history of protest

### Darkness, light and music invoke scenes of unrest in MoCA show

By **KATE ABBOTT**  
Contributing writer

NORTH ADAMS, Mass.

Los Angeles musician Deon Jones carries tenor over piano harmony.

*"How long must we sing this song?"*

He is standing in a ring of light. It streams through a column of bars, and when he touches them they ring like a marimba in the clear tones of the guitar line.

He is singing the U2 song "Bloody Sunday." In his voice, a protest in Derry, Northern Ireland, comes together with a protest Selma, Ala., and they become as present and as immediate as a night last summer when people across the country mourned the death of George Floyd and called for change.

Around the music, life-sized people form from shadows, in scenes from other nights and days. Stones from the sites of protests around the world are sailing like asteroids and wooden ships – and the vast space of Gallery 5 becomes a cosmos of magic.

Jones has worked for years with the Los Angeles artist Glenn Kaino, and on April 3, Kaino brings his new work, "In the Light of a Shadow," to Mass MoCA.

"The whole composition is a spiral galaxy moving through space," said curator Denise Markonish.

It opens on the same day Nolan Jimbo opens "Close to You," a group show exploring kinship and intimacy in a divided world. (*See accompanying story.*)



Courtesy photo

The artist Glenn Kaino's new installation, "In the Light of a Shadow," opens April 3 at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art.

Kaino is known for his use of film and music, shadow play and illusion. He is an Emmy-winning producer, and as a visual artist he has shown solo installations around the world in sculpture, performance and public works.

Early on, he described this work as a civil history of revolution, Markonish said. Now, people keep asking her if he has just developed "In the Light of a Shadow," because it feels so current.

She and Kaino have had this show evolving since January 2016. They met that winter at his studio, as she was setting up an exhibit here on wonder. She felt the themes in her show connecting and sparking with his interests in science and sleight-of-hand.

#### From shadows, historical moments

Kaino creates microcosms with aquariums  
*continued on next page*



Courtesy Mass MoCA

Clifford Prince King's photograph "Communion" is among the works on view in "Close to You." The exhibit opens April 3.

### In a time of isolation, exhibit explores kinship and intimacy

By **KATE ABBOTT**  
Contributing writer

Two men are dancing in the kitchen.

They are barefoot, eyes closed, two black men holding each other at home in a quiet lighted room.

Los Angeles photographer Clifford Prince King offers this image of refuge and care in "Close to You," which opens April 3 at Mass MoCA.

In a world that can be hostile and frightening, he and the artists around him look honestly at rejuvenation and renewal.

The show began to take form in March 2020, said curator Nolan Jimbo, a graduate student in art history at Williams College. As the quarantine set in, physical intimacy became precarious, forbidden, impossible.

In a year that has amplified fear, division and protest, Jimbo is drawn to artists thinking through kinship and intimacy. He wants to honor a practice of care, he said.

*continued on page 18*

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of colored corals, bioluminescent plankton, subatomic particles made visible in a tank of frozen vapor.

Here at Mass MoCA, he invents an elusive macrocosm, a universe where shadows come alive, invoking moments when people choose to stand visible and hold their ground.

“The show is choreographed,” Markonish said. “It will propel you along.”

Usually, shadow art sets an object as the center, intercepting the light. Here, she said, the shadows are the main stars. They will move through the space, and people can interact with them.

“You can step in front of the light and add yours,” she explained.

The shadows come from miniature figures. Kaino is working with a sculptor in Los Angeles, Lyndon J. Barrois Jr., who makes tiny forms and transforms them with light.

In the long gallery, shadow people take shape, more than life-sized. They recreate scenes drawn from historical photographs.

“If you know the images, you’ll recognize them,” Markonish said.

She described a famous and shocking image from James “Spider” Martin, the documentary photographer, of John Lewis beaten by police. Martin recorded protestors and state troopers at the foot of the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Alabama.

In this moment, Lewis was standing at the center of the American Bloody Sunday. In Selma, on March 7, 1965, he led more than 600 people across the bridge. They were setting out to walk 54 miles to the state capital in Montgomery, to call for making real the voting rights promised in the Constitution.

At the far side of the bridge, state police blocked the way. Lewis and his fellow leaders stood still. Police officers attacked them. Television and newspaper crews recorded the whole event on camera.

When U2 released its rock ballad in 1983, the band was commemorating a Bloody Sunday in Ireland. Like Selma, it came out of tensions going back centuries.

Ireland had been fighting British dominance since the early 1600s, and the Republic of Ireland had gained independence

in 1920. From the 1960s into the 1990s, Northern Ireland split in conflict between nationalists, who wanted Northern Ireland to join Ireland, and unionists who wanted to remain under British rule.

On Jan. 30, 1972, the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association led a protest march in Derry against internment without trial. The protestors were unarmed. British soldiers fired on the marchers, and 14 people died.

**Protests past and present**

*“How long must we sing this song?”*

As Jones sings the question at Mass MoCA, he recalls a night he lived through a few months ago.

On a city street last summer, he had come out to join the community in peaceful protest and mourning after George Floyd’s death. He is recording on his phone as police box in a group of people.

*“They will not let us leave.”*

He is standing with the phone in his hand, and an officer a few feet away fires a pistol shot. Then Jones is bleeding from a rubber bullet. He survived by a fraction of an inch.

The images of his experiences carry into the music, in a film by cinematographer Larry Fong and producer Butch Vig, and Jones is singing with Grammy-winning jazz musician and pianist Jon Batiste and Wilco percussionist Glenn Kotche.

*“I can’t believe the news today.*

*I can’t close my eyes ...”*

It has always part of the plan for the show to find a way to re-release the song, Markonish said.

“After that incident with Deon, Glenn called and said, ‘I know who needs to sing that song,’”

she recalled. “For Deon to sing it on the heels of being brutalized – the first time I saw the first cuts, you see the tears streaming down his face.”

She wept too, she said, when she first saw it, and she still does.

U2 performed the song as a power ballad with driving percussion. Jones sings over piano chords. His voice is deep and clear, present, in pain, intransmutable.

*“Tonight we can be as one.”*

Around the music, Kaino is creating shadow play from rock. He has often used stone in his work, Markonish said.

“A rock on the ground is transformed when it is in your hand or in the air,” she explained. “It has potential.”

Kaino has collected stones at the sites of protests around the world, from Cairo and Benghazi to Ferguson, Mo. Here he turns some of them into ships with square-rigged sails made from found postcards. Some come into contact with his shadow invocations of protesters in Tiananmen Square, Derry and elsewhere around the world.

They orbit one of the largest elements in the show. Kaino re-creates the Shadow V, a fishing boat the Irish Republican Army bombed in 1979 to kill the former head of the British armed forces, Lord Mountbatten. The explosion also killed or injured members of his family and the ship’s crew.

Kaino and Markonish traveled to Derry as he researched the show, and he sought to understand the history of Northern Ireland.

“We talked with a man who lost his father on Bloody Sunday,” she said. *continued on next page*

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Kaino has built the ship as an ouroboros, an endless ring. He has made it from burnt planks with words of protest, transparent with light. At the center of Kaino's imagined galaxy, to a sound like a heartbeat, the front and back of the ship crash into one another.

He creates a suspended place and time, a place for belief and possibility.

In March, Kaino came to North Adams to create the shadows. Mass MoCA's fabrication team has built unprecedented shows, Markonish said, but the museum needed Kaino and his team to create these effects themselves. They shut off the lights and covered the windows, and in the last two weeks, his team has been working in headlamps in the dark.

"Magic can stop the world," she said. "It can speak to you in a visceral way without words – and ask you to believe in it. Nick Cave asked you that" in his 2016 show, with its labyrinth of gleaming mobiles and light. "It's powerful."

Glenn Kaino's "In the Light of a Shadow" opens Saturday, April 3, at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art in North Adams. Visit [massmoca.org](http://massmoca.org) for information about ticketing and Covid-19 safety requirements.

## Exhibit continued from page 16

The idea of family is deeply human. People give each other a place where they can relax, show fear, give comfort, strengthen – and create.

In this show, queer artists and artists of color find and define and create family, often in the absence of any societal sanction to live and love as they are.

Jimbo wants to make this show a space for respite.

Mass MoCA has often become known for large-scale spectacular projects, he said. But he imagines the museum as a sanctuary, a place to feel and share emotion, not only a retreat for knowledge.

"That's what art has always been for me," he said.

In his show, six artists from coast to coast look into kinship – with friends, with loved ones, with the land, with creative and cultural traditions and with themselves.

It begins for him with Laura Aguilar.

"She's at the forefront," he said. "She's a seminal figure. She has impacted the artists following her, and in last few years her work

has been more and more visible."

Aguilar, who died in 2018, was a Chicana photographer in Los Angeles who has influenced generations after her. She is often known for portraits of people in her community: blunt, hardworking, sometimes laughing, sometimes looking straight into the lens – women couples at a local bar like the photograph that opened the "Axis Mundi" exhibit in 2019 at the Williams College Museum of Art.

The body of Aguilar's work in this new show comes from a series of black-and-white self-portraits in a desert landscape. The textures of her body blend into the folds of rock and sand and shadow.

"There's a wholeness in that kind of kinship," Jimbo said. "It sets the tone for the rest of the exhibition. I looked for a similar frequency."

### Images of everyday closeness

King too looks into intimacy in daily life. His subjects are often his friends, Jimbo said, and he shows them in quiet, tender moments.

"Rituals and forms of communion are seen throughout my work," King said by email from California, "in order to showcase acts of love, self-care and preservation. Whether it's braiding hair, making meals, dancing in the kitchen, these moments are small acts that allow for myself and other black queer folks to heal, process and overall take care."

"Rituals are routine, but when you step back, slow down, the everyday processes of care are actually very beautiful and inspiring to me. These images are in spaces of refuge."

He is the only artist with work commissioned specifically for this show, Jimbo said. King has eight photographs here, and four of them are new.

King said he often brings a group of

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friends together to make his images, and amid the pandemic, he has found it a challenge to gather. In the last year, moments of touch have sometimes become more rare and all the more powerful.

“My work relies on closeness, connection and intimacy,” he said, “so I really just took my time and tried to find those moments within my small group and myself.”

One of the photographs, “affirmations,” focuses solely on him.

“That’s a self-portrait reflecting myself (and the camera) through a mirror while in bed,” he said. “We were all so isolated last year that I looked more toward self-portraiture to convey personal kinship and self-love.”

For Jimbo, these images from everyday life hold an intent and power. They show interactions he rarely sees in art or media, stories he rarely hears told. There’s power, he said, in seeing oneself represented.

He feels a tension too, in these images, which show people in moments when they appear gentle and relaxed. They trust each other. They are in places where they feel safe. And even here, they are aware of the camera lens.

“There’s always a sense that his subjects are withholding something,” Jimbo said.

He feels them protecting some part of their individuality. Even as they share an honest moment with each other, they are shielding some part of themselves from people who look in from outside the scene.

King suggested that feeling is partly by design.

“I always try to include some sort of code or nod to queer black community within my work,” he explained. “My photographs are for everyone to see and enjoy, but within

the images are pieces that can only really be understood by the people who have also inhabited those spaces, or know the sitter within the photographs.

“Photographs capture a singular moment, but my goal is to make viewers curious about the before and after. How did this image come to be? Who is this person? Often I aim to document personal growth, metamorphosis, physically and mentally.”

“I’m hoping these works will have some underlying meaning beyond the image alone. Kind of a ‘if you know, you know’ thing. I think pointing them out will ruin the conversation you can have with the piece for yourself.”

**Testing the limits of kinship**

Nearby, in conversation with King’s work, New York artist Chloe Bass asks how much connection exists between people at all in times like these. She has created a film around images of open sky.

“She is challenging limits of kinship,” Jimbo said, “pushing back on assumption that we can share. We experience even the sky differently.”

Bass created the film in 2017, he said, at a politically intense time. As a black woman, she was working through constant images of police brutality and the ascendancy of a political power that based itself in hate and anger.

“Narratives can be invisible,” Jimbo said. “Her experience is unique.”

Finding stories and people who have become invisible, and making them visible, has become central for Kang Seung Lee. A multidisciplinary artist born in South Korea, he now lives and works in Los Angeles.

Kang imagines kinship as care, Jimbo said,

using his art to tend to invisible, neglected legacies of queer people of color. In one of his works in this show, he has created a hammock twined with hemp and gold thread as a resting place for the Chinese American choreographer Goh Choo San.

Goh was born in Singapore, Jimbo said, and danced in the United States and Asia before he became ballet choreographer at the Washington Ballet. He also choreographed works for other performance groups around the country, from the Dance Theater of Harlem to the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. The American Ballet Theatre commissioned his “Configurations for Mikhail Baryshnikov.”

In his lifetime, Goh held an international influence. He died from AIDS in 1987, when he was 39.

“His legacy is neglected in dance legacies,” Jimbo said.

“Kang does a lot of work with archives,” he said, “looking for scraps of narrative.”

In his piece honoring Goh, Kang is working in kinship with someone who has died, looking to the past.

The hammock draws attention to a body missing, the invisibility of a figure within. Kang has made it from sambe, a hemp fiber used in clothing in Korean funerary rituals. It carries the feeling of a memorial.

Small drawings usually accompany the work – figures dancing, faces or parts of their bodies erased, so that they are partly represented and partly invisible. They show an erasure of history.

Even in their absences, Kang calls to the body as an archive, recalling Goh as a man who loved and rested and lay awake, and the dances he gave life to – the dancers who touched and lifted each other up.

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## Transplants *continued from page 6*

in moving to the area with a volunteer who can answer their questions. Since Dec. 1, the website has received 64 inquiries from 22 states and four countries, Jepson said. He knew of one person who relocated from Hawaii to be closer to family in nearby New York, while continuing to work at a job in Hawaii remotely.

State school enrollment statistics suggest that high-income resort areas may be more attractive to parents of school-aged children than the state's cities. Killington's elementary school, for example, saw its student population increase from 98 in October 2018 to 121 in October 2020, even as enrollment has been shrinking in Rutland city schools and statewide.

### Mixed signs in the Berkshires

As in Vermont, there's plenty of evidence in western Massachusetts that properties are selling and people are moving to the area, though there are no firm numbers yet. Although most of the popular summer attractions in the Berkshires were closed last summer or open only on a limited basis, many tourists and summer residents still visited.

"As for the year-round population, we have no evidence that our population is going up or going down due to Covid," said Mark Maloy, a program manager at the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. "There is an assumption that the population is going up due to out-of-towners buying properties here. But until we get census numbers and look at migration statistics, there is no way to confirm. The data often takes several years before it gets reported."

What's also unclear, he said, is whether any newcomers are merely riding out the pandemic or might wind up staying permanently.

"Overall, it will take several years to understand the long-term implication of Covid on our regional population," Maloy said.

Massachusetts public school enrollment statistics, released in January, showed a loss of 490 students in Berkshire County between October 2019 and October 2020. Based on prior trends, the county was expected to lose only 269 students. The other 221 may have switched to virtual schools outside the county, to private schools, or to home schooling, according to an analysis by the regional planning commission. Many of those students are expected to return when the pandemic passes.

There have been news reports suggesting that some private schools in the Berkshires had an influx of new students, but the state has not yet released those numbers.

Eric Steuernagle, the owner of Fairground Real Estate in Great Barrington and president of the Berkshire County Board of Realtors, said brokers in the Berkshires have been very busy since the outset of the pandemic.

"We have less than a two-month inventory now, down 60 percent from this time last year," he said. "The demand from buyers is greater."

Buyers also appear to be pursuing more costly properties.

Across the county, the dollar volume of sales under contract jumped from \$46 million in February 2020 to \$102 million in February 2021, Steuernagle said. The number of closed sales, 68, was up from 65 in the same month last year.

The boom has affected "pretty much the whole county," with no town or area predominating, Steuernagle said. People's reasons for selling "are all different," he said, and could include cashing out while the market is hot, upgrading, or moving out of the area.

Sandy Carroll, the executive director of the Berkshire County Board of Realtors, said more people within the county are looking to move.

Other buyers are coming from "all across the country," Steuernagle said. Although the common assumption is that the Berkshires primarily attract people from Connecticut and metro New York, he said he's seen people from Texas, the West Coast, and everywhere in between.

"Predominantly they're from cities," he said, adding that the biggest influx seems to be adults aged 30 to 55 with families. Partly because of concerns about Covid, many want to avoid being crowded by neighbors, he added.

Carroll said potential buyers are looking farther north as the more desirable towns in the southern Berkshires become more competitive.

Access to broadband has moved up in priority, she added. The state has pushed "last mile" connectivity in the last few years, but some communities are still waiting.

"That's definitely a factor people ask about when doing their research," Carroll said.

Covid also is changing ideas about house layouts, Carroll said. Nationally, open floor plans are falling out of favor. In a world where a house has to fill many functions, people see more value in separate spaces for home offices, study areas, and other needs of a stay-at-home era.

### Young adults returning

Rural areas in upstate New York swarmed with visitors last summer, with many people seeking out vacation rentals because quarantine restrictions kept them from leaving the state. Many others were looking for a new place to live.

"People are coming from all over," said Angela Lanuto, an associate broker at Coldwell Banker Village Green Realty. Her business covers six counties in the Catskills and Hudson Valley.

Many buyers in Columbia County are from metropolitan New York City, but the northern part of the county is also seeing house hunters from Rensselaer County, where there's a housing shortage, Lanuto said. Others are Massachusetts residents who feel they "may get more for their money" in New York.

Many of those moving in were already familiar with the region.

"The generation that grew up here is coming back," Lanuto said. "We see a lot of millennials

purchasing. People who could have bought secondary homes are now buying primary homes. They can work at home."

Others will work mainly at home but take Amtrak to the city if they need to go into the office, she said.

Lanuto, who is president of the Columbia-Greene Board of Realtors, said some newcomers are wary of future pandemics.

"People who were thinking of moving in a few years are saying, 'We want a game plan in case this ever happens again,'" Lanuto said.

Who's selling?

"Some people want a bigger house," Lanuto said. "They're selling their little weekend house. Some are retiring sooner and moving out of state. People who were thinking of selling in a few years are selling now."

At the same time, mortgage rates are low.

"Offers are coming very quickly as houses come on the market," Lanuto said. "Houses are getting offers within a week."

As a result of the competition, "prices are staggering," Lanuto said.

According to rookethomes.com, the median list price for Columbia County homes has increased by 30.3 percent since February of last year, from \$495,000 to \$645,000. Lanuto said there were 230 new listings in the county and 237 properties sold during the last quarter of 2020, compared with 153 new listings and only 148 sales during the same quarter in 2019.

"The level of movement is consistent across the county," Lanuto said. "Every area has been having sales."

If new residents are bringing children with them, however, the state's public school enrollment numbers aren't showing them.

Between October 2019 and October 2020, six of the Columbia County's seven school districts lost students, and one saw its enrollment stay flat. Total enrollment in the county dropped by 257 students.

Columbia County had been expected to see a population boom after 9/11, but between the 2000 and 2010 censuses, the county's population stayed essentially level.

This time, some say the people who've decamped to the region because of the pandemic are more likely to stay, thanks to new abilities to work and attend school remotely.

Or they might not. Watts, of the University of Vermont, said there are many reasons people might be drawn back to the New York or Boston areas after the pandemic ends, including work and family ties.

And for some, he said, "living in the city is exciting."

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• through Jun. 13: "Energy in All Directions"  
• through Sep. 11: Nicole Cherubini: "Shaking the Trees"

**Thompson Giroux Gallery** • 57 Main St., Chatham, NY • 518-392-3336 • [thompsongirouxgallery.com](http://thompsongirouxgallery.com)  
• through Apr. 18: "Daze Gone By," w Emma Heartquist, Ryan Wesley McPhail, & Scout  
• May 1-Jun. 6: "Grace-beauty of form," w Jim Bergesen, Cotter Luppi, & Gerald Wolfe

**Valley Artisans Market** • 25 E. Main St., Cambridge, NY • 518-677-2765 • Online shop at [valleyartisansmarket.org](http://valleyartisansmarket.org)  
• Apr. 1: Reopening

**World Awareness Children's Museum** • 518-793-2773 • [www.worldchildrensmuseum.org](http://www.worldchildrensmuseum.org)  
• Child-friendly activities with multi-cultural flavor

# Arts & Culture

## THE CALENDAR APRIL 2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed
<p><b>4</b></p> <p> <b>Imagescinema.org</b> • Last day: "Un Film Dramatique;" see titles Apr. 1 and 2</p> <p> <b>Mahaiwe.org</b> • Scott Eyerly Virtual Met Opera Lecture • 5:30 pm</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p> <b>caffelena.org</b> • Rick's Picks Live &amp; streaming: Bob Eglielski &amp; Rich Clements • 7-8:30 pm</p> <p> <b>Imagescinema.org</b> • See titles Apr. 1 and 2</p> <p><b>misc.</b></p> <p><b>stonevalleyarts.org</b> • Online Qi Gong &amp; Tai Chi • 5:30 pm</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p> <b>Imagescinema.org</b> • Last day: British heater Series: "War Horse"; see titles Apr. 1 and 2</p> <p><b>misc.</b></p> <p><b>stonevalleyarts.org</b> • Yoga online • 5 pm</p> <p><b>Northshire.com from home</b> • "The Addiction Inoculation" (J. Lahey) • 7 pm</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p> <b>Imagescinema.org</b> • See titles Apr. 1 and 2</p> <p> <b>caffelena.org</b> • Poetry Night Live &amp; streaming w/ Stuart Bartow, Rana Bitar, &amp; Robert Bensen • 7-8:30 pm</p> <p><b>cleanairactionnetwork.org</b> • Reuse &amp; Repair: Creating New Jobs &amp; Enterprises Through Zero Waste • Free • 2-3:30 pm • Pre-reg. req'd • 518-692-8242</p> <p><b>misc.</b></p> <p><b>Northshire.com from home</b> • "The Black Panther Party: A Graphic Novel History" (D. F. Walker &amp; M. K. Anderson) • 6 pm</p> <p><b>svac.org</b> • April Paint &amp; Sip w/ Anharad Llewelyn • 6-8 pm • Reg. req'd</p>
<p><b>11</b></p> <p> <b>caffelena.org</b> • Dan Berggren Live &amp; streaming • 7-8:30 pm</p> <p> <b>Imagescinema.org</b> • See titles Apr. 2</p> <p> <b>saratogajewishculturalfestival.org</b> • Yiddish</p> <p><b>World Remembered Virtual Film Discussion</b> • 7 pm • Email sjca.sjcf@gmail.com for Zoom link</p> <p><b>misc.</b></p> <p><b>Berkshirebotanical.org</b> • Seed Starting for the New Cutting Garden • 11 am-12:30 pm • Pre-reg. req'd</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p> <b>caffelena.org</b> • Rick's Picks Live &amp; streaming: Ria Curley &amp; Jeannine Ouder Kirk • 7-8:30 pm</p> <p> <b>Imagescinema.org</b> • See titles Apr. 2</p> <p><b>misc.</b></p> <p><b>stonevalleyarts.org</b> • Online Qi Gong &amp; Tai Chi • 5:30 pm</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p> <b>caffelena.org</b> • Online Folk Club Kids • 10:30-11 am</p> <p>• Jazz Live &amp; streaming: Chuck Lamb Trio w/ Greg Abate • 7-8:30 pm</p> <p> <b>Imagescinema.org</b> • See titles Apr. 2</p> <p><b>misc.</b></p> <p><b>stonevalleyarts.org</b> • Yoga online • 5 pm</p> <p><b>Northshire.com Live from home</b> • Poetry Month Celebration • 6 pm</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p> <b>Imagescinema.org</b> • See titles Apr. 2; British Theater Series: "Kinky Boots" (ends Apr. 20)</p> <p> <b>Saratoga-arts.org</b> • Visual Artist Talk • 7-8 pm • Pre-reg. req'd</p> <p><b>bennington.edu</b> • Poetry w Mark Wunderlich • 7-8:30 pm • Via Zoom • 802-440-4376</p> <p><b>misc.</b></p> <p><b>Northshire.com Live from home</b> • "Valcour: The 1776 Campaign that Saved the Cause of Liberty" (J. Kelly) • 6 pm</p> <p><b>oblongbooks.com Online</b> • "Live Life Colorfully" (J. Naylor) • 7 pm</p>
<p><b>18</b></p> <p> <b>caffelena.org</b> • Warden &amp; Co. Live &amp; streaming • 7 pm</p> <p> <b>Imagescinema.org</b> • Last day: Dance on Screen Film Fest: "The Sound of Masks" &amp; see titles Apr. 2 and 14</p> <p> <b>Mahaiwe.org</b> • Scott Eyerly Virtual Met Opera Lecture • 5:30 pm</p> <p><b>misc.</b></p> <p><b>Berkshirebotanical.org</b> • Chainsaw Skills Workshop • 10 am-4:30 pm • Pre-reg. req'd</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p> <b>Imagescinema.org</b> • See titles Apr. 2 and 14</p> <p><b>misc.</b></p> <p><b>stonevalleyarts.org</b> • Online Qi Gong &amp; Tai Chi • 5:30 pm</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p> <b>caffelena.org</b> • Rochmon Record Club: Hall &amp; Oates - Greatest Hits Part 1 Live &amp; streaming • 7 pm</p> <p> <b>Imagescinema.org</b> • Last Day: British Theater Series: "Kinky Boots" &amp; see titles Apr. 2</p> <p><b>misc.</b></p> <p><b>stonevalleyarts.org</b> • Yoga online • 5 pm</p> <p><b>Northshire.com Live from home</b> • "Death of a Showman" (M. Fredricks) • 6 pm</p> <p>• "Cook, Eat, Repeat" (N. Lawson w/ Ina Garten) • 7 pm</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p> <b>caffelena.org</b> • Bluegrass Jam w/ Red Spruce Live &amp; streaming • 7-8:30 pm</p> <p> <b>Imagescinema.org</b> • See titles Apr. 2</p> <p><b>misc.</b></p> <p><b>Northshire.com Live from home</b> • "Sunflower Sisters" (M. H. Kelly) • 6-7 pm</p>
<p><b>25</b></p> <p> <b>caffelena.org</b> • Deb Cavanaugh &amp; Dandelion Wine Live &amp; streaming • 7-8:30 pm</p> <p><b>Mahaiwe.org or cewm.org</b> • "Felix, Fanny and Frederic: Chopin &amp; the Mendelssohns" • 7:30 pm • link at site</p> <p><b>misc.</b></p> <p><b>Berkshirebotanical.org</b> • Spring Sausage Making • 10 am-1 pm Pre-reg. req'd</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>misc.</b></p> <p><b>stonevalleyarts.org</b> • Online Qi Gong &amp; Tai Chi • 5:30 pm</p> <p><b>ClavarackLibrary.org</b> • "From Local Kitchen to Yours: Falafel" by Chef Christopher Depew • 6 pm • Pre-reg. req'd</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p> <b>caffelena.org</b> • Storytelling Night Live Stream • 7-8:30 pm</p> <p><b>shakermuseum.org</b> • "From the Collection: Enfield Medicinal Industry Bottles" • 12-1 pm</p> <p><b>misc.</b></p> <p><b>stonevalleyarts.org</b> • Yoga online • 5 pm</p> <p><b>Northshire.com Live from home</b> • "Blueberry Love," "Strawberry Love" (C. Graubart demo) • 6 pm</p> <p><b>oblongbooks.com Online</b> • "The Secret Gospel of Mark: A Poet's Memoir" (S. Reece) • 7 pm</p>	<p><b>28 Wed</b></p> <p> <b>caffelena.org</b> • Blues Night Live Stream w/ Saratoga Acoustic Blues Society • 7-8:30 pm</p> <p> <b>Mahaiwe.org Virtually</b> • Great Art on Screen Docu: "Secret Impressionists"</p> <p><b>misc.</b></p> <p><b>Northshire.com Live from home</b> • Romance Happy Hour • 6 pm</p>

# Arts & Culture

## THE CALENDAR APRIL 2021

Thurs

Fri

Sat

1

 **Imagescinema.org** • "Power Struggle" (last day); "Sophie Jones" (ends 4/8) "The Father" (ends 4/8) "Un Film Dramatique" (ends 4/4); British Theater Series: "War-Horse" (ends Apr. 6)

misc.

**skidmore.edu** • Tang Guide Fatou Diop '22 &

single-object tour/convo: "Untitled [from the Kitchen Table Series]," by Carrie Mae Weems

**BattenkillBooks.com** • Fict Bk Club: Greenwood, by Michael Christie • 6:30-7:30 pm • call for location

**Northshire.com from home** • "Your Time to Thrive" (A. Huffington) • 7-9 pm

8

 **Imagescinema.org** • last day: "Sophie Jones" and "The Father;" see titles Apr. 2

misc.

**Berkshirebotanical.org** • Birding in the Garden • 4:30-6 pm • Pre-reg. req'd



**friendsofchamber-music.org** • Performance in Context • 7:30-8:30 pm (Zoom)

**Northshire.com Live from home** • "Home-grown Hate" (S. Kamali) • 6 pm

**oblongbooks.com Online** • Book launch: "Val-cour: The 1776 Campaign that Saved the Cause of Liberty" • 7 pm

**Shakermuseum.org** • Weather-Wise: "Exhibiting Nature's Nation: The Changing Climate of Art History" • 7-8 pm

15

 **Imagescinema.org** • See titles Apr. 2 and 14

misc.

**Northshire.com Live from home** • Poetry & Biography w/ Peter Filkins & Rosanna Warren • 6 pm



**caffelena.org** • Online streaming: Community Classroom Live stream: Solitary Confinement in NYS & the HALT Act • 7-8:30 pm

22

 **Imagescinema.org** • See titles Apr. 2

**oblongbooks.com Online** • "Holding Back the River: The Struggle Against Nature on America's Waterways" (T. J. Kelley) • 7 pm

misc.

**Northshire.com Live from home** • "Libertie" (K. Greenidge) • 7 pm

**massaudubon.org** • Gardening for Wildlife & Pollinators—Online • 7-8:30 pm • Pre-reg. req'd

29

 **caffelena.org** • Opera Saratoga presents: "America Sings" Live Stream • 7-8:30 pm

misc.

**massaudubon.org** • Wildflowers of New England — Online • 7-8:30 pm • Pre-reg. req'd

• Off-site Field Study: Drifts of Daffodils • 2-4 pm • Pre-reg. req'd

**Northshire.com Live from home** • "How to Love the World: Poems of Gratitude & Hope" (J. Crews & others) • 6 pm

**oblongbooks.com Online** • "Men I've Never Been: A Memoir" (M. Sadowski) • 7 pm

**Berkshirebotanical.org**

2

 **caffelena.org** • Robinson & Rohe Live & streaming • 8-9:30 pm

Nom Shorts – Documentary; Oscar Nom Shorts – Live Action



**Mahaiwe.org** • Blind Boys of Alabama VIRTUALLY • 9 pm

**gildedage.org** • Pre-Recorded "Ventfort Encore Series" • 5 pm



**Imagescinema.org** • See titles Apr. 1; and Oscar Nom Shorts - Animation; Oscar

9

 **caffelena.org** • Tom Lehrer Birthday Tribute w/Byron Nilsson Live • 8-9:30 pm

reg. req'd

**Massadubon.org/pleasantvalley** • Spring Frog & Salamander Search for Families • 6:30-8 pm • Pre-reg. req'd



**Imagescinema.org** • See titles Apr. 2

misc.

**Berkshirebotanical.org** • How to Use Your Tools the Right Way • 2-4 pm • Pre-

16

 **caffelena.org** • Bill Staines Live & streaming • 8-9:30 pm

misc.

**worldchildrensmuseum.org** • Virtual Family Trivia • 6-7 pm



**Imagescinema.org** • See titles Apr. 2 and 14, & Dance on Screen Film Fest: "The Sound of Masks" (ends Apr. 18)

**massadubon.org/pleasantvalley** • Spring Frog & Salamander Search for Families • 6:30-8 pm • Pre-reg. req'd

**oblongbooks.com Online** • Hudson Valley YA Society • 7 pm

23

 **caffelena.org** • Honey-suckle Live & streaming • 8-9:30 pm

misc.

**massaudubon.org** • Birding at Canoe Meadows, Pittsfield • 7-8:30 am • Pre-reg. req'd



**Imagescinema.org** • See titles Apr. 2

30

misc.

**champlainareatrails.com** • Check online for hike location, time, & trail • Emily@champlainareatrails.com • 518-962-2287

**massaudubon.org** • Birding at Canoe Meadows, Pittsfield • 7-8:30 am • Pre-reg. req'd

3

 **caffelena.org** • Michael Jerling Live & streaming • 8-9:30 pm

misc.

**gildedage.org** • Drop-in Community Yoga • 9-10 am

**cewm.org** • "The Sebastian Baroque Ensemble" • 7:30 pm • youtube link at site

**Olana.org** • 518-751-6938 • Pre-reg req'd -Free 1st weekend Wandering • 12-1 pm -Fallen: Hemlock Walking Tour • 1:30-2:30 pm • \$15



**Imagescinema.org** • See titles Apr. 1 and 2

10

 **friendsofchambermusic.org** • --Pre-concert Zoom Q&A • 7 pm --Verona Quartet & Yoonah Kim In Concert & Conversation • 7:30 pm (youtube)

962-2287

**stonevalleyarts.org** • Yoga online • 9 am

**gildedage.org** • Drop-in Community Yoga • 9-10 am



**Imagescinema.org** • See titles Apr. 2

misc.

**champlainareatrails.com** • Check online for hike location, time, & trail • 518-

**Berkshirebotanical.org** • Pre-reg. req'd --Spring Pruning Woody Ornamentals • 10:30 am-2:30 pm --Spring/Summer Hive Management • 11 am-1 pm

**Massadubon.org/pleasantvalley** • Spring Ecology Workshop: frogs, Salamanders, & Vernal Pools • 7-9 pm • Pre-reg. req'd

17

 **caffelena.org** • Gibson Brothers Trio Live & streaming • Early Show • 5 pm • Late Show • 8 pm

misc.

**gildedage.org** • Drop-in Community Yoga • 9-10 am

**stonevalleyarts.org** • Yoga online • 9 am



**Imagescinema.org** • See titles Apr. 2, 14, and 16

**Berkshirebotanical.org** • Pre-reg. req'd --Home Orchard Care • 9 am-5 pm --Transplanting Shrubs & Planting Small Ornamental Trees • 10 am-1 pm

24

 **caffelena.org** • Sean Rowe Live & streaming • Early Show • 5-6:30 pm • Late Show • 8-9:30 pm

Community Yoga • 9-10 am

**stonevalleyarts.org** • Yoga online • 9 am

**svac.org** • Yoga in the Trees • 9-10 am • Reg. req'd

**Helsinkihudson.com** • Wish You Were Hear VI, Dust Bowl Faeries Duet, & Chuck Lamb • 8 pm

**BEMF.org/support** • "Perpetual Night: 17th Century Ayres & Songs" w/Lucile Richardot • 8 pm thru May 8 • youtube.com/bostonearly

**Berkshirebotanical.org** • Pre-reg. req'd • Natural Dyes: Rendering Color From Kitchen Scraps • 10 am-4 pm • Planning Your Herb Garden • 1-3 pm

**Olana.org** • Spring Pollinator Walk w/beekeeper • 1-2 pm • \$15 ea. • Pre-reg. req'd



**Imagescinema.org** • Last Day: Oscar Nominated titles (see Apr. 2)

misc.

**gildedage.org** • Drop-in

**oblongbooks.com** • Independent Bookstore Day • 11 am

# Thompson *continued from page 11*

"I came near going away without knowing about the view from that lookout," Twain told an *Albany Argus* reporter, according to a July 3, 1885 report in *The Morning Star*. "I should not have missed it for anything: for, in connection with its historic associations, I consider that it presents the grandest scenery that I know of in America."

Grant had opportunity to soak up the view, riding in a makeshift wheelchair.

"It is a small buggy, supported by springs that rest upon a set of wheels arranged like those of a tricycle, two large ones under the body and a small one in front," *The Morning Star* reported.

Harrison, Grant's servant, pushed Grant up the slope toward the hotel and bluff.

"It was hard tugging, and the general was amused," the paper reported. "At length, the brow of the mountain was reached, and the vehicle stopped for the general to enjoy the scene."

After visiting the lookout, Harrison whirled Grant around the hotel piazza, where the general "repeatedly lifted his hat in response to similar salutations" from the hotel's guests and staff.

It was a whimsical moment as the general neared death.

By the evening of July 22, Grant's son, Fred, feared that his father would not survive the night. The former president did make it through

the night, but not much longer.

Grant's three physicians were conferring on the cottage veranda a little before 8 a.m. July 23 when Harry, Grant's nurse, interrupted the meeting.

"He told them he thought the general was very near to death," *The Morning Star* reported.

Dr. Douglas and his colleagues examined Grant, and Douglas sent word to the family to come quickly.

Grant died at 8:08 a.m.

*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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-Rachel Carson



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

See map on page 11



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