

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Carrying Forward the Legacy of Giving: The Vivienne Finn Holiday Fundraiser 1

Stuart Adelberg 1

Looking Back at the Results of this year's Audubon Hawk Watch Sum-up..... 5

Knollwood Garden Club Bazaar Raises Funds for Seaside Garden..... 5

Editorial Was Truly a "Great Editorial"..... 6

BOE Member "Brouhaha" .. 6

Partisan Humbug!..... 6

Join Hundreds in Greenwich as We Read the Bible Together in a Year in 2025 8

Conservation Without Borders..... 9

Hockey Hall of Fame Trophies Score at The Bruce Museum 9

Greenwich Rotary Club's Day of Service

Brings Support to Kids In Crisis 9

A Cultivation of Our Gratitude and Blessings .. 10

Path to Power, Road to Ruin: The Dangers of Political and Religious Ideologies..... 11

EDITORIALS 6

NEWS BRIEFS..... 7

SPORTS B2-B3

FAITH PAGES 12, 14

Community Calendar B4-B6

Winnie-the-Pooh..... B8-B9

Puzzles B6, B10-B12

Educational Pages ..B12-B13

Green Thoughts

By ANNE W. SEMMES

"The whole idea of compassion is based on a keen awareness of the interdependence of all these living beings, which are all part of one another, and all involved in one another." Thomas Merton, from his final address during a conference on East-West monastic dialogue, delivered two hours before his death, December 10, 1968.

Carrying Forward the Legacy of Giving: The Vivienne Finn Holiday Fundraiser

By EMMA BARHYDT

In Greenwich, a town known for its strong sense of community, few initiatives reflect the true spirit of the holidays as profoundly as the Vivienne Finn Holiday Fundraiser. Formerly known as the Luke McQuillan Fundraiser, this program has become a cherished tradition, providing gifts and joy to 10-18-year-old patients at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital battling life-threatening illnesses. Organized by the Finn family, the fundraiser honors Vivienne Finn, a spirited fifth-grader from Sacred Heart of Greenwich who passed away in 2020 from Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG).

Connor Finn, Vivienne's brother, continues this vital mission, ensuring that young patients receive gifts that bring comfort and a sense of normalcy during their treatments. As Connor explained, the program represents more than just gift-giving; it is a way to honor Vivienne's memory by spreading joy and resilience to others.

How the Fundraiser Works

The fundraiser offers a streamlined process to maximize community involvement and impact. Contributions can be made online through the official website, or physical gifts can be donated via an Amazon Wish List curated specifically for this purpose. The Child Life Staff at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital uses the funds and donated items to enhance their programming with age-appropriate gifts, such as iPads, headphones, portable speakers, and cozy pajamas. These items not only entertain but also provide therapeutic value, helping patients cope with the emotional and physical toll of their treatments.

Mairead Finn, Vivienne's

mother, coordinates physical donations and is available to answer questions at (203) 570-2053 or via email at mairadhfinn@gmail.com. The family also offers to collect and deliver gifts directly to the hospital, ensuring that each donation reaches its intended recipient.

A Legacy of Resilience

The inspiration behind the fundraiser is deeply personal. Vivienne herself was a recipient of a gift from the original Luke McQuillan Fundraiser in 2019. The headphones she received became a lifeline, allowing her to listen to her favorite music during chemotherapy sessions. For Vivienne, the headphones represented more than entertainment; they were a symbol of independence and normalcy in a time of profound struggle.

Her story reminds us of the transformative power of such gestures. In Connor's words, "Gifts bring joy and raise the spirits of kids after they've endured a difficult treatment or procedure." Through the fundraiser, Vivienne's legacy continues to inspire acts of kindness that touch the lives of countless children and their families.

The Heart of Greenwich

Greenwich residents have long demonstrated their commitment to helping others, and this program exemplifies the town's collective generosity. Each donation is a message of hope and solidarity, ensuring that young patients know they are supported not just by their families and medical teams but by an entire community.

As the Finn family notes, these contributions embody the true sentiment of the holiday season: neighbors coming together to uplift one another. Whether through monetary donations, gift



Finn Family Spreads Holiday Cheer: Delivering Gifts and Smiles to Young Patients at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital.

Vivienne Finn 2024
Created by Connor Finn
(Formerly known as the Luke McQuillan's)

HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER
for
10-18 YEAR OLD PATIENTS
at
YALE NEW HAVEN'S CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 16

BACK TO GIFT-GIVING!
- ONLINE PREFERRED

Please help lift the spirits of young patients who are battling life-threatening illnesses in the hospital this holiday season!

Donations can be made directly online:

www.yaletoydrive.com

For checks, physical gifts or questions, please call Mairead Finn at 203-570-2053 or email mairadhfinn@gmail.com

purchases, or simply spreading the word, every action makes a tangible difference.

How to Participate

The fundraiser runs from November 25 to December 16. Contributions can be made online at www.yaletoydrive.com, and the Amazon Wish List is available for those who prefer to select gifts

material items—they are beacons of hope, love, and community.

For more information or to contribute, visit the website or contact the Finn family. Together, the Greenwich community can continue to honor Vivienne's memory by bringing joy to those who need it most.

Patriotic Holiday Spending



By STUART ADELBERG

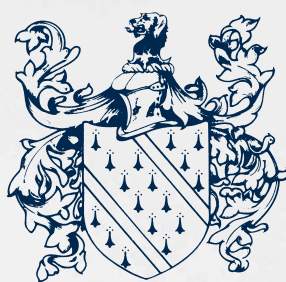
I'd like to thank all of the marketing professionals who have solved what has historically been one of our nation's most persistent problems. For generations, Americans have awoken the day after Thanksgiving, comatose from their gastronomic overindulgences, content after watching a whole day of football, and thrilled to remember that most of them had an extra day off. We were sated from a joyful day of family and food and enthusiastic about the upcoming holidays. With these

Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday and Giving Tuesday were truly exhausting. So I've decided that today is Worn-Out Wednesday!

gleeful thoughts in our still weary heads, we happily rolled over and went back to sleep! For

CONTINUED on Page 8

Make It a December to Remember



SHREVE, CRUMP & LOW

125 Greenwich Avenue, Greenwich Connecticut 06830
(203) 622-6205 · shrevecrumpandlow.com



Dogwood

BOOKS & GIFTS
CHRIST CHURCH GREENWICH
254 EAST PUTNAM AVE., GREENWICH
Proceeds go to Outreach

WE ARE CHRISTMAS!

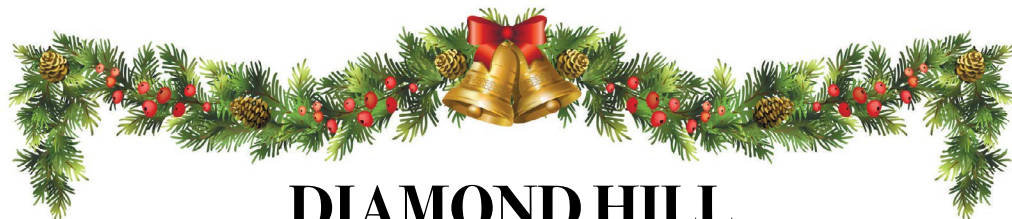
HOSTESS GIFTS, CARDS,
ENTERTAINING, CRACKERS, BOOKS,
TABLETOP, ORNAMENTS, GIFT WRAP,
NATIVITIES, CHILDREN'S GIFTS

COFFEE/TEA BAR
FREE & EASY PARKING

TUES. - SAT. 10 - 5
SUNDAY 10 - 1

254 EAST PUTNAM AVE., GREENWICH, CT
203.869.9030

IN-STORE OR BUY BOOKS ONLINE
DOGWOODBOOKSANDGIFTS.COM



DIAMOND HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



*"May the God of hope fill you with
all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow
with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit"*
Romans 15:1

Pre-Christmas Service
on December 22nd at Noon

CHRISTMAS EVE

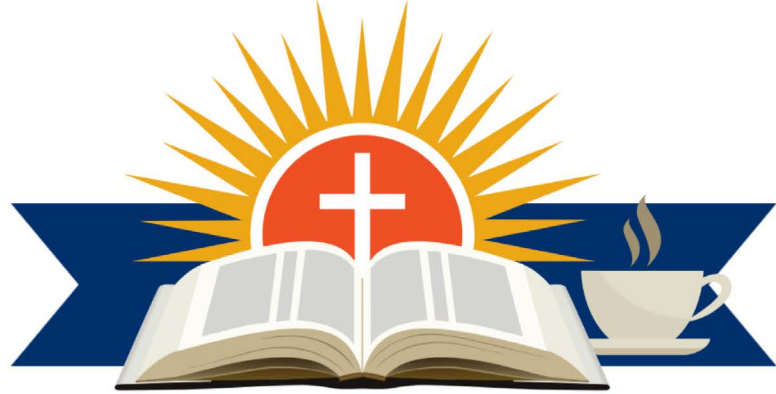
Noon
Please worship with us.



diamondhillumc.com



We invite you to make a spiritual
resolution in 2025



THE BIBLE CHALLENGE
CHRIST CHURCH GREENWICH

Sign up now to get your Bible Challenge
Daily Reading Plan:

biblechallenge@christchurchgreenwich.org

In the New Year, commit to spending 10-30 minutes a day reading Rev. Marek Zabriskie's prepared Daily Reading Plans to successfully read through the Bible. Over a million people have used his Daily Reading Plans to accomplish this spiritual goal. We are inviting everyone in Greenwich to join us as we read.

Read it as a book or an app on your phone or tablet

Choose from these options:

- The Entire Bible (30 min. a day)
- The New Testament, Proverbs and Psalms (10 min. a day)
- Teen Bible Challenge (10 min. a day)
- Children & Family Bible Challenge using the "Read with Me Bible" (at bedtime)
- Alumni Bible Challenge (For those who have completed The Bible Challenge)

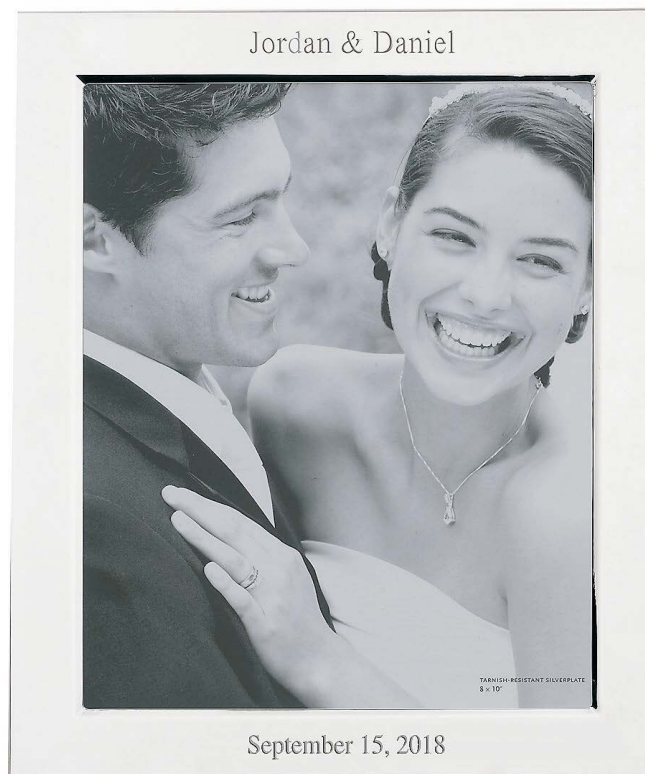
Just as you take care of your
physical, mental, and financial health,
take care of your spiritual health and your soul

christchurchgreenwich.org

Michaelangelo est.1979
of
Greenwich

Fine Gifts Master Engravers

An engraved gift lasts a lifetime



Free Engraved Monogram on all Gifts

www.Michaelangelogifts.com

(203) 661-8540

410 Greenwich Avenue

Greenwich, CT

Rush service our speciality

experience a
backcountry Christmas
this year with

ST. BARNABAS

954 Lake Ave
Greenwich

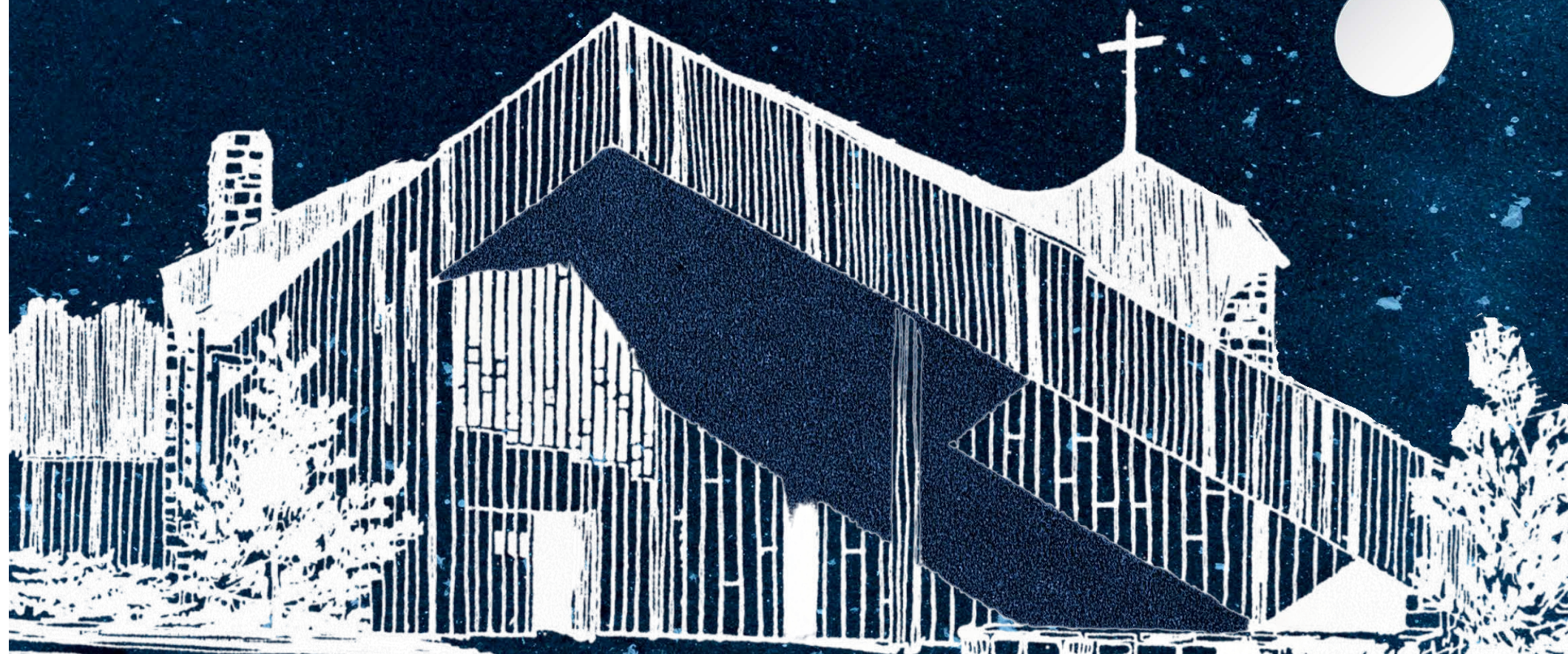
Christmas Eve

5pm & 9pm

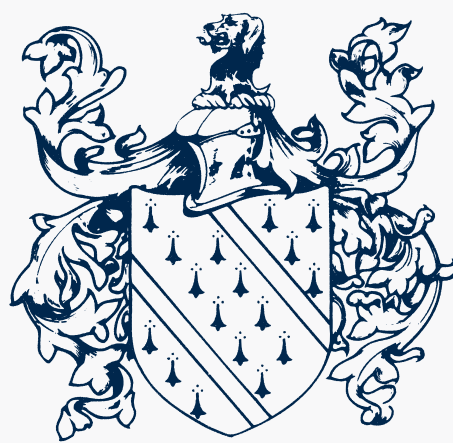
each preceded by a 30 minute
concert with the St Barnabas Choir

Christmas Day

10am



'Tis the Season to Shine Bright



SHREVE, CRUMP & LOW

125 Greenwich Avenue, Greenwich Connecticut 06830
(203) 622-6205 · shrevecrumpandlow.com

Looking Back at the Results of this year's Audubon Hawk Watch Sum-up

BY ANNE W. SEMMES

This year Greenwich Audubon's Hawk Watch Season ended on November 30 and on that day the results of that hawk migration season were reported at Greenwich Audubon. There to welcome attendees was Senior Educator Ryan MacLean who noted that this Audubon Hawk Watch now dates back 125 years. And each Fall over the years, an average of up to 20,000 migrating hawks, eagles, and falcons are seen flying over the Greenwich Audubon Center.

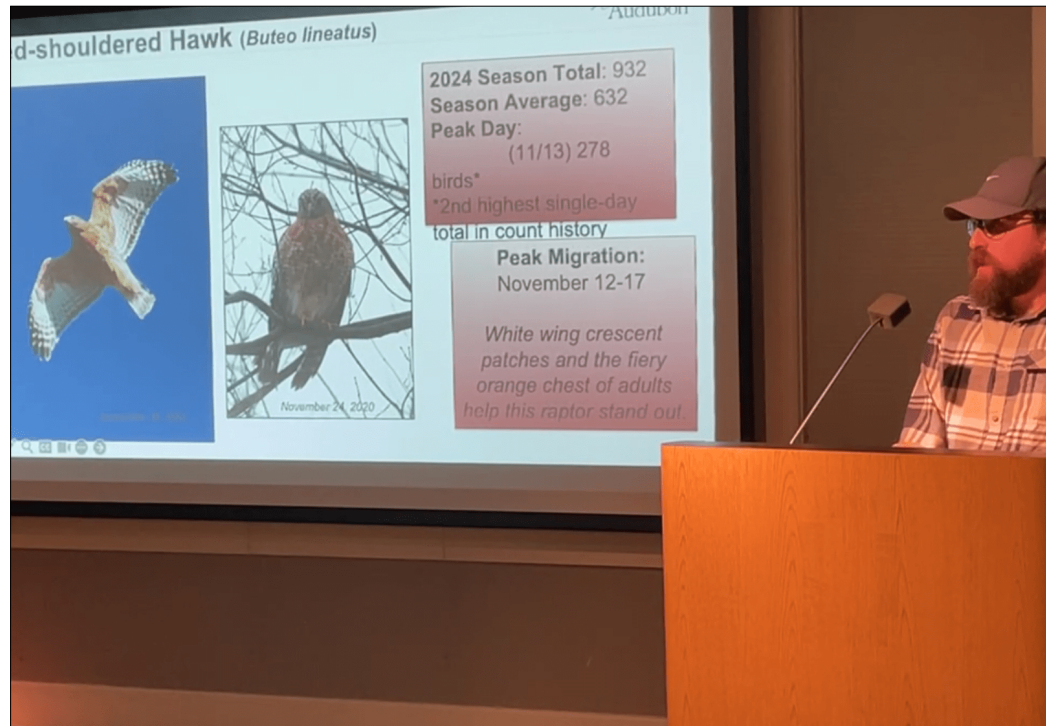
But this year certain species showed decreases with predominantly Easterly winds affecting migration, as with Broad-winged hawks, shared MacLean. "We need Northwest winds to push them to our area, and without cold fronts and this wind direction they will fly elsewhere." A bit of climate change showing its effects, he confirmed. "With almost 40 years of consistent year-round data, we're beginning to see how different weather patterns and changes in our weather, our climate and their habitats are shaping what we see each year after year."

And what motivates that migration? "Hawks have to migrate to follow their food. If you're a bird that likes to eat snakes, lizards, and frogs, you can't stay in Connecticut for the winter. You have to go to where that source of food is, which if you're a Broad-wing hawk is the rainforest of Central and South America...To migrate they use thermals and updrafts. They don't like to flap their wings. They rely on the lifts of wind... They can't get lift over water...and when they see a wall in front of them and that wall is Long Island Sound...Traffic builds up right here."

MacLean then introduced the Center's Quaker Ridge Hawk Watch Counter Jonathan Stein, who had served five days a week counting those migrating birds from August 20 to November 30.

Stein addressed MacLean's overview of declining hawk numbers. "When comparing our 2024 season total and our season average, we came in well below the average yearly total this year." This season's peak day occurring on September 10 had brought "one of the earliest peak days for Broad-wing hawks in the last 25 years. So overall numbers, this year played pale in comparison to the previous two years in 2022 and 2023, which were two of the best years in the Center's history."

Stein then highlighted what was seen with other species. "It was another very nice Fall for Red



Quaker Ridge Hawk Watch Counter Jonathan Stein presents the findings of the 2024 fall migratory bird season in Kiernan Hall at the Audubon Center. Contributed photo.

Shouldered hawks as the species continues to be seen moving through the region in increased numbers. This year didn't reach the heights of 2022 and 2023, but the season total we had 932 birds, the highest total since 2017, outside of those last two years."

Red-tailed hawks came next. "They came in lower than the season average. Overall migrant Red-tails we're seeing in small numbers in September and October...then a seasonal peak of movement from November 12 to 14 when we had 38 individuals counted over those three days."

"It was another nice year for Cooper's Hawks," Stein continued, "as we eclipsed the season average of 285 by a decent margin this year with a total of 428 on the year."

Then it was Falcon time with the American Kestrel. "After two exceptional years for this species in 2022 and 2023," said Stein, "This year saw a step back for the species numbers overall with only 369 total counted...a fair amount less than the overall seasonal average of 456."

As for Merlins: "It was a nice season for Merlin's with 85 total individuals counted slightly more than the seasonal average of 66. They did continue to be seen a little more frequently in November than Kestrels with a single individual observed on seven separate days over the course of November."

"Moving on to Peregrine Falcon now. We've managed to eclipse the season average of 22 with 24 Peregrines total counted on the season... And so, while seen in low numbers, overall Peregrines were observed over

"We need Northwest winds to push them to our area, and without cold fronts and this wind direction they will fly elsewhere." Ryan MacLean.

the course of the season."

Then it was big bird time. For that more than bounced back Bald Eagle, this season, said Stein, was "not as impressive as the previous two years, but this year was still the third highest seasonal count of Bald Eagles on record." And more Bald Eagles were migrating. "Their peak of movement seems to occur earlier in September...with a peak of movement occurring from September 8 to 14 when 52 Bald Eagles were tallied across that seven-day span."

And "It was a nice year for Osprey overall as we came in slightly higher than the season average with 457 total counted this year...highlighted by a season high count of 66 individuals counted on September 14th, which was the highest single day total for Osprey since the 2012 season."

"A favorite bird of prey" for many, Stein noted, is the Northern Harrier. "So, we started off the year quite well with Northern Harrier," with their count over 10 days in mid-September totally 84, and "achieving a daily high count of 24 individuals on September

14. So that single day count was the highest Harrier total since the 2007 season."

The most abundant species brought the finale. "Turkey vultures were seen in their second highest ever season total this year at 2,711 individuals counted. And that is second only to last year's 3,633 counted." Seen they were in "the first triple digits occurring on October 11 when 212 were counted." But on the peak single day of October 28 there were 261 counted.

A surprise ending brought spectacular rarities flying by. Sandhill Cranes have become "a more regular visitor," said Stein. "We had one Sandhill crane observed on September 23." Add other rarities,

a Red-headed woodpecker, and a Yellow Belied Flycatcher.

So, the grand migrating birds count for Hawk Watch 2024? "We eclipsed the 10,000 total record for the year," told Stein. "Especially considering some of the more trying conditions in September with an extended stretch of east wind and the drier conditions extending in October. Overall, a pretty nice year."

Knollwood Garden Club Bazaar Raises Funds for Seaside Garden

BY ANNE W. SEMMES

Christmas and Greenwich Point's Seaside Garden, often called Secret Garden, came together last Friday at its annual fundraising Christmas Luncheon & Bazaar held at The Field Club by the Knollwood Garden Club of Greenwich. With Knollwood being the caring green fingers of the hidden away Seaside Garden, the 70 attending members and guests were able to raise over \$3,500 from the Bazaar, a Silent Auction and a Giving Tree.

Member Louise Marasso, who chaired the Bazaar, was

- measuring 140-feet by 100-feet, and located at the northern peak of Greenwich Point, has its beginnings in 1918 with the J. Kennedy Tod family in residence. In 1945, it was restored by the Garden Club of Old Greenwich, then in 1964 the Knollwood Garden Club took on the care and preservation of the Garden.

Often the site of weddings and musical events, the Garden is open to the public year-round as supported by volunteer members and charitable contributions from the public.

Donations especially requested include a peony plant (\$30), 3

The walled Seaside Garden, located at the northern peak of Greenwich Point, has its beginnings in 1918 with the Tod family in residence.

happy to report that since the fundraiser kicked off five years ago, "It's grown with now 70 to 80 items contributed, including baked goods, household goods, toys, and plants, with a pair of American Ballet Theater tickets selling for \$300."

The walled Seaside Garden

bags of soil (\$50) or even a dogwood tree (\$200)!

To donate for the care and preservation of the Seaside Garden at Greenwich Point visit <https://checkout.square.site/merchant/MLWMHV6R10YJF/checkout/OMACUBZ66AQUU-4JSVMJPXWRV>



Standing: Elizabeth Petty, seated in black, Jacqueline Wetenhall, and right, co-president Connie Clephane. Contributed photo.



L to R Former president of Old Greenwich Garden Club Kelly Forsberg, Knollwood Garden Club co-president Joy Rendahl, and guest Linda Shirley. Contributed photo.

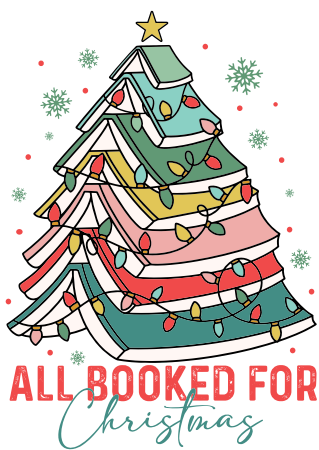
Dear Greenwich,
This Christmas give the one's you love something they will love to snuggle up with... a great book.

Shop local...shop Diane's Books. Expert advice on which books are best for your family and friends PLUS free gift wrapping and the satisfaction of supporting your community independent book store!



We love you because you love books, and we do too!

Thank you to all our loyal and devoted readers, big and small, who have made it possible to say hooray for reading!



To those who are near to us and those who come to us from far away, we appreciate each and every one of you.

Happy Reading,
Diane



A FAMILY BOOKSTORE

Serving Book Lovers for Over 30 Years

8 Grigg Street A, Greenwich, CT 06830
(203) 869-1515 • info@dianesbooks.com

Greenwich Sentinel**PUBLISHER**Beth@GreenwichSentinel.com
Elizabeth Barhydt**EDITORS & COPY EDITORS**

Editor@GreenwichSentinel.com

Emma Barhydt, Peter Barhydt [editor-in-chief],
Stapley Russell, Anne W. Semmes

Shared Bonds

Local newspapers, long the bedrock of community life, serve a purpose far beyond the headlines. They hold up a mirror to the lives of their readers, reflecting not only the big stories but the small moments that quietly shape a town's identity. In these pages, engagements, weddings, births, family milestones, and obituaries are not just personal markers—they are a shared history, a communal legacy.

Here in New Canaan, where traditions run deep and community connections are prized, the role of the local newspaper takes on particular importance. Though *The New Canaan Sentinel* is still young, at just a year and a half old, we aspire to uphold the role that newspapers have long played in fostering community bonds. Announcements of life's milestones are not just updates; they are an invitation to honor, to celebrate, and to remember together.

In an era dominated by social media, one might question the continued relevance of such announcements in print. Platforms like Facebook and Instagram offer the allure of immediacy and global reach. Yet, the difference between an online post and a printed announcement is profound. Online, these moments may live forever yet they are also becoming more scattered, ephemeral, and irrelevant in the relentless churn of content from everywhere and everyone. The information super highway is quickly becoming very crowded. In print, they are carefully preserved—a deliberate act that lends permanence and gravitas.

In the pages of the Sentinel, your story will not only be told – it will endure.

The Sentinel's print edition, unlike social media, exists within defined boundaries. Its reach is targeted, its audience intentional. An announcement in our town paper is not broadcast to the world but shared with a trusted, familiar circle. This distinction offers something increasingly rare in today's hyperconnected world: privacy. In print, there are no algorithms to amplify or distort, no strangers peering into your personal life. These pages remain a sanctuary, offering a safe, intimate space for the moments that matter.

Local connections are especially important for obituaries, which hold a unique and irreplaceable role in the community. They are not just a notice of someone's passing but a way to honor lives lived and stories told. In a local paper, an obituary does more than inform; it celebrates the connections and contributions of a neighbor, a friend, a family member. At *The Sentinel*, we offer this service for free—not out of convenience, but out of commitment. We believe every life deserves to be acknowledged with dignity, and that our pages can serve as a permanent tribute to the individuals who have shaped our town.

Print announcements, including obituaries, also foster a sense of community that social media cannot replicate. They create a shared experience, connecting neighbors and friends in a way that transcends digital clicks and likes. A marriage announcement in the *Sentinel* invites collective congratulations. A birth notice signals the arrival of a new member into New Canaan's extended family. And an obituary brings people together to grieve, reflect, and remember, reminding us of the bonds that unite us even in loss.

Equally important is the archival role that newspapers play. The printed announcement remains a record that can be held, revisited, and cherished. For future generations, news pages serve as a tangible link to the past.

The enduring value of these announcements lies in their simplicity and intentionality. To submit a wedding, birth, or obituary to the *Sentinel* is to say, "This is worth remembering, and worth sharing with those who matter most." It is a quiet but powerful act of trust in the local newspaper as a custodian of shared history.

Our ability to fulfill this role depends on you—our readers and neighbors. For *The Sentinel* to continue building a legacy of celebrating New Canaan's milestones, we need your engagement. Share your joys, your milestones, and yes, your farewells with us. Send us your announcements of engagements, weddings, new babies, family milestones, and obituaries. Your stories are the heart of this paper, and they reflect the vibrant life of our town.

This is not to diminish the role of social media. Its convenience and reach are undeniable, and for some, it will remain the preferred way to share news. But as we embrace the digital age, we should be careful not to lose the unique benefits that print media offers. The *print edition of The Sentinel* provides a more private space for locals where the milestones of life are celebrated with dignity, permanence, and a sense of place.

The Sentinel remains a unifying force, preserving the stories that bring us together. For all its challenges, the printed page continues to serve as a vital forum for connection and celebration.

So, to those considering how best to share their next milestone, remember the power of print. Let your announcement become part of New Canaan's history, a shared moment that strengthens the bonds of our community. In the pages of the *Sentinel*, your story will not only be told—it will endure.

Editorial Page



"It's too late! Bob's brain has been sucked out by the internet!"

LETTER

Editorial Was Truly a "Great Editorial"

Your editorial this week was truly a "great editorial" itself. Your summary of what an editorial should be and contain was excellent, and should be read by every student of journalism. It is especially appropriate at a time when many of our major publications - like the Wall Street Journal, have abandoned all pretext of objectivity.

I come from a long line of journalists. One branch of the family published a newspaper in Baltimore that was shut down by the military government in Baltimore during the Civil War for publishing an article that was supportive of the Confederacy. The publisher and his two sons were sent to federal prison, and then exiled to Charleston, South Carolina, where they started another newspaper, which at one point was printed on the backside of flowered wallpaper (due to a shortage of newsprint). The arrest of the Richardsons created quite a political stir in Baltimore - so much for first amendment rights. My grandfather Hobbs was a

Your summary of what an editorial should be and contain was excellent.

war correspondent in the Spanish-American and Russo-Japanese wars, and became the editor of the Philadelphia Public Ledger, and then joined his brother-in-law, Frank R. Kent at the Baltimore Sun. Frank Kent was the Washington reporter for the Baltimore Sun during the WWI era, and then editor of the Sun. My grandfather Hobbs was the editor of the Sunday edition of the Baltimore Sun. My brother worked as a newspaper reporter for about ten years.

Thank you for publishing the *Sentinel*.
Skip Hobbs

LETTER

BOE Member "Brouhaha"

To the Editor: As a lifelong Greenwich citizen viewing this recent Board of Education (BOE) member "brouhaha", I'm confused and baffled by Ms. Downey's logic? How can the Democrat party interview and select a Republican Party member of the BOE without Republican party input? Something stinks here and it's not the fish! It appears to me that this is a blatant power grab by the Democrats direct from their "bag of tricks". Please put on your grown-up "hats" and

Something stinks here and it's not the fish!

settle this ASAP! Our children's education and our wasted tax dollars depend on it! Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New year! Respectfully, Tog Pearson

LETTER

Partisan Humbug!

Partisan Humbug! Moving here, having been an adult resident of Massachusetts for almost 40 years, I was startled to learn through local League of Women Voters participation of the partisan political divides required of local boards in our state. The recent rancor in the BOE and the often rancor in our BET indicate the horrible inefficiency of partisan board representation. In Massachusetts, the select board members, school boards and tax assessors among others are all elected at large. You vote the best people you can without regard to party. There is no representation-political majority-minority nonsense and no 'who gets to rule' problem. Greenwich

Greenwich should help start a movement

should help start a movement to amend our constitution and get our state reps and senators on board. At the state level, partisanship may make sense, but locally it is a total failure in my opinion.

Eileen Simonson

LETTER

A Lack of Bipartisan Tradition at the Board of Education

The recent actions of the Democrat members of the Board of Education present a troubling example of how transparency and democracy can be undermined under the guise of procedural necessity. The abrupt convening of an "emergency" meeting on October 21, with less than an hour's notice, stretches credibility and raises serious questions about the commitment of these board members to the principles of openness and fair representation.

The stated reason for this rushed meeting was the impending budget process, a routine, albeit important, part of the board's responsibilities. To label such a foreseeable event as an emergency is to engage in wordplay unworthy of public officials entrusted with overseeing our educational system. Emergencies, by definition,

are unforeseen and demand immediate action to prevent imminent harm or loss. The budget timeline, established well in advance, does not fit this criterion.

What appears to have unfolded is the creation of a contrived pretext, a sudden intervention not to resolve a crisis but to orchestrate a calculated power shift within the board. By appointing Jennifer Behette, a Republican in name but aligned with the Democrat caucus, the Democrat members created an effective majority, circumventing the bipartisan balance enshrined in the town charter. This move undermines the very foundation of fair representation that is vital to the board's legitimacy.

The Republicans, having put forth Paul Cappiali, who was subsequently appointed by the Board of Selectmen

in a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting, found their role in the appointment process blatantly disregarded. Mr. Cappiali's exclusion from participation in subsequent board meetings, despite his official certification, adds insult to injury in terms of procedural propriety.

This episode raises broader concerns about the erosion of institutional norms in the pursuit of partisan advantage. When those responsible for educational policy engage in such tactics, they jeopardize public trust and set a dangerous precedent. Declaring an emergency where none exists is not merely a procedural quibble; it is a misuse of process that should alarm all who value the integrity of democratic institutions. Moreover, the refusal to acknowledge a

duly appointed and certified board member shows a blatant disregard for the rule of law that is fundamental to effective governance.

The Greenwich Board of Education's mandate is to oversee the educational welfare of our community's youth, a responsibility that demands strict adherence to ethical standards and a spirit of collaboration. Fabricating an emergency to facilitate a partisan reconfiguration of the board not only distracts from this mission but also sows discord and distrust among constituents. The irony of the example being set by those charged with overseeing the education of our children is extremely disconcerting.

Jerry Cincotta

POLICE & FIRE

Greenwich Enhances Traffic Safety Measures

The Greenwich Police Department will conduct sobriety checkpoints on December 14th from 8:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. at locations including East Putnam Avenue, West Putnam Avenue, Arch Street, and Delavan Avenue. The checkpoints aim to deter and detect impaired driving as part of a traffic safety initiative. Motorists should expect brief stops and plan accordingly.

Toy Drive Brings Holiday Joy



The 2024 Stuff a Cruiser toy drive kickoff took place on Sunday, collecting toys from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. alongside activities and food. While the kickoff event has ended, the spirit of generosity it fostered continues. Community members still have the opportunity to contribute by dropping off toy donations at the front lobby anytime during business hours. All contributions will support children in need during the holiday season.

Photo Credit: Greenwich Police Department

GPD Delivers Holiday Cheer



On Thursday, officers joined forces with Neighbor to Neighbor Greenwich to bring a touch of holiday warmth to the community. Together, they delivered Christmas trees and blankets to senior living facilities, spreading cheer and comfort during the festive season.

Photo Credit: Greenwich Police Department

New Firefighters Join Greenwich Team



The Greenwich Fire Department proudly welcomes its newest members, freshly graduated from the Connecticut Fire Academy. Firefighters Bialecki, Dunster, Gillick, Bland, Everett, and Depalma join the ranks, ready to serve their community with dedication and skill.

Photo Credit: Greenwich Fire Department



Early Friday morning, while en route to a motor vehicle accident in town, Engine Co. 8, operating with Reserve Engine 51, was involved in a single-vehicle crash. The three firefighters onboard were promptly attended to by Greenwich EMS and taken to Greenwich Hospital. Following evaluation and treatment for minor injuries, all three were discharged within a few hours.

Photo Credit: Greenwich Fire Department

FROM TOWN HALL

DPW Second Leaf Collection

The Greenwich Department of Public Works will begin the second round of its annual leaf collection program on December 11, weather permitting. The schedule will be published online and via the leaf collection hotline at 203-618-7698 by the evening of December 9. Areas not listed on the hotline have not yet been scheduled.

Hamill Rink Municipal Improvement Status Approved

The Planning and Zoning Commission approved Municipal Improvement status for the proposed replacement of Hamill Rink in Eugene Morlot Park, Byram. The project includes a 40,671-square-foot skating rink relocated north of the current site, along with improvements to the baseball field, traffic circulation, walking paths, and signage for local landmarks. The approval aligns with the 2019 POCD's guiding principles, with conditions for further community input and environmental considerations during the next planning phase.

Glenville Street Housing Plan Approved

The Greenwich Planning & Zoning Commission approved

plans for a 13-unit residential building at 9 Glenville Street, located within the Glenville Historic District. The project involves demolishing a Victorian home and garage to construct a three-story, 17,730-square-foot building with parking, landscaping, and stormwater upgrades, including two moderate-income units. Adjustments to the proposal include reducing parking spaces, eliminating an accessway, and scaling down the refuse area.

AROUND TOWN

Willa Lights Up First Light

Old Greenwich held its 25th annual First Light celebration last weekend, closing Sound Beach Avenue for a community event featuring antique fire truck rides, live music, and holiday lights. Local businesses provided refreshments, and the event included the ceremonial lighting of a tree by Willa Koch, a young resident fighting pediatric leukemia. Organized by the Old Greenwich Merchants Association, the celebration highlighted community fundraising efforts for the seasonal decorations.

Historic Riverside Home Gains Protection

The Redman-Fitzgerald House in Riverside, built in 1894, has been designated a historic property by the Greenwich Representative Town Meeting, with a vote of 173-3. This designation requires any exterior changes to receive approval from the Historic District Commission, preserving its architectural integrity. The home reflects Riverside's development in the late 19th century, tied to the establishment of rail connections.

Feral Cat Ordinance Withdrawn

A proposed ordinance to regulate feral cat populations in Greenwich has been withdrawn due to insufficient support and legal concerns raised by the Representative Town Meeting (RTM). The ordinance, which included registration requirements for caretakers and a Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, and Release protocol, was introduced following resident complaints. First Selectman Fred Camillo stated that alternative solutions, such as working with state organizations, will be pursued.

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS

Greenwich United Way Funds Community

Greenwich United Way will accept applications for its community impact grants from December 16, 2024, to January 16, 2025, at noon. The organization annually distributes nearly \$1 million to programs addressing health, education, and self-sufficiency for Greenwich residents, following a detailed review process. Interested nonprofits can contact Vice President of Community Impact Robert Moore at rmoore@greenwichunitedway.org for application details.

Upper Crust Bagel Celebrates Milestone



The Upper Crust Bagel Company & Deli in Old Greenwich celebrated its 30th anniversary on Sound Beach Avenue. The family-run business, known for its consistent service and community presence, has built a loyal customer base over three decades. Local leaders, including the First Selectman and Chief of Police, joined the celebration.

Photo Credit: First Selectman Camillo's Community Connections

Lions Club Celebrates Centennial



The Greenwich Lions Club celebrated its centennial at the Riverside Yacht Club, recognizing a century of community service. Attendees included local officials and community leaders, with highlights such as a proclamation from the Town of Greenwich. The Club's ongoing initiatives, including youth eye screenings, the John Clarke Award, and support for local nonprofits, were acknowledged.

Photo Credit: First Selectman Camillo's Community Connections

Community Unites for Thanksgiving Tradition

First Presbyterian Church hosted its 27th annual Thanksgiving dinner for seniors, serving nearly 200 meals with the help of over 120 volunteers. Meals were served in person and delivered to homebound seniors. The event was supported by several local organizations, including the Transportation Association of Greenwich, The Wallace Center, At Home Greenwich, Call-A-Ride, Greenwich Communities, and the Department of Human Services.

GBC Launches Matching Challenge

The Greenwich Botanical Center (GBC) announced a matching challenge from the Around Foundation, which will match donations to its Annual Appeal up to \$100,000 through December 31, 2024. Funds raised will support GBC's horticultural education programs, community initiatives, and infrastructure development. The nonprofit, founded in 1957, continues to provide nature-based education and outreach to individuals and families in Greenwich.

Bluebird Taqueria Opens in Glenville

Bluebird Taqueria, a new quick-service restaurant, has opened at 21 Glenville Street in the Glenville Shopping Center. The menu features scratch-made Mexican cuisine, including tacos, burritos, guacamole, and kid-friendly options, with a focus on fresh ingredients like house-made tortillas. The restaurant primarily offers takeout, with online ordering and delivery available.

PEOPLE IN TOWN

Teens Launch Gains for Guyana

Greenwich High School sophomores Eva Barber and Tyler Bell founded Gains for Guyana, a nonprofit aimed at improving education and access to basic necessities for children in Guyana. They launched a GoFundMe campaign to raise \$10,000 and are organizing local fundraisers, including a "Photos with Santa" event on December 15. The initiative is supported by community sponsors and plans to expand efforts, potentially including a 5K run and a trip to Guyana.

SPORTS

GHS Advances to State Championship



Greenwich avenged its Thanksgiving loss to Staples with a commanding 14-0 win in the CIAC Class LL semifinals, securing a spot in the state championship game. The Cardinals' defense forced four turnovers and dominated throughout, while standout plays from Blake Martin and Hector Lopez powered the offense.

Photo Credit: David Fierro

Gators Dominate Rye Country Day



Greenwich Academy's basketball team evened its record at 1-1 with a commanding 53-35 victory over Rye Country Day School, showcasing strong performances from junior center Mallory Walker, who tallied 19 points and 15 rebounds, and junior captain Mirabel Rodgers. With seasoned leadership and contributions from underclassmen, the Gators aim to build on their offseason work and compete at a high level this season.

Photo Credit: David Fierro



Greenwich High School girls' swimming/diving coach Brendan Heller was named the 2024 CHSCA Girls Swimming & Diving Coach of the Year after leading his team to a record-breaking CIAC Class LL Championship title and strong finishes at the State Open and FCIAC Championships. Heller, honored at the CHSCA All-State Dinner, credited his team's dedication for making the season rewarding.

Photo Credit: Contributed to Greenwich Sports Beat

Brunswick Seniors Commit Division I



Eight senior student-athletes from Brunswick School signed National Letters of Intent to compete in Division I sports, representing football, water polo, and baseball. Their college commitments include the University of Notre Dame, the University of California Irvine, Syracuse University, Lehigh University, and the United States Military Academy.

Photo Credit: Andrew Henderson

COLUMN

Join Hundreds in Greenwich as We Read the Bible Together in a Year in 2025



By MAREK ZABRISKIE

I try to read from the Bible every day, and every day that I begin my day by doing this is a better day for having done it. Why?

Because the Bible refreshes my soul like nothing else. Sitting quietly in my well-lit kitchen and reading the Bible meditatively for 10-30 minutes centers me. As I read it, I often realize that some things that seem so pressing and urgent really are not pressing or urgent.

At other times, a thought about someone in need enters my head. I follow up and reach out and it makes all the difference. It's as if an angel offering advice perches on my shoulder whenever I sit down and read the Bible.

The result of beginning my day with Bible reading is that for the rest of the day it feels as if it's not "me against the world," but rather "God and me working together to make a better world." It's simply a better day for having done so.

The author of II Timothy writes, "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work" (II Timothy 3:16-17)

So, on Christmas Day, 2010, I made

a spiritual New Year's resolution to read through the entire Bible in a year. I had started numerous Bible studies and read portions of the Bible every day for twenty years and had led many Bible studies and taught many Bible classes, but I'm not sure that I had ever read the entire Bible in a year. So, I started.

Within two weeks, I developed a little reading plan for myself that called for reading three chapters of the Old Testament, one psalm, and a chapter of the New Testament every day. This plan will get you through the Bible in a year. What happened next was like a miracle.

I suddenly found myself spiritually renewed as an ethereal joy seemed to flow through me. I was happy and spiritually alive. This doesn't always happen in staid Episcopalians like me. My wife and children and colleagues as work remarked that I seem calmer, more patience, kind, and caring.

Soon, I sensed that God was encouraging me to invite others to join me in this daily Bible reading. So, I began emailing members of my church and friends outside my parish with whom I played tennis with or my wife and I socialized until several hundred people joined me.

I called it, "The Bible Challenge," because we live in a society where people like to push themselves to achieve a goal - to learn a foreign language, climb a tall mountain, run a marathon or compete in a triathlon.

Just as we take care of our physical, mental, and financial health, it is extremely wise to take care of our spiritual health. I guarantee you that 10-30 minutes of Bible reading a day in 2025 will transform your year as you care for your soul. You will never regret it.

Reading the Bible in a year was my spiritual marathon, and it was incredibly rewarding.

Later that year, I started the Center for Biblical Studies (www.thecenterforbiblicalstudies.org) to help freely promote The Bible Challenge across the United States and around the world. Since then, over one million people have used our Bible Challenge reading plans to read through the entire Bible or the New Testament, Proverbs, and Psalms in a year.

The author of the Book of Psalms writes, "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Ps. 119:105) Later, he adds, "...my heart stands in awe of your words. I rejoice at your Word like one who finds a great spoil" (Ps. 119:161-162)

I began studying the impact that daily Bible reading has on our lives and learned that regular engagement with Scripture is the number one way to grow as a Christian. Nothing so strengthens our faith and draws us closer to God than daily Bible reading.

Author A.W. Tozier writes, "The Word of God well understood and religiously obeyed is the shortest route

to spiritual perfection. And we must not select just a few favorite passages to the exclusion of others. Nothing less than the whole Bible can make a whole Christian."

So, I invite you to join Christ Church Greenwich and me in 2025 as we read the entire Bible or the New Testament, Proverbs, and Psalms in a year. You can sign up by emailing us as: biblechallenge@christchurchgreenwich.org, and we will send you a reading plan to help you read the entire Bible or the New Testament, Proverbs, and Psalms in a year.

The former takes about 30 minutes a day. The latter takes 10 minutes, but the rewards will be great. You can also listen to the Bible on the app that we are developing or on Audible or a ministry called Faith Comes through Hearing. You can read the Bible on your cell phone, Kindle, Nook, etc. and you can do it whenever it works best for you.

Just as we take care of our physical, mental, and financial health, it is extremely wise to take care of our spiritual health. I guarantee you that 10-30 minutes of Bible reading a day in

2025 will transform your year as you care for your soul. You will never regret it.

We will also send you an informative weekly email to inspire you and educate you about aspects of the Bible that you may not know. We are also hosting wonderful biblical scholars from the Yale Divinity School and our own clergy as speakers every week in our Sunday Forum at Christ Church Greenwich from 11:15 a.m. until noon with time afterwards for questions and answers to help us glean more from the Bible.

Let 2025 be the year that you feed your soul and get in the best spiritual health of your life. We will be glad to help you. The cost is free. We will even provide you with a free Bible, if you like. Join The Bible Challenge today.

The Rev. Marek Zabriskie is Rector of Christ Church Greenwich and a self-admitted Bible Greek, who finds incredible joy in daily Bible reading and help others do the same. He is editor of The Bible Challenge ten-volume series by Forward Movement and founder of The Bible Challenge and Executive Director of the Center for Biblical Studies.

STUART ADELBERG CONTINUED From Page 1

shame!!! What a waste of time!

But, no more. Now we know that the day after Thanksgiving it is our patriotic duty to get up early and hit the stores for Black Friday. There are bargains to be found and shopping records to be broken. What happens on Black Friday sets the stage for the entire holiday season, so when you choose not to participate, you are letting down your fellow citizens, missing the opportunity to purchase the gifts that friends and family really want, and putting the nation's economy at risk! Of course, you're also missing the chance to upgrade your own electronics, appliances, wardrobe, etc. with the deals of the century!

But not to worry, if you miss Black Friday, there is always Small Business Saturday, that special day when each of us demonstrates with our credit cards that local businesses are essential to our community. So we set out again to purchase the

unique and wonderful items that could never be found on Black Friday, but are supplied only by the esteemed small businesses we know and love.

And then, because we can't possibly find everything we need in a brick and mortar store of any size on Friday or Saturday, we hit the internet on Cyber Monday when we support the behemoths of online shopping and, of course, the shippers - who have staffed up for months to prepare for the onslaught of online orders coming their way. How fun is it to come home everyday and see a pile of packages you don't even remember ordering all waiting at your door!!

One might think that you have done enough for your nation by spending money you don't have on all the purchases made on Friday, Saturday and Monday. You would be wrong and selfish to think this way! There are needs far more important than shopping, and if there is any chance that you're somehow unaware of them, your inbox will be packed with hundreds of email solicitations from our very worthy nonprofits imploring you to help them in their important work with donations on Giving

Tuesday! Not for me to say, but you would think the charities might figure out how to ask for money before we've spent it all on Friday, Saturday and Monday!! Just saying!

I write this column the Wednesday after Thanksgiving. I have no more money left for anything. I bought more for myself than for others and I didn't really need any of it, but deals are deals! Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday were truly exhausting. So I've decided that today is Worn-Out Wednesday. Because the marketers have been slacking off, I have no idea what I'm supposed to do on Thursday, but I'm "thinking" (see what I did there?) about using the day to come up with plans to make the gifts I didn't find and can no longer afford to buy! But I will sleep well tonight knowing that I have fulfilled my patriotic duty! Happy Holidays!

Stuart Adelberg has a long record of active engagement and leadership in the region's arts and social services communities. He appreciates the opportunity provided by Greenwich Sentinel to share his occasional observations and opinions.



L.A. Ring (Danish, 1854-1933); Harvest, 1896. Pastel, 24 1/2 x 18 1/4 in. Collection of Ambassador John L. Loeb, Jr.

The Art of Work: Painting Labor in Nineteenth-Century Denmark

Selections from the Collection of
Ambassador John L. Loeb, Jr.

November 16, 2024–June 15, 2025

Bruce Museum
Greenwich, CT
BruceMuseum.org

the
Bruce

Round Hill
Community Church
invites you to:

**CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE**

December 24th
4:00 pm
Candlelight Service
of Lessons & Carols

Nursery care available

roundhillcommunitychurch.org

395 Round Hill Road
Greenwich CT 06831

COLUMN

Conservation Without Borders

BY JOSEY GARDNER

The National Audubon Society has tackled many conservation challenges since its conception in 1905. It has helped pass many of the cornerstone conservation laws within the United States, such as the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the 1973 Endangered Species Act. One of the biggest challenges that the National Audubon Society is still facing is the difficulties of working with a moving target—many animals migrate, and birds in particular can migrate very long distances. Some bird species, such as the Arctic Tern, migrate over 55,000 miles each year from the Arctic Circle to the Antarctic Circle. Hundreds of bird species in the Western Hemisphere migrate between North and South America. This throws a wrench into many conservation plans—successfully protecting a reserve in the south isn't enough to save a dwindling bird species that then migrates north to find its usual breeding grounds destroyed and depleted of resources. Knowledge of bird migration patterns resulted in the hemispheric work within the National Audubon Society, a plan designed to facilitate shared conservation work despite/among various political boundaries. By creating conservation efforts that focus on data from the paths of migration as opposed to the borders of a state or country, the National Audubon Society's hemispheric conservation plan ensures the protection of birds throughout their life cycle as they migrate throughout the seasons.

However, this hemispheric approach takes as much willpower as it does migration

data. While birds don't much care for the state and country borders on a map, we humans care very much, and creating conservation plans that work with migration lines also means working across cultural and political boundary lines. Easier said than done—getting both sides of the political spectrum within the United States to agree on any one thing feels impossible at times, let alone finding agreement among the political and cultural spectrum between different countries and continents. And yet, a hemispheric approach to conservation is currently in action. As the National Audubon Society's conservation plan states, "birds know no borders, and neither do we."

This hemispheric plan hinges on four different strategies: creating protected areas, renovating working lands, improving coastal resilience, and building a constituency for birds. Within each of these strategies are lofty goals currently in progress, such as working with various partners and non-profits to create 80 new protected areas, spanning 4.9 million acres; implementing bird-friendly agricultural practices across working lands; restoring and improving the management of 2.5 million acres of coastal habitats; and supporting community science and educational programs to produce communities more involved in conservation across the Americas.

All these plans are very large scale—large plans with large numbers. But it's the individuals that work within and partnered with the Audubon that move the plan along. The National Audubon Society is currently

"Birds know no borders, and neither do we."



Red-tailed Hawk. Photo: Mei Chen/Audubon Photography Awards

involved in protecting 30 Important Bird Areas across 9 countries outside the United States: the Bahamas, Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Colombia, Paraguay and Chile. Within the United States, its 464 chapters and 41 Audubon Centers protect and manage land across 22 state programs. These protected areas, chapters, programs, and centers all have individuals that help manage and restore land, gather conservation data,

educate the public, and more. Separately, these areas are doing great work for their local communities; put together, these areas are contributing to one of the largest global bird conservation efforts.

The Greenwich Audubon Center is one such area. The Greenwich Audubon Center manages and restores its land to prioritize bird conservation, hosts summer camps and nature programs to teach others about the natural world right

in their own neighborhoods, and gathers conservation data, such as counting migrating birds of prey. Standing alone, the Greenwich Audubon Center can tell you that it counted 10,194 migrating birds of prey, spanning at least 14 different species. But in standing alone, what does that tell us about the conservation status of those birds? How do they fare once they leave? Where exactly do they go? What is the state of their home for

the next few months? Will they make it back? For those that don't make it back, why? Answering questions like these is how each small area finds its place within Audubon's hemispheric conservation plan. The Greenwich Audubon Center shares its migration data with the Hawk Migration Association of North America, or HMANA. This information is available for both citizens and other scientists to see. Using information from the Greenwich Audubon Center, other partners with HMANA, and the National Audubon Society's partners in South America, migrating hawks and other birds can be tracked for their entire migration, and conservation efforts can become even more focused and effective.

Audubon's hemispheric conservation plan is a tall order, but it's one that is met by thousands of resource managers, scientists, educators, and citizens passionate about birds and the natural world. As we work on preserving the world around us together, we realize that our political and cultural divides can be made smaller. While we may never disregard state and country borders the way a bird does, protecting the animals that fly between those boundaries brings out the best in the rest of us.

Josey Gardner is the Sr. Center Assistant at the Greenwich Audubon Center, and a passionate outdoor recreationist with a special love for rocks and geology. She has worked with various outdoor and environmental companies and organizations, including state parks and conservation non-profits.

Greenwich Rotary Club's Day of Service Brings Support to Kids In Crisis



Greenwich Rotary members and the Kids in Crisis staff



Janette Souliere cutting a delicious pie she made for the kids

The Greenwich Rotary Club (GRC) proudly celebrates the success of its Day of Service, a monthly initiative introduced in September 2024 by Club President Agathe Likoba. Held on the first Wednesday of every month, this program shifts focus from regular luncheons to meaningful community engagement, allowing members to volunteer directly with local nonprofit organizations.

This month's Day of Service was hosted at Kids In Crisis, the only agency in Connecticut providing temporary housing and comprehensive support services for children from newborns to 18 years old. Beyond offering emergency shelter, Kids In Crisis provides crisis counseling and community education programs, making it a critical resource for families in need.

GRC members joined forces to prepare and deliver meals, bringing warmth and care to the children and staff. The day was made even more special as members engaged with the children, listened to their stories, and witnessed the extraordinary dedication of the staff. By working as a team, members not only created a positive experience for the kids but also strengthened their bonds as a Club.

Special thanks are extended to Janette Souliere, Gigi Gaudet, Heather Smeriglio, Jackie Budkins, and Shashi Dayal, whose participation made the day impactful. A heartfelt acknowledgment goes to Community Service Chair Shashi Dayal, whose exceptional leadership and coordination ensured the event's success.

When President Agathe Likoba was selecting her leadership team, she knew Shashi was the best choice for the role of Community Service Chair. Since the beginning of this Rotary year, Shashi has been instrumental in driving impactful initiatives, bringing incredible energy, vision, and dedication to the role. She has exceeded all expectations and continues to prove that she is nothing short of phenomenal.

The Club extends its deepest gratitude to Kids In Crisis and its incredible staff for warmly welcoming the Rotary team. Their tireless dedication to the children they serve is truly inspiring, and the opportunity to support their mission was both an honor and a privilege.

In addition to the Day of Service, the Club continues its support by delivering meals to Kids In Crisis on the first Thursday of each month, demonstrating its ongoing commitment to this vital organization.

The GRC Day of Service reflects the Club's dedication to Rotary's motto, "Service Above Self," and emphasizes the importance of compassion, teamwork, and community involvement. The Greenwich Rotary Club remains committed to making a meaningful impact and looks forward to future opportunities to serve.

Hockey Hall of Fame Trophies Score at The Bruce Museum

Hockey fans throughout the region recently had the rare chance to see some of the sport's most prestigious trophies up close. The Bruce Museum hosted eight Hockey Hall of Fame trophies, including the iconic Stanley Cup®, this past week.

The Stanley Cup, widely regarded as the most celebrated trophy in professional sports, was on display for people to see up close and event touch. The exhibit also featured the Walter Cup, awarded to the Professional Women's Hockey League playoff champions, marking the first year of its inclusion.

The trophies were displayed in the Gale and Robert H. Lawrence Jr. and Pamela and Robert B. Goergen Auditorium, part of the newly renovated Bruce Museum.

"This exhibit represents the excellence of players across both men's and women's leagues," said

Rebecca Gillan, interim executive director of the Bruce Museum. "We are thrilled to share this experience with the many hockey fans in our community."

Hockey weekend was a busy one at The Bruce. Friday, December 6th was the opening reception and included a presentation by Phil Pritchard, known as the "Keeper of the Cup."

Saturday, a Hockey Hall of Fame curator discussed the history and significance of the trophies, highlighting their connection to sportsmanship and community service. Family activities were held throughout the weekend that focused on hockey-related art and science.

Andrew Weiner, a Bruce Museum trustee, played a key role in bringing the exhibit to Greenwich. "We're honored to host these historic trophies," he said.



People enjoying the Stanley Cup and other trophies at the Bruce Museum this past weekend. (Sentinel Photo)

CHRISTOPHER PROFESSIONAL HOME IMPROVEMENT CORP.

- ROOFING
- SIDING
- WINDOWS
- GUTTERS
- POWER WASH
- CARPENTRY
- REMODELING
- PAINTING
- DECKS
- BASEMENT REPAIR



FULLY INSURED / FREE ESTIMATES

- @Christopher_Remodeling
- Christopher Home Improvement
- @CPHI.Videos



Experienced, local, and recommended by your neighbors! Visit our website to see our work, read reviews, or leave a review of your own: ChristopherProfessionalHomeImprovement.com Call or email for more information, and we'll get right back to you!

(914) 437-1172 (914) 830-1096

[✉ CPHI.home@gmail.com](mailto:CPHI.home@gmail.com)

COSMETIC, GENERAL AND IMPLANT DENTISTRY

We're Dedicated to the Health of Your Smile™...
www.GreenwichDentalGroup.com





GREENWICH DENTAL GROUP

DAVID A. ZADIK DDS
STEVEN ALTMAN DMD, FAGD
AND ASSOCIATES

203.869.3984
18 Field Point Rd. Greenwich, CT 06830

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE • 24 HOUR EMERGENCY ON-CALL SERVICE
EVENING & WEEKEND APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE



COLUMN

A Cultivation of Our Gratitude and Blessings



By RABBI MITCHELL HURVITZ

Once upon a time, a grandmother was playing with her grandson on the beach when a powerful wave came along and washed the child out to sea. With a heavy heart, the grandmother prayed: "Dear God, if only you would return my grandson to me, I will be indebted to you forever." A miracle occurred, and a huge wave washed her grandson ashore. Sweeping him up in her arms, she looked up at heaven and said, "Excuse me, God, he had a hat!"

Too often, we do not fully appreciate what others do for us. And, for some, no matter what blessings are shared, they are still unsatisfied. In a material world, we can fall into the trap of always desiring one more thing beyond what we possess.

A midrash asks and answers: Why do animals never overeat? Seemingly, this is a primary trait that distinguishes human beings from animals. Animals do not overeat because they are unable to reach beyond themselves. Human beings are constantly reaching beyond themselves, striving for more. And the problem is that too

often, we end up striving for more of the wrong thing.

We can enjoy material things such as clothing, cars, wealth, etc., but "things" do not create timeless value. What we most need is a framework of holiness that creates purpose for each of us. We must be able to better connect to God in order to further strengthen our sacred relationships, and create a greater sense of love and peace within ourselves and our world.

Love manifests in taking the time and effort to share blessings with others.

Another ancient midrash teaches about the two large bodies of water in the Land of Israel.

The first is the Kinneret, also known as the Sea of Galilee. The Kinneret is a vibrant lake filled with fish and home to thousands of migrating birds. To this day, the Kinneret's fresh, sweet water brings life to agriculture and communities all over Israel. As the Jordan River flows south from the Kinneret, its banks are alive and green.

The second of Israel's lakes is the Dead Sea. Even though the sweet waters of the Jordan flow into it, they don't flow out. The water of the Dead Sea is so salty that nothing can live. No fish or plant life exists in the heavily salty waters, and no plants grow around the Dead Sea's banks. The Kinneret shares the water it receives and lives. The Dead Sea holds back its water and is desolate.

The sages of blessed memory taught: "Like our

We can enjoy material things such as clothing, cars, wealth, etc., but "things" do not create timeless value. What we most need is a framework of holiness that creates purpose for each of us.

souls, which are the vessels of the Infinite Unending Divine Light of God, when we let the Divine Light flow through us, when we seek to share that light with others, then God's light waters our souls with God's infinite unconditional love."

Judaism mandates that it is not enough to thank God for the gifts bestowed upon us. Instead, we are to utilize God's gifts to repair and heal our world the best we can. Each day, we are to attempt to help the world become better because we are willing to expend efforts to uplift creation and humanity actively. We cannot receive God's blessings and love unless we work to share that blessing and love with others.

A third midrash tells the story of a rabbi who learned from a peasant about the true love of others: He observed a peasant sitting in an inn drinking with a companion. Suddenly, he turned to his friend and asked: "Do you love me?" His friend replied: "I love you very much." The peasant said, "If you love me, tell me, what gives me pain?" The other responded: "How would I know that?" And, then, the peasant said: "If you don't

know what gives me pain, how can you say you love me?" If we truly love someone, we feel their pain and do something about it."

When we close our hearts, we become like the Dead Sea - unable to receive God's blessings. But when our hearts are open, when we feel the pain of others, and when we reach beyond ourselves, beyond our comforts, and bless those in need, we are the vessels through which God's life-sustaining light flows into our world. And, in that moment, our vessels become filled with God's love, and that's something for which we are very thankful.

Shabbat Shalom!

Temple Sholom's Senior Rabbi Mitchell M. Hurvitz is a scholar, teacher, community activist and preacher, and is recognized as one of the prominent religious leaders in the Greenwich area and beyond. A frequent guest speaker at synagogues and churches, study groups, community institutions and universities, he is a charismatic personality who engages individuals and stimulates hearts and minds. His teachings can be found in Greenwich Sentinel and in other local and national publications.

475-55-PASTA constantinospastabowls.com



la famiglia è tutto



Now Open

HOME OF ENDLESS PASTABILITIES

Choose from our selection of fresh made pasta and over 14 house-made sauces to create your own pasta bowl masterpiece or eat your heart out with one of our Italian specialties!

160 Hamilton Ave | Greenwich, CT

Place your order online!

Monday-Saturday
11am - 9pm

Sunday Brunch
9am - 3pm



Rediscover the Power of Print

Sentinel Hometown News

Your Trusted Advertising Partner
in Greenwich and New Canaan

To learn more, please contact Peter at:
(203) 485-0226 | Peter@GreenwichSentinel.com





WARM UP THIS WINTER

Atko Bros Landscaping is now providing top quality Kiln Dried Firewood Delivered and Stacked for the best prices GUARANTEED.

We also stock woodhaven Firewood racks with covers
1 face cord 8x4x16" \$460
and 1/2 face cord 4x4x16" \$250

We deliver to Greenwich, Cos Cob, Old Greenwich, Riverside, Byram and surrounding areas in Fairfield County, CT and Westchester Country, NY.

Please contact us at (203) 253-1089 for delivery price and time estimate.
www.atkobroslandscaping.com



SHOP LOCAL

at the

Greenwich Historical Society Museum Store

10% Members Discount • Free Gift Wrapping
Free gift with purchases \$50 and above while supplies last!

UNIQUE CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS & GIFTS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Monday-Friday 9am-5pm
Weekends 11am-4pm

47 Strickland Road, Cos Cob | (203) - 869 - 6899
Browse or shop online at greenwichhistory.org



Green Fingers Garden Club Creates Glorious Wreaths



Susan Arturi delivers the wreaths to Meals-on-Wheels.

By DEBRA McLAUGHLIN

This holiday season, the Green Fingers Garden Club of Greenwich once again proved the power of community spirit by crafting beautiful holiday wreaths for the clients of Meals-on-Wheels. On December 3rd, a group of their enthusiastic volunteers gathered at the Tomes-Higgins House at Christ Church on Putnam Avenue to create 80 festive wreaths, each one designed to bring a little extra joy to homebound older adults, individuals with disabilities, and others in need of a nutritious meal delivery.

For the members of Green Fingers Garden Club, this annual event is a much-anticipated tradition that combines the joy of giving with a love for gardening and crafting. The wreaths they created weren't just decorations; they were symbols of care, community, and holiday spirit for those who may not be able to experience the same festive activities as others.

"These wreaths will put a smile on the faces of those who Meals-on-Wheels supports," said one volunteer. "It's a wonderful organization that provides home-cooked meals to elderly individuals, people with disabilities, and those unable to shop or cook for themselves. This year, we're adding a bit of holiday cheer to their meals, and that makes it even more special."

With festive pine cones, berries, bows, and miniature reindeer, the volunteers decorated each wreath with care and creativity. In about 1 to 1 1/2 hours, they had completed all 80 wreaths, ready for delivery.

"Everything was set up, and it was wonderful to see so many people come together to help," shared another member. "Each of us decorated 3-4 wreaths, and the energy in the room was fantastic. It's always so rewarding to know that what we do will bring some joy to someone's day."

After the wreaths were finished, a few volunteers took on the task of delivering them to the

Meals-on-Wheels headquarters, where they would be distributed alongside the daily meals to clients. These wreaths, lovingly crafted by Green Fingers Garden Club, added an extra touch of holiday magic for the recipients—many of whom may not have the ability to decorate their own homes.

Meals-on-Wheels, Inc. of Greenwich, which has long been a lifeline for the elderly and homebound, relies heavily on the support of local residents, including the Green Fingers Garden Club. This wreath-making event is just one of many ways the community comes together to show that no one is forgotten, especially during the holiday season.

"We're so grateful to have such dedicated volunteers who give their time and talents to support Meals-on-Wheels," said Lori Jackson, President, Board of Directors at Meals-on-Wheels. "The wreaths are a beautiful reminder of the care and thoughtfulness that exists in this town."

As the holidays continue, Meals-on-Wheels of Greenwich is always looking for volunteers and donors to help sustain its mission of providing nutritious meals and companionship to those who need it most. Whether it's delivering meals, crafting holiday decorations, or making a financial donation, there are many ways to get involved and make a difference.

The wreaths created by Green Fingers Garden Club are a perfect example of how small acts of kindness can have a profound impact on the lives of others. Each wreath, carefully made and delivered with love, serves as a symbol of community, compassion, and the joy of giving.

If you would like to become a volunteer at Meals-on-Wheels or make a financial contribution, please contact us at 203-869-1312 or mealsonwheelsgreenwich@outlook.com. You can also visit our website at <https://mealsonwheelsofgreenwich.org/>.

Path to Power, Road to Ruin: The Dangers of Political and Religious Ideologies

By JIM DEAN

The guest speaker at the Greenwich Retired Men's Club on December 4 was John Kavanagh, the author of a new book entitled "Path to Power, Road to Ruin: The Dangers of Political and Religious Ideologies." The book is about the dangers of our allegiance to and dependence on political and religious ideologies. It makes a persuasive case for independent vs. ideological thought.

History tells us that smart, ambitious people, who wanted to acquire power and dominate societies, had to find ways to attract and control large numbers of people. The best way to do this has always been to harness the motivational and organizational power of mankind's ideologies, allowing leaders to use that clout to persuade people to join their group and commit to their causes.

Kavanagh indicates that most people are aggressive consumers of ideology and very vulnerable to ideological appeals, as evidenced by the reality that the world's leading belief systems have hundreds of millions, even billions of followers. There are 2.3 billion Christians in this world, 2.0 billion Muslims, 1.2 billion Hindus and hundreds of millions of people that have expressed support for nationalism, imperialism, racism, and communism. Social psychology research teaches us that ideologies are widely accepted because they appeal strongly to people's core needs—specifically, the need to relieve people's existential anxiety, to lessen the fear of their mortality, to remove doubt and uncertainty from their lives, and finally, to build their self-esteem.

Ideologies' strong consumer needs focus and widespread acceptance could cause people to think that ideologies are benign, even beneficial, but such a conclusion is very wrong. Ideologies have had very negative consequences and have caused immense human suffering over time. They have caused and rationalized dozens of incidents of mass murder where more than 100,000 people were killed at one time; they have triggered and prolonged long-running



John Kavanagh warned the audience about the horrific consequences of devotion to ideologies – religious, political, societal, utopian, supremacist.

Ideologies have had very negative consequences and have caused immense human suffering over time.

violent conflicts that never get resolved; they have polarized people to such an extent that they have destroyed the effective functioning of society; they have preserved rigid societal hierarchies that justify the brutal repression of those on the bottom rungs of the social order; and they have consistently blocked progress in moving mankind towards a more harmonious world order.

Kavanagh's research shows us that the negative consequences associated with ideologies are principally caused by supremacist, absolutist, and utopian ideas, which are deeply embedded in the leading belief systems. He says that we need to eliminate these three dangerous and very fallible concepts from our thinking if we are going to break the hold ideologies have on all of us. As there are very good alternative belief systems available to us, that do not generate negative outcomes but do address people's critical needs, he strongly suggests that we adopt them. Kavanagh's talk was followed by a lively Q&A session.

The talk can be viewed by going to the RMA website at <https://greenwichrma.org/>, and clicking on "Speakers."

The RMA's upcoming presentation, "Why the Supreme Court is the Most Conservative Branch of Our U.S. Government" by Hon. Jed S. Rakoff, is scheduled for 11 AM on Wednesday, December

18, 2024. For most of its history, the U.S. Supreme Court has been the most conservative of the three branches of the U.S. Government, ranging from its strong support of slavery before the Civil War, its destruction of Reconstruction after the Civil War, its opposition to the progressive legislation of both Wilson and FDR, and its recent repeal of Roe v. Wade. The main exception, the Warren Court, was something of a fluke, and many of its holdings have been greatly narrowed by subsequent decisions. In this talk, Judge Rakoff canvasses this history and explains why the Court has tended to be so regressive.

Jed S. Rakoff has served since March 1996 as a U.S. District Judge for the

Southern District of New York. He frequently sits by designation on the 2nd and 9th Circuit Courts of Appeals. His most noteworthy decisions have been in the areas of securities law and criminal law. He is an Adjunct Professor at both Columbia Law School and NYU Law School, and also teaches at Berkeley Law School and the University of Virginia Law School. He has written over 200 published articles, 900 speeches, and 2800 judicial opinions, and has co-authored five books. He is a regular contributor to the New York Review of Books, and the author of "Why The Innocent Plead Guilty and the Guilty Go Free: and Other Paradoxes

of Our Broken Legal System" (Farrar Straus & Giroux, 2021).

To stream the presentation by Hon. Jed S. Rakoff at 11 AM on Wednesday, December 18, click on <https://bit.ly/30IBj2l>. This presentation will also be available on local public access TV channels, Verizon FIOS channel 24 and Optimum (Cablevision) channel 79. The public is also invited to attend the presentation in person at the First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich at 1 West Putnam Avenue.

Note: The views expressed in these presentations are those of the speakers. They are not intended to represent the views of the RMA or its members.

R M A speaker presentations are presented as a community service at no cost to in-person or Zoom attendees, regardless of gender. Any member of the public who would like to receive a weekly email announcement of future speakers should send a request to members@greenwichrma.org. The RMA urges all eligible individuals to consider becoming a member of our great organization, and thereby enjoy all the available fellowship, volunteer, and community service opportunities which the RMA offers to its members. For further information, go to <https://greenwichrma.org/>, or contact info@greenwichrma.org.

CBIZ Employees Give Back



Terry Lamantia, Managing Director at CBIZ, Willow Buscemi, Program Director at Meals-on-Wheels, and Amy Jianping Zeng, Supervisor, CBIZ

Employees from CBIZ, a leading provider of business services, recently volunteered with Meals-on-Wheels, Inc. of Greenwich, bringing much-needed support and energy to the organization's mission of delivering nutritious meals to homebound residents. Corporate volunteering, like CBIZ's involvement, is a powerful way for businesses to give back to the community while fostering a culture of engagement and teamwork among employees. Volunteering not only provides valuable services to local nonprofits, but it also strengthens the bond between companies and the communities they serve. By participating in initiatives such as Meals-on-Wheels, CBIZ employees help make a tangible difference in the lives of those in need, while also building morale, encouraging a sense of purpose, and demonstrating the company's commitment to social responsibility. This hands-on involvement also helps employees develop stronger connections to their community, creating lasting, positive impacts. As more businesses like CBIZ step up to support local organizations, the ripple effect of kindness and collaboration grows, strengthening the company and its community. If you would like to volunteer at Meals-on-Wheels or make a financial contribution, please contact us at 203-869-1312 or mealsonwheelsgreenwich@outlook.com. You can also visit our website at <https://mealsonwheelsofgreenwich.org/>.



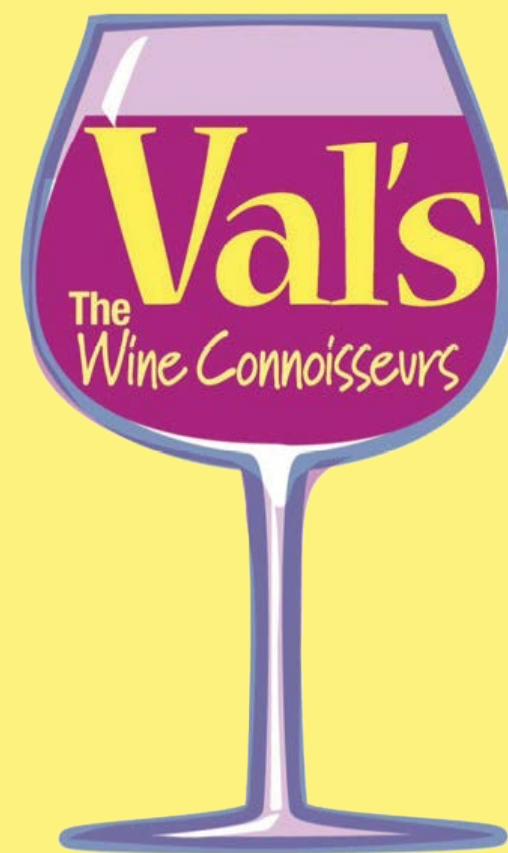
GET YOUR HOME HOLIDAY-READY.



UPHOLSTERY • LINEN & BEDDING
WINDOW TREATMENTS • FLOORING &
CARPETS • PATIO CUSHIONS

203-957-3838 | HomeCarebyFabricare.net

Serving Greenwich Since 1957



valsputnamwines.com
125 WEST PUTNAM AVE.
21 GLENVILLE ST.



Michael Karellas, MD
Urology

Everything we do is with the greatest of care.

It may be helping a grandmother recover from heart failure. Resolving chronic hip and knee pain with our comprehensive orthopedics and rehabilitation teams. Or personalizing cancer therapies through advanced tumor profiling. Whatever the situation, and whoever the patient, all of our acclaimed doctors, nurses, and caregivers are committed to the same thing: doing their jobs with the greatest of care.

YaleNewHavenHealth
Greenwich Hospital



Give the Perfect Gift!

Find the perfect gift for everyone on your list at the Bruce Museum Store.

Bruce Museum Store Hours:
Tuesday-Sunday 10:00 AM-5:00 PM
Holiday Hours:
Mondays in December 10:00 AM-3:00PM

**the
Bruce**

"A Ceremony of Carols" by Benjamin Britten

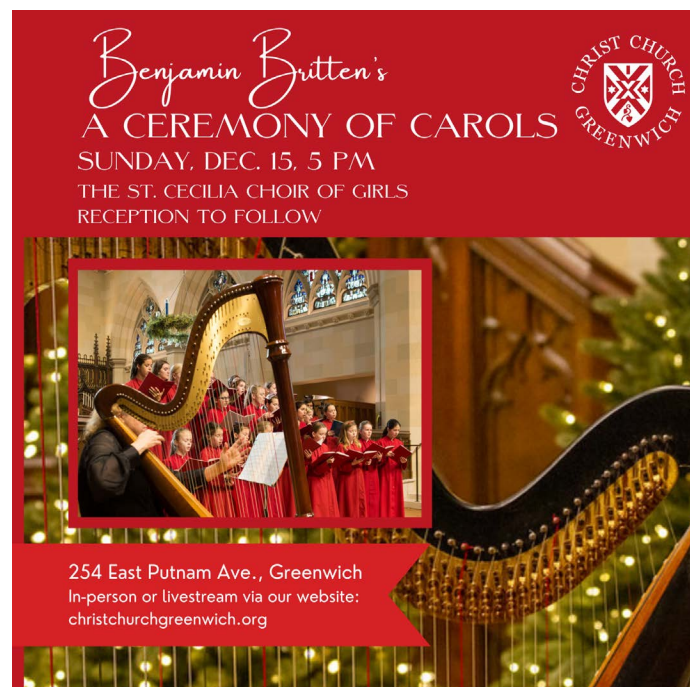
"A Ceremony of Carols" by Benjamin Britten
Sung by the St. Cecilia Choir of Girls accompanied by harp
Sunday, December 15, 5:00 - 6:00 pm
In-person or
livestream via website:
christchurchgreenwich.org
Reception to follow

Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols, is a beloved choral masterpiece celebrating the wonder and beauty in a musical journey through the Nativity story. The performance, held in the stunning acoustics of Christ Church's sanctuary, promises a late afternoon of breathtaking harmonies and reflective celebration.

During a perilous sea journey from Canada to England amidst World War II, Benjamin wrote the work which sets Middle English poetry to music. With its procession of plainsong themes, dance-like rhythms, and delicate counterpoint, the piece offers multiple unique perspectives on the mystery of Christ's incarnation. The Ceremony reaches its theological climax with a fierce battle between good and evil, with the music vividly portraying apocalyptic conflict - a reflection of Britten's own experience at sea. We invite you to immerse yourself in this meditative and mystical celebration of Expectation.

Seating is General Admission and no tickets are required.

As one of the leading



music programs in the United States, we offer excellence through opportunity. Through regular performances they sing a wide variety of music at Christ Church, elsewhere locally, and through regular visits to English Cathedrals.

Our choirs offer opportunities for those aged four and older. Through our vibrant rehearsals, members learn singing technique, music theory, music history and occasional theology appropriate to the age group. Our most advanced singers receive international

accreditation through the Royal School of Church Music awards system, and many alumni go on to sing at universities here and abroad, as well as pursuing careers in music.

More info on our website: <https://www.christchurchgreenwich.org/this-weeks-services>

Questions? Bobbi Eggers, Director of Marketing and Communications bobbie@christchurchgreenwich.org

Photos taken by Joanne Bouknight with full permission to post.

Michaelangelo est. 1979 of Greenwich

Fine Gifts Master Engravers

Engraved Christmas Ornaments



Free Monogram on all Gifts

www.Michaelangelogifts.com

(203) 661-8540

410 Greenwich Avenue

Greenwich, CT

Rush service our speciality

THE PARISH of ST. CATHERINE of SIENA and ST. AGNES

Advent and Christmas 2024 Events

"Deck the Halls" Vocal/Organ Recital — Free Concert

Sunday, December 1 — 2:30pm
(St. Catherine Church)

Including *O Holy Night* and other favorites

Soprano *Mary McCue*, Organist *Nathan Lively-Greyling*

Family Christmas Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 1 — 6:00pm
(Parish Lawn outside Chapel)

Ceremony with caroling in English and Spanish and hot cocoa

"Picturing Mary" — A Documentary by Bill Baker

Thursday, December 5 — 6:00pm
(St. Paul Episcopal Church, Riverside)

Light supper at 6pm

Viewing and ecumenical discussion at 6:30pm

RSVP by December 3 to

ann.post@stpaulsriverside.org

Sacrament of Confession

Saturdays, December 7, 14, 21

3:00-4:00pm

(St. Catherine Church)

Immaculate Conception Masses

(Holy Day of Obligation, transferred to December 9 this year)

Monday, December 9

7:00am, 12:10pm, 5:15pm

(St. Catherine Church)

"Sacred Worship: Exploring and Understanding the Mass"

— A Talk by Fr. Perrella

Wednesday, December 11

10:30am and 7:00pm

(Lucey Parish Hall)

Bilingual Mass and Celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Thursday, December 12

5:15pm (St. Catherine Church)

Mariachi band

Mexican food refreshments after Mass

Mass with Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 15 — 9:00am

(St. Catherine Church)

Italian Mass and Christmas Celebration

Sunday, December 15 — 11:00am

(Chapel)

Mass in Chapel, potluck lunch to follow in Lucey Parish Hall

Annual Christmas Spectacular — Free Concert

Sunday, December 15 — 2:00pm

(St. Catherine Church)

Festival Choir, orchestra, and soloists

Dr. Liya Petrides, director

Performing Magnificats by Bach and Magle and Christmas music

Advent Evening of Reflection — Lead by Fr. Chris Lawson, CSP

Tuesday, December 17 — 7:00pm

(St. Catherine Church)

Opportunity for individual Confessions following reflection

Christmas Eve Masses

5:00pm The Family Vigil Mass of Christmas (St. Catherine Church)
• Family Choir, Cantor, Trumpet, and Organ
• Caroling begins at 4:30pm

5:00pm The Vigil Mass of Christmas (St. Agnes Chapel at St. Catherine of Siena Campus)
• Cantor, Trumpet, and Organ

5:00pm The Vigil Mass of Christmas (Lucey Parish Hall)
• Contemporary Choir and Band

5:00pm The Vigil Mass of Christmas in Spanish (School Gymnasium)
• Choir and Guitar

9:00pm The Solemn Mass during the Night (St. Catherine Church)
• Traditional Choir with Brass and Timpani
• Caroling begins at 8:30pm

Christmas Day Masses

7:30am The Christmas Mass at Dawn (St. Catherine Church)
• Cantor, Trumpet, and Organ

9:00am The Mass of Christmas Day (St. Catherine Church)
• Contemporary Choir and Band

10:30am The Mass of Christmas Day (St. Catherine Church)
• Traditional Choir with Brass and Timpani

There will NOT be a 5:00pm or 6:30pm Mass on Christmas Day.

Masses for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

Tuesday, December 31 — 5:15pm (St. Catherine Church)

Wednesday, January 1 — 12:10pm (St. Catherine Church)

Christmas Giving Opportunities

Christmas Giving Tree

Through December 11
(St. Catherine Church Narthex)

Toys for Tots

(St. Catherine Church Narthex)

Toys must be new and unwrapped

Non-Perishable Food Collection for Neighbor to Neighbor

Every Tuesday, 9:00-11:00am

(Parking lot across street from rectory)

Christmas Collection

If you prefer to make donations to the parish online, please consider one of the following:

- Online Giving (OLG) allows you to make your Christmas and Sunday offertory by credit card or bank check. Visit www.stc-sta.org/stewardship/online-giving
- Scan our QR code:



Zody's 19TH HOLE

Fall Favorites

*Surf & Turf \$31.95

Center cut Filet Mignon and Two Stuffed Shrimp
Served with roasted potatoes in a cabernet red wine sauce

Roasted Duck \$31.95

Served with Orzo, Spinach and Grand Marnier Sauce

Fettuccini Bolognese \$22.95

Topped with Burrata Served with garlic bread

*Grilled Ribeye \$32.95

Served with baked potato, asparagus and green peppercorn sauce

Beef Stroganoff \$22.95

Sautéed pieces of beef with mushrooms cooked in a sour cream sauce
Served over noodles

Lobster Ravioli \$28.95

Served with shrimp in a red pepper cream sauce

Veal Osso Bucco \$28.95

Served over Mashed Potatoes

*Thoroughly cooked meats, poultry, seafood, shellfish, or eggs reduces the risk of food borne illness

451 STILLWATER RD., STAMFORD, CT 06902

(203) 359-1919

ORDER ONLINE: ZODYS19THHOLE.COM



Making
Christmas Magic
Since 1981

GIFTS • ORNAMENTS • CANDLES
ACCESSORIES • APPAREL

MANY
GIFTS
UNDER \$20

STOCKING
STUFFERS
UNDER \$10

EXTENDED
HOLIDAY HOURS!
Tue – Sat 10 am – 6 pm
Sundays 12-5 pm
428 E. Putnam Ave.
in Cos Cob
FREE PARKING
in the back & on street
203.869.5990
sophiasgallery.com



We ship all
your favorite items
to family and friends
anywhere in the USA!



CAVIAR
LOBSTERS
STONE CRAB
CLAWS

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Convenient Location • Ample Parking • Curbside Pick Up
100 Bruce Park Ave. in downtown Greenwich

(203) 869.0462 • LobstersCanFly.com

Introducing Our New Credit Cards!

We have personal and business credit card options, all from the bank you trust.



Apply now for:



Personal service with worldwide reach.



Reward options.¹



Competitive rates.*
Hometown service.



More security.

Go to www.GreenwichFirst.com or scan the QR code to apply online.

THE FIRST BANK OF GREENWICHSM

WESTCHESTER
500 Westchester Ave.
Port Chester, NY
Tel 914.908.5444

GREENWICH
444 East Putnam Ave.
Cos Cob, CT
Tel 203.629.8400

STAMFORD
900 Summer Street
Stamford, CT
Tel 203.413.6101

*See the card application's Important Disclosures for current terms, rates and fees. This card is issued by TCM Bank. ¹In order to access rewards, your account must be open and in good standing.

FDIC  **NMLS# 510513**



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS

www.christchurchgreenwich.org/christ-church-music

Benjamin Britten - A Ceremony of Carols
Sunday, December 15 at 5:00pm
The St Cecilia Choir of Girls, accompanied by harp
Reception to follow

A Ceremony of Carols is a stunning choral masterpiece blending medieval texts with exquisite modern harmonies to celebrate the wonder of Christ's birth, creating an atmosphere of reverence and joy.

Organ Meditation and Readings
on "La Nativité du Seigneur" the Birth of the Savior
Tuesday, December 17 at 7:00pm

Jonathan Vaughn performs Olivier Messiaen's epic Christmas meditation on the Nativity of our Lord on our new Harrison & Harrison organ, interspersed with readings from W.H.Auden's "For the time being: A Christmas Oratorio".
Free admission.

Carols by Candlelight
Sunday, December 22 at 5:00pm
Reception to follow

Join the Combined Choirs of Christ Church Greenwich for Carols by Candlelight (also known as a Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols), inspired by the world-renowned King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England. Invite a friend for this very special choral worship service, surrounded by candles, filling our hearts with Christmas joy.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Choral Eucharist
Sunday, December 24 at 10:00pm
Choral Prelude at 9:30, Champagne Reception after the service

Participate in a traditional, candlelit Christmas celebration of the Mass, featuring readings from the King James Bible. The service will be preceded at 9:30pm by a sung prelude by the renowned Christ Church Choir Alumni. They will be joined in the service by the current teen girls, teen boys, and men in Charles-Marie Widor's epic Mass for Two Choirs and Two Organs.
You won't want to miss this joyful and very special celebration.

254 East Putnam Ave., Greenwich, CT



May All Your Days Be Merry

Share the warmth of the season with gifts that bloom with gratitude & joy. Locally hand-made & hand-delivered with love & care, to you & yours.

Visit us at our downtown Greenwich shop, aglow with enchanting holiday decorations & gifts ~ and plentiful complimentary parking!

Or shop our beautiful new website, 24/7, at McArdles.com

HOLIDAY HOURS ~ Monday-Saturday 8-5:30 Sundays 9-3



RESERVE EARLY for CHRISTMAS DELIVERY

Do Your Gift Shopping Anytime, 24/7, at McArdles.com



Wishing you peace and happiness

From our Family to Yours


The Greens provides safety, comfort, and a loving home filled with laughter and joy. We are a small intimate assisted living community for your loved one with memory impairment.



Awarded the Best Practice for Resident Care by the Connecticut Assisted Living Association

Schedule a Tour
203.531.5500

mscaros@thegreensatgreenwich.com
thegreensatgreenwich.com

The Greens
at Greenwich
Excellence in Dementia Care




CHRISTMAS EVE
Services

DEC 24TH ✦ **3:00 PM** ✦ **5:00 PM** ✦ **7:00 PM**

Unwrap the Christian faith together

Alpha Begins Wednesday January 8th 2025 | 7 PM - 9 PM
Wondering if there's *more* at the bottom of the stocking?

202 TACONIC RD. GREENWICH, CT
stanwichchurch.org



Christmas Eve at Second Congregational Church

Family Service at 3:30 p.m.
Festival Service at 6:30 p.m.
Candelight Worship at 11:00 p.m.

2CC.ORG



SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH
139 E. Putnam Avenue
Greenwich, CT



Ed's Count

By FRANK GALLO

It's six a.m., and Ed Shove is here to do a bird count. Before him stretches New Haven's Quinnipiac Marsh, his count area. He walks quietly along the railroad trestle at first light. There is no need to come earlier, the owls will still be there -

Cardinal calls. He marks it down. There are always the regulars: flickers, crows, starlings and titmice are all here. Perhaps there will be a Golden-crowned Kinglet or a Hairy Woodpecker this year. Along the tracks, Northern Cardinals, White-throated Sparrows, Black-capped

be another American Bittern like last year.

A startled Great Blue Heron flushes from a hidden river channel with a loud squawk; two steps later, a Black-crowned Night-Heron does the same. Both are uncommon birds for this time of year. The startled birder records them in his notebook. Further down the line a female pheasant rushes across the tracks and disappears into the grass. Like the bittern, they are a difficult bird to find—there was only one here last year. A flock of seven Pine Siskins and two Common Redpolls alight in a nearby tree. It looks as if it may be a good “winter finch” year. A Northern



Canada Geese

A mega movie cinema now replaces his best owling area. There have been changes, deemed “progress,” over the years. He wonders if the owls see it that way.

Mockingbird jumps up to eye him from the top of a nearby rose bush, and two American Goldfinches pass overhead uttering their “Po-ta-to-chip” call. He writes them down, checks his watch and thermometer, and moves on. It is 8:30 a.m. The temperature has reached 15 degrees.

He follows the tracks deeper into the marsh which offers him an unobstructed view, but no respite from the wind, now blowing from the north. All he can do is hike up his collar and press on. People are counting on him to find Rough-legged Hawks and Northern Saw-whet Owls. There are usually a couple of each wintering in the marsh.

Looking up, he sees the familiar shape of a Red-tailed Hawk, beneath it a Northern Harrier glides effortlessly on raised wings, hunting along a mosquito ditch. Another large hawk quarters the marsh in the distance, but he can't quite make it out. It begins to hover in place. It is a light-phase Rough-legged Hawk.

has been a good day. He writes them each in his notebook, checks his watch and thermometer, and moves on.

In the distance, he hears gunshots; he'll have to hurry. A flock of 10 Canada geese come hurtling down the river away from the sound and are followed by a group of Mallards and American Black Ducks.



Song Sparrow

or will they? A mega movie cinema now replaces his best owling area. There have been changes, deemed “progress” over the years. He wonders if the owls see it that way. Behind him, the Middletown Avenue Landfill stands in silent silhouette against the morning sky. He moves on with a purpose.

Across the marsh, Christmas lights from the houses along State Street twinkle in the clear morning air. It is a week until Christmas. He checks his thermometer—it is 5°F. Today is the day for members of the New Haven Bird Club to participate in the Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count. There should be 45 or 50 species to reward him for his day's work. What will he find this year?

There is not much still, open water, so ducks should be in the river. As he walks, he listens and looks for the sounds of his quarry. The marsh is a harsh environment in winter. If you are a small bird or mammal, it is wise not to remain in the open. The wind is cruel, and the hawks are hungry. To his right, a Northern



Male American Goldfinch in winter plumage

chickadees, Dark-eyed Juncos, American Tree, and Song Sparrows all feed. There will be other less common birds, such as the occasional Swamp Sparrow, Sharp-shinned or Cooper's Hawks, or perhaps a Brown Creeper. Then there are always a few “good birds,” like the Blue-winged Teals and Boreal Chickadees from years past. Maybe there will even



Eastern Meadowlark

the first in a few years.

He hurries on. His luck may not last forever. Another gust of wind greets him as he rounds the bend. He can see the river, there are still ducks on the water. His eyes water as he tries to make them out. Ah, if only it were spring. Then the Rails and Bitterns would be back, he could watch the Least Terns in comfort as they flew up and down the river to feed, or spend leisurely hours poring through the flocks of shorebirds that frequent the marsh pools and riverbanks. There is no use lamenting his lot. It is not his way, and in truth he loves this too. Spring will arrive in due course. For now, he has ducks to count.

His name is Ed Shove, and he is here to do a bird count.

Dedicated to the Memory of Ed Shove, the first Lighthouse Point Park hawk compiler, a consummate naturalist, and my friend. He saw more than most...

How you can contribute:

Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) are conducted throughout the state from December 14, 2024, to January 5, 2025. New Canaan's CBC is part of the Greenwich-Stamford Count Circle and is usually held on Saturday, December 14. For more information and to join a count, contact the compiler, Cynthia Ehlinger, at cynthia.ehlinger@gmail.com. For general information on CBCs, go to: <https://www.audubon.org/community-science/christmas-bird-count/join-christmas-bird-count>. To read the results of last year's New England counts go to: <https://www.audubon.org/news/123rd-christmas-bird-count-new-england>. For general information about birds, visit the Connecticut Ornithological Associations webpage at: <https://www.ctbirding.org>. It's packed with useful information.

Frank Gallo is the Senior Naturalist at the New Canaan Nature Center, 144 Oenoke Ridge, and the author of Birding in Connecticut - a comprehensive site guide on where when and how to find birds in the State. He can be reached at Fgallo@newcanaanature.org by email. For more on the New Canaan Nature Center, visit NewCanaanNature.org online. All photos on this page are courtesy of Frank.



Green-winged Teal

Before the day is through, he will return to the dump to count the many gulls. Maybe a Glaucous or Iceland Gull, rare winter visitors from the north, will be present to reward him for his work. Below the Middletown Avenue Bridge, there should be Buffleheads, American Black Ducks, and Common Goldeneyes, and—with luck—a Hooded Merganser, a Pied-billed Grebe, or—once common, but now rare— a Canvasback. If he has the time, he'll check the bushes and marsh below the bridge for songbirds before checking the cedars off Sackett Point Road for Saw-whet Owls. The Eastern Meadowlarks that were near the bridge in late October may still be around.

A Killdeer calls from somewhere to his left. Searching, he sees a kingfisher plunge into the river and come up with a small fish. So far, it

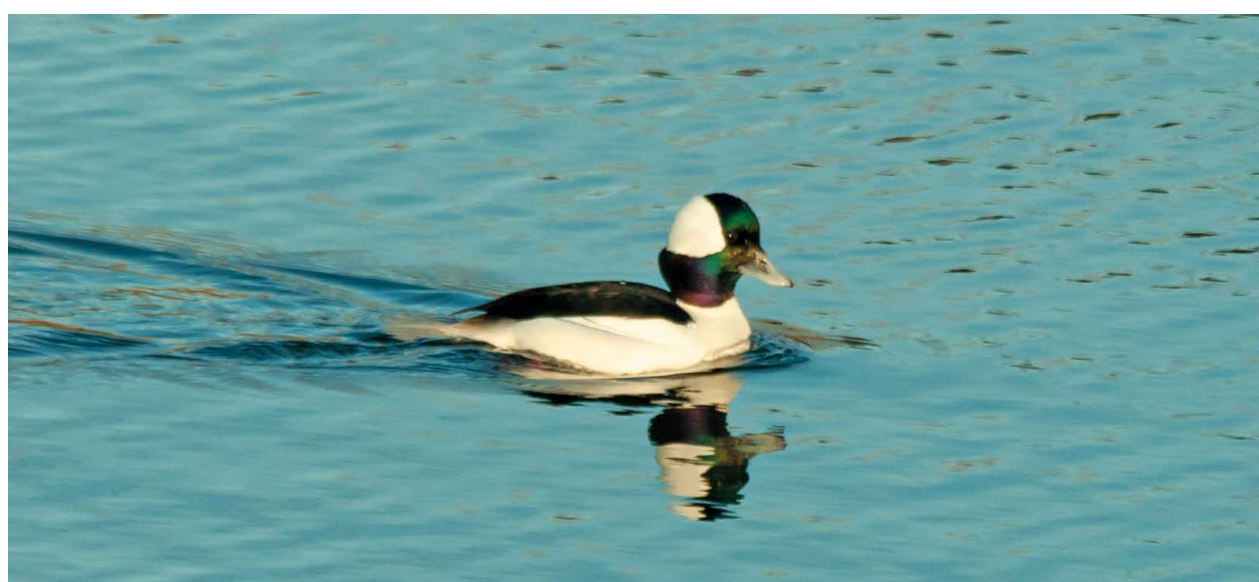


Red-tailed Hawk

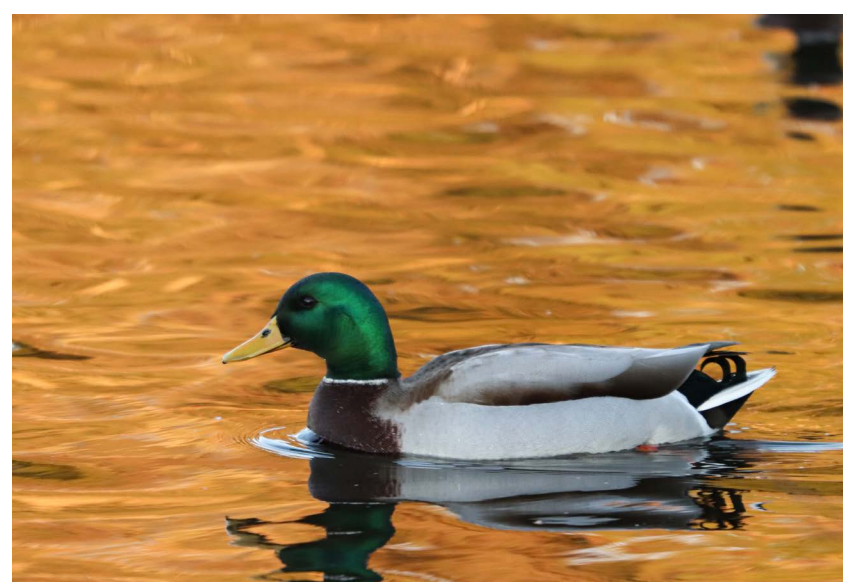
Wait—is there a smaller duck with them? He raises his binoculars. Yes, the smaller bird is a green-winged teal, a “good bird” for the marsh. It's



Great Blue Heron



Male Bufflehead



Mallard Duck

SPORTS

Greenwich High football team advances to CIAC Class LL Tournament final with 14-0 win over rival Staples in semifinal-round

By DAVID FIERRO

Like the matchup on Thanksgiving between the Greenwich and Staples High School football teams, a shutout was posted when the Cardinals and Wreckers played each other in today's CIAC Class LL Tournament semifinal-round game.

Only this time, it was Greenwich's defense that shut out the Wreckers' offense.

How's this for avenging a loss? Only 10 days after being shutout and losing in convincing fashion to longtime rival Staples, Greenwich returned the favor in a game with more at stake. Receiving a dominant performance on defense, a big play on offense and a stellar special teams effort, third-seeded Greenwich earned a berth in the state final, defeating second-seeded host Staples, 14-0, in the CIAC Class LL Tournament semifinals.

The Cardinals (10-2) advanced to Saturday's 6:30 p.m. CIAC Class LL Tournament final where they will play fifth-seeded West Haven at Central Connecticut State University. West Haven (10-2) rolled past No. 1-seeded Fairfield Prep, 42-7, in today's other Class LL semifinal-round matchup.

Greenwich won the Class LL championship in 2022 and will play for another state title when it faces West Haven in Saturday's championship game.

"It's hard to put into words how proud I am of this team," said Greenwich coach Anthony Morello, whose squad dropped a 27-0 decision to Staples on Thanksgiving. "They faced adversity throughout the course of the year and they bounced back. Thanksgiving left such a sour taste in their mouths and we were just hoping that we would get a second chance to show what we can do and we did just that today."

"The effort across the board was unbelievable," Morello continued. "For the defense to pitch a shutout against an offense like that – the way their quarterback and their offense has played all season – just shows how hard they've worked to get to this point."

Senior wide receiver Blake Martin scored on an 85-yard pass play and junior running back Hector Lopez reached the end zone on a 3-yard run for the Cardinals, who forced four turnovers, two of which were interceptions by senior defensive backs Noah Steele and Jack Carroll.

"They took our Thanksgiving and our thing was to take their season and we did that," said Martin, who also caught a long pass during the second half for the Cardinals, besides scoring a

touchdown.

Greenwich applied consistent pressure on Staples junior quarterback Nicholas Weil, who turned in a stellar effort when the Wreckers beat GHS on Thanksgiving, 27-0. Today's game was quite a turnaround, as the Cardinals' defense stepped up, limited the hosts' scoring chances and was physical throughout. The victors were also successful in slowing down Staples' running game, headed by senior Anthony Armentano.

"Aggressiveness, definitely aggressiveness," Greenwich senior offensive/defensive lineman/captain Peter Vomvolakis said of the defense's success versus Staples. "This week we focused more on running the ball and on defense, blitzing and get pressure on the quarterback. We tried to get pressure on him and be more aggressive. We did that today and that's why we won this ball game."

The Cardinals were also aggressive on offense, starting with the offensive line, which includes Vomvolakis, junior Colin Falla, junior Richie McMurray, junior Henry Wahl and Frank Kingsley, also a junior. The offensive line gave D'Angelo time to throw and opened up room for Lopez to run the ball.

"Peter Vomvolakis – I'll stand on a stool and tell the world he's the best offensive lineman in the state," Morello noted. "He's been a rock for us every single game."

Morello also credited D'Angelo for effectively leading the offensive unit against Staples' tough defense.

"The heart that M.J. has shown, being able to battle back from the game he had on Thanksgiving and perform the way he did today and be the general we knew he could be on the field, was impressive," Morello said.

Following a scoreless first quarter, Greenwich took the lead for good with 6:40 remaining in the second quarter. D'Angelo completed a short pass to Martin in the flat on the left side of the field, a screen pass. Martin eluded a pair of defenders and sprinted down the left sideline for an 85-yard touchdown. Senior Julian Ravina converted the PAT, giving Greenwich a 7-0 lead.

"M.J. put it in my hands, I told him if he could throw me the ball I've got it, I told him to trust me, he threw it to me," Martin said of his 85-yard touchdown. "I saw a hole, I made a cut and it was magic."

D'Angelo said: "Blake Martin, I have to work on getting him the ball more. Blake makes plays."

"Blake Martin had that huge



Greenwich High School senior wide receiver Blake Martin runs with the football after catching a pass from senior quarterback M.J. D'Angelo. Martin went on to run 85 yards for a touchdown on the play for Greenwich, which defeated Staples, 14-0, in the CIAC Class LL Tournament semifinals. Photo: David Fierro

touchdown for us," Morello added. "Blake made the big plays in the biggest moments."

The Cards went ahead by two scores when Lopez capped a key drive by bulling his way up the middle into the end zone on a 3-yard run, putting Greenwich ahead, 14-0, with 9:45 left in the fourth quarter. Lopez led Greenwich's ground attack, carrying the ball numerous times and gaining several clutch first downs behind the blocking of Vomvolakis, Wahl, Falla and McMurray up front.

"I'm a little banged up, but still got the job done, it's a great feeling," Lopez said. "It feels amazing, we've worked so hard for this. We worked all offseason and it's a dream come true. We came out here and executed."

The hard-running D'Angelo also had several runs inside for first downs, while completing a few passes to Martin.

"This win means a lot to me personally, because Thanksgiving was rough," D'Angelo said. "I had to bounce back from a lot of mistakes that I made. But this team believed in me throughout." Forcing the Wreckers to punt on most of their possessions, Greenwich's defense sparked the team's offense.

"Our defense had a great game and we couldn't have asked for a better performance in this game," said D'Angelo, who celebrated his birthday today and his teammates sang 'Happy Birthday' to him following the game. "We wanted our revenge,

so we got that today."

Senior defensive back Noah Steele stopped a Staples drive in the first half intercepting, a Weil pass, setting GHS up at the Wreckers' 20-yard line.

"We were so motivated," Steele said. "After they left us with a donut two weeks ago, we knew we were going to do the same with them and that's exactly what happened."

As for playing in another state championship game?

"We were there two years ago – been there done that, let's do it again," Steele said.

Staples coach, Adam Behrends, whose squad captured the Class LL state title in 2023, credited his team's defense.

"Our defense did a great job," Behrends said. "I thought they did an awesome job of keeping us in the game as they had all year and special teams was awesome."

McMurray recovered a Staples fumble, as did Cardinals junior linebacker Santi Parra. Senior defensive back Jack Carroll capped the Cards' huge win by intercepting a Weil pass late in the fourth quarter.

"Bad play calling, I didn't put our kids in a good situation to score points, so it's 100 percent on me," Behrends said. "They did the best they could with what they had. They were an unbelievable group. They haven't lost many football games here and they have been great leaders. Even though we didn't get the result we wanted today, they are

leaving the team in a good place."

Jack Carroll, his brother Justin Carroll, a junior linebacker, Jack Kelly, a junior linebacker, senior defensive lineman, Kyle Ebanks and senior defensive lineman/captain Max Marek were among the numerous players on defense that stepped up for the Cards, who had dropped three straight games to the Wreckers.

"That was probably our best game yet," Jack Carroll said. "We shut down the run, we made them pass and we improved from last time. We shut them down, down the middle."

Indeed, the Cardinals had their sights set on the Wreckers since Thanksgiving.

"There's no better feeling," Jack Carroll said. "Losing 27-0 left a sour taste in our mouth. We worked hard the last week and expected this outcome."

Vomvolakis, Marek and Ebanks each registered sacks for Greenwich, which made it difficult for the Wreckers to sustain drives throughout.

"Thanksgiving our defense played solid, but not well enough," Marek noted. "Our defense gave up too many mistakes and they capitalized on it. On the bus ride coming up here, I just felt inside that we had a pretty good shot to win this game. I thought our guys prepared very well. Our defense was physical, we communicated well and we didn't give up."

Said Ebanks: "We had a game plan, just blitz, blitz, blitz and

we executed our game plan to perfection. We are so excited. They thought they had our number, they thought they could beat us again, they couldn't do it again. We were prepared and we wanted it."

As has been the case all season, Greenwich received a significant boost from its special teams unit. Punter Alex Kvaratskhelia, a senior, had an excellent game punting. He pinned Staples back to its 1-yard line with one of his booming punts, as GHS won the field position battle.

"Special teams was great," Morello noted. "Alex has kicked great for us all year and today was no exception."

"This was a resounding win," Morello continued. "The pressure from the defensive line today disrupted that quarterback from the beginning of the game. Coach (Bryan) Hocter (defensive coordinator) called an amazing game for his defense. A tremendous win across the board for this football team."

Vomvolakis, who recently signed a National Letter of Intent to attend the United States Naval Academy, where he will play Division I football said: "It feels great, we finally got our revenge. "We knew on that Thanksgiving game it wasn't our day at all. Today we really showed what Greenwich football is all about. Coming out with a 'W' is the greatest thing."



Greenwich linebacker Justin Carroll tackles Staples running back Anthony Armentano during the semifinal-round game of the CIAC Class LL Football Tournament at Staples High School on Dec. 8, 2024. GHS won, 14-0. Photo: David Fierro

Greenwich Sea Scouts Hold First Advancement Ceremony

By CHARLIE TRICOMI

Thirteen Sea Scouts advanced to the rank of Apprentice during the Dec. 4 Bridge of Honor ceremony in the Model Room at Indian Harbor Yacht Club.

You may be asking, Who are the Sea Scouts?

For background, Sea Scouts was organized in the U.S. with the aid of the Secretary of the Navy in 1912 (two years after the Boy Scouts of America was born). "For over 100 years Sea Scouting has promoted better citizenship and improved members' boating skills through instruction and practice in water safety, boating skills, outdoor, social, service experiences, and knowledge of our maritime heritage," the organization says on its website, seascout.org.

The Sea Scouts were resurrected here in town with a successful launch this summer, with much assistance from the Greenwich Council, BSA. It's been some time since our town has had a local "Ship," which is the Sea Scout equivalent of a Troop.

This newest Ship (Ship 1) is chartered at Indian Harbor Yacht Club and currently has 16 Sea Scouts.

Since the recent chartering, the Sea Scouts have already been fishing, boating, sailing, and meeting semimonthly in a classroom to work on becoming better sailors.

The Skipper (adult advisor) of Ship 1, Charlie Tricomi, brings in speakers and sailing experts to help teach, but the program is youth-driven, reflecting an emphasis on fun and adventure while giving the Sea Scouts experience leading peers.

A few brave souls on Ship 1 have participated in frostbiting (winter sailing), but otherwise the focus, during the months when the boats are pulled out of the water, is on learning to become better sailors and racers. This is mixed in with fun activities such as scuba training, swimming, riding around with the GPD Marine Division, and Storm Trysail's "Safety at Sea" seminar.

The Scouts had to achieve certain tasks to advance to the rank of Apprentice, such as having proficiency in knot-tying, seamanship, navigation, boat handling, and helping the community through service and work projects.

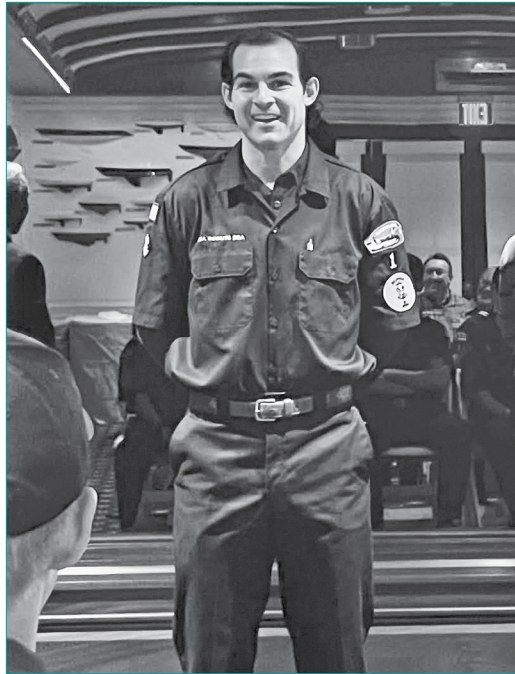
Each level of advancement marks growth as a seaman and leader. The highest rank a Sea Scout can earn is the prestigious Quartermaster (equivalent to Eagle Scout).

Membership (which is very affordable, with financial aid options) is open to all young adults living in the surrounding area who are 14 years of age (or 13 years of age and have completed the 8th grade) and under 21 years of age. No prior sailing experience is needed – just a desire to enjoy activities out on the Sound.

The Sea Scouts will sail one-designs and larger sailboats during the warmer months, in addition to boating and fishing.



The Sea Scouts of Ship 1 as they advance to the rank of Apprentice. LEFT to RIGHT: Timo Van Hoecke, Preston Johnson, Porter Hale, Connor Keenan, Jackson Erb, Charter Rep J. Sood, Christopher DiPreta, Colin Reynolds, Jack Wade, Skipper Charlie Tricomi, Luigi Carratelli, Maya Yule. Not pictured: Sydney Nelson, Charles & Alexis Gulner Photo by Cindy DiPreta.



Ship 1 Skipper Charlie Tricomi addresses the Scouts. Photo: Nick Barile.



Sea Scouts during the Bridge of Honor advancement ceremony. Photo: Nick Barile.



Dignitaries were among those who attended the ceremony, including (left to right) First Selectman Fred Camillo, Apprentice Colin Reynolds, Ship 1 Skipper Charlie Tricomi, Selectwoman Lauren Rabin, Greenwich Council President Jim Adams, and Greenwich Police Chief (and Scout leader) Jim Heavey. Photo: Nick Barile.

Program Composition

IHYC Charter Organization Rep: J. Sood and IHYC Commodore George Yankowich. BSA: Scout Executive Kevin O'Shea and Council President Jim Adams. Additional adult leaders: Elise Swanton and Nick Barile.

Volunteer speakers so far this year

have included: Gary Silberberg, Captain Harbor Power Squadrons teacher; Jordan Lee-Kook, Naval Academy and Navy alum; James Zarra, Navigation, charting, and fishing guru; and Bryan Stephan, Coast Guard OCS / NOAA Corp Officer.

There are far too many generous boat owners who have taken the Sea Scouts out

onto the water to name them all here, but we are eternally grateful. Thank you – this program wouldn't exist without volunteers.

Youth who are interested in joining Ship 1 can email Skipper Charlie Tricomi for more information at email Skipper Charlie Tricomi@SeaScoutShip1.org.

"We often coordinate transportation for various fund-raising events. We can always rely on Rudy's to provide the most professional chauffeurs and the largest, newest fleet of luxury vehicles in the Northeast."

RUDY'S
EXECUTIVE TRANSPORTATION

(800) 243-7839 • GoRudys.com

RESERVATIONS: Call, visit our website, or download our app.

Polished. Contemporary. Resourceful. Since 1956.

Greenwich Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

All Together Storytime. Marx Family Black Box Theater.

11 a.m.
LEGOS for the Wee Ones with Beth. Byram Shubert Library Community Room

11:30 a.m.
Blood Pressure Screening. Community Room #5.

1 p.m.
Fiction Addiction Book Club: Lunchtime Edition. Staff Conference Room (2nd Floor).

3:30 p.m.
Battle of the Books with Ms. Flynn. Byram Shubert Library Conference Room.

5:15 p.m.
CMS Chamber Orchestra Holiday Concert. Cos Cob Library Community Room.

Tuesday, Dec. 17

11 a.m.
Petite Concert. Marx Family Black Box Theater.

11 a.m.
Storytime with Patty (Birth – Pre-K). Byram Shubert Library Community Room.

3:30 p.m.
Drawing Holiday Cartoons with Bill Hernandez. Byram Shubert Library.

3:45 p.m.
Pen to Paper. Cos Cob Library Community Room.

5 p.m.
International Book Club: "The Paris Novel" by Ruth Reichl. On Zoom.

Wednesday, Dec. 18

10 a.m.
Baby Lapsit in the Stacks. Cos Cob Library Turret.

10 a.m. & 1 p.m.
Career Coach – MS Excel. Byram Shubert Library.

11 a.m.
Early Walkers in the Stacks. Cos Cob Library Turret.

1 p.m.
Retirement Planning VI: QCDs: Qualified Charitable Distributions. Online.

3 p.m.
R.E.A.D. to a Dog. Byram Shubert Library Community Room.

4 p.m.
Gingerbread Houses for Preschoolers. Marx Family Black Box Theater.

5:30 p.m.
Gingerbread Houses (Ages 5-12). Marx Family Black Box Theater.

Thursday, Dec. 19

11 a.m.
Technology Help. Learning Lab.

11:30 a.m.

Qi Gong. Online.

6 p.m.

Teen Scene: Graham Cracker Monuments. Teen Commons.

7 p.m.
An Evening of Holiday Music with Danny and Friends. Byram Shubert Library.

Friday, Dec. 20

10 a.m.
Storytime. Cos Cob Library Turret. 203-622-6883.

3 p.m.
Innovator-in-Residence: Kinetic Art Using Robotics. Innovation Lab. 203-622-7979. innovationlab@greenwichlibrary.org

4 p.m.
Super Secret Present Craft Club (Registration Required). Children's Constellation Room.

7 p.m.
Friends Friday Films: "Eddie the Eagle." Berkley Theater. cgibbs@greenwichlibrary.org.

Saturday, Dec. 21

10:30 a.m.
Music with Tom Weber. Marx Family Black Box Theater.

11 a.m.
Hooked On Crochet. Teen Common .

11 a.m.
Technology Help. Learning Lab. 203-625-6560. csherman@greenwichlibrary.org.

1 p.m.
Dungeons & Dragons (Grades 6-12). Children's Constellation Room.

2 p.m.
Chess for All with Ian. Byram Shubert Library Community Room.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL:
greenwichhospital.org/events
888-305-9253

Saturday, Dec. 14

9 a.m.
CPR Friends & Family (Infant/Child). 38 Volunteer Ln. \$65. For discount information call 888-305-9253.

Monday, Dec. 16

6 p.m.
CPR Friends & Family (Infant/Child). 38 Volunteer Ln. \$65. For discount information call 888-305-9253.

Wednesday, Dec. 18

12:30 p.m.
Parkinson's Disease Support Group - for people with Parkinson's, their families and caregivers. 260 Long Ridge Road, Stamford. Free.

Thursday, Dec. 19

1 p.m.
Webinar: MS (Multiple Sclerosis) Support Group. Free.

NEIGHBOR-TO-NEIGHBOR: ntngreenwich.org

Everyday, all day
• 24/7 Food Drive Collection site at North Greenwich Congregational Church, 606 Riverside Road. The weatherproof bin is located outside of the Parish Hall.

• Greenwich Reform Synagogue, 92 Orchard St., Cos Cob.

Tuesdays, 9 - 11 a.m.
Food Drive (drive-thru) at St. Catherine of Siena's parking area across the street from the rectory entrance, 4 Riverside Ave. (Non-perishable foods, personal care products, large sized diapers (5 & 6) and pull-ups, and knit hats (hand knit or store bought).

Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Food Drive at St. Paul's Episcopal Church parking lot, 200 Riverside Ave.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE: RedCross-Blood.org

Sunday, Dec. 15

7 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Greenwich Blood Donation Center, 99 Indian Field Rd.

Monday, Dec. 16

11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Greenwich Blood Donation Center, 99 Indian Field Rd.

11:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Westchester Medical Center - Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, 100 Woods Rd., Valhalla, NY.

Tuesday, Dec. 17

11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Greenwich Blood Donation Center, 99 Indian Field Rd.

1:30 - 6:30 p.m.
American Legion Post 347, 1 Locust Ave Flint Park, Larchmont, NY.

Wednesday, Dec. 18

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Acrisure, 90 S. Ridge St., Rye Brook, NY.

Thursday, Dec. 19

7 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Greenwich Blood Donation Center, 99 Indian Field Rd.

Friday, Dec. 20

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Village of Mamaroneck, 1 Harbor Island Park, Mamaroneck, NY.

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Stamford Church of Christ SEE TIMES 1264 High Ridge Road Stamford.

Saturday, Dec. 21

8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Union Baptist Church, 805 Newfield Avenue, Stamford.

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
American Red Cross, 40 Saw Mill River Road, Upper Level 3, Hawthorne, NY.

Sunday, Dec. 22

7 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Greenwich Blood Donation Center, 99 Indian Field Rd.

TOWN MEETINGS: greenwichct.gov/calendar

Monday, Dec. 16

10:30 a.m.
Architecture Review Committee (ARC) Sign-Meeting.

1 p.m.
Planning and Zoning Commission Briefing.

7 p.m.
Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency Meeting. Zoom Webinar.

Tuesday, Dec. 17

4 p.m.
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting.

Wednesday, Dec. 18

11:30 a.m.
Rink User Committee Meeting. Cone Room.

12 p.m.
FS Nominating Advisory Committee Meeting. Via Zoom.

12:30 p.m.
Nathaniel Witherell Finance Committee

Meeting.

6 p.m.

Harbor Management Commission Regular Meeting. Mazza Room.

7 p.m.

Architecture Review Committee (ARC) Regular Meeting.

7 p.m.

Fair Rent Commission Meeting. Zoom Webinar.

Thursday, Dec. 19

8:30 a.m.

FS Active Transportation Task Force Meeting. Virtual via Zoom.

SAVE THE DATE:

Friday, Dec. 13

6:30 p.m.
Greenwich Rotary Club's Holiday Party. Riverside Yacht Club. RSVP: Dec. 7. GreenwichRotary.org

Friday, Feb. 28, 2025

6:30 p.m.
Kids In Crisis' An Après Ski Soirée The Loading Dock 375 Fairfield Ave, Stamford. kidsincrisis.org/sub/events

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

YWCA Greenwich's Women Who Inspire Awards. Greenwich Country Club. ywcagreenwich.org/events/2025-women-who-inspire-awards

Saturday, April 26, 2025

6 p.m.
Habitat for Humanity 40th Anniversary Gala. Hyatt Regency Greenwich. habitatcfc.org

Thursday, May 1, 2025

YWCA Greenwich's Old Bags Luncheon 20th Anniversary. Belle Haven Club. ywcagreenwich.org/events/old-bags-luncheon-20th-anniversary

Our Neighboring Towns

FRIDAY, DEC. 13

7:30 p.m.
Curtain Call presents "Young Frankenstein". The Kveskin Theatre, 1349 Newfield Ave., Stamford. Performances: Fri & Sat, 7:30pm, & Sun, 2pm (Dec. 13 & 14). curtaincallinc.com

5:30 - 9:30 p.m.

GLOW Wild Lantern Festival. Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo, 1875 Noble Ave., Bridgeport. Thurs-Sun, through Dec. 15. beardsleyzoo.org

SATURDAY, DEC. 14

9 a.m.
Jingle Bell 5k. Calf Pasture Beach, 99 Calf Pasture Beach Road, Norwalk. runsignup.com/Race/CT/Norwalk/NorwalkJingle-Bell5K

10:30 a.m.

Shark Diving Santa. The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk, 10 N. Water St., Norwalk.

maritimeaquarium.org

11 a.m. & 2 p.m.

An Afternoon with the Nutcracker. Stepping Stones Museum for Children – Mathews Park, 303 West Ave, Norwalk. steppingstonesmuseum.org

1 p.m.

InTempo Winter Recitals. Ferguson Main Library, Stamford. Free. Register. fergusonlibrary.org

SUNDAY, DEC. 15

3 p.m.

Music & Conversations with Pianist Stefano Miceli. Ferguson Main Library, Stamford. Free. Register. fergusonlibrary.org

TUESDAY, DEC. 17

12 p.m.

Community Mindfulness Project: Meditation. Ferguson Main Library, Stamford. Free. fergusonlibrary.org

3:45 p.m.

DIY Snow Globes. Ferguson Library - Harry Bennett Branch, Stamford. Free. Register. fergusonlibrary.org

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18

11 a.m. & 2 p.m.

Of Cold and Kindness Puppet Show. Stepping Stones Museum for Children – Mathews Park, 303 West Ave, Norwalk. Through Dec. 22. steppingstonesmuseum.org

1 - 5 p.m.

Age Well: A Community Resource Center for Seniors from SilverSource. Ferguson Main Library, Stamford. Free. fergusonlibrary.org

7 p.m.

Trivia Night. Bedford Playhouse, 633 Old Post Rd., Bedford, NY. 914-234-6704. bedfordplayhouse.org

FRIDAY, DEC. 20

3:30 p.m.

Boxing Fitness & Self-Defense. Ferguson Main Library, Stamford. Free. Register. fergusonlibrary.org

4 p.m.

Holiday Movie: The Polar Express. Ferguson Library - Harry Bennett Branch, Stamford. Free. fergusonlibrary.org

7 p.m.

Live Music: Cydney Chase. Bedford Playhouse, 633 Old Post Rd., Bedford, NY. Free admission. 914-234-6704. bedfordplayhouse.org



Christmas Tree Pickup and Recycling

Greenwich Scout Troop 35 will pick up your Christmas tree and recycle it for you. Just leave your tree outside your front door and let Troop 35 do the rest!

Troop 35 will be picking up Christmas trees on:
 Saturday and Sunday, December 28 & 29
 Saturday and Sunday, January 4 & 5
 Saturday and Sunday, January 11 & 12
 Saturday and Sunday, January 18 & 19

Please email Troop 35 at Troop35Christmas@gmail.com with your address and the date you would like your tree picked up. Troop 35 will send you a confirming email.

Please note that this is a fundraiser. A \$20 tax-deductible contribution is appreciated. Please leave an envelope next to your tree with \$20 cash or a check made payable to "Troop 35 BSA."

Restore & Renew *your* Outdoor Furniture



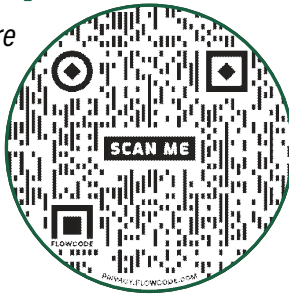
SANDBLASTING
POWDER COATING
METAL RESTORATION
RESTRAPPING
REPLACEMENT SLINGS
TEAK RESTORATION

PICK UP & DELIVERY

Featured on *Martha Stewart's Blog*
martha
up close & personal



Scan here to read the full article



Outdoor Furniture Restoration & Sales
Powder Coated Finishes

Email photos for a free estimate!

pattysportico@gmail.com

140 HIGHLAND ST., PORT CHESTER, NY 10573

914-935-8839 or 914-937-1907

PattysPortico.com

\$50 off any job over \$1,000

Patty's Portico • 914-935-8839
140 HIGHLAND ST., PORT CHESTER, NY 10573
With this coupon. Expires 1/1/25.
SENTINEL HOMETOWN NEWS

\$100 off any job over \$2,000

Patty's Portico • 914-935-8839
140 HIGHLAND ST., PORT CHESTER, NY 10573
With this coupon. Expires 1/1/25.
SENTINEL HOMETOWN NEWS

PLAYING THIS WEEK AT

THE PLAYHOUSE



PLAYING WED., DEC. 18
National Theatre Live: Present Laughter
COMEDY, 2 HR 40 MIN

93 Elm Street
New Canaan

And Join Us in the Pub!

CINEMALAB.COM
for showtimes and tickets

Add someone to the *Sentinel* **NAUGHTY OR NICE LIST!**

The perfect way to add a little fun and festive spirit to your holidays!
www.greenwichsentinel.com/naughty-nice-list/

Sudoku for Kids

	3		
1	2	3	
	1	4	
		1	3

	1		
2	3	4	
			3
3		1	4

4			1
2	1		
	4		
3	2		4

1			
		1	
4		2	3
3	2		1

SUDOKU

Each row, column, nonet can contain each number only once. Answers below.

Easy								
	1	3						7
9						5		
	7	5		1	3			8
		4		5				
			3		8			
			6		7			
	5		9	7		1	4	
		2						3
	4					6	5	

Hard								
				8	3	2		
	9		4		7			
		1		3	6			9
				6	2			
	5					8		
	8	1						
5	3	8			4			
	4			7		6		
	6	2	5					

Very Hard								
	5							1
		6						
	1			5	6			2
2	4	1						3
			1	6	3	2	4	9
9	6	3						5
	3			2	8			9
		8						
	7							8

Easy								
		8		4				7
		1	7			3	4	6
			5					
	3	9						
	2		6		8			5
						8	1	
					5			
3	1	4			6	7		
	8			3		6		

Hard								
	4		6	8		9		5
5					9			
	8			1		2		
4				1		5		
			7		4			
	1	3						4
		4		3			9	
			9					3
9	2		4	8		1		

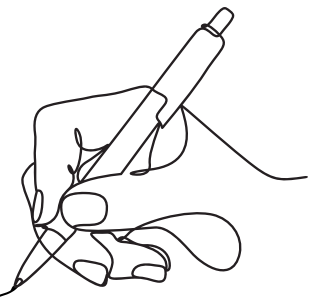
Very Hard								
					8	9	5	1
					3			
		5						
		2				3	7	
6				7				8
	9	7				4		
						1		
				6				
4	6	1	2					

Sudoku answers

9	6	1	2	3	5	7	8	
7	5	6	8	1	2	3	4	
5	3	2	7	9	4	1	6	
8	4	1	7	2	2	4	1	2
6	3	4	1	7	2	2	5	9
5	1	2	8	4	9	3	7	
7	8	9	4	1	6	4	8	1
1	4	6	5	1	3	8	2	7
2	7	3	4	6	8	9	5	1

Calling all sophisticates, literary enthusiasts, and our very clever Sentinel readers!
Enter to Win Cash Prizes in our Contest!

Sentinel Literary Competition



November 2024 Competition

The November competition, "Modern Etiquette for the Digital Age," offered participants the opportunity to dissect our online quirks and craft clever rules for navigating them. Entries ranged from spot-on advice to hilarious exaggerations, all reflecting the absurdity and relatability of our digital lives. The submissions proved that whether we're debating the nuances of Zoom backgrounds or the perils of group chats, humor is the universal coping mechanism for the modern world.

With so many sharp entries, judging wasn't easy. Some contributors leaned into the personal and anecdotal, while others offered a sweeping manifesto for our tech-centric times. After much deliberation (and a lot of laughing), we've chosen our top three entries, followed by a few honorable mentions.

The Winners

First Place: Jeffrey Kiczek "Just Keep Scrolling"

As a wise fish once said, "just keep scrolling". I think she said scrolling, but I can't be sure, because we both have terrible memories. Anyway, the key to social media is that the best meme, picture, video, etc. is just a quick scroll away. No matter how long you've been scrolling, no matter how past your bedtime it is, you gotta "just keep scrolling". Trust me, eventually you'll find that perfect dopamine hit and it will all be worth it. And then, after you find it, you'll wonder if there's another one out there just as good. And the only way to know, for sure, is to... JUST KEEP SCROLLING!

Jeffrey's entry tapped into the universal truth of endless scrolling, turning it into a mantra worthy of its own Pixar sequel. His clever nod to Dory and the cycle of dopamine hits resonated with anyone who's fallen victim to the infinite scroll. The repetition and rhythm gave this entry a comedic edge, while its subtle commentary on social media addiction hit home.

Second Place: Andrea Kiczek "The Introvert's Guide to Family Group Chats"

So, you've been added to your significant other's family group chat, but you're an introvert. This is both a blessing and a curse, and you must tread carefully. You want to be witty, so they think you're smart, but not too witty, or else they'll expect you to talk a lot in person. You need to

participate, but also fade into the background. It's a tough needle to thread, but here are some tips:

Don't think you can get away with just "liking" or adding emojis to other texts; that may have worked five years ago, but they're onto us!

Good natured teasing of your significant other is common ground, but don't overdo it.

Easiest way to hit your texting quota is to be the first one to wish everyone a happy holiday. You have to be first, or else it looks like you're copying, so set an alarm to wake up early!

If all else fails, send pictures of your dog. If you don't have a dog (and they live far enough away), just take pictures of your neighbor's dog!

Andrea perfectly captured the delicate balancing act of navigating group chats, particularly when they involve in-laws. Her mix of humor and genuine advice (texting quotas, alarms for holiday greetings) struck a chord with introverts everywhere. The suggestion to borrow a neighbor's dog for photo-sharing was a brilliant touch, earning her a well-deserved second place.

Third Place: Zeena Hine "Modern Wordle Etiquette"

On Facebook, please do not post your latest Wordle score unless you completed the game in one or two tries. For that matter, don't post your Wordle score at all. People would rather see videos of your dog befriending the neighborhood possum or a parrot singing the national anthem.

On Zoom calls, if you're trying to look engaged but you're really reading a funny book that's on your lap, remember to mute yourself when you feel a giant guffaw starting.

Zeena's take on Wordle scores and Zoom guffaws was succinct and hilarious. Her commentary on the oversharing culture of social media was sharp without being mean-spirited, and her advice about muting oneself during a laugh-out-loud moment felt like a public service announcement we all needed. Zeena's signature wit shines through once again.

Honorable Mention Kayla and Amalia Kiczek

I'm ten, so I don't have a phone yet, but I asked my older cousin, and this is what she said. "If your mom texts you, there's no need to respond, because it's not important. If it was important, she'd call. If she then calls, it's probably still

not that important, and you can still decline the call immediately. If she calls a second time, it's important, but if what you're doing is also important, then that cancels each other out. If she pings your phone, you're in trouble for not picking up, and you better call her back!"

Kayla, with the help of her older cousin, turned the eternal parental text dilemma into a comedy routine. Their entry not only delivered laughs but also brilliantly captured the child-parent dynamic in the age of smartphones.

Why We Do It

Competitions like these are more than a chance to showcase wit—they're a celebration of our shared experiences. In an increasingly digital world, we all struggle with the same dilemmas: What's the right Zoom background? How do you gracefully exit a group chat? Why does Wordle make us so competitive? Through humor, these entries bring us together, making the peculiarities of modern life a little easier to navigate.

This competition reminds us that no matter how complex our lives become, laughter remains the simplest way to connect.

New Challenge!

New Year, Same Me: Resolutions We'll Never Keep

Prompt: Write a humorous take on New Year's resolutions that are destined to fail—or ones that are so specific they could only work for you. Think about the absurd promises we make to ourselves and how they unravel by January 2nd.

Examples:

"This year, I vow to limit myself to one Netflix binge per week. Unless the show has more than three seasons, in which case it's still technically one binge."

"I'm giving up carbs. Except for bagels, pasta, pizza, sandwiches, and anything that comes with a croissant. So, basically, I'm giving up toast."

"I promise to stop procrastinating... starting tomorrow."

Deadline: Friday, December 27, 2024. The winner receives \$100, with second and third place taking home \$50 and \$25, respectively.

Thank you to everyone who participated this month. Your creativity and humor remind us why we love doing this. We can't wait to see what resolutions (or non-resolutions) you come up with for December!



**GET YOUR HOME
HOLIDAY-READY.**



UPHOLSTERY • LINEN & BEDDING
WINDOW TREATMENTS • FLOORING &
CARPETS • PATIO CUSHIONS

203-957-3838 | HomeCarebyFabricare.net



BARBER SHOP

3 Lewis Street
Greenwich, CT 06830
203/302.3408
nolandformen.com

**OPEN SEVEN
DAYS A WEEK**



**Your eye health is critical
to your overall well-being.**

For adults, regular eye exams are key to detecting early signs of age-related conditions such as glaucoma, macular degeneration, and diabetic retinopathy. For kids, eye health and vision quality play an essential role in physical, cognitive, and social development.

Our team is here to provide comprehensive care and support for all your eye health needs.



Robert J. Fucigna, M.D.
1445 East Putnam Ave., Old Greenwich
(203) 348-7575 OPTHALMOLOGY-CT.COM

THE HOUSE AT POOH CORNER BY A.A. MILNE

CHAPTER I IN WHICH A House Is Built at Pooh Corner for Eeyore

One day when Pooh Bear had nothing else to do, he thought he would do something, so he went round to Piglet's house to see what Piglet was doing. It was still snowing as he stumped over the white forest track, and he expected to find Piglet warming his toes in front of his fire, but to his surprise he saw that the door was open, and the more he looked inside the more Piglet wasn't there.

"He's out," said Pooh sadly. "That's what it is. He's not in. I shall have to go a fast Thinking Walk by myself. Bother!"

But first he thought that he would knock very loudly just to make quite sure ... and while he waited for Piglet not to answer, he jumped up and down to keep warm, and a hum came suddenly into his head, which seemed to him a Good Hum, such as is Hummed Hopefully to Others.

The more it snows
(Tiddely pom),
The more it goes
(Tiddely pom),
The more it goes
(Tiddely pom),
On snowing.
And nobody knows
(Tiddely pom),
How cold my toes
(Tiddely pom),
How cold my toes
(Tiddely pom),
Are growing.

"So what I'll do," said Pooh, "is I'll do this. I'll just go home first and see what the time is, and perhaps I'll put a muffler round my neck, and then I'll go and see Eeyore and sing it to him."

He hurried back to his own house; and his mind was so busy on the way with the hum that he was getting ready for Eeyore that, when he suddenly saw Piglet sitting in his best arm-chair, he could only stand there rubbing his head and wondering whose house he was in.

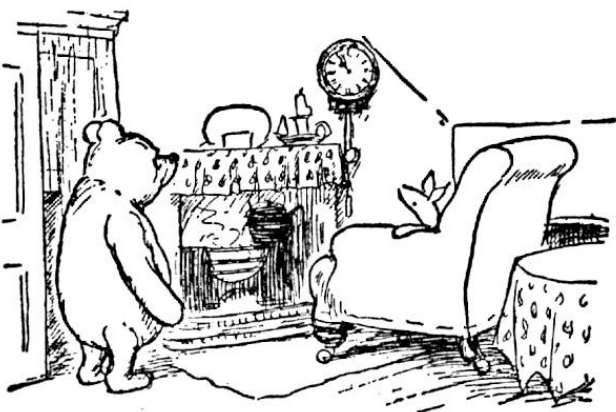
"Hallo, Piglet," he said. "I thought you were out."

"No," said Piglet, "it's you who were out, Pooh."

"So it was," said Pooh. "I knew one of us was."

He looked up at his clock, which had stopped at five minutes to eleven some weeks ago.

"Nearly eleven o'clock," said Pooh happily. "You're just in time for a little smackerel of something," and he put his head into the cupboard. "And then we'll go out, Piglet, and sing my song to Eeyore."



"Which song, Pooh?"

"The one we're going to sing to Eeyore," explained Pooh.

The clock was still saying five minutes to eleven when Pooh and Piglet set out on their way half an hour later. The wind had dropped, and the snow, tired of rushing round in circles trying to catch itself up, now fluttered gently down until it found a place on which to rest, and sometimes

the place was Pooh's nose and sometimes it wasn't, and in a little while Piglet was wearing a white muffler round his neck and feeling more snowy behind the ears than he had ever felt before.



"Pooh," he said at last, and a little timidly, because he didn't want Pooh to think he was Giving In, "I was just wondering. How would it be if we went home now and practised your song, and then sang it to Eeyore tomorrow—or—or the next day, when we happen to see him?"

"That's a very good idea, Piglet," said Pooh. "We'll practise it now as we go along. But it's no good going home to practise it, because it's a special Outdoor Song which Has To Be Sung In The Snow."

"Are you sure?" asked Piglet anxiously.

"Well, you'll see, Piglet, when you listen. Because this is how it begins. The more it snows, tiddely pom——"

"Tiddely what?" said Piglet.

"Pom," said Pooh. "I put that in to make it more hummy. The more it goes, tiddely pom, the more——"

"Didn't you say snows?"

"Yes, but that was before."

"Before the tiddely pom?"

"It was a different tiddely pom," said Pooh, feeling rather muddled now. "I'll sing it to you properly and then you'll see."

So he sang it again.

The more it
SNOWS-tiddely-pom,
The more it
GOES-tiddely-pom
The more it
GOES-tiddely-pom
On
Snowing.
And nobody
KNOWS-tiddely-pom,
How cold my
TOES-tiddely-pom
How cold my
TOES-tiddely-pom
Are
Growing.

He sang it like that, which is much the best way of singing it, and when he had finished, he waited for Piglet to say that, of all the Outdoor Hums for Snowy Weather he had ever heard, this was the best. And, after thinking the matter out carefully, Piglet said:

"Pooh," he said solemnly, "it isn't the toes so much as the ears."

By this time they were getting near Eeyore's Gloomy Place, which was where he lived, and as it was still very snowy behind Piglet's ears, and he was getting tired of it, they turned into a little pine wood, and sat down on the gate which led into it. They were out of the snow now, but it was very cold, and to keep themselves warm they sang Pooh's song right through six times, Piglet doing the tiddely-poms and Pooh doing the rest of it, and both of them thumping on the top of the gate with pieces of stick at the proper places. And in a little while they felt much warmer, and were able to talk again.



"I've been thinking," said Pooh, "and what I've been thinking is this. I've been thinking about Eeyore."

"What about Eeyore?"

"Well, poor Eeyore has nowhere to live."

"Nor he has," said Piglet.

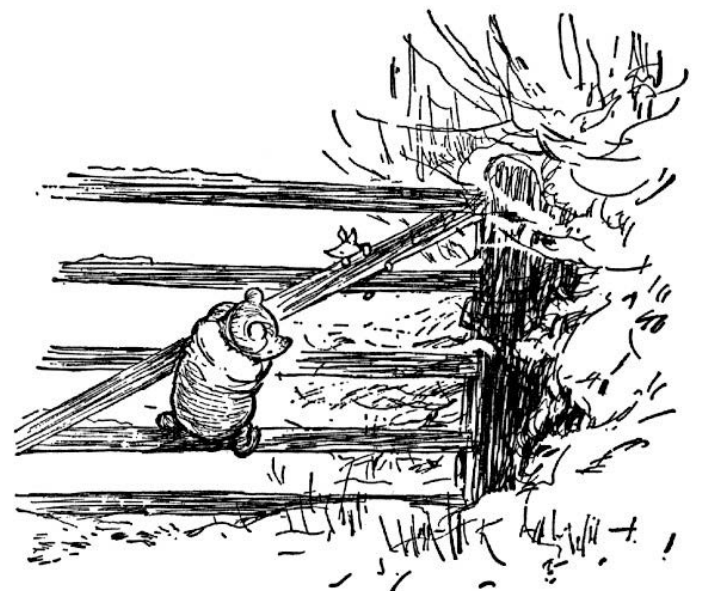
"You have a house, Piglet, and I have a house, and they are very good houses. And Christopher Robin has a house, and Owl and Kanga and Rabbit have houses, and even Rabbit's friends and relations have houses or somethings, but poor Eeyore has nothing. So what I've been thinking is: Let's build him a house."

"That," said Piglet, "is a Grand Idea. Where shall we build it?"

"We build it here," said Pooh, "just by this wood, out of the wind, because this is where I thought of it. And we will call this Pooh Corner. And we will build an Eeyore House with sticks at Pooh Corner for Eeyore."

"There was a heap of sticks on the other side of the wood," said Piglet. "I saw them. Lots and lots. All piled up."

"Thank you, Piglet," said Pooh. "What you have just said will be a Great Help to us, and because of it I could call this place Poohanpiglet Corner if Pooh Corner didn't sound better, which it does, being smaller and more like a corner. Come along."



So they got down off the gate and went round to the other side of the wood to fetch the sticks.

Christopher Robin had spent the morning indoors going to Africa and back, and he had just got off the boat and was wondering what it was like outside, when who should come knocking at the door but Eeyore.

"Hallo, Eeyore," said Christopher Robin, as he opened the door and came out. "How are you?"



"It's snowing still," said Eeyore gloomily.

"So it is."

"And freezing."

"Is it?"

"Yes," said Eeyore. "However," he said, brightening up a little, "we haven't had an earthquake lately."

"What's the matter, Eeyore?"



"Nothing, Christopher Robin. Nothing important. I suppose you haven't seen a house or what-not anywhere about?"

"What sort of a house?"

"Just a house."

"Who lives there?"

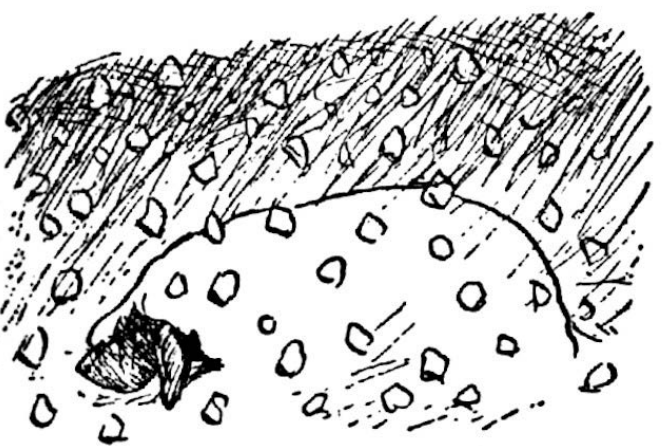
"I do. At least I thought I did. But I suppose I don't. After all, we can't all have houses."

"But, Eeyore, I didn't know—I always thought——"

"I don't know how it is, Christopher Robin, but what with all this snow and one thing and another, not to mention icicles and such-like, it isn't so Hot in my field about three o'clock in the morning as some people think it is. It isn't Close, if you know what I mean—not so as to be uncomfortable. It isn't Stuff. In fact, Christopher Robin," he went on in a loud whisper, "quite-between-ourselves-and-don't-tell-anybody, it's Cold."

"Oh, Eeyore!"

"And I said to myself: The others will be sorry if I'm getting myself all cold. They haven't got Brains, any of them, only grey fluff that's blown into their heads by mistake, and they don't Think, but if it goes on snowing for another six weeks or so, one of them will begin to say to himself: 'Eeyore can't be so very much too Hot about three o'clock in the morning.' And then it will Get About. And they'll be Sorry."



"Oh, Eeyore!" said Christopher Robin, feeling very sorry already.

"I don't mean you, Christopher Robin. You're different. So what it all comes to is that I built myself a house down by my little wood."

"Did you really? How exciting!"

"The really exciting part," said Eeyore in his most melancholy voice, "is that when I left it this morning it was there, and when I came back it wasn't. Not at all, very natural, and it was only Eeyore's house. But still I just wondered."

Christopher Robin didn't stop to wonder. He was already back in his house, putting on his waterproof hat, his waterproof boots and his waterproof macintosh as fast as he could.

"We'll go and look for it at once," he called out to Eeyore.

"Sometimes," said Eeyore, "when people have quite finished taking a person's house, there are one or two bits which they don't want and are rather glad for the person to take back, if you know what I mean. So I thought if we just went——"

"Come on," said Christopher Robin, and off they hurried, and in a very little

time they got to the corner of the field by the side of the pine-wood, where Eeyore's house wasn't any longer.

"There!" said Eeyore. "Not a stick of it left! Of course, I've still got all this snow to do what I like with. One mustn't complain."

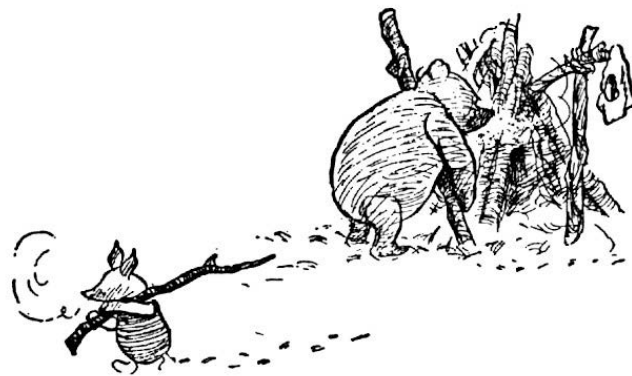
But Christopher Robin wasn't listening to Eeyore, he was listening to something else.

"Can't you hear it?" he asked.

"What is it? Somebody laughing?"

"Listen."

They both listened ... and they heard a deep gruff voice saying in a singing voice that the more it snowed the more it went on snowing, and a small high voice tiddely-pomming in between.



"It's Pooh," said Christopher Robin excitedly....

"Possibly," said Eeyore.

"And Piglet!" said Christopher Robin excitedly.

"Probably," said Eeyore. "What we want is a Trained Bloodhound."

The words of the song changed suddenly.

"We've finished our HOUSE!" sang the gruff voice.

"Tiddely pom!" sang the squeaky one.

"It's a beautiful HOUSE...."

"Tiddely pom...."

"I wish it were MINE...."

"Tiddely pom...."

"Pooh!" shouted Christopher Robin....

The singers on the gate stopped suddenly.

"It's Christopher Robin!" said Pooh eagerly.

"He's round by the place where we got all those sticks from," said Piglet.

"Come on," said Pooh.

They climbed down their gate and hurried round the corner of the wood, Pooh making welcoming noises all the way.

"Why, here is Eeyore," said Pooh, when he had finished hugging Christopher Robin, and he nudged Piglet, and Piglet nudged him, and they thought to themselves what a lovely surprise they had got ready.

"Hallo, Eeyore."

"Same to you, Pooh Bear, and twice on Thursdays," said Eeyore gloomily.

Before Pooh could say: "Why Thursdays?" Christopher Robin began to explain the sad story of Eeyore's Lost House. And Pooh and Piglet listened, and their eyes seemed to get bigger and bigger.

"Where did you say it was?" asked Pooh.

"Just here," said Eeyore.

"Made of sticks?"

"Yes."

"Oh!" said Piglet.

"What?" said Eeyore.

"I just said 'Oh!'" said Piglet nervously. And so as to seem quite at ease he hummed Tiddely-pom once or twice in a what-shall-we-do-now kind of way.

"You're sure it was a house?" said Pooh. "I mean, you're sure the house was just here?"

"Of course I am," said Eeyore. And he murmured to himself, "No brain at all some of them."

"Why, what's the matter, Pooh?" asked Christopher Robin.

"Well," said Pooh.... "The fact is," said Pooh.... "Well, the fact is," said Pooh.... "You see," said Pooh.... "It's like this," said Pooh, and something seemed to tell him that he wasn't explaining very well, and he nudged Piglet again.

"It's like this," said Piglet quickly.... "Only warmer," he added after deep thought.

"What's warmer?"

"The other side of the wood, where Eeyore's house is."

"My house?" said Eeyore. "My house was here."

"No," said Piglet firmly. "The other side of the wood."

"Because of being warmer," said Pooh.

"But I ought to *know*——"

"Come and look," said Piglet simply, and he led the way.

"There wouldn't be two houses," said Pooh. "Not so close together."

They came round the corner, and there was Eeyore's house, looking as comfy as anything.



"There you are," said Piglet.

"Inside as well as outside," said Pooh proudly.

Eeyore went inside ... and came out again.

"It's a remarkable thing," he said. "It is my house, and I built it where I said I did, so the wind must have blown it here. And the wind blew it right over the wood, and blew it down here, and here it is as good as ever. In fact, better in places."



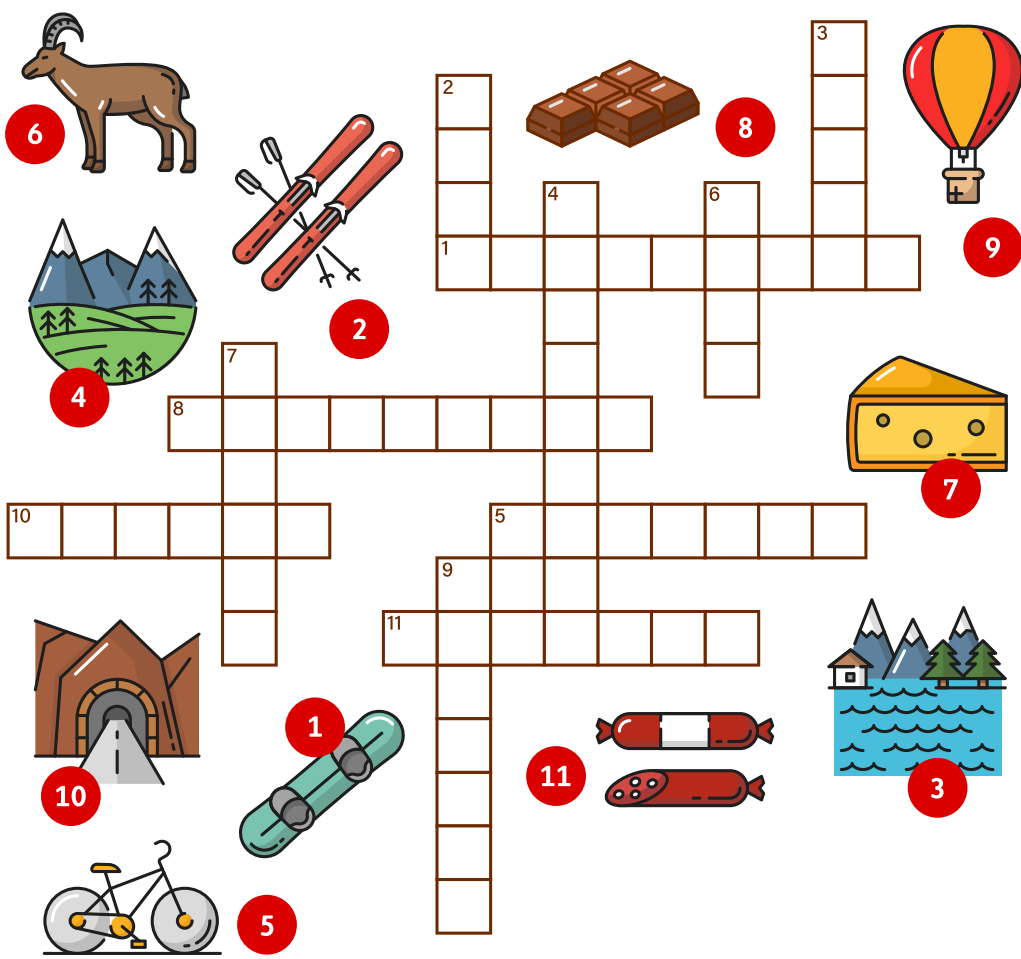
"Much better," said Pooh and Piglet together.

"It just shows what can be done by taking a little trouble," said Eeyore. "Do you see, Pooh? Do you see, Piglet? Brains first and then Hard Work. Look at it! *That's* the way to build a house," said Eeyore proudly.

So they left him in it; and Christopher Robin went back to lunch with his friends Pooh and Piglet, and on the way they told him of the Awful Mistake they had made. And when he had finished laughing, they all sang the Outdoor Song for Snowy Weather the rest of the way home, Piglet, who was still not quite sure of his voice, putting in the tiddely-poms again.

"And I know it *seems* easy," said Piglet to himself, "but it isn't *every one* who could do it."

CROSSWORD



WHAT IS A Mountain?

Mountains are huge landforms that stand much higher than the land around them. They can look like giant, sharp, rocky teeth or be more more rounded, sometimes covered with snow or green forests.

Mountains form through several processes:

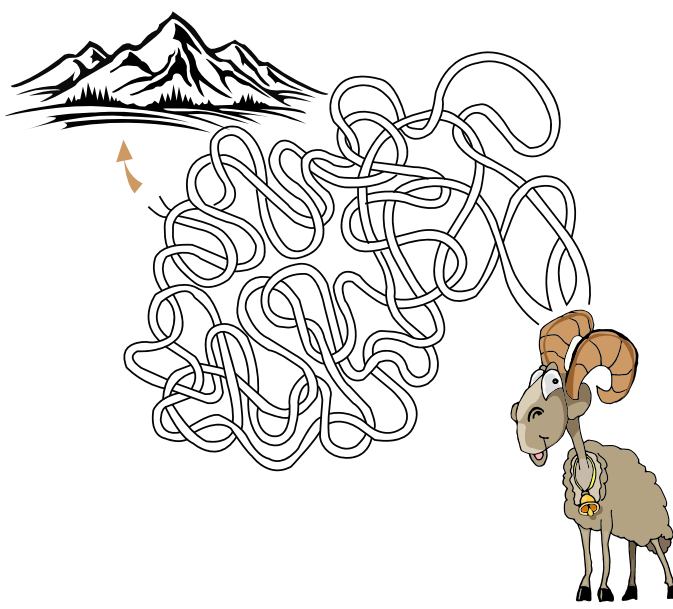
Tectonic Activity: Earth's surface is made up of giant plates that move around very slowly. When these plates crash into each other, one can slide under the other, pushing the land upward. This creates mountains. The Himalayas, for example, formed when the Indian Plate collided with the Eurasian Plate.

Volcanic Activity: Sometimes, mountains are born from volcanoes. When molten rock (magma) from beneath the Earth's crust erupts and cools, it can build up over time to form a mountain. The Hawaiian Islands are examples of volcanic mountains.

Erosion: Over millions of years, wind, water, and ice can carve and shape mountains, making them taller or changing their shape. This happens slowly, wearing down some parts while exposing new rock.



Help the mountain goat get to the mountains!



Here are some of the world's most famous mountain ranges:

Himalayas: Located in Asia, they host Mount Everest, the highest peak on Earth, reaching 8,848 meters.

Andes: These mountains run along the western side of South America. This is a long chain and includes many active volcanoes. Aconcagua, in Argentina, is the highest peak in the Andes.

Rocky Mountains: In North America, the Rocky Mountains stretch from Western Canada through the United States. This mountain chain is known for its scenic beauty and biodiversity.

Alps: In Europe, the Alps are famous for skiing, hiking, and climbing. Mont Blanc is the highest mountain in the Alps.

Ural Mountains: These mountains form part of the boundary between Europe and Asia in Russia.

Mountains are not just big rocks; they affect weather patterns, are home to unique ecosystems, and are sources of rivers that water vast areas. They also play a big role in human culture and history.

HOW MANY?

puzzle game

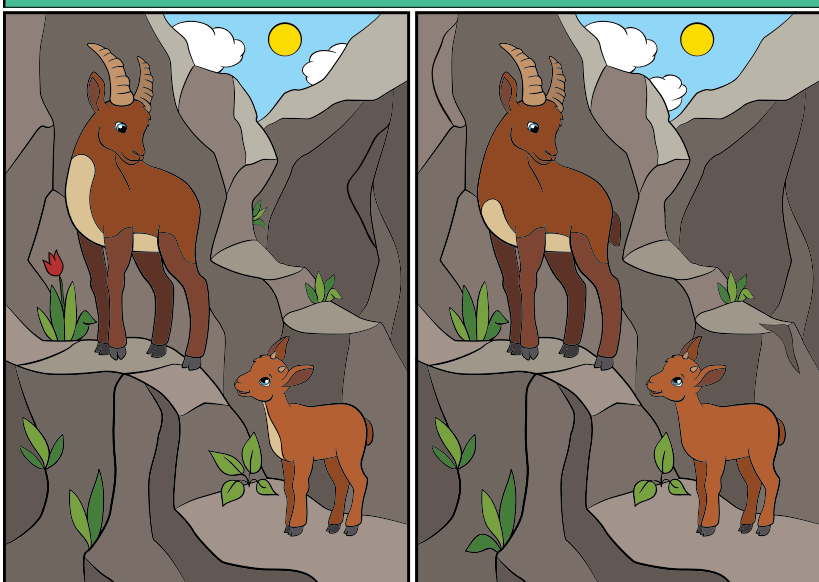
	5	+		=	6
	3	-	3	=	8
	2	+		=	4
	10	-		=	7
	1	+		=	

HOW MANY?

puzzle game

	4	+		+		+		=	12
	2	+		+		=	12		
	3	+		+		=	17		
	1	+		+		=	15		
	2	+		+		=	18		

Find 12 differences



Find 9 differences



The Sentinel Education Pages

COLUMN | WILDLY SUCCESSFUL: THE MOUNTAIN GOAT

An Ethereal Beast That Inhabits the Highest Peaks

By JIM KNOX

We had been scanning the sheer cliff faces of Alberta's Banff National Park for the better part of the day without success. The creature that eluded our binoculars and spotting scopes in Yellowstone National Park more than 800 miles to the south, remained just as elusive in the stone vastness of the Canadian Rockies.

With the azure afternoon sky surrendering to the golden Alpenglow of evening, every pale boulder or remnant of snow on the mountain's flanks caught our eyes—capturing the light and beckoning a closer look. We had just about given up as the inexorable indigo of night began to cloak the shoulders of the glowing jagged peaks.

"There!" my colleague Carolyn called out excitedly. I followed her outstretched arm pointing to the tiny white dots far upslope. There, on the cliff face several hundred feet above, we saw them—a small band spread out along the impossibly steep terrain. After weeks of searching, we'd finally sighted these Ghosts of the Granite in their element.

The Mountain Goat, *Oreamnos americanus*, is an ethereal beast inhabiting the reaches of the highest peaks, dwelling in that zone where stone meets sky. Found exclusively in North America in some of the world's most inaccessible alpine habitats—from the Southern Rockies through the Canadian Rockies to Alaska's Chugach Range—this creature is an icon of the stunningly beautiful, rugged wilderness it roams. Due to its precise habitat requirements, its mere presence is an indicator of true wilderness and pristine conditions. To spy a Mountain Goat in its lofty domain is to glimpse the very wildness of the North American Mountain West.

Looking simultaneously familiar yet unique, the Mountain Goat is a true original. In fact, it is the sole North American member of the goat-antelope family, which includes the European Chamois and the mysterious Asian Goral. Mountain Goats are instantly recognizable by their bright all-white woolly coat, long beard, spiked black horns, muscular frame, and a crest of long woolly hairs extending over their shoulders, along their spines, rumps, and down their legs. Female goats attain weights of up to 180 pounds and males attain weights of 280-300 pounds, with the record male tipping the



The Mountain Goat

lead a largely solitary life.

As creatures which seem to defy hurricane-force winds, lethal cold, and the very constraints of gravity, Mountain Goats are well worth emulating. So, what can we learn from these "alpine antelope"? Life will invariably bring fierce headwinds our way from time to time. We will be confronted by forces that test our mettle and our resolve. At times we will feel as if we are knocked off balance. When those times confront us—because they certainly will—we must look to the Ghosts of the Granite. We must summon strength against those winds, plant ourselves firmly, seek the balance we possess, and resolve to rise above those daunting challenges. With the Mountain Goat as our guide, we can scale any height to breathe the well-earned rarefied air, and survey life from the summit.

Jim Knox is Curator of Education at Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo where he directs education and conservation initiatives to advance the protection of wildlife in Connecticut and beyond.

After weeks of searching, we'd finally sighted these Ghosts of the Granite in their element.

scales at a staggering 385 pounds! Though just three feet at the shoulder and five feet in length, "Rock Goats" appear even larger due to their dense two layered coat which enables them to withstand temperatures plummeting to 51 degrees below zero and winds reaching 100 miles per hour!

As the largest mammal dwelling within the alpine zone beyond 13,000 feet above sea level, Mountain Goats possess highly specialized adaptations enabling them to survive and thrive where others cannot. In addition to their signature two layered coats, these beasts possess a remarkable hoof structure that equips them for life on the slopes. Their cloven hooves can spread far apart to readily grab rock faces and maintain balance. This spreading grip is further enhanced by hooves with hard keratinous sheaths housing flexible rubbery inner pads which provide suction cup-like traction on ice and stone. If those adaptations weren't enough, they also possess sharp dewclaws which function like a mountaineer's spiked crampons, to secure a fast life-saving grip in the dizzying heights. In fact,

they are so sure-footed, and their muscular frames generate so much power, they can scale near vertical ascents of more than ¼ mile in a mere 20 minutes!

Equipped with these high-altitude adaptations, Mountain Goats can evade virtually all predators by roaming where they cannot follow. Other than descending to lower elevations in late winter or during extended stormy periods to feed on conifers and lichens, Mountain Goats range high, avoiding most bears and wolves. This leaves them to contend with the occasional Cougar or Golden Eagle, thus improving their odds of survival. When push comes to shove, the goats can shove back—with records of Mountain Goats using their 11-inch spiked horns to kill Grizzlies in defense!

Born into a life amid the peaks, the young or "kids" can walk and jump within an astonishing 10 minutes of birth! Constantly flanked by attentive—and protective—females or "nannies," these herbivores forage for sedges and grasses. As they mature, males, known as "billies," leave their family band to disperse to



SMART KIDS TOYS

Good Toys. Healthy Play.

www.sktoys.com

17 East Elm St
Greenwich, CT 06830

203-869-0022

Learning Building Discovering Dreaming

LEGO, Playmobil, Corolle Dolls, Brio Trains, Bruder Trucks, Calico Critters, Puzzles, Games, Science & Nature, Infant & Toddler Toys, and so much more!!!



THE J HOUSE GREENWICH

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!

SHOP & SAVE PACKAGE

This season, take the hustle and bustle out of holiday shopping and treat yourself to The J House "Shop & Save" Package! 15% Off Rooms, Free Transportation & More!



HOLIDAY ROOM PROMO

Stay with us on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day and receive a gift from under the tree along with 12% off your room rate!

BRUNCH WITH SANTA

Join us at Tony's on Sunday, December 15th for a special Holiday Brunch Buffet! Indulge in your favorite brunch specials, enjoy live music and take pictures with the one and only, Santa Claus! Adults: \$79, Children: \$35



CHRISTMAS AT TONY'S

Spend your Christmas Eve or Christmas Day at Tony's! Set Menu for Adults & Children, Holiday Specials, Specialty Drinks & More! Adults: \$125, Children: \$35

NYE AT THE J HOUSE

Happy New Year! On December 31st, spend the night at The J House, reserve dinner at Tony's, and book a service at the spa!



DON'T FORGET! THIS HOLIDAY, GIVE THE GIFT OF LUXURY, RELAXATION & WORLD-CLASS DINING! PURCHASE A GIFT CARD FOR THE J HOUSE, THE J SPA OR TONY'S TO SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER THROUGH A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE!