

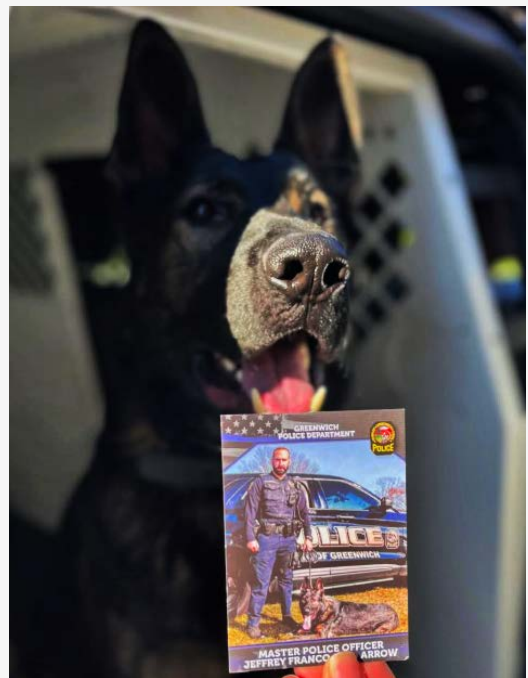
## The Local News You Need to Know

### POLICE & FIRE DETECTIVE RETIRES AFTER TWO DECADES



Detective Krystie Rondini has retired from the Greenwich Police Department after 20 years of service. She has completed her tenure with the department and is no longer serving the town. Her retirement marks the end of her career in law enforcement.

### K-9 ARROW GETS RECOGNITION CARD



K-9 Arrow of the Greenwich Police Department has received his own baseball card, which includes details about his birthplace and his journey to joining the department's K-9 unit. The card is available for distribution from Master Police Officer Franco and K-9 Arrow. Community members can request a card when they see them.

### OFFICER REMEMBERED FOR SERVICE



Retired Greenwich Police Officer John Bambino, 83, passed away on December 27, 2024. He served with the department for 21 years, from 1965 to 1986, and had previously served in the U.S. Air Force from 1961 to 1965. A memorial mass will be held on January 14, 2025, at Saint Catherine's-Saint Agnes Church in Riverside, Connecticut.

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## Green Thoughts

BY ANNE W. SEMMES

"We look beyond the Moon to Mars, and yet have still not nearly catalogued all the species of animals, plants and fungi with whom we share this beautiful planet Earth."

Sir Ghillean Prance, *Explorers' Sketchbooks*. 2016.

# The Real Estate Wrap Up

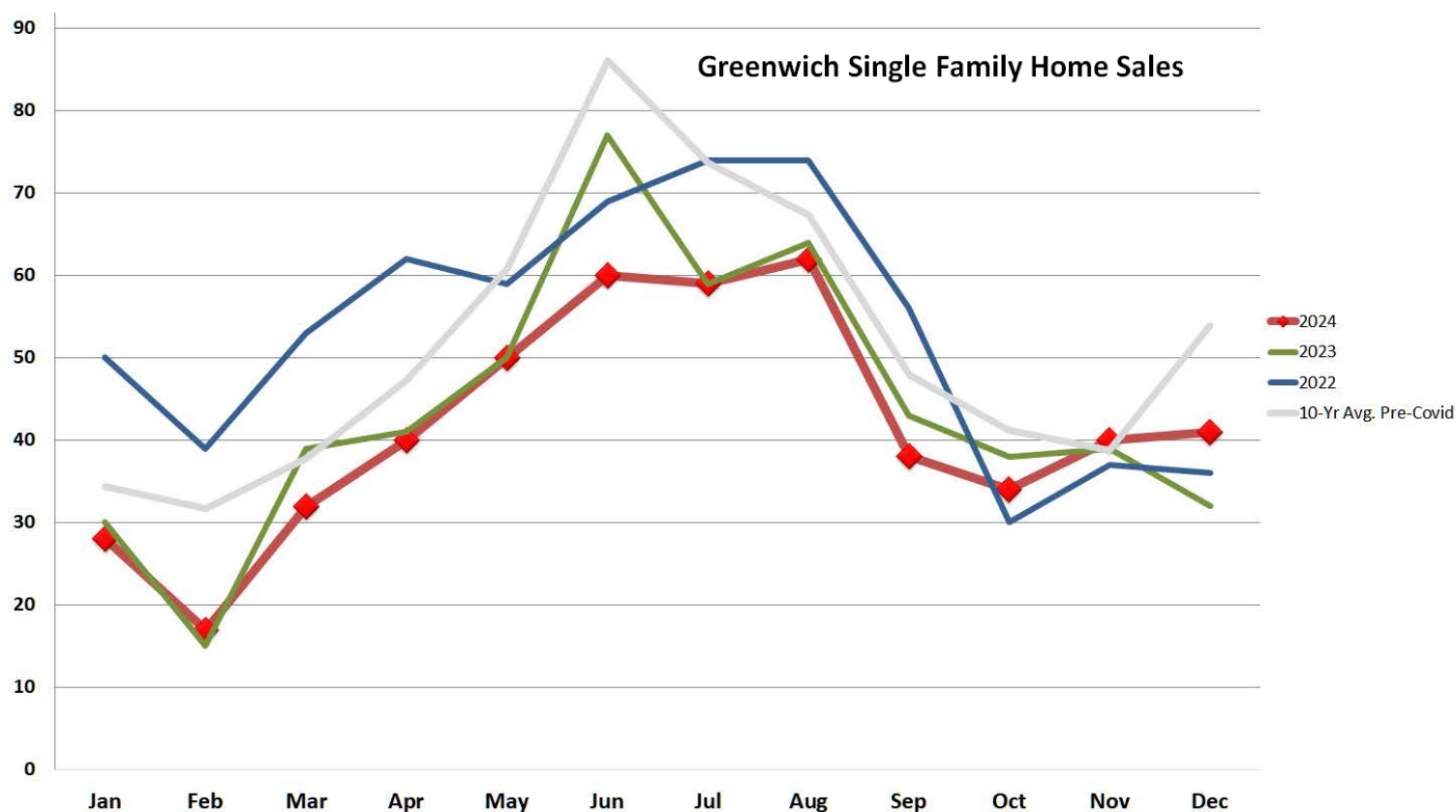


Chart above, prepared by Mark Pruner, shows single family home sales by month (1=January through 12=December). Nearly every month our sales of single family homes were below our 10-year average, but high-end sales were good.



BY MARK PRUNER

At the beginning of 2025, two things happened to the Greenwich real estate market that had never happened before. First, our inventory of single-family homes fell to only 86 listings, a new all-time low. For comparison, if you go back to our last pre-COVID year, we opened 2019 with 454 listings. We are down 81%

from 2019 or to put it another way, we had over five listings for sale in January 2019 for every one listing that we have today.

### NO LISTINGS UNDER \$1 MILLION

The other thing that had never happened was that we had no single-family home listings priced under \$1 million. Out of the 86 listings we have at the beginning of 2025, the lowest-priced house listing was \$1,099,000 for a 2,500 s.f. house in Pemberwick. In 2021, it expired unsold for \$885,000. The next lowest priced house is on for \$1,295,000 in Glenville. We then have 2 houses

priced at \$1,350,000. Which means, under \$1.35 million you have four choices and 3 of those 4 houses have been on for less than a month. (You do have a choice of 13 condos and co-ops, 12 of which are in central Greenwich and all of which are at least 50 years old.)

### SALES UNDER \$1 MILLION

While we presently have no listings under \$1 million, we did have 30 house sales last year for under \$1 million. This is down from 59 sales in 2023 under that price. Of our 30 sales under \$1 million, the median days on market was 36 days. As this is by far our hottest market, I thought they

would get to contract even quicker given that our median days on market for all sales is an amazingly low 22 day. This anomaly bore some further checking.

It turns out that our sales under \$1 million did get to contract faster. When you look at those 30 sales, 16 of them, or just over half, had a contingency, generally a mortgage contingency. For those properties, our MLS software provider treats these listings as still on the market, even though they are under contract. They continue to accumulate days on market until the mortgage contingency is removed. When you

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## What is Greenwich's Legacy on Ice?



The Greenwich Sentinel dives into the past, present, and future of the beloved Dorothy Hamill Skating Rink, a cornerstone of community life and skating history. On Page 2, explore the ongoing efforts to replace the aging rink with a state-of-the-art facility, ensuring future generations can enjoy this cherished space. With over 3,000 annual skaters, the rink has been central to Greenwich's recreational and athletic identity since 1971. First Selectman Fred Camillo and Bill Drake detail the ambitious \$24 million "flip" plan that balances modernization with community needs. Turn to Page 3 for an intimate look at Dorothy Hamill's journey from local skating prodigy to Olympic legend. Her story, rooted in Greenwich's rinks, exemplifies resilience and grace. These articles connect a celebrated history to the promising future of skating in Greenwich.

## How Education Without Walls Defies College Admissions Odds

BY ANNE WHITE

Last year, not a single senior at Education Without Walls (EWOw), a micro-school in New Milford, Connecticut, received a rejection letter from any college or university where they applied. All five members of the senior class were not only accepted to their first-choice schools but to every institution where they applied. This year, the trend continues: of the nine seniors in the class, early decision acceptances have already rolled in, including two at Wesleyan University and one at Bard College.

How does a school with no formal sports teams and just 25 students in its high school program consistently outperform national trends? The answer lies in EWOw's deeply personalized, student-focused approach to

education—an approach that prioritizes individual strengths, passions, and aspirations.

### THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS LANDSCAPE

The national landscape of college admissions grows increasingly competitive each year. According to The New York Times, the so-called "Ivy-Plus" schools—the Ivy League, along with MIT, Duke, Stanford, and the University of Chicago—received about 175,000 applications in 2002. By 2022, that number had ballooned to over 590,000, even though the number of available spots barely changed. Acceptance rates at Ivy League schools now hover below 10%, dipping as low as 3% at the most competitive institutions.

EWOw's results defy these odds. The micro-school has achieved a remarkable 100%

acceptance rate for its seniors, underscoring the potential of a tailored, holistic approach to education.

### A PERSONALIZED PROCESS

EWOw's college placement strategy begins well before senior year. Founder Lockey Coughlin explains the method: "We craft each application to create an accurate, honest picture of the student. Each part of the application—from teacher recommendations to transcripts to essays—supports the others, creating a cohesive narrative."

This coherence ensures that admissions officers see a clear, compelling story for each applicant. EWOw's small size—with a counselor-to-student ratio of about 1:15 compared to the national average of 385:1, according to the American School Counselor Association—

allows staff to dedicate significant time to each student. "Knowing our students well helps us guide them to colleges that match their learning styles, career goals, and values," says Coughlin.

### AUTHENTICITY IN ESSAYS

A cornerstone of EWOw's approach is helping students craft authentic, memorable essays. Emma Barhydt, an English teacher and college counselor at the school, emphasizes the importance of vulnerability. "Essays should highlight the student's individuality and tell a deeply personal story," she says. "This is how students stand out."

Nationally, admissions officers spend an average of eight minutes reviewing each application, according to the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC). In this brief window, essays often

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# Sentinel Feature



A rendering of a re-imagined Dorothy Hamill rink by architect firm JLG, experts in the niche hockey arena space.

## Community on Ice: The Dorothy Hamill Rink

BY ELIZABETH BARHYDT

On a brisk December morning, 9-year-old Mia zipped up her skating jacket and stepped onto the ice at the Dorothy Hamill Skating Rink, her laugh echoing through the decades-old facility. For Mia and other skaters, the Dorothy Hamill Skating Rink is a venue for both recreation and skill development. Beneath its surface lies a story of aging infrastructure, years of planning, and an implausible fight for its future.

"This rink is Greenwich's heart," said Bill Drake, Chairman of the Rink User Committee for Design and Planning. "It's where generations have come together, and it's time we ensure it's safe for generations to come."

### A LEGACY OF COMMUNITY

Since its inception in 1971, the Dorothy Hamill Skating Rink has been a hub for Greenwich skaters. Originally an outdoor facility, it was enclosed and renamed in 1976 to honor hometown hero Dorothy Hamill, our Olympic gold medalist whose grace and determination inspired the world.

"This place is part of our identity," Drake explained. "We've seen five-year-olds take their first skating steps here, high school hockey teams win championships, and families come together for public skate nights."

The rink currently serves over 3,000 skaters annually, from figure skating enthusiasts to youth and adult hockey leagues. "Skating is part of New England's DNA," Drake said. "We skate because it's who we are."

First Selectman Fred Camillo added, "Having skated there in 1972 when it first opened as just a slab of ice and boards, I've seen how it's been piecemealed together over the years. Today, it falls short against any other rink in Fairfield County, and probably in the state of Connecticut. It's become an embarrassment."

### THE NEED FOR CHANGE

Despite its significance, the Dorothy Hamill Rink is struggling to keep up with the demands of modern use. Built piecemeal over decades, the facility now suffers from several critical issues:

**SUBSTANDARD ICE SIZE:** The rink's dimensions are too small for regulation games, limiting its ability to host competitive events.

**INADEQUATE LOCKER ROOMS:** "We don't even have showers," Drake said. "You can't have families and high school boys changing in the same cramped space. It's not safe, and it's not practical."

**SHARED BATHROOMS:** The tiny bathrooms are shared by spectators and skaters/players, which isn't proper.

**AGING SYSTEMS:** The rink's outdated mechanical and structural systems require constant maintenance, driving up costs and threatening reliability.

"After years of use, it's reached the end of its lifespan," said Drake. Camillo echoed this, noting that when he was on first on the Planning & Zoning Board decades ago he was told that the rink was "not long for this earth" and that a new facility was necessary to meet modern standards way back then.

### A DECADE OF PLANNING

The effort to replace the rink has been years in the making. In 2017, the Department of Parks and Recreation formed the Dorothy Hamill Skating Rink Reconstruction Committee to study the facility's condition. In 2019, KG&D Architects issued their report concluding that renovating the rink would cost as much as building a new one—\$17 million. The recommendation was clear: replacement was the better investment.

"That was the start," said Drake. In 2021, First Selectman Fred Camillo created the Rink User Committee for Design and Planning. "We've had monthly meetings since then, countless presentations, and years of work to get to where we are today."

The current plan involves a \$24 million project to build a 40,671-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility within Eugene Morlot Memorial Park. Dubbed "the flip," the project will construct the new rink on the existing baseball field while

relocating the ballfield to the old rink site after its demolition. This ensures uninterrupted rink operations during construction and a larger, full-size, properly oriented baseball field.

Camillo highlighted that the "flip" plan is the most efficient way to proceed with construction and is best in every way studied: "If we decided to keep it where it is, we'd need to do extra blasting due to the ledge. That would not only increase costs but also impact residents on Sherman Avenue. Moving it is the most effective way to protect them and get the construction done."

### UNDERSTANDING "THE FLIP"

Central to the redevelopment of the Dorothy Hamill Skating Rink is the concept of "the flip," a carefully planned reconfiguration that addresses the challenges of replacing the aging facility while minimizing disruptions to the community.

"It's as simple as it sounds," said Bill Drake. "We build the rink where the baseball field is, and once the new rink is operational, we move the field. It's a win-win for everyone involved."

This approach also takes advantage of opportunities for solar panel installation, according to Camillo. "If we kept the rink in its current location, the trees would block the potential for solar panels," he explained.

### WHY REORIENTING THE BASEBALL FIELD MATTERS

The flip isn't just about maintaining skating programs; it's also an opportunity to improve the baseball field. Currently, the field suffers from significant design flaws that make it suboptimal for competitive play. Chief among these issues is its orientation, which positions some fielders facing directly into the afternoon sun.

"Right now, the way the field is positioned, players struggle with visibility," Drake said. "Imagine trying to catch a pop fly while staring into the sun—it's dangerous, and it's not how a field should be designed."

Way back in 2005, Murray Cook of Major League Baseball came to see the field and, according to Camillo, Cook said the field needed to be repositioned. "He also worked for the Yankees," added Camillo.

By reorienting the field, the new layout will ensure better playability and safety for athletes. The updated design will also bring the field up to full regulation size, correcting current deficiencies in dimensions that limit its use for competitive games.

"This isn't just a minor adjustment," Drake noted. "It's a vital improvement that will allow our strong teenage athletes to play on a proper field. The current setup isn't fair to them, and this reconfiguration fixes that."

In addition to addressing sunlight issues and field size, the relocation allows for better integration with the surrounding park. Improved vehicular circulation, pedestrian pathways, and enhanced green space will make the park more accessible and enjoyable for all visitors.

### THE VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The new rink promises to address the facility's shortcomings while enhancing the skating experience for all users. Key features include:

**REGULATION-SIZE ICE SURFACE:** Allowing competitive hockey games and figure skating events.

**MODERN LOCKER ROOMS:** With showers and ample space for teams.

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY:** A south-facing roof designed for solar panels, reducing environmental impact.

**PUBLIC AMENITIES:** Improved spectator seating, meeting rooms, and food truck accessibility for events.

"This isn't just a rink," Drake emphasized. "It's a community space, and we're building it to reflect that."

### OPPOSITION

For every opponent, there are dozens of supporters. A public survey conducted by Sports Facilities Advisory revealed that 2,189 respondents, or 84% of those responding favor the proposed plan. Additionally, emails to the Planning and Zoning Commission showed 136



*For every vocal opponent, there appear to be dozens of supporters. A public survey conducted by Sports Facilities Advisory revealed 84% of those responding favor the proposed plan. Additionally, emails to the Planning and Zoning Commission showed 136 letters in favor of the project compared to just eight against it.*

letters in favor of the project compared to just eight against it.

Despite overwhelming support, the project has faced resistance from a small group of opponents. "There are four people who keep showing up to fight this," Drake said. "They're saying it'll ruin the park, which is simply not true."

One of the most vocal concerns involves the Byram Veterans Memorial Tree Grove, a 0.65-acre area within the park. Critics argue that the new rink's proximity to the grove could harm its integrity.

Drake countered, "The tree grove is permanently protected by a land covenant. We're not touching it. The architects have ensured that green space in the park will slightly increase, not decrease."

Camillo added, "We're not only getting a beautiful new building but also enhancing the Veterans Memorial Grove, which right now doesn't even have a sign on it. We're also improving the playground and adding a walking track around the property to benefit everyone in the neighborhood."

Another point of contention is the claim that alternative sites haven't been fully considered. "We've looked at every feasible location," Drake said, listing options from Roger Sherman Baldwin Park, Greenwich Point, the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, Western Middle School, the Pinetum/Pomerance/Tuchman property, the Boys and Girls Club parking lot, the Island Beach parking lot, and the baseball field behind town hall. After years of examination, none of these alternatives are practical. "This plan is the best solution."

### THE REAL COST OF CLOSURE: MORE THAN LOST ICE TIME

For a community like Greenwich, where ice sports are deeply ingrained in the town's fabric, a temporary closure of the Dorothy Hamill Skating Rink during construction would represent far more than just lost ice time. It would mean the suspension—or outright cancellation—of the programs, traditions, and opportunities that have made the rink a cornerstone of the town for more than 50 years.

"This isn't just about a temporary inconvenience," said Drake. "If the rink were to shut down for two years, every program and every use of this space would vanish completely. And that's not something the community can easily recover from."

### IMPACT ON YOUTH PROGRAMS

The rink is home to a variety of youth programs that go beyond teaching skating skills. For children, it's often their first introduction to teamwork, discipline, and resilience.

• **Figure Skating Lessons:** Hundreds of young skaters, many of whom train under expert instructors like Nancy Leamy, would lose access to lessons that have nurtured their confidence and skills. For many, these lessons are not just recreational—they're a stepping stone to

competitive skating careers.

• **Youth Hockey:** The Greenwich Cardinal Youth Hockey Program, which provides an affordable pathway to hockey for local kids, would be particularly hard-hit. "It's not just about games," Drake explained. "Hockey teaches kids about commitment, teamwork, and how to deal with both wins and losses. Without a rink, those lessons disappear."

• **High School Teams:** Greenwich High School's boys' and girls' hockey teams, including junior varsity and varsity, rely on the rink for practices and home games. If the rink were closed, the teams would have to scramble to rent ice time at other facilities if such ice time is even available—an expensive and logistically challenging prospect that could result in games being canceled altogether.

### A BLOW TO LOCAL FAMILIES

For many families, the rink is a vital part of their weekly routine. Public skating sessions offer affordable, healthy recreation for all ages, while holiday-themed events provide opportunities for cherished traditions.

"If the rink closes, where do families go?" asked one parent, whose daughter takes figure skating lessons. "Not every family can afford private rinks or travel to other towns."

Drake echoed this sentiment, emphasizing the ripple effects of a two-year closure. "If the rink shuts down, you're not just putting ice sports on pause—you're dismantling a piece of the town's social fabric. And rebuilding that after two years is incredibly difficult."

The closure of the rink would also have a financial impact on the town and local businesses. Coaches, instructors, and rink staff would face job interruptions, while nearby businesses that rely on rink visitors—like coffee shops and restaurants—would see a decline in customers.

"You don't get 84% support for anything," Drake said. "This rink has united the town in a way few things can."

For skaters like Mia and her family, the rink is deeply personal. "My mom learned to skate here, and now I'm learning too," Mia said, her face lighting up as she practiced a spin.

"This is where kids learn discipline, teamwork, and resilience," said one longtime hockey coach. "Losing it, even for a short time, would be devastating."

### WHAT'S NEXT?

The project recently received Municipal Improvement (MI) status from the Planning and Zoning Commission, a critical milestone in its approval process. The next steps involve securing \$1.2 million for final architectural designs in 2026, followed by an estimate for construction in 2027. If all goes as planned, the new rink will open in the fall of 2028.

"This is a long journey, but it's worth it," Drake said. "We're building something beautiful—something that will last."



COLUMN

# Dorothy Hamill a timeless ambassador for the resilience, strength and spirit of Greenwich

By LIZ LEAMY

With all of the discussion and planning regarding the proposed construction of a new rink in Greenwich, it is rather fascinating to learn the legacy of the storied original structure located on Sherman Avenue in Byram of which it is named after, Dorothy Hamill, the renowned 1976 U.S. Olympic and World gold medalist and three-time U.S. champion.

Hamill, who grew up and lived in Riverside and attended Eastern Middle School, is known as one of figure skating's most influential and prolific icons and with obvious reason, as her skills and artistry were superb while she was also someone who consistently performed at optimal level, especially when the pressure was on.

Humble, genuine and effervescent, Hamill, who resides in Baltimore, Maryland, initially made her mark as one of skating's rising stars when she was training at rinks all over the local area growing up, including the Rye Playland Ice Casino, the (now closed) Crystal Rink in Norwalk and the former Sky Rink in Manhattan.

By the time she reached her early teens, she was the U.S. Novice champion, U.S. junior silver medalist and U.S. Championship second-place finisher.

In 1974 at age 16, Hamill claimed her first U.S. Championship title in Providence, Rhode Island, the same year she had also emerged as one of the sport's most prolific and significant stars on the World Championship level.

In March, more than six weeks after claiming the U.S. title, Hamill stunned the world with her stellar unforgettable performance at the World Championships in Munich, which was then part of West Germany, with this emerging as one of the most dramatic sports stories of its time.

Hamill, who was the top American seed in the ladies event at this competition, had been second in the initial school figures round, closely trailing leader Christine Errath of East Berlin, West Germany going into the final round of the competition, the free skate.

Errath, a petite brunette, who, like Hamill, was known for her outstanding freestyle skills, skated a strong free program and in turn, received marks from the nine-member international judging panel that prompted the audience to boo and whistle loudly in dissatisfaction, causing confusion for Hamill, who took the ice right after her.

Upon getting ready to start her program, Hamill had been skating in circles with her hands on her waist, not sure of how to handle the audience's behavior.

Within minutes, she soon broke down in tears as the booing and whistling had gotten to her, as she skated off the ice sobbing and running into the arms of her father, Chalmers Hamill, a former U.S. Marine who worked for Pitney Bowes in Stamford at the time.

At that point Hamill's father, along with the U.S. Figure Skating figureheads helped get her spirits back up in calm and supportive fashion, explaining how the crowd had been upset by the marks for Errath and not by anything else.

Although she had been told she could wait to skate, Hamill responded, in her signature firecracker style, to get back on the ice and do her job.

Upon marching up to the gate and gliding to her starting spot, Hamill famously then proceeded to skate the most spectacular programs of her life, rendering this moment as the one that indeed established her as a true star of the sport.

Reeling off jumps that soared up to 20 feet in length at top speeds as well as gorgeous, high-velocity spins, Hamill's program to Igor Stravinsky's 'Firebird' earned her a huge standing ovation from the elated crowd as well as the silver medal to subsequently designate this moment as one that still in time, a remarkable thing considering that it occurred more than 50 years ago.

Moreover, Hamill's demonstration of her strength, power, grit and spirit reflects so much of the character of the Greenwich community, which is comprised of a so many people who are all about these very same characteristics.



Dorothy Hamill at the Greenwich Library in 2007 where she talked about her book 'A Skating Life: My Story' (Photo courtesy of Liz Leamy)



2) Dorothy Hamill upon being awarded the gold medal at the 1976 Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria (Photo courtesy of the Dorothy Hamill Fan Club)

In the years following this life-defining moment, Hamill in turn went on to claim two more U.S. Championship titles, another World silver medal, a World Championship title and Olympic gold, while she also became a star performer, owner of the Ice Capades and a worldwide celebrity, among many other amazing things.

Since 2009, she has been married to John MacColl and has raised her daughter, Alexandra Forsythe, both of whom she is extremely devoted to.

Although it's been a number of years since Hamill has made a visit to the rink in her name, she is known to always express her tremendous gratitude for the honor as well as deep appreciation for the community of Greenwich citing how it represents a place of great possibility and dreams, with it having served as her homebase throughout her entire amateur competitive career.

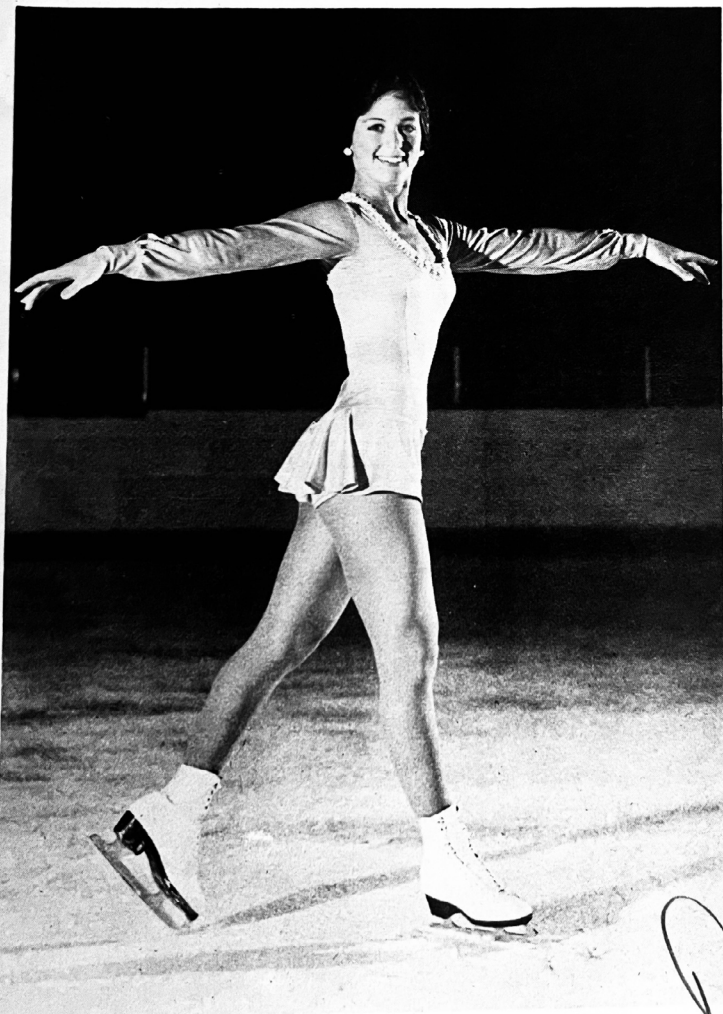
In noting this vital piece of history regarding Hamill, it is ever-critical to acknowledge the role and legacy upon which the Town of Greenwich rink, which is named after her, as being a powerful structure signifying the character, role and personality of the community, especially with the construction plans for a new start-of-the-art venue in the works.

## GREENWICH ICE REVIEW

FEATURING

*Dorothy Hamill*

NATIONAL, WORLD AND OLYMPIC  
FIGURE SKATING CHAMPION



BENEFIT OF THE RALPH ARNONE  
MEMORIAL FUND

February 20, 1977

Hamill Rink

## PROGRAM

North Atlantic Competitors: Exhibition-Patch and Freestyle

Dorothy Hamill  
National Olympic and World Figure Skating Champion

Greenwich Skating Precision Team Greenwich Skating Club

Gale and Joel Furhman World Team Pair Competitors

Comedy Team Sprain Valley Figure Skating Club

Elizabeth Leamy Novice Ladies North Atlantics Competitor

Anne Farrell and Mary San Souci Girls Similar Pair

Mary Ann Sullivan Gold Medalist, Special Olympics 1977

David Cole and Beth Barton Eastern Dance Competitors

James Yorke North Atlantic Competitor

Michell Siaka USFSA Gold Medalist

Gale and Joel Furhman

Dorothy Hamill

Presentation Benjamin Davenport and Tony DiPreta

Show program of event starring Dorothy Hamill held at the Hamill Rink in 1977 and Roster of performers at the Dorothy Hamill show held at the Hamill Rink in 1977 (Photo courtesy of Liz Leamy)



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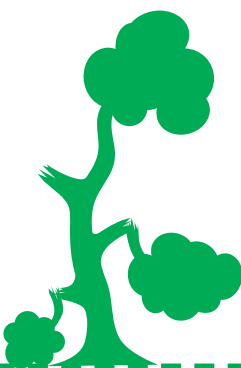
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# Checking in with the Greenwich/Stamford Christmas Bird Count for 2024

BY ANNE W. SEMMES

It's the 125th annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC), the nation's longest-running community science bird project, occurring December 14 through January 5, when many thousands of volunteers across the U.S. brave snow, wind, or rain to count bird species to assess the health of bird populations, to help guide conservation action.

Cynthia Ehlinger, the noted Greenwich birder, has been counting those species for the CBC from the age of 10 joining her mom, she tells. Ehlinger now counts 30-plus years of spotting birds in CBC's Greenwich-Stamford circle. "Our circle started around 1911," she tells, "Not quite as old as the very first one. It was chosen for the variety of birds that we could get, and to make sure we get out into the Sound where we get some of the water birds that you wouldn't see otherwise. Fortunately, we have somebody who does go out on a boat so that we can get some of those water birds."

That Greenwich-Stamford circle with its 15-mile diameter stretches from Armonk near the Westchester Airport, and over to Darien and New Canaan, tells Ehlinger. "So, it's a fairly wide area. So, we break it up into 19 territories."

Ehlinger's title is Compiler for all those 19 territories – each identified by a letter. She inherited that title from long-serving Greenwich Audubon birder Gary Palmer who now has his own territory in that circle. Ehlinger's territory – called Area O, she describes as including Riverside below Palmers Hill Road over to the Old Greenwich School. And in her particular territory Ehlinger had three other observers, "and we broke into two groups."

"So, when we do the data, it asks for party hours and party miles, and how many observers there are and how many parties. So, in my territory, I had one party, which was myself, and in the afternoon one other person. And I had another party of two who did a different section of my territory. And that way we can cover a lot more, get to see birds that if I were to do it all myself or were we together, we probably wouldn't get all the birds that we could see."

So, for Ehlinger on December 14, "The weather was fairly pleasant...It wasn't terribly cold, it wasn't rainy or snowy. Nice for the people, but it doesn't always help for the birds...You get a lot more birds coming to feeders when its freezing."

The total species count for Compiler Ehlinger on that day for the Greenwich-Stamford circle was 106. "The average is around 111 so it was lower than normal." And the most unusual birds in that 106? "A Grasshopper Sparrow...seen at Greenwich Point," tells Ehlinger. "I believe that was the first time we've ever seen one on our count."

She explains how the count begins with a count week. "It's three days before the actual count day, then three days after the count day. They're like placeholders to let you know that there are those birds in the area, but they don't count in Audubon's official data unless seen on that particular day of December 14."

"We had a King Eider," she shares, "that flew by the day after our count...So that would be a count week bird, which I would put in our personal database, and also in the National Audubon database." Count also a Greater white-fronted Goose, but not on December 14. "It has come back the last four or five years

to a little pond in Rye, behind a shopping center...We were hoping it would come back. We were very excited that we would get it for the count. And then for the count day, it seemed to disappear. And then it showed up again."

That Greater white-fronted Goose Ehlinger tells is not an Eastern bird. "It breeds from Alaska...then migrates through the plains down into the Gulf area of Louisiana and over into Mexico." Then there were birds regularly seen but now often missing like the Bonaparte's gull, "which you would see out in the Sound," says Ehlinger. But for the last five years or so "it's been hit or miss. We got it for count week, but not for the count day."

So, are sound recordings used to pull in birds? Often used for owls, she says, but not otherwise. "We try to go by best practices, Generally, you're looking and you're listening. If you are in a place where you think something is, you might do some phishing, which is just an annoyance sound that the birds come out to see what's going on." And "You're driving from spot to spot, and then in some cases you do a lot of walking, and other places you just stop for a few minutes depending on what it is."

And when is the starting time? "Most people start at about dawn, and that's usually around seven o'clock that late in December. Some people start about three in the morning to try for owls. So not everybody goes out for the owls, but we do alert the police department, so that they know if there are people in cars with binoculars and they're making weird sounds, they know what's going on."

And when does the counting stop? "When it starts getting darker around four o'clock. Sometimes you get through with your territory around three, but it's generally an all-day thing, maybe with a break a couple of times for a snack or something."

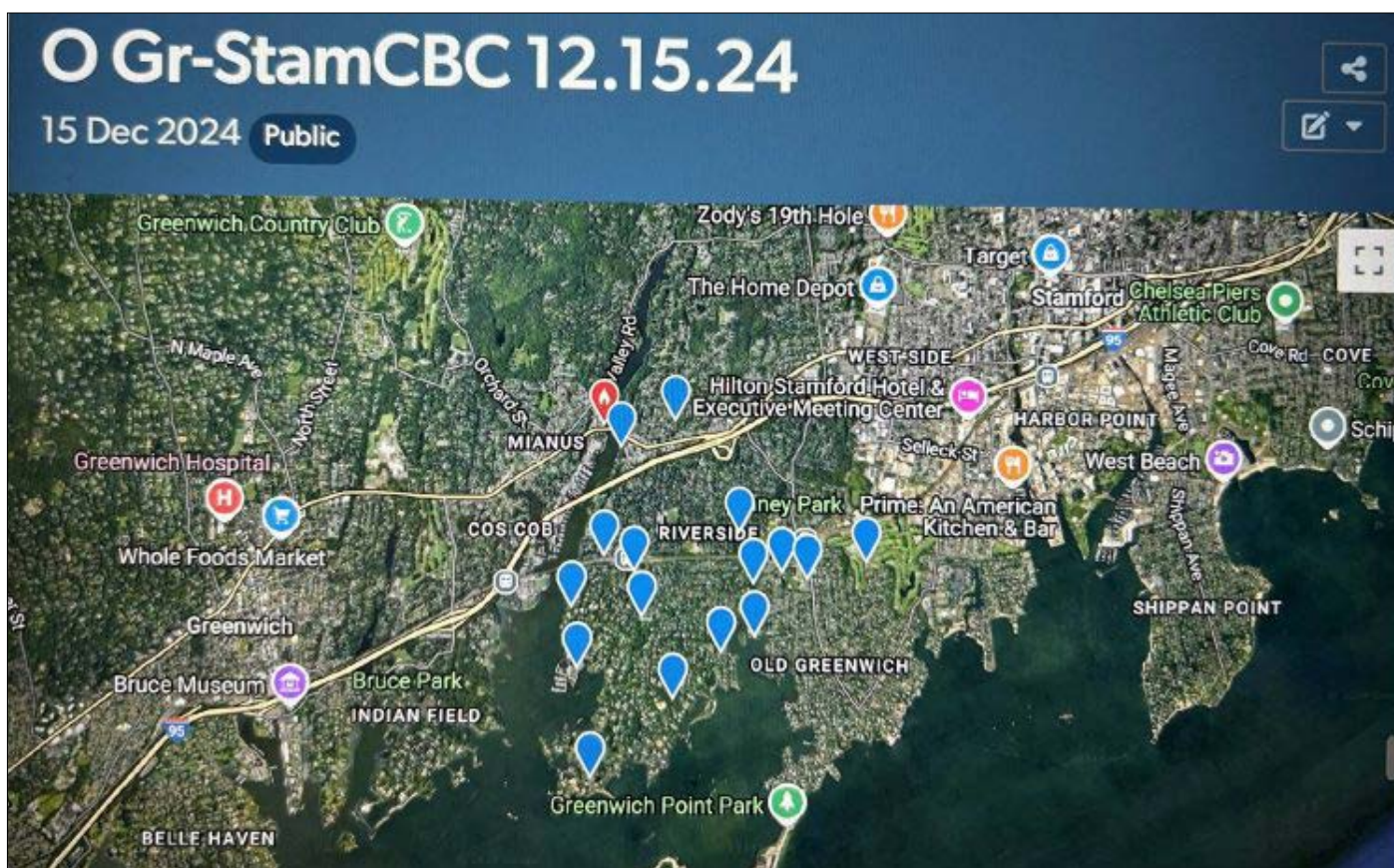
And what follows is the birders community gathering time. "The Audubon Center hosts a compilation potluck dinner. So, the price of admission is to bring something to eat that you can share. We started at 5:30 p.m. although people could come earlier if they wanted. Some 30 people came. We had a little more than half (60-plus) of the total observers."

"Once everybody's had something to eat," she continues, "I have a checklist that I've previously given people. We'll go through the checklist, and I'll read each species first to see what's been seen and what hasn't been seen. They can either use their checklist, or they can use eBird trip reports to share with me so we can get the data."

"Once we go through the list people will shout out yes if they had it in their territory. And the list doesn't have every single rare bird, so at the end we'll go through each territory, and people will comment on something rare they saw in their territory."

And what is Ehlinger's takeaway. "I enjoy the sense of community with a lot of people getting together for a similar purpose. To enjoy being outside, but also to contribute to learning more about the population of our birds, which can go to educating the greater population about what the status of the birds are. But it's the community of birders, it just brings us together at a time when you don't necessarily think about going outside."

For more information on the Christmas Bird Count visit [Audubon.org/community-science/Christmas-bird-count](http://Audubon.org/community-science/Christmas-bird-count)



A map of the Greenwich-Stamford circle in the Christmas Bird Count. Contributed photo.

*The total species count for Compiler Ehlinger on that day for the Greenwich-Stamford circle was 106 species.*



Yellow-breasted Chat, seen on Grass Island in the Christmas Bird Count. Photo by Jo Fasciolo.



A Grasshopper Sparrow, spotted for the first time at Greenwich Point in the Christmas Bird Count. Photo by Craig Heberton.

## Early Birders Join Audubon Bird Count



L to R High schoolers Arabella Pajoochi and Cristina Buccieri scanning for birds during the December 14, 2024 Christmas Bird Count. Photo by Silvio Buccieri.

Another participant of the Greenwich-Stamford Christmas Bird Count was Greenwich Audubon Center Senior Coordinator of Education Ryan MacLean, serving now 11 years as "captain" of his Area A that includes private properties with landowners kindly allowing CBC surveying each year. MacLean had his first CBC spotting experience age 13 accompanying now retired and long serving Greenwich Audubon educator Ted Gilman, who had captained Area E that includes the Greenwich Audubon Center.

MacLean recalled meeting up with Gilman at 4 a.m. for some owling on that first CBC on December 14, 2003, and seeing his first Eastern Screech owl in the wild. This year, "on a very cold day," MacLean was joined at the CBC at 3:30 a.m. again in search of owls with two high school birders: Cristina Buccieri, who has followed her birding passion at the Audubon Center, accompanied by her father Silvio Buccieri, and her friend Arabella Pajoochi with father Ash Pajoochi. (Arabella's birding activity includes serving as president of the New York State Young Birders Club, and founder and president of its Younger Birders Club!)

Arabella shared her beginning participating in the CBC at age 5. Now 13, she's also participated in four other counts in Putnam, N.Y. as a territory Captain. Since participating in the counts, she's noticed changes in bird populations. "There are more Black Vultures or Carolina Wrens, for instance, while other species' numbers have declined." She's found it rewarding, "to know that the data I'm collecting can be used to help scientists in turn to help birds."

Arabella is grateful too for Ryan MacLean having taught her "so much each year," and for the opportunity to be a part of the Christmas Bird Count. "Knowing (especially on the days when it is more challenging to birds: blustery, freezing, rainy, etc.!) that I am helping birds." She hopes to become a conservation biologist. "And I feel like I'm doing my part right now to make a difference."

Similar in feeling is Cristina Buccieri. "These bird counts can help us notice when a bird's population is decreasing year by year, and we can then work towards finding the cause and forming a solution. Using these numbers, scientists can monitor bird populations, their migration, and can analyze how climate change affects their species."

Cristina, now a sophomore in high school, began birding at age 7 or 8 she recalled, and joined the CBC a couple of years ago. Her favorite part of it? "I get to participate in Community Science. I know that I am making a difference and helping towards preserving these bird species. The best part is anyone can do it! It is an incredible opportunity to contribute to a major effort to protect our birds, and the environment."



# Greenwich Country Day Students Create Blizzard Bags for Meals-on-Wheels

BY DEBRA McLAUGHLIN

In a heartwarming display of community spirit, third-grade students at Greenwich Country Day School (GCDS) have once again shown their commitment to helping others by decorating and filling Blizzard Bags for Meals-on-Wheels, Inc. of Greenwich clients. The initiative, aimed at ensuring seniors and those in need have access to shelf-stable meals during snowstorms, is an annual tradition at the school.

On Thursday, a dedicated team of parent volunteers from GCDS delivered 100 Blizzard Bags to Meals-on-Wheels. These bags, packed with nutritious non-perishable food items, will be distributed to clients during winter months when severe weather conditions may prevent the usual daily meal deliveries.

Meals-on-Wheels provides fully prepared nutritious meals that can be delivered on a flexible schedule, allowing clients to choose the days that work best for them. The service also accommodates individuals with special circumstances, such as those recovering from surgery or undergoing life events, offering temporary meal deliveries to ease their burdens.

"We are always so impressed by the generosity

and thoughtfulness of the community," said Lori Jackson, President of the Board of Directors at Meals-on-Wheels. "Projects like the Blizzard Bags are essential, especially during the unpredictable winter months. We rely on the support of volunteers and local organizations like GCDS to continue providing services to our clients, ensuring they remain well-fed and cared for, no matter the weather."

Meals-on-Wheels is always looking for more volunteers to help with deliveries or other community initiatives. Every contribution, whether large or small, helps ensure that more individuals in Greenwich can continue to enjoy the convenience and comfort of healthy, prepared meals delivered right to their door.

If you would like to support Meals-on-Wheels in other ways by volunteering, partnering on a project, or making a financial contribution—please contact them at 203-869-1312 or via email at [mealsonwheelsgreenwich@outlook.com](mailto:mealsonwheelsgreenwich@outlook.com). You can also learn more about how to get involved by visiting their website at [Meals-on-Wheels.org](http://Meals-on-Wheels.org).

Thank you to all the volunteers, students, and parents who continue to make a difference, one meal at a time!



Greenwich Country Day School parents delivering 100 Blizzard Bags

# Lions Club Donates Fresh Grapefruit to Meals-on-Wheels

BY DEBRA McLAUGHLIN

The Greenwich Lions Club continues its tradition of supporting the community by delivering hundreds of fresh grapefruit to Meals-on-Wheels. Doug Carlson, a member of the Lions Club for over 30 years and the current Vice President, personally made the delivery. "We've been doing this for years," Carlson said, noting that the grapefruit donation is provided at no cost to Meals-on-Wheels. "It's just one way we can give back to those in need."

Carlson, who has served as both president and treasurer of the Lions Club in the past, emphasized that the organization's commitment to helping local charities is at the heart of their mission. The Lions Club, an international service organization, is dedicated to

supporting causes like vision care, hunger relief, and disaster response.

The partnership between Meals-on-Wheels and the Lions Club ensures that clients receive a wholesome addition to their meal deliveries, brightening their day with fresh produce at no cost to the program.

"This donation makes such a difference for our clients, especially at this time of year," said Willow Buscemi, program director of Meals-on-Wheels. "We are so grateful to the Lions Club for their continued generosity and support."

If you would like to support Meals-on-Wheels by volunteering, partnering on a project, or making a financial contribution—please contact us at 203-869-1312, via email at [mealsonwheelsgreenwich@outlook.com](mailto:mealsonwheelsgreenwich@outlook.com), or our website [mealsonwheelsofgreenwich.org](http://mealsonwheelsofgreenwich.org).



Doug Carlson from the Lions Club delivers grapefruits to Meals-on-Wheels

# Legislative Session Begins: Insights from Fazio, Courpas, and Arzeno

BY EMMA BARHYDT

The high costs of energy, health care, and education in Connecticut dominated Governor Ned Lamont's annual State of the State address, delivered Wednesday before a Joint Convention of the General Assembly. Lamont urged lawmakers to make addressing these costs the "north stars" of the 2025 legislative session, which began immediately following his remarks.

State Senator Ryan Fazio, Representative Tina Courpas, and Representative Hector Arzeno spoke with *The Greenwich Sentinel* about their focus areas for the session.

## RYAN FAZIO: "THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT SIX MONTHS"

State Senator Ryan Fazio emphasized the importance of the biennial budget during this long session. "Today was the first day of the legislative session. It was opening day. We were all as state legislators sworn in, took the oath of office, so that's January 8th. The legislative session goes from January 8th, today, to June 4th, which will be... the last day of the session."

He highlighted the significance of this legislative term, explaining, "Every term, there's two legislative sessions because it's a two-year term, and in the odd-numbered year... it's considered the long session. It's when we create a budget and we do a lot more legislation."

Fazio identified fiscal policy as a top concern, stating, "The most important issues that are emerging are first the state budget and general taxing and spending policies. We know that Connecticut has a very high tax burden overall, the second-highest state and local tax burden in the entire country according to the Tax Foundation."

Fazio also discussed fiscal guardrails established in 2017, which have become a focal point of this session. "Those spending and borrowing controls are now up for debate because there's a lot of the more progressive senior leadership of the state legislature [who] wants to break some of those spending limitations, whereas the governor, some moderate Democrats, and Republicans want to keep them because we understand that today's limits on excess spending are tomorrow's tax cuts for the middle class."

Local control over zoning also emerged as a key priority. "We

*Fazio also discussed fiscal guardrails established in 2017, which have become a focal point of this session.*

know that the senior leadership of the House and Senate want to take away more local zoning rights in order to build a lot more housing in the state," Fazio explained. "By contrast, I and some of my colleagues are introducing legislation that will roll back 830G and give localities more discretion over housing in a way that I think will help us actually create more workforce housing and low- to middle-income housing across our state for people who need it, but with local buy-in."

Energy affordability is another focus. "The governor, in his State of the State address today, mentioned energy policy as the first issue. And I think that's because residents across our district and state recognize that their energy bills are just far too high. And I and others have been campaigning across the state for reforms that will cut the public benefits charge, cut electric bills for everybody."

Fazio also touched on his committee assignments. "I'm on five committees this term, so a lot. But I am the ranking member, meaning the leading Republican legislator, on two of them. And that's energy and technology, which I was also the leading senator on last time for the last two years. I also was elevated to become the ranking senator on the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee, which is one of the two big budget committees responsible basically for all policy related to taxes and bonding and revenue."

## TINA COURPAS: "WE NEED TO MAINTAIN FISCAL DISCIPLINE"

Representative Tina Courpas, a freshman legislator, detailed her focus on fiscal policy, housing, and education. "The schedule is that the session begins today, January 8th, and ends June 4th," she said, emphasizing the significance of her first legislative session.

Courpas identified fiscal guardrails as a pressing issue. "There was overspending last year, but there was a lot of excess money in the [state] because of COVID relief money from the federal government. That's all been

used at this point. So in order to get certain spending objectives met that people in the legislature want, the guardrails are going to come up under attack."

On housing, Courpas explained her concerns about potential erosion of local control. "I do think that the drumbeat for erosion of local control in the area of zoning will continue. I think that it's possible that some version of Work-Live-Ride comes back. That's another big issue for the 149th District."

Courpas has also prioritized affordability. "Everything from our energy costs to being overtaxed to people feeling like they have very burdensome childcare costs. We really do have to do a lot of work on affordability in the state to continue to retain people in Connecticut and continue to have opportunity for those that are here."

Courpas discussed her committee assignments, saying, "I've been appointed to the Appropriations Committee... I've also been assigned to the Housing Committee because I really care about working on that issue. And affordability in general." She added, "I've also been assigned to the Education Committee, and in particular I have been appointed to be the... ranking member of the Select Committee on Special Education."

## HECTOR ARZENO: "EDUCATION IS A CORNERSTONE"

Representative Hector Arzeno outlined his priorities, including education, the environment, and transportation. "Well, I mean, we just as you know today, we have the opening day of sessions. And I have a sense that very much what will set the tone for this year will be what might come up from Washington over the next few weeks, after the 20th," he said.

Arzeno highlighted the importance of affordable early childhood education. "We need, I mean, if we want both parents to be able to be back and working, so we need good access to early and affordable early childcare education for the children. And that's something that is a priority

for the governor and for us."

On energy, Arzeno discussed Connecticut's climate initiatives. "Energy is another issue. It's a constant issue. We have to make it more affordable. I mean certainly I think there are initiatives just with plenty of incentives for heat pumps and just to diversify the supply of energy that Connecticut has. I mean nuclear energy is back into the table, also."

Arzeno also emphasized the importance of transportation. "I will be serving on transportation this year too, which is a huge committee for us. Certainly because many of the things that we achieved in the last session, like the Glenville Corridor, the improvements to the Glenville Corridor. The pedestrian safety improvements and grants that we got from the state. All of them, they come through transportation."

On housing, Arzeno pointed to recent developments. "You might recall, last year we worked on affordable housing... However, all the incentives that we had in that bill for municipalities to opt-in and build affordable houses on transit-oriented districts, all those incentives are on the Municipal Redevelopment Agency that the governor put in place over the summer."

## CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD

The legislative session, which runs until June 4, is set to address critical issues impacting both the state and local communities. With fiscal guardrails, energy reform, zoning, and affordability at the forefront, Fazio, Courpas, and Arzeno have each expressed gratitude to their constituents and a commitment to serving them.

"I feel extraordinarily lucky and honored to represent our community," said Fazio. Courpas echoed, "I'm grateful to the district for putting their trust in me, and I'll do everything I can to live up to that trust." Arzeno added, "It's a privilege to serve Greenwich, and I'm committed to finding solutions that benefit our town and our state."

RELEASE

# YWCA to Host Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Event

January 2025, Greenwich, CT: On Thursday, January 23rd at 7:00 PM, YWCA Greenwich and more than sixty community partners will host the 2025 Coretta Scott and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Annual Conversation.

This event held each January celebrates the lives and legacy of Dr. King and his wife, Coretta Scott King by exploring an issue they would have cared about were they still with us.

This year's conversation, titled "A Vital Conversation: Women's Health Equity Forum," will examine chronic disparities related to women's health equity in our community and in the region. Our expert panelists will discuss how these inequities and barriers impact the lives of people based on gender, race, and other dimensions of identity.

"Women make up the majority of the population but are often treated like second-class citizens when it comes to focus for health issues that impact them. This inequity is even more pronounced for Black women, Women of Color, and LGBTQIA+ women, who often exist on the margins of healthcare. With this event, and through our broader initiative to address health inequities in our community, we aim to bring together physicians, organizations, and community partners to ensure all women receive the care they deserve," explained the moderator of this event, Director of the Center of Equity and Justice at

YWCA Greenwich, Simone Quartey.

Participating as expert panelists this year are Dr. Mia Kazanjian, Diagnostic Radiologist at Stamford Health; Dr. Romelle Maloney, Obstetrician-Gynecologist at Greenwich Hospital; Dr. Juliet Mushi, Obstetrician-Gynecologist at Harlem Hospital; and Fatmata Williams, Director of Medical Administration

for the State of Connecticut's Division of Health Services. Our panel will offer their expertise and solutions to women's health equity, exploring maternal health, life expectancy, and healthcare access. In addition to the discussion, the YWCA Greenwich's Center for Equity and Justice will be conducting a real time data gathering session to

gauge community attitudes and experiences with health inequity and how it impacts women of all backgrounds.

YWCA Greenwich President and CEO Mary Lee Kiernan explained the significance of this event; "More than sixty community organizations, schools, churches, and other key partners have provided their support

of this large, community commemoration event. We hope you will join us for an important examination of women's health equity in the Greenwich area, and how we work together to address chronic disparities."

For more information or to register for this free event, please visit [www.ywcagrn.org/mlk25](http://www.ywcagrn.org/mlk25).

**We must make our hearts instruments of peace and nonviolence because when the heart is right, the mind and the body will follow.**

CORETTA SCOTT KING (Aug. 23, 2003).

**A Vital Conversation: Women's Health Equity Forum**

**The Coretta Scott King and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Annual Conversation**

January 23, 2025  
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

YWCA Greenwich  
259 East Putnam Ave.  
Greenwich

Event is FREE and open to the public  
To register, please go to [ywcagreenwich.org](http://ywcagreenwich.org) or scan below

For more information, contact Simone Quartey at 203-869-6501 x. 104 or [s.quartey@ywcagreenwich.org](mailto:s.quartey@ywcagreenwich.org)

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**  
greenwich

**PANELISTS**

**Dr. Juliet Mushi**  
Harlem Hospital  
Obstetrician-Gynecologist

**Dr. Mia Kazanjian**  
Stamford Health  
Diagnostic Radiologist

**Fatmata Williams**  
State of Connecticut, Division of Health Services  
Director of Medical Administration

**Dr. Romelle Maloney**  
Greenwich Hospital  
Obstetrician-Gynecologist



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## Our Mission

Ten years ago at this time we were just beginning to envision a new newspaper for Greenwich, what would eventually become the *Greenwich Sentinel*, launching on Memorial Day Weekend. We talked to a lot of people. Most were both enthusiastic and cautionary in the same conversation, often in the same breath. We were attempting to re-imagine what a community newspaper could be and how it might affect our community for the better. How to lift up people in Greenwich? How to remind our neighbors what a wonderful town we have?

We were creating a new model in a very old profession (newspapering) at a time when many believed the future was only digital and that people no longer wanted a printed paper. Ten years later, the demand for both our printed paper and digital platforms is strong.

***We are proud of the product we have developed, but prouder still that our community has said over and over again that the Greenwich Sentinel is something they look forward to receiving and reading every week.***

With growth and maturity comes a constant need to re-examine our mission. We were founded on the belief that our community needs a local paper that celebrates what is good, reports the news fairly and accurately, and is a vehicle for people of good will to share their views.

We also knew we wanted different voices in the newspaper, so we encouraged guest columnists to sign-up to share their opinions on myriad topics. It has been terrific to hear their voices as well as the community's response to them. What intelligent, talented, remarkable writers we have gathered over the years!

We have spanned many topics, from the state budget and how it affects Greenwich, to the goings-on at the Board of Education, to lighter, humorous stories on summering in Canada. We strive to be informative, educational, and share a point of view. We encourage, and indeed welcome, feedback, comments and letters to the editor. Our paper, as does our community, works best when it shares information from different perspectives.

There is a quote we like from Robert Kennedy: "No one needs to tell me about the importance of the free press in a democratic society or about the essential role a newspaper can play in its community." We believe that newspapers, both dailies and weeklies, play an essential role in their communities. No one media outlet can cover everything that happens in Greenwich and delivering the news in whatever way the consumer wants to receive it strengthens our community overall.

In order to look forward, we must look back at our ten years. We are proud of the product we have developed, but prouder still that our community has said over and over again that the *Greenwich Sentinel* is something they look forward to receiving and reading every week. Our popular printed edition is available in many locations throughout town but becomes difficult to find quickly as copies get scooped up. If you have difficulty finding one, we suggest joining our subscribers to get your very own copy. Our digital platforms continue to pull in more and more traffic, making them the most followed in town. We could not have done that without the support of our community.

So, what does our future hold? Well, our mission remains unchanged: inform and educate and also celebrate what is good about our community and bring attention to what can be improved.

At a time when the national news programs remind us more of talk show host Dr. Phil than Walter Cronkite, we need to safeguard the *Greenwich Sentinel* from falling into the "click-bait" trap. Our community is too well educated, too informed and, frankly, too busy for that kind of behavior.

What we promise is to offer the best we can each week that includes actual information, interesting reviews, columns from community leaders, well expressed opinions, in-depth feature stories from our own iconic Anne Semmes, and of course puzzles, Calvin & Hobbes, and Jim Knox. New to the paper this year is our investigative reporter, Stephen Janis.

After all, it is because of our love for this remarkable community that we launched the *Greenwich Sentinel* nine years ago.

What do you think? Let us know, Greenwich. Editor@GreenwichSentinel.com

# Editorial Page



**"Are you kidding, I'm making a killing with this 'Corn Museum'."**

**LETTER**

My father, John Glebaucis, a resident of Greenwich Ct. deeply admired Dr. Clarence Quimby, the former Head Master of Cushing Academy. This admiration blossomed from an unexpected encounter at a nursing home, where Dr. Quimby's kindness and wisdom profoundly impacted him.

Inspired by Dr. Quimby's life, my father envisioned a film documenting his legacy. He believed Jimmy Stewart, the renowned actor, was the perfect choice to portray Dr. Quimby, given their striking resemblance and shared personality traits. Stewart's portrayal of George Bailey in "It's a Wonderful Life" perfectly mirrored the spirit of Dr. Quimby.

With my sister Kathy's wedding in California approaching - Stewart's home state - my father asked

## It's A Wonderful Life

my brother Peter and me to schedule a meeting. While we knew many celebrities, we had no direct connection to Stewart. Despite this, we embarked on a mission to fulfill my father's wish.

Our initial attempts were met with roadblocks. We tried every connection we could think of, but introductions proved elusive. Time was running short as the wedding date drew near.

Upon arriving in California, my father anxiously inquired about our progress. We confessed to our lack of success. The next morning, a publicist friend offered a lead: Stewart would be at Griffith Park that Sunday for the annual marathon, but the wedding fell on the same day.

Determined, we decided to take matters into our own hands. We drove to Stewart's

Beverly Hills home. As fate would have it, we witnessed him arriving home in his car. We rushed towards him, explaining my father's deep admiration. Stewart, with gracious politeness, expressed his hope to meet my father someday before disappearing behind his gate.

Overwhelmed, we raced to the Beverly Hills Hotel to call my father. We relayed the encounter, then brainstormed a plan. Spotting a white flower on the hotel's red carpet, we had an idea. We purchased a bouquet, adding a note expressing my father's sincere desire to meet him.

We delivered the flowers to Stewart's residence, but later learned he was not feeling well. Disappointed, my father remained hopeful.

The next morning, we

returned to Stewart's home. This time, Mrs. Stewart, touched by my father's genuine admiration and learning of his impending departure, graciously invited him to their home.

The following morning, my father's dream became a reality. He met Jimmy Stewart, who welcomed him warmly and graciously. They shared stories and reminisced, creating a cherished memory for my father.

This experience profoundly impacted our family. It taught us the importance of perseverance, the power of genuine admiration, and the enduring impact of kindness and inspiration.

Susan Paley

*(Editor's note: This took place in 1992)*

**LETTER**

## Celebrating Our Public School Students

Now that we have ushered in a new year, it is the perfect time to celebrate the many highlights and accomplishments of Greenwich Public Schools. Together, we reflect on the progress we've made and the exceptional moments that have shaped our community over the past year. As a comprehensive list of all the accomplishments of our students and staff would be far too long, so here are just a few highlights!

We are thrilled that eight of our elementary schools were celebrated as Schools of Distinction by the Connecticut State Department of Education; two of our elementary schools were ranked in the state's Top 10 and Eastern Middle School was No. 2 in the U.S. News & World Report.

Niche continues to rank GPS at the top, with GHS a standout high school in the state and country.

In addition, twelve Greenwich High School seniors were recognized as 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalists.

This fall the sports season was hugely successful and we could not be more proud of our student athletes. Girls cross country won the FCIAC and CIAC state championships this year. Our boys soccer team won the FCIAC championship and girls swimming won the State LL Championship. All of the fall teams made postseason and our football won the State Championships! Fourteen of our senior student athletes participated in signing day and will participate in water polo, lacrosse, rowing, rugby, field hockey and football at their respective colleges next year. Go Cards!!

The Western Middle School fields have reopened and we are beyond excited for many generations of students, and our community, to use them and continue Greenwich's tradition of excellence in so many sports.

We are also so grateful for our tremendous performing arts program. The fall production of Annie was spectacular and every seat was full in the Performing Arts Center at GHS

for December's two Candlelight concerts - the traditional grand finale performances of the Hallelujah Chorus were appropriately glorious.

Additionally, three Greenwich High School freshmen were named finalists in the 2024 Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge, the nation's premier middle school science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) competition and were honored with notable recognitions.

Greenwich High School was named to the 2024 Advanced Placement Program School Honor Roll, earning Gold distinction for its commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit, and maximizing college readiness.

GHS received the AP Access Award for providing all students the opportunity to participate in AP, including students of underrepresented populations. GHS has also reached Gold status in "College

Culture" by empowering and supporting 66% of the class of 2025 to experience at least one AP course before graduating, Platinum status in "College Credit" by enabling 61% of the class of 2025 to earn college credit by earning an AP Exam score of at least a 3, and Platinum

status in "College Optimization" by creating opportunities for 24% of the class of 2025 to take a total of five APs across their high school years, with an least one taken in ninth or tenth grade.

As we step into a fresh new year, I can't help but feel a sense of anticipation and excitement for the possibilities that lie ahead and look forward to the adventures that await in 2025. May this new year bring with it an abundance of health, happiness, and meaningful moments for us all.

Warmest wishes for a wonderful 2025, Karen Hirsh

**RELEASE**

## Alpha is a ten week dinner series hosted at Stanwich Church exploring life's big questions.

Exploring Life's Big Questions

Alpha Course offers a safe space for conversations about meaning, faith and purpose.

"Why am I here?" "Is there more to life than this?" At some point, everyone asks these "big" questions. Starting January 8th and running through March 12, a new Alpha Course in Greenwich will offer a welcoming and open environment where no question is off limits.

This 10-week course, designed for individuals who don't identify as Christian or wouldn't typically attend church, provides a space where no question is off-



limits. Alpha creates a warm and hospitable setting for conversations about meaning, faith, and purpose.

Each weekly session includes:

- Dinner: Enjoy a delicious, complimentary meal in a relaxed atmosphere.

- Short Video Talk: Thought-provoking videos

that address topics like purpose, meaning, and faith.

- Discussion: Honest conversations where guests are encouraged to share their thoughts without fear of judgment or correction.

The Alpha Course will run weekly on Wednesdays 7-9 pm beginning January 8. All sessions are free of charge,

and everyone is welcome, regardless of background or beliefs.

To Register: stanwichchurch.org/alpha or for more information, contact Genevieve Castelline at genevieve.esse@gmail.com.

**PLEASE NOTE**

The *Sentinel* makes every effort to publish all letters that we receive if they are civil, regardless of political affiliation. Letters received by the Monday prior to the publication date will be published that week. Letters to the Editor, Op Eds, and columns are the opinion of the writer and not of this publication or its staff, who actually agree on very little. While we do try to verify accuracy, we cannot verify every fact and readers should consider the source.



**MICRO-SCHOOL**  
From Page 1

make the difference. Barhydt employs a five-step process to help students identify core values and experiences that resonate. “We want essays that are authentic and memorable,” she says.

One student wrote about rediscovering their individuality after stepping away from social media, while another shared how caring for a younger sibling taught them the importance of grounding and presence. These essays demonstrate qualities colleges value, such as resilience, empathy, and emotional intelligence.

**EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING**

While many high schools emphasize Advanced

Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses, EWoW encourages students to pursue subjects aligned with their passions. “A student who loves biology might explore evolutionary biology or entomology, rather than just taking AP Biology,” says Coughlin. “This approach allows students to discover whether their interests are hobbies or potential career paths.”

This focus on experiential learning helps students make informed choices about their futures. “A student who spends two years studying botany with us knows whether they love it enough to pursue it in college,” says Coughlin.

**STRATEGIC SCHOOL SELECTION**

EWoW also excels at pairing students with the right

colleges. Coughlin describes their approach: “When our students identify a dream school, we analyze that school’s mission and values to ensure a good match.” For example, Wesleyan emphasizes curiosity, while Connecticut College prioritizes kindness. These insights help EWoW tailor applications that resonate with admissions officers.

“The key is to highlight what each school values,” says Coughlin. “For Wesleyan, we emphasized our students’ love of learning and intellectual curiosity. For Connecticut College, we focused on character and kindness.”

**HOLISTIC PROFILES**

Teacher recommendations, independent projects, and extracurricular activities also play a crucial role. “Colleges want to see a well-rounded individual,” Barhydt explains.

“It’s not just about academics, but about character and how a student can contribute to the community.”

At EWoW, recommendations are carefully aligned with other application components to create a unified narrative. Students’ applications often feature unique projects, such as a podcast on social justice or a wetlands restoration initiative. These endeavors demonstrate initiative and align with colleges’ growing emphasis on holistic admissions.

**THE ROLE OF EARLY DECISION**

EWoW leverages the early decision process to improve students’ chances of acceptance. Early decision applicants signal clear commitment to their chosen school, often resulting in higher acceptance rates. For

example, Wesleyan’s early decision acceptance rate is nearly double its regular decision rate.

“When students know where they want to go, we help them make their case,” says Coughlin. This includes tailored essays, demonstrated interest through campus visits, and meaningful interactions with admissions representatives.

**LESSONS FOR OTHER SCHOOLS**

EWoW’s approach offers valuable insights for larger schools. Reducing counselor caseloads, incorporating experiential learning, and fostering authenticity in applications could significantly improve college placement outcomes.

As noted in an interview with Barron’s, Cozy Wittman, an admissions expert, emphasized the importance

of aligning educational experiences with admissions realities: “The college admissions process was never set up to be a meritocracy. It’s about finding a school that serves the student and their family. Understanding that landscape helps students make better decisions.”

**A STUDENT-CENTERED MODEL**

Ultimately, EWoW’s success stems from its commitment to individualized education. “Every child has a superpower,” says Coughlin. “Our job is to help them discover it and showcase it to the world.”

In a college admissions landscape often defined by stress and competition, EWoW’s model offers a hopeful reminder that personalization and authenticity can lead to extraordinary results.

**COLUMN**

# The Educational Value of Music



BY CLAY KAUFMAN

I was fortunate to be raised in a very arts-supportive family, where music was part of daily life. Music helped us pass the time on long car rides, with singing and even with recorder “concerts” on long stretches of highway. Research about the brain now shows us the value of associating language with music, color, visuals and kinesthetics (movement) for memory. As someone who has worked with a wide variety of students, including students with dyslexia, I have seen the power of multisensory teaching and the value and importance of the arts in learning for all students.

Imagine being asked to memorize a two-page poem. It’s a daunting task. But now imagine learning two pages of song lyrics, a task that feels so much easier. When you think of the number of songs you have memorized in your life, and

the lyrics you have memorized to songs you didn’t even want to memorize but just can’t get out of your head, you can recognize the innate power of music in helping with memory. In schools I have led, teachers have used songs to make learning easier for all students—not just students with learning differences. The alphabet song, of course, is universally taught for good reason. And you probably recall songs your children’s teachers used to help them remember the days of the week: m children’s public school teachers used the theme song from the old “Addams Family” television show, replete with finger snaps. Research shows that music supports all kinds of learning. When teaching Algebra, I had my students sing the Quadratic Formula to the tune of “Pop Goes the Weasel. One student was reluctant to sing it with the class each day we practiced it, standing up silently when the group sang it. The morning of the chapter test, his mother called me and told me, “Last night, we were in the kitchen, and Jacob was in the living room on the floor behind the couch—he was singing “Pop Goes the Weasel”

*“Research about the brain now shows us the value of associating language with music, color, visuals and kinesthetics (movement) for memory. I have seen the power of multisensory teaching and the value and importance of the arts in learning for all students.”*

and we don’t know why. Should we be worried?” I explained to her why everything was ok, and I was happy to hear that he understood the value of the song, even if he didn’t want to admit it to me or to his parents!

Some months later I was preparing to speak at a national conference on the topic of multisensory learning, and I wanted to record some students singing the quadratic formula. I found three 8th graders who were willing—but who had never heard of the quadratic formula. I wrote the formula on a piece of paper and taught them the song. After they sang it through three times, I told them I would record them, and would hold up the formula so they could see it while they sang. They said, “We don’t need the

formula, Mr. Kaufman. We’ve got it memorized.” After singing it only 3 times!

My own children remember almost every song they learned when they were little, and I am grateful that music is still a part of their lives. Even outside of academics, music is a powerful tool for all kinds of social emotional learning. Singing in a group, small or large, promotes a unique camaraderie and shared experience for students. Group singing gives students more confidence to perform in front of an audience, a skill that can be very important for later in life. Learning to do your best so that a group can be successful will also become a valuable skill. A wonderful K-8 school in New York City, Speyer Legacy School, holds an “American Idol”-

type event each, in which each section of each grade from 5th to 8th gathers all of its students to learn and perform a song. The 7th and 8th grade students usually take the lead within their grade in choosing the song and arranging how it will be performed. They rehearse for several months, and the process creates a powerful community bond within each grade. At the performance, the students learn the importance of supporting each others’ performances, as they each will have a turn presenting their song. The lessons learned from singing together and supporting each other offer a unique experience, and for many students, music becomes a lifelong avocation.

When I was in college, I sang with a group that traveled

internationally after my junior year, performing in Austria, Switzerland, France and Italy over the course of 4 weeks. At one small town in southern France, we were eating dinner at a church where we were to perform that evening. As we ate, we heard a group of children singing outside. They were standing in a circle playing a game that involved singing the same song in French each round of the game (it was a type of “elimination” game like musical chairs). A group of us ventured outside to listen, and the young children immediately invited us to join the circle, and eagerly taught us the song and the game. Even though they spoke no English, I’ll never forget that moment of community and bonding, and how great it felt to be invited into their circle. And I still remember the song, word for word!

*Clay Kaufman, a longtime educator and school leader, is former Head of School at The Cedar School, a high school for students with language-based learning differences, such as dyslexia, here in Greenwich, and is currently at Ethical Culture Fieldston School in Riverdale.*

**COLUMN**

# Into the Woods: Why Children Need Nature More Than Ever

BY PHOEBE LINDSAY

Just beyond a century ago, nature, the woods, “the wild” could be a genuinely adventurous place for young children. Fairy tales were written to warn children of the risks of wandering too far from their home or their path. Children had to often traverse woods or natural areas to get from place to place: there were wild animals, cliffs and caves, rivers to cross that may be swollen from a recent rain, certainly a creepy recluse that was to be avoided, and the ever-looming weather and not least, the impending darkness. All of these elements sharpened decision-making and physical capacity for the growing child who wanted to return home safe, sound, dry, and not too hungry.

Modern life and parenting have eliminated most of these

risks for children and the pendulum has swung where, in striving communities, children are scheduled and groomed to become the best version of themselves through structured instruction, coaching, and extracurricular pursuit. Children have few moments to make their own decisions and determine potential outcomes. Child-led play in nature used to be a norm, not a structured offering, but we have evolved to a point where we must make a conscious decision to offer children the ability to play in nature.

Children who play together outside in nature benefit in ways that other activities cannot replicate. Core physical strength and balance, the “vestibular sense,” has been observably diminishing in young children. Angela Hanscom who wrote *Balanced and Barefoot*, studied

*Children were born to take risks. This is how humans are wired to learn as we grow.*

a group of children, testing various core strength and balance skills and found that only 1 in 12 children has the core and vestibular strength of the average child 30 years prior. Nature play builds vestibular sense as children have the opportunity to play and move on uneven ground, over a variety of surfaces, and in various weather conditions testing their ability to stay moving and remain uninjured.

Children were born to take risks. This is how humans are wired to learn as we grow. Whether it is grabbing an object and putting it in our mouths as a toddler or handling a sharp tool

when we know we shouldn’t, the outcomes of those interactions counsel our future decisions and guide our potential fears and enjoyments. Child-led play in nature allows children to take risks and also watch other children manage risk, modeling how to climb a downed log and jump off it, for instance. In our Forest Days programs at the Greenwich Botanical Center, teachers refrain from assisting children who are attempting a new physical skill, allowing the child to resolve the best approach and endeavor to succeed on their own.

Teamwork, collaboration,

and conflict resolution happen naturally when children are playing together in the woods. In Forest Days, we routinely observe children inventing new games together where not even the lines of a playground can define the boundaries of play. When children play together in nature, they have real opportunities to lead, listen, assert their needs, tolerate discomfort or disappointment, create and follow rules and practice negotiation. As one Forest Day student said, “I love Forest Days because it is the time in the week where I get to be an adult.”

The world needs children

who are practicing to be strong adults who know how to take measured risks; who problem-solve and collaborate with other adults. The world needs children who grow up to be adults who understand and love nature. Nature has a critical role in the formation of good citizens. Open the door and let your children into the woods. If you are a fan of Greenwich Botanical Center and the programs we offer, you have a unique opportunity to make a transformative difference today! Until 12/31/24, every dollar that we raise will be matched up to \$100K by The Around Foundation. Your gift goes twice as far! Please follow this link to learn more and to support GBC’s mission to connect the community to nature!

*By Phoebe Lindsay, Executive Director, Greenwich Botanical Center*

**TAX NOTICE**

**CONSOLIDATED REAL ESTATE PROPERTY TAXES**

**TOWN OF GREENWICH**

**THIS IS A REMINDER FROM YOUR TAX COLLECTOR**

The Second Installment of Town Real Property and Sewage System Maintenance Taxes are due January 1, 2025 and must be paid by February 3, 2025. Delinquent taxes are subject to an interest charge of 1.5 % per month (A fraction of a month is defined by statute as a whole month) from the installment due date. Minimum interest charge is \$2.00.

Taxes may be paid by mail or at the Tax Collector Office, Town Hall located at 101 Field Point Road, from 8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Monday through Friday. You may pay online with a credit card or electronic check (ACH/EFT). A convenience fee is charged by the provider for this service. Any taxpayer who pays by check must submit the second half remittance stub with the payment and the canceled check will be the receipt.

**TAX NOTICE**

**SUPPLEMENTAL MOTOR VEHICLES PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES**

The Tax Collector of the Town of Greenwich hereby gives notice that any person who registered a Motor Vehicle between October 2, 2023 and July 31, 2024 is liable for the payment of property taxes due January 1, 2025 and must be paid by February 3, 2025 without penalty as per Public Act 76-338 as amended (as enacted by the Connecticut State Legislature). Taxes are delinquent if not paid by February 3, 2025, subject to interest at the rate of 1.5 % per month (A fraction of a month is defined by statute as a whole month) from the due date. Minimum interest charge is \$2.00.

Taxes may be paid by mail or at the Tax Collector Office, Town Hall located at 101 Field Point Road, from 8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Monday through Friday. You may pay online with a credit card or electronic check (ACH/EFT). A convenience fee is charged by the provider of this service. Any taxpayer who pays by check must submit the second half remittance stub with the payment and the canceled check will be the receipt.

Tax Collector  
Town of Greenwich



## WORSHIP PAGES

## Yale Glee Club Free Concert Sunday Afternoon at Christ Church

BY ANNE W. SEMMES

The Yale Glee Club (YGC), founded in 1861 and having sung for Civil War troops, and now regularly singing around the world, is coming to Greenwich, all 80 male and female singers, on Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m., January 12, in the main sanctuary of Christ Church Greenwich. And the concert is free.

"Part of the Yale Glee Club's mission is to encourage choral singing and foster a love of choral music," tells local alum Clay Kaufman. "To that end, the January concert will include a fundraising portion (donations optional) to help support the Boys and Girls Club of Greenwich in starting a new choral program. The Glee Club hopes for a long and deep collaboration to help encourage young people to discover the joy of singing in a chorus."

Kaufman, who is a YGC board member, having served as president for six years, is part of a

group of local alumni singers from the Greenwich and Westchester area set to sing a few favorite songs from the YGC's long history. The Concert will also feature new works, including "Nuestra Mirada" by Micaela Carballo, "Break Silence" by Carlos Cordero, and "Power in Our Voices" by Omeno Abutu. "They will also perform," he tells, "works by Charles Ives, Anton Bruckner, Aaron Copland, Jeff Douma [YGC director], and Arianne Abela, along with traditional Yale songs."

The group comes to Greenwich having recently sung several concerts in Maine. "The YGC alumni association is very active," tells Kaufman. Its reunions occurring every five years, he says, "bring more than 400 people back to campus, with singers spanning 80 years of graduating classes at Yale. Singing is a lifelong activity and at this Greenwich concert we will have singers aged from 18 to 90. It is such a remarkable opportunity to share the joy of

*"Part of the Yale Glee Club's mission is to encourage choral singing and foster a love of choral music," tells local alum Clay Kaufman.*

music across the generations."

Kaufman shared more of the YGC history. "It's one of the first college singing groups to undertake international travel, its first tour to Europe in 1928 was led by director Marshall Bartholomew, who, during WWI, had helped prisoners of war survive their ordeal through song. In the past 103 years, the YGC has had only four directors, including current director Jeff Douma, now in his 22nd year."

"The YGC is comprised of a diverse group of students with majors ranging from music to astrophysics to English," continues

Kaufman. And later this academic year, "YGC will be hosting the New Haven High Schools Choral Festival, bringing hundreds of local students together. In addition, this Spring the group will perform Stravinsky's Symphony of Psalms with the Yale Symphony Orchestra, Ravel's "Daphnis et Chloe" and "L'Aurore" with the Yale Philharmonia, and Mozart's Requiem at Woolsey Hall in New Haven."

Boys & Girls Club of Greenwich Choral Program

The Yale Glee Club Concert is introducing the Boys & Girls Club's

new after-school Choral Program for kids aged 8-12. This program offers young singers the chance to explore the joy of music and develop their vocal talents in a supportive and fun environment. Participants will learn the basics of vocal technique, harmony, and music theory while singing a diverse repertoire that spans different genres and cultures.

In addition to weekly rehearsals, the Choral Program will feature special guest appearances from the Greenwich High School Chamber Choir, the Yale Glee Club, and local a cappella

ensembles. These guest sessions will inspire and engage the children, exposing them to various musical styles and professional insights. The program will culminate in a special performance for family and friends. No prior singing experience is required - just a love for music and a willingness to learn! Join us in making beautiful music together!

For more information on the Yale Glee Club visit <https://gleeclub.yalecollege.yale.edu/> For information on the Boys & Girls Club of Greenwich visit <https://bgcg.org/>

## Worship Directory and Services

## ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

## Harvest Time Church

1338 King St., 203-531-7778  
[www.htchurch.com](http://www.htchurch.com)

Worship Services: Sun, 9 & 10:45am. All services are streamed on the church's website and YouTube channel. In addition to Sundays, there are also groups for children and teens on Wednesday evenings. *Creative Team Open Call: January 11, 1:30pm. HT Discover - Sunday Session: January 12, 9:30am. Anchor Night! for Young Adults January 17, 7pm.*

## BAPTIST

## First Baptist Church

10 Northfield St.; 203-869-7988  
[www.firstbaptistgreenwich.com](http://www.firstbaptistgreenwich.com)

Sunday Servings: 11:30am, Facebook Live or for Devotion: 11-11:25am (Dial in 701-802-5355, Access code 360922).

## Greenwich Baptist Church

10 Indian Rock Ln; 203-869-2807  
[www.greenwichbaptist.org](http://www.greenwichbaptist.org)

Worship: Sun, 11am (in person and online through Facebook & YouTube). Children Sunday School: 9:30am, ages 9-14y. Adult Bible Study: Sun, 9:30am, Fellowship Hall. Prayer Gathering: Wed, 7pm, Pastor's Office or virtual on Google Meets.

## CATHOLIC

## Sacred Heart Church

95 Henry St.; 203-531-8730  
[www.sacredheartgreenwich.org](http://www.sacredheartgreenwich.org)

Mass: Mon-Fri, 7am (in the Chapel); Saturday Vigil, 4pm (in Church); Sunday: 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30am. Confessions: Sat, 3-3:30pm or by appointment. Divine Mercy Prayer Group: Wed, 7-9pm. Prayer Group: Thu, 4-5pm, in the Chapel, 38 Gold St, All are welcome. Ministry to the Homebound: if you, or someone you know, is homebound and would like a priest visit you, call the Rectory at 203-531-8730. Stations of the Cross: All Fridays during Lent, 6:30pm, in the Church, All are welcome. *Family Mass: Sunday, Jan. 12, 9:30am.*

## St. Catherine of Siena &amp; St. Agnes

4 Riverside Ave; 203-637-3661  
[www.stc-sta.org](http://www.stc-sta.org)

\* All Masses at St. Catherine of Siena Church are in-person and livestreamed (View our Livestream and recordings here: <https://events.locallive.tv/worship/stc-sta>)

Masses: Saturday, 3-4pm - Confessions (Specific dates confirmed weekly in bulletin.) Vigil Mass, 5pm. Sunday: 7:30am, 9am (Family Mass), 10:30am (Traditional Mass), 5pm (Teen Mass), all at St. Catherine's Church). Masses in other Languages: French Mass - 2nd Sunday of the month, 11am. Italian Mass - 3rd Sunday of the month, both at St. Catherine's Chapel. Spanish Mass, 6:30pm, St. Catherine's Church. Daily/Weekdays: Mon, Tue, Thu & Friday: 7am - Daily Mass, St. Catherine's Church; 5:15pm - Daily Mass, St. Catherine's Chapel. Tuesdays: Rosary, 6pm, St. Catherine's Chapel. Wednesdays: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 8:30am-4pm, St. Catherine's Church. Ongoing: Food & Essentials Drive for Neighbor to Neighbor (there will be a car or SUV with an open trunk in the parking lot across from St. Catherine's church on Tuesdays, 9-11am. Join Music Ministries for choir rehearsals - Traditional, Contemporary, Teen, Cherub, Family Mass Choir - contact Music Director, Dr. Liya Petrides at [music.director@stc-sta.org](mailto:music.director@stc-sta.org) with questions. Walking with Purpose: Thursdays, through March 28, 10-11:30am (off Feb. 15 & March 14), [stc-sta.org/walking-with-purpose](http://stc-sta.org/walking-with-purpose). New Day Bereavement: starts March 5 (There's no cost and you need not be a member of the Parish of St. Catherine and St. Agnes or even Catholic, you just need to be registered. If interested, please contact Parish Partners at (203-637-3661,

ext. 375). *St. Catherine of Siena and St. Agnes Friends of Music present a concert entitled Alexander Wieczorek and Friends: Sunday, Jan. 19, 2pm, Admission free, donations are welcome.*

## St. Mary Church

178 Greenwich Ave.; 203-869-9393  
[www.stmarygreenwich.org](http://www.stmarygreenwich.org)

Public Mass: Sun: 9, 10:30am, 12:15 & 5:15pm. Sat Vigils: 4 & 7pm (Spanish). Daily: Mon-Fri, 12:05pm (Church doors will open from 10am-3pm). Confessions (English): Tue: 7-8pm; Sat: 3-3:45pm. Eucharistic Adoration: 1st Fri of the month: 12:30-5pm. *Confirmation class will begin on Jan. 13, 6-7:30pm, Classes will meet twice a month.*

## St. Michael the Archangel

469 North St.; 203-869-5421  
[www.stmichaelgreenwich.com](http://www.stmichaelgreenwich.com)

Mass: Mon-Fri: 7:30 & 9am. Sat: 9am & 5pm. Sun: 7:30, 8:30, 9:45am, 12 & 5pm. Confession: Sat: 4:15-4:45pm; Wed: 9:30-11am & 6:30-8pm. Eucharistic Adoration: Wed, 9:30am-8pm. New Day Bereavement Program: through Nov. 17, Thu, 7-8:30pm & through Nov. 30 (skipping Nov. 23), Wed, 4-5:30pm, 203-869-5421. *Emmaus mini retreat: Saturday, Jan. 18, 9:30am.*

## St. Timothy Chapel

1034 North St.; 203-869-5421

Mass: Sat: 4pm (Vigil Mass). Sun: 11am. *Christmas Eve Mass - Dec. 24: 5pm.*

## St. Paul Church

84 Sherwood Ave.; 203-531-8741  
[www.stpaulgreenwich.org](http://www.stpaulgreenwich.org)

Mass: Mon-Thu: 9am; Sat: 4pm (Vigil); Sun: 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30am. Confession: Sat, 3-3:45pm. Mass on Holy Days: Vigil: 5:30pm, 9am & 12:15pm. Visit the website for information regarding the Bereavement Group (twice monthly) and weekly volunteer opportunities at the Don Bosco Kitchen and Food Pantry with the St. Paul Mercy Volunteers. All masses are available via livestream through the website. Evenings For Married Couples: 1st Thurs of every month, 7:30pm.

## St. Roch Church

10 St. Roch Ave; 203-869-4176  
[www.strochchurch.com](http://www.strochchurch.com)

Mass: (Reservations and/or for viewing via live streaming): Mon-Fri: 7:30pm; Sat: 5pm; Sun: 7:30am (Concelebrated for Previously Scheduled 9:30am Mass Intentions), 10:30am, 12pm (Spanish). Mass Intentions: consult the bulletin for time.

## CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

## First Church of Christ, Scientist

11 Park Pl; 203-869-1555  
[christiansciencect.org/greenwich](http://christiansciencect.org/greenwich)

Sundays: 10:30am. Sunday School: for students up to 20yrs, 10:30am, Wed. 7:30, testimonies of healing - call in for all services 203-680-9095 code 520520\*. Reading Room, 333 Greenwich Ave. 203-869-2503, M-F, 11-3, some Saturdays. Bibles and children's books for sale.

## COMMUNITY

## First Church of Round Hill

464 Round Hill Rd; 203-629-3876  
[www.firstchurchofroundhill.com](http://www.firstchurchofroundhill.com)

In-person worship: Sundays, 10am.

## Round Hill Community Church

395 Round Hill Rd; 203-869-1091  
[www.roundhillcommunitychurch.org](http://www.roundhillcommunitychurch.org)

Weekly Sunday Worship services in the Sanctuary at 10am or online at [roundhillcommunitychurch.org](http://roundhillcommunitychurch.org) anytime. Children's Worship (grades K-5) meets during the 10 am service. Please call the Church Office or visit the website for the most up-to-date information, events, and schedules. Tools for Aging Well, 2nd Wednesday of the Month, 11am-12pm, Sanctuary.

Round Hill Art & Craft Studio: Mondays, 1-4pm.

## CONGREGATIONAL

## The First Congregational Church

108 Sound Beach Ave; 203-637-1791  
[www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org)

Worship: In-Person & Virtual: Sundays, 10am. Live-streaming on YouTube and Facebook, and broadcast on WGCH (1490 AM). Connect during the week: Friday: Friday Email Blast (sign up by calling the church office); Church school before worship most Sundays, 9am for preschoolers through grade 6. Online programming available via Zoom. A joyful community diverse in spiritual backgrounds and beliefs.

## North Greenwich Congregational

606 Riversville Rd; 203-869-7763 (Instagram photos and videos @ [north\\_greenwich\\_church](https://www.instagram.com/north_greenwich_church))

Worship Service: Sun, 10:30am, in person.

## Second Congregational Church

139 E Putnam Ave; 203-869-9311  
[www.2cc.org](http://www.2cc.org)

Sunday worship: 8:30 & 10:30am. Children's Chapel during worship 10:30am worship. *Sunday of Service: January 19, 11:45am-2pm, Please join us to help assemble hygiene packs to be distributed by Church World Service. Out of this World VBS: Monday, January 20, 9-11:30am.*

## EPISCOPAL

## Anglican Church of the Advent

606 Riversville Rd; 203-861-2432  
[facebook.com/greenwichanglican](https://facebook.com/greenwichanglican)

Service: Sun, 9am, Holy Eucharist. Sunday School during academic year.

## Christ Church Greenwich

254 E. Putnam Ave; 203-869-6600  
[www.christchurchgreenwich.org](http://www.christchurchgreenwich.org)

Holy Eucharist: Sundays, 8am, In-person only, Chapel. Messy Church Eucharist: every Sund, 9am, In-person only, Parish Hall. Holy Eucharist: 10am, In-person or livestream, Main Sanctuary, Children's Chapel during the service. Choral Evensong or Sung Compline: In-person or livestream, 5pm. Wednesdays: Preach and Teach Eucharist (new time for this midweek service), 12:15pm, In-person only Chapel. Thursdays: Choral Evensong, 6:30pm, In-person or livestream, Main Sanctuary. *Youth Confirmation: Sundays, Sept. 15 - June 7, 11:15am-12:15pm. The Disciples of Christ in Community: Tuesdays, Sept. 17 - Nov. 19, 7-8:30pm. Midnight Run to New York City: Friday, January 10, 8pm-12am. Centering Prayer Monday, Jan. 13, 12-1pm, Chapel.*

## St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

954 Lake Ave.; 203-661-5526  
[www.stbarnabasgreenwich.org](http://www.stbarnabasgreenwich.org)

Holy Eucharist: Sundays, 10am (in person & livestreamed). *Join us as we celebrate all the new beginnings brought by the fall in the company of one another and of our Lord. Every Sunday features joyful preaching by our clergy, Father Justin and Rev. Phoebe, beautiful music by our director of music, Marnus Greyling, and the St. Barnabas Choir, and a warm welcome for kids and parents. Our exciting Sunday School programs for kids take place every Sunday during the 10am service: Children's Church for kids 4-8 years old, and YC (Youth Church) for those 9+. Children are also always welcome in church, and childcare is provided all morning in our nursery. Come kick off your fall in faith.* Visit us in person, on our website, and on social media (Instagram: @st.barnabasgreenwich). Small church feel - Big church experience.

## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

200 Riverside Ave.; 203-637-2447  
[www.stpaulsriverside.org](http://www.stpaulsriverside.org)

Worship: Sundays, 10:15am (in person and streaming). Coffee hour immediately following worship service in Selleck Hall. Sunday School (including frolic Fatih class for toddlers 2+) in the Children's Chapel downstairs - drop-off starts at 10am. Ongoing: Neighbor-to-Neighbor food drive box by office door. Pick-up is every Thursday morning.

## St. Saviour's Episcopal Church

350 Sound Beach Ave; 203-637-2262  
[www.saintsaviours.org](http://www.saintsaviours.org)

In-person Service: Sundays, 10am.

## JEWISH

## Chabad Lubavitch of Greenwich

75 Mason St.; 203-629-9059  
[www.chabadgreenwich.org](http://www.chabadgreenwich.org)

Please visit our website for details on Shabbat services, classes, programs and more. Judaism 101 for Moms: Thursdays, 9:20am. Kabbala & Challah: Thursdays, 9:15am, \$20 p/class. *Marriage & After Life - Shabbat Dinner: January 17 & 18, RSVP by Jan. 15.*

## Congregation Shir Ami

One W. Putnam Ave; 203-274-5376  
[www.congregationshirami.org](http://www.congregationshirami.org)

All services, programs and celebrations are available online via Zoom. Kabbalat Shabbat: Fridays, 7-8:30pm, First Presbyterian Church. Soul Spa - Torah Study: Saturdays, 10-11:30am, on Zoom. .

## Greenwich Reform Synagogue

92 Orchard St.; 203-629-0018  
[www.grs.org](http://www.grs.org)

Join Rabbi Gerson and Cantor Rubin every Friday, 6pm for Shabbat Services, and once a month for Tot Shabbat, 5:30pm. All in person services are also live streamed on Zoom. *Tot & Family Services & Shabbat Dinner: Friday, Jan. 10, 5:15pm, RSVP for dinner at Admin@GRS.org. Torah Study with Rabbi Gerson: Sunday, Jan. 12, 9:45am.*

## Temple Shalom

300 E. Putnam Ave.; 203-869-7191  
[www.templeshalom.com](http://www.templeshalom.com)

Services - In-person and virtual Friday night Shabbat services, 6:30pm & Saturday morning Shabbat services, 10:30am. *Itsy Bitsy Playgroup: Fall Session: Fridays, Sept. 6-Nov. 22\*, 9:15am. Together Shabbat for Young Families: Friday, Jan. 10, 5:30pm. Game Night: Mah Jongg & Canasta: Monday, Jan. 13, 7pm. Women's Musar Class: Mindfulness in Jewish Texts with Rabbi Gisel: Tuesday, Jan. 14, 6:30pm.*

## LUTHERAN

## St. Paul Lutheran Church

286 Delavan Ave.; 203-531-8466  
[www.firstpaul.com](http://www.firstpaul.com)

Sunday Divine Service: 9am. Sunday Bible Study: 10:30am. Wednesday Dinner: 5:30pm. Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30pm.

## METHODIST

## Diamond Hill United Methodist

521 E. Putnam Ave.; 203-869-2395  
[www.diamondhillumc.com](http://www.diamondhillumc.com)

In-person & Online Worship Service every Sunday, 10am, followed by a time of Fellowship. Wednesday Noonday Prayer & Wednesday Evening Bible Study. (Details at [diamondhill.com](http://diamondhill.com)).

## First United Methodist Church

59 E. Putnam Ave.; 203-629-9584  
[www.fumcgreenwich.com](http://www.fumcgreenwich.com)

Sunday Worship, 9:30am (except the last Sunday of the month at 10:30am). Virtual Daily Gathering: Mon-Fri, 3pm, Zoom. Talking with Your Hands: Mon, 3pm. Reading this World as a Christian: Tue, 3pm. Back to Rock - music with Mr. Bruce: Tue, 3pm, via

Zoom. Reading the Shape of Scripture: Wed, 3pm, via Zoom. Spring Bible Study: Thu, 3pm, via Zoom. Tea & Talk: Fri 3pm, via Zoom.

## Bethel African Methodist Episcopal

42 Lake Ave.; 203-661-3099

Worship via teleconference: Sun, 11am and until further notice (Dial-in number: 425-436-6380, Access code: 612220).

## NONDENOMINATIONAL

## Dingletown Community Church

376 Stanwich Rd., at Barnstable Lane

Sunday Service: 10:30am. Philip Antinone - Chaplain.

## Revive Church

90 Harding Rd., Old Greenwich (Old Greenwich Civic Center)  
[www.myrevive.org](http://www.myrevive.org)

Worship Service: Sun, 10am, Holiday Inn 980 Hope St, Stamford. Online Sermons available on Facebook ([facebook.com/myrevivechurchgreenwich](https://facebook.com/myrevivechurchgreenwich)) and on YouTube. All groups are online. Direct any prayer needs to the prayer chain at 203-536-2686 or [revivefm@gmail.com](mailto:revivefm@gmail.com).

## Stanwich Church

202 Taconic Rd.; 203-661-4420  
[www.stanwichchurch.org](http://www.stanwichchurch.org)

Sunday Morning Worship Service: *9am & 10:45am. Kids Ministry for grades 5 and under, and Student Ministry for grades 6 and above, are offered. Live stream and recorded media are available at [stanwichchurch.org](http://stanwichchurch.org). We'd love to meet you here!*

## Center for Spiritual Development.

NSAC  
293 Sound Beach Ave; 203-637-4615  
[www.Center4SpiritualDev.org](http://www.Center4SpiritualDev.org)

Sunday Service (hybrid: in-person & virtually on zoom): 7pm. Virtual Children's Lyceum (ages 5-14): 3rd Sunday of the month, 10-10:40am. Healing Service: 3rd Thursday of the month, 7-7:30pm. (Email [Albertson-pcc@gmail.com](mailto:Albertson-pcc@gmail.com) for registration and Zoom Links). *Spiritual Mediumship class - The Joy of Mediumship: Jan. 13, 20, 27 & Feb. 3, 7-9pm, \$120, CSD-Pastor@gmail.com. Psychic Fair: Saturday, Jan. 11, 11am- 4pm, Free admission.*

## Trinity Church

5 River Rd.; 203-618-0808  
[www.trinitychurch.life](http://www.trinitychurch.life)

In-Person Services: Sun., 9:45am, Hyatt Regency Greenwich, 1800 E. Putnam Ave., Old Greenwich; 10am, Trinity Westchester, 2111 Boston Post Rd, Larchmont, NY; 11am, Saxe Middle School, New Canaan. *Connecticut Men's Breakfast: Saturday, January 18, 8am..*

## PRESBYTERIAN

## First Presbyterian Church

1 W. Putnam Ave.; 203-869-8686  
[www.fpcg.org](http://www.fpcg.org)

Worship: Sundays, 10am. *A Conversation with Hagar Chemali: Sunday, Jan. 12.*

## Grace Church of Greenwich

89 Maple Ave.; 203-861-7555  
[www.gracechurchgreenwich.com](http://www.gracechurchgreenwich.com)

Worship: Sundays, 8:45am, 10:45am & 4:30pm, Woman's Club of Greenwich, 89 Maple Ave. Bible Studies and Sunday School meet in person. All are welcome.

## Living Hope Community Church

38 West End Ave; 203-637-3669  
[www.LivingHopect.org](http://www.LivingHopect.org)



In-person & online (LivingHopect.org/livestream) worship Sundays: 10am. Prayer for the Nation: Thursdays, 7:30-8pm, Online. Register and more information: [livinghopect.org/resources/alpha](http://livinghopect.org/resources/alpha). Grow Night Dinner: Wednesdays, 6-7pm.



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COLUMN

# Discover the Ultimate Gift



By MAREK ZABRISKIE

In November of 2018, Christ Church held an event called "Follow the Star" that featured 70 creches collected by parishioners Kay and Michael Langan while traveling around the world. Each creche depicted the Holy Family and the Wise Men in the traditional costumes of their country. There creches from Africa, Asia, South America, Europe, and even Eskimo creches.

I thought about that event and those lovely creches when our family recently visited Le Musée National des Beaux-Arts in Quebec City. There amid the indigenous art we saw a creche created by an Inuit artist who mixed Christianity with indigenous culture.

The baby Jesus lay in a manger inside an igloo. Mary and Joseph and the Wise Men wore coats made of seal skins. The latter brought typical Inuit gifts instead of gold, frankincense and myrrh. In lieu of camels and sheep, three sled dogs looked on in amazement.

On Monday, two billion Christians around the world celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany. Most churches marked this event the previous day in their worship services as they retold the story of the Magi's visit to the Christ child.

Centuries before Christmas was first celebrated, Easter, Pentecost and Epiphany were the three most holiest days in the Church Calendar. In many places around the world, especially in Spain, Italy, and South America, Epiphany, not Christmas, is the day when gifts are exchanged in honor of the Magi who brought gifts to the Christ child.

The Magi were a caste of people in ancient Persia. They were Zoroastrians, who lived in what is today is Iran, and they worshipped the God of Light, Ahura Mazda. They believed that when each of us was born a star appeared in the sky that controlled our destiny. The more we spread goodness and light, the brighter our star appeared, and the brighter our star the greater our potential to spread goodness and light.

Hence, when the Magi, who were a combination of astrologers, magicians, and philosophers, saw an exceptionally bright star in the sky, they knew that someone had been born who was to spread great goodness and

light. The star that they saw was actually a constellation that appears once every 800 years when Jupiter, Saturn and Mars form a triangular configuration.

Each of these planets had a significance. One represented the Jewish people. Another signified kingship, and a third noted that an important birth had occurred. Thus, to the Magi, this bright light signaled that a king had been born to the Jews.

And because the star was so bright, they sensed that this great spreader of light and goodness was actually a gift not only for the Jews, but for people everywhere. So, they set out on a 700 mile journey to meet this child bearing gifts fit for a king – gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew's gospel alone recounts the Magi's visit to the Christ child, which in many ways has become the Christmas story as Gentiles from afar worship the newborn king. In fact, the earliest paintings of Christmas in the catacombs of Rome show the Magi, not the shepherds, gathered around Jesus. Today, the story of Wise Men from afar being led by a star remains our most beautiful portrayal of the encounter with the Christ child, who is the ultimate gift.

Matthew says that when the travelers arrived, "They were overwhelmed with joy." Joy pervades the story. In meeting the child laying in a manger the Wise Men found the answer to their lifetime's longing – love, purpose, a call for them and for the whole human family. The gospel says that they "rejoiced exceedingly with great joy," because they had encountered the ultimate gift – the Christ child.

Not everyone has this gift. Perhaps you have read Charles Dickens' Great Expectations. In it, there is a woman named Miss Havensham, who was tremendously talented, exceedingly wealthy, and very prominent. But the love of her life stood her up on the day of their wedding. He ran away, and she never fully recovered.

Despite being a beautiful woman with many gifts, Miss Havensham was miserable. She felt neither loved, nor cared for, nor significant or important. Miss Havensham was completely bereft of joy, because she didn't have the ultimate gift.

Let me contrast her with James C. Wheat, a member of my former church in Richmond, Virginia. While attending the Virginia Military Institute, Jim's macula began to degenerate and he became completely blind. Upon graduating, his father took pity on him and hired his son to work in his one-man financial firm earning \$40 a month. But

*Regular Bible reading helps us to find the ultimate gift – the Christ child, which leads us to an awareness of all the other gifts that we already possess. Reading the Bible helps us to sense God's presence in our lives. It brings out the best within us, improves our relationships, gives us a positive outlook and offers us incomparable peace and joy.*

Jim had a keen business mind.

Despite being blind, he grew his father's tiny firm into Wheat First Securities with 1,100 employees and 52 offices. He learned how to fox hunt on horseback and duck hunt from a canoe. He became a man with great values, who admired by everyone who knew him.

Unlike Miss Havensham, who faced a great setback and never recovered, Jim discovered great joy. He married the love of his life, raised a wonderful family, and attended church regularly, and gave generously to his community. Jim had the ultimate gift, which is the awareness of all the other gifts that we already have in our lives, and this brought him great joy.

Miss Havensham had so much going for her – beauty, intelligence, talent, prominence, and wealth. But without the ultimate gift, she was miserable. The Wise Men, by contrast, set out on a journey to encounter the ultimate gift, which makes what we already have seem far more than enough.

It is the gift that unleashes incredible joy and meaning in our lives. That is why this story of the Wise Men traveling so far and bearing gifts to the Christ child has captured the imagination of people around the world.

All of us need divine revelation. We need to chart our way to truth and light. The star that guided the Wise Men can guide us as well. The star is a sign, a symbol, and a wonder that brings us to the Christ child. So, we, like them, must follow that star.

The star for Christians is the Bible. Martin Luther wrote, "Scripture is the manger in which the Christ lies." As a mother goes to a cradle to find her baby so the Christian goes to the Bible to find Jesus."

Over 200 members and friends of Christ Church Greenwich are participating in The Bible Challenge – a ministry that I started in 2011 to help people read through the

Bible or the New Testament, Proverbs, and Psalms in a year. The former requires 30 minutes of time a day and the latter requires only 10 minutes a day.

I invite you to join us, because it is the greatest book ever written and reading it will transform your life. A few minutes dwelling each day in God's Word will illumine your life as you follow the star. Just email me at: mzabriskie@christchurchgreenwich.org and I will help you get started.

Regular Bible reading helps us to find the ultimate gift – the Christ child, which leads us to an awareness of all the other gifts that we already possess. Reading the Bible helps us to sense God's presence in our lives. It brings out the best within us, improves our relationships, gives us a positive outlook and offers us incomparable peace and joy.

Sometimes life can be terribly dark, and you don't know where you're headed. Then you must follow the star to the ultimate gift. Sometimes you feel all alone, perhaps even betrayed or abandoned, then you must pick your Bible and follow the star. Sometimes everyone and everything seems to go against you, then you must read the Bible and follow its light until you arrive at the ultimate gift.

You don't have to quit your job or travel hundreds of miles. You can remain where you are and read a small portion of the Bible each day. It will help you to develop more patience, kindness, and generosity. As you dwell in God's Word, God's light will guide you and will shine through you to those around you. May 2025 be the year where you follow the star and receive the ultimate gift, which will give you great peace and joy.

*The Rev. Marek Zabriskie is rector of Christ Church Greenwich and is committed to helping people develop a daily spiritual practice of reading the Bible. The has written and edited 11 books on this topic.*



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# Bringing God's Light into the New Year



BY RABBI MITCHELL HURVITZ

When we celebrate the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, we traditionally and prayerfully note: "May the old year end with all its curses, and may the New Year begin with all of its blessings."

As we celebrate our new secular year together, we hope to also welcome a New Year that brings us only blessings.

New beginnings should prompt hope, and we all want to cast away the curses of injustice, hatred, and violence. But hope is a prompt - a catalyst by which we need to go out in word and deeds and help to make God's light shine more brightly within our world.

When considering the past year, we need to evaluate what we have done or not done. How are we identifying the challenges confronting us, and how can we better respond?

When we take the time to reflect on our lives prayerfully, we are in essence performing a self-evaluation of our "human job" performance.

Many people do not like performance reviews. They want to know what they do that is good and not what requires improvement. In the professional world, before a supervisor offers a review, it always works better when an individual honestly self-evaluates and

*As we celebrate our New Year and seek to turn from the curses and obtain blessings, we must engage in the sacred actions that can bring the best results.*

identifies the strengths and weaknesses of their performance before the supervisor provides feedback. Self-identification prompts an easier and more effective conversation and has a specific purpose for why we pray.

God is our ultimate supervisor and gives us a detailed "human job" description. Imagining God as all-knowing also lets us realize that there is complete accountability and transparency regarding our "human job." Fundamental to God's job description includes the idea that humans are created equally in God's image.

Genesis records God's words during creation, "Let us make the human in our image after our likeness." Because we are created in God's image as equals, we must always behave towards each other with an appreciation of the other's inherent human dignity.

God's words "Let us" is an interesting statement by the "Creator." Ethical monotheism dogmatically asserts that "God is One." So, who exactly is the "us?"

Some rabbis assert that "us" is the plurality of God's attributes: Justice, Mercy, Love, Creator, etc..."Us" is God's all-inclusiveness of the Divine attributes of authority and power, and we can understand it as a declaration of the "Royal We."

Another rabbinic teaching is that God's use of "us" manifests God's humility. An ancient Midrash states that God addressed his divine intentions to the angels by saying, "Let us make the human in our image." God is not inviting

the angels to help, but as an act of modesty and courtesy, God wishes to make the angels feel connected to the creation of the human. Because each of us is created in the image of God, we understand that even the most significant human beings should act humbly and consult with those who are not as great.

Another way, which I believe is most important, is to understand that "us" refers to the reality that the creation of the human being is someone in continual partnership between God and themselves in the continual renewal of creation. Constantly, we humans are integrated with God's acts of continual creation. God created "in the beginning," but the God-human partnership in creation has always manifested itself. The Kotzker Rebbe goes even further when he asserts: "In the beginning God created.' God created only the beginning, and the rest of creation is upon human beings."

The notion that we are in continual partnership with God to be the agents of the renewal of creation is also manifest in our common prayer, thanking God for the bounty we receive within our lives. We thank God: "HaMotzi Lechem Min HaAretz - For the bread we receive from the Land." Bread does not pop up from the land; instead, the wheat is grown and harvested by human beings, and human hands then make it into the dough baked by human hands. The common blessing of gratitude for the bounty received is an acknowledgment of the constant partnership between God and the human being.

Human beings are the bridge between the physical and spiritual worlds, and our mission is to safeguard, sustain, and further develop the world God created. Our failure to do so brings most of the curses to our world, and our success brings God's blessings.

Jewish mysticism taught that the material world functions as clothing for God's light. The Psalmist similarly taught that "you cover yourself with light, as with a garment." Our presence in our world is always our encounter with the Divine, and "repairing the world" is our responsible service. When we use our capabilities in the world to work goodness and repair rather than ruin, we become part of how God manifests in the physical world.

As we celebrate our New Year and seek to turn from the curses and obtain blessings, we must engage in the sacred actions that can bring the best results. The first step is to recognize our partnership with God as agents for the positive renewal of creation. Living up to the terms of the Divine-Human partnership is how we succeed. There is nothing wrong with celebrating the New Year and its possibilities. But, more important is what we will choose to do this New Year that covers all of creation with much more of God's light.

Shabbat Shalom and Happy New Year!

*Temple Shalom'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.*

## Greenwich's Eliot Spizzirri on remarkable trajectory with ATP tour

BY LIZ LEAMY

Eliot Spizzirri, the talented and decorated American tennis player from Greenwich has been making remarkable inroads upon ever since joining the celebrated ATP tour last summer, just having recently catapulted in the fall from a ranking of 300 in the men's singles dominion in early October to 223rd by mid-November, climbing nearly 80 places in two months to designate him as one of the most exciting athletes to watch on this decorated international athletic circuit.

Spizzirri, who turned 23 in late December and grew up playing at the Round Hill Club, had racked up a slew of accomplishments and victories in the tennis world prior to reaching this premiere professional level in the sport, most recently having been named as the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) National Player of the Year in 2023 and 2024 when he was attending the University of Texas in Austin where he had earned a business degree last spring, among other things.

Ever since joining the ATP tour upon his graduation from college, Spizzirri, in signature style, has been making an indelible mark upon the tennis world as has been as focused



Eliot Spizzirri (right) with his twin brother Nick when they were younger. Nick is a number-one ranked squash player for the University of Pennsylvania and the two both turned 23 on their birthday this past December. (Photo courtesy of the Spizzirri family)

*"Competition, for me is the most exciting part of playing and the whole experience is just a lot of fun," said Spizzirri. "The game teaches you a lot and there's always something to learn, which is a strength."*

and committed as ever on continuing to evolve and further the skills of his game, with competing at the professional level being a pursuit he has wanted to do ever since he first began playing at age five.

"It's a lot of fun and it's all been very exciting so far," said Spizzirri. "It's something I've always wanted to do and it's definitely been quite a journey and I'm grateful to have this opportunity."

Ever joining the ATP tour, Spizzirri has been playing in characteristic stellar fashion, having racked up top-tier finishes that have included qualifying for the celebrated Grand Slam U.S. Open men's singles main draw last summer after he had triumphed in the three consecutive qualifying matches leading up to that point, an experience he describes as amazing.

"Being out there playing and getting into a flow state is where I feel totally alive," said Spizzirri, who was also a quarter finalist in the 2023 NCAA singles championships and the 2019 U.S. Open Junior Doubles champion with Tyler Zink of the U.S. who lives in Bradenton, Florida. "Feeling in the zone is everything and when it happens, it's a place like no other."

Humble, focused and driven, Spizzirri cited the vital role his family and friends play in his life, with their constant support and presence being a vital and stabilizing force, especially at this juncture in his career being, one that is constantly chock full of learning experiences, opportunities and remarkable and interesting moments.

"Competition, for me is the most exciting part of playing and the whole experience is just a lot of fun," said Spizzirri. "The game teaches you a lot and there's always something to learn, which is a strength."

Since embarking on the ATP tour, Spizzirri has been busy traveling to dozens of different U.S. and international cities where he has faced off against other top-ranked domestic and international players in the singles and doubles domains, something, for him, that has been an invaluable experience in

all respects.

"Every match is different and it's always good to be out there," said Spizzirri, whose twin brother, Nick, is a number-one U.S. squash player for the University of Pennsylvania and is looking to compete at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, while his younger sister, Alex, is attending the University of Virginia. "I'm lucky I get to do this."

Spizzirri also expressed the importance of spending time with his family and friends in Greenwich and how it means so much to him.

"I love being home with my family and friends," said Spizzirri. "Everyone gets together and we have a good time. Greenwich is an amazing place with great people. Their work ethic, dedication and heart is everything and something that has made a big impact on me."

Meanwhile, Spizzirri credited his coaches, especially Patrick Hirscht, his longtime teacher and mentor whom he first began working with at the Round Hill Club, for helping him to achieve this exciting chapter in his tennis career.

"He has always had a lot of belief in me and I've been so fortunate to have him as a coach and mentor," said Spizzirri. "He's taught me so much. It's all about believing, learning and being accountable in whatever you do, which is pretty cool stuff that is so important and also universal."

Spizzirri, who practices six to seven days a week four hours or more a day on and off the court, also said that that one of the biggest things he has come to learn from his experience playing tennis over the years is that the journey is the victory.

"It's all about learning and growing," said Spizzirri. "There's always something new that comes up and figuring out how to deal with those things and situations definitely keeps you on your game."

Without a doubt, it has been a thrill for those in Greenwich and beyond to watch Spizzirri pursue his remarkable journey this sport as he is also starting to emerge as one of the sport's most exciting up-and-coming ambassadors who is making an



Eliot Spizzirri practices in the Arthur Ashe stadium at the 2024 U.S. Open last September where he qualified for the celebrated Men's Singles draw after winning three consecutive qualifying round matches. (Photo courtesy of Peter Spizzirri)

impact with work ethic, dedication, humility and heart on so many.

"This is an adventure and I love it," said Spizzirri. "I enjoy it all, the playing, the traveling and more than anything, just being with players and people from all over the country and world. It's pretty incredible."

Note: Most recently in early January, Spizzirri clinched the Challenger Canberra Men's Doubles tournament title with his partner, Ryan Seggerman of the U.S., defeating Pierre-Hugues Herbert of France and Jerome Kym of Switzerland, 1-6, 7-5, 10-5.



COLUMN

# What Are You Doing with a Third of Your Life?



By RUSSELL R. BARKSDALE, JR.

While this might be a provocative question—or just an excuse for an existential crisis, depending on your age—most Americans spend about one-third of their lives sleeping.

Sleep is a cornerstone of overall well-being, yet many struggle to achieve the recommended amount of rest. For a growing number of individuals, maintaining a consistent sleep schedule has become a significant challenge. The reliance on over-the-counter or prescription sleep aids has risen sharply, underscoring the impact of internal and external stressors on sleep health. Left unaddressed, insufficient sleep can contribute to a host of medical conditions, compromising both physical and mental health.

One external factor that

disrupts sleep patterns for millions is Daylight Saving Time (DST). The origins of DST are debated, with some historians attributing it to efforts by 19th-century scientists and businessmen to standardize railroad schedules, while others credit entomologist George Hudson, who proposed the concept in 1895 to allow more daylight for insect collection. DST was formally adopted during World War I as a fuel and energy conservation measure. While its founders aimed to optimize resources, they could not have anticipated its modern-day consequences on human health.

Modern research has highlighted the adverse effects of clock changes on the body's circadian rhythm—a natural internal clock that regulates sleep-wake cycles in response to light and dark. When we “spring forward” and lose an hour of sleep, the disruption may lead to several days of sleep deprivation, manifesting as daytime fatigue, irritability, reduced productivity, impaired focus, and even increased risks of accidents and health complications. The alteration in

*Sleep is a cornerstone of overall well-being, yet many struggle to achieve the recommended amount of rest.*

light exposure can also suppress the production of melatonin, a hormone vital for initiating and maintaining sleep.

Proponents of DST often argue that increased daylight hours during spring and summer enhance mental well-being and reduce traffic accidents by improving visibility during peak travel times. However, the energy-saving benefits historically associated with DST are less significant today. Modern lifestyles and technologies—such as air conditioning, televisions, and computers—may offset any potential energy savings by increasing overall consumption during extended daylight hours.

Sleep is far from a passive state. While the body rests, the brain remains active, cycling through distinct stages of non-rapid eye movement (NREM) and rapid eye movement (REM) sleep. A full sleep cycle lasts approximately 90 to 120 minutes

and includes:

**NREM Stage 1:** The transition from wakefulness to sleep.

**NREM Stage 2:** Light sleep, characterized by slowing brain activity and heart rate.

**NREM Stage 3:** Deep sleep, essential for physical recovery and immune function.

**REM Sleep:** The dreaming stage, critical for memory consolidation and emotional processing.

Disruptions to these cycles, whether due to DST, environmental factors, or underlying health conditions, can impair cognitive function, emotional regulation, and overall well-being.

Sleep disorders encompass a range of conditions that interfere with sleep quality, onset, or duration, significantly affecting daytime functioning. Common indicators include difficulty falling or staying asleep, excessive daytime fatigue,

circadian rhythm disturbances, or unusual behaviors during sleep. Insomnia, affecting up to two-thirds of adults periodically, and obstructive sleep apnea, which impacts an estimated 30 million Americans, are among the most prevalent conditions. Alarmingly, many cases go undiagnosed, underscoring the importance of professional evaluation.

Somnologists—physicians specializing in sleep medicine—play a crucial role in diagnosing and treating these disorders. With advances in medical research, over 100 specific sleep disorders have been identified, along with evidence-based treatments ranging from cognitive-behavioral therapy for insomnia (CBT-I) to continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) therapy for sleep apnea.

While time changes like DST are beyond individual control, there are steps you can

take to mitigate their effects and improve overall sleep health:

- Establish a consistent sleep schedule: Aim to go to bed and wake up at the same time each day, even on weekends.
- Create a sleep-friendly environment: Minimize light, noise, and distractions in your bedroom.
- Practice good sleep hygiene: Avoid stimulants like caffeine or electronics before bedtime.
- Seek professional help if needed: Persistent sleep issues may require evaluation by a healthcare provider or sleep specialist.

As our understanding of sleep continues to grow, so does our ability to address its challenges. By prioritizing sleep health and recognizing its critical role in overall wellness, we can better navigate the demands of modern life.

Thankfully, there are proven treatments for sleep disorders that go beyond turning back the clock.

*Russell R. Barksdale, Jr., Ph.D., MPA/MHA, FACHE is President & CEO of Waveny LifeCare Network*

## Bread of Life gifts more than 150 people with Christmas gift boxes



Loretta Calandrucchio, one of the dedicated Bread of Life volunteers, helps distribute the Christmas gift boxes at the Bread of Life pantry last December. (Photo courtesy of the Bread of Life)



Some of the holiday boxes prior to being given out at the Bread of Life pantry that is based in Rye (Photo courtesy of the Bread of Life)

By LIZ LEAMY

Several weeks ago, the ever-dedicated Bread of Life/Giving Tree Global organization of Rye

gifted dozens of individuals with Christmas boxes filled with food, blankets, toys and other gifts to further bolster the goodwill and spirit of this past

holiday season.

This popular annual event was held during the Bread of Life's busy bi-weekly Monday pantry held on Orchard Avenue

in Rye regularly throughout the year and was made possible through the joint effort of the Bread of Life team and Rye Boy Scout Troop Two's 'Reverse Advent Calendar' endeavor.

In preparation for this event, local area families sign up to create the holiday boxes, placing

a different item or present in it each day in December leading up to Christmas, a tradition in which all of those experience the opportunity of giving back and helping others while also expressing gratitude for those gifts in their lives.

Giving Tree Global|Bread of Life is a 501c3 that provides food, clothing, and other help.

Donations may be made directly on their website at [www.givingtreeglobal.org](http://www.givingtreeglobal.org) or checks may be mailed directly to Giving Tree Global, 65 Orchard Ave, Rye, NY 10580.

## Greenwich Rotary Club's Annual Holiday Party



Photos by Lola Baahkatova Photography. @lolianphoto

The Greenwich Rotary Club Annual Holiday Party on December 13th at the Riverside Yacht Club was a night to remember! The festivities were animated by the dynamic DJ Journey.

The evening was opened by Master of Ceremonies, Joe Benoit (upper right). The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by the 4-Way Test, led by Angela Hyland, and the Invocation delivered

by Jay Feinsod. Club President Agathe Likoba welcomed guests with warm greetings, expressing gratitude for everyone's presence.

A highlight of the evening was a surprise celebration for long-time member and Past-President, Diane Fox, recognizing her exceptional contributions to the Club and community.

The Club inducted its newest member, Commander Peter LeBeau from the American Legion.

The raffle was organized and hosted by Sally Parris, Diane Fox, and Marcia Preston.

This evening marked the Club's achievements in the first half of the Rotary year.

Club President Agathe Likoba extended a special thank you to the Riverside Yacht Club, Courtney Wetzal, and her team for the amazing job hosting us and making this event truly unforgettable.

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**NEWS BRIEFS**  
**From Page 1**

**FROM TOWN HALL**  
**JIM MICHEL BEGINS LEADERSHIP ROLE**



Jim Michel began his role as Commissioner of Public Works on January 1st. With years of experience in the department, he will oversee infrastructure and public works projects in Greenwich.

**BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB LEASE EXTENDED**

The Planning & Zoning commission approved a second lease extension for the Boys & Girls Club to continue using the building at 1 Horseneck Lane until May 31, 2025. The building, originally intended for temporary use, has hosted various organizations over the years, including the Fire Department and the Byram Volunteer Fire Department. A demolition plan for the building is included in the town's capital improvement plan, with removal scheduled for July.

**P&Z WARNS OF PHISHING EMAILS**

The Planning and Zoning Department issued a warning about fraudulent phishing emails resembling official Town communications, which may include fake invoices or payment requests. These emails are not legitimate, and official Town emails end in @greenwichct.gov. Residents are advised to verify suspicious emails by contacting the department directly and not to respond or click on links.

**RADON TESTING DISCOUNTS**

January is designated Radon Action Month, and Greenwich is offering discounted radon testing for both air and well water through February. Testing kits are available at the Greenwich Health Department, with reduced fees for air testing (\$46) and well water testing (\$52). Radon is a radioactive gas linked to lung cancer, and the testing program aims to help residents identify potential hazards in their homes.

**AROUND TOWN**

**TOWN CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING**

The town's Parks & Trees Division is recycling Christmas trees by chipping them for mulch or compost, with some chips used in local parks. Residents can also use trees for wildlife shelter, erosion control, or flower bed protection.

**HOLLY HILL OFFERS YEAR-ROUND RECYCLING**

Holiday lights and electronics can be recycled year-round at Holly Hill. Drop-offs are located next to the yard waste area. Hours: Monday-Friday, 7 am-2:30 pm; Saturday, 7 am-12 pm.

**FIRST NEWBORN OF THE YEAR**

At 12:30 am on Wednesday, Greenwich Hospital welcomed its first newborn of 2025: Lucca Pulla. Born to Jessenia Illisaca and Alex Pulla of Stamford, the baby boy weighed 7 pounds, 13.9 ounces. This marks the couple's second child.

**LOCAL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS**  
**COMMUNITY EXCEEDS FOOD DRIVE GOAL**

Greenwich Parks & Recreation, along with Santa and his helpers, delivered 604 pounds of fresh produce to Neighbor to Neighbor as part of the holiday food drive. The original goal was 500 pounds, which was exceeded. The donations were made possible by the community's contributions.

**THOMAS MCKINNEY LEADS WINTER CLEANUP**

Thomas McKinney Leads Winter Cleanup On January 4th, Thomas McKinney led a community cleanup in Bruce Park. A Greenwich High School student and Litter Free Ocean ambassador,

he has organized cleanups in partnership with Greenwich Green & Clean for several years. Volunteers play a key role in supporting these efforts.

**RIVERSIDE PARISH RESUMES WEEKLY DONATIONS**

The Parish of St. Catherine of Siena and St. Agnes in Riverside will resume weekly food drives for Neighbor to Neighbor starting January 7, 2025, from 9 to 11 am. Donations of non-perishable food, personal care items, household cleaning supplies, and new winter accessories are requested. Items can be dropped off at the parking area opposite the rectory at 13 Riverside Avenue or in the church vestibule during Mass.

**COMMUNITY INPUT SHAPES HEALTH SERVICES**

Greenwich Hospital is conducting the 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment to gather feedback from residents on local healthcare needs. The survey is available in English and Spanish and takes five minutes to complete. Participants can choose their top five priorities from a list of 25 options. The survey can be accessed here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GreaterGreenwichSurvey>

**NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR EXPANDS HOURS**

Neighbor to Neighbor, the only food pantry in Greenwich, has extended its hours starting January 6, 2025, now operating Monday to Friday from 8 am to 1 pm, with additional Wednesday and Thursday afternoon hours. The change comes in response to an 18% increase in families served in 2024, with an average of 795 families per month. The pantry distributed over 300,000 pounds of fresh produce in 2024 and will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2025.

**GREENWICH HOSPITAL UPDATES CANCER CENTER**

Greenwich Hospital has submitted a new proposal to the Planning & Zoning Commission for a Smilow Cancer Center within existing hospital buildings, including the Watson and Cohen Pavilions. The plan includes repurposing part of the medical office building at 3 Perryridge Road and converting 38 Lake Avenue into administrative offices for human resources. No building expansion is proposed, with the focus on renovations and landscaping.

**GENEROUS DONATION SUPPORTS NONPROFITS**

On December 13, Pathways, Inc. and River House Adult Day Center announced a \$1 million donation from an anonymous benefactor at a community event. The donation will support both organizations, which provide services to vulnerable populations in Greenwich and Stamford. River House offers care to aging adults, while Pathways supports adults with mental health challenges.

**PEOPLE IN TOWN**

**O'KANE STEPS DOWN**

Marcia O'Kane is stepping down as president and CEO of the Greenwich Chamber of Commerce after more than 13 years in the role. During her tenure, she led over 300 events, attracted new members, and supported local businesses through the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chamber has not yet announced her successor.

**SCHOOLS**

**BETH YEAGER INSPIRES SACRED HEART**

Beth Yeager '21 returned to Sacred Heart Greenwich to share her journey to the 2024 Paris Olympics. She discussed how the school's academics, athletics, and faith-based community shaped her growth as both a student and an athlete.

**GPS ANNOUNCES DIFFERENCE MAKERS**

Greenwich Public Schools announced 54 recipients of the December "Difference Maker" awards, recognizing staff for their exceptional contributions. Honorees include Lucy Arecco, Chantel Carey, Patricia Chan, Keith Contorno, Piera Cronin, Kara Peters, Eleanor Ritch, Lisa Scarogni, and Mary Beth Smith from Greenwich High School; Dr. Garfield Charles from Windrose; Colleen Alfano and John Forlenzo from Central Middle School; Kevin Crawford, Michelle Friedman, and Julie Wang from Eastern Middle School; and Kimberly Matarese and Amber Pietrafeso from Western Middle School. From Cos Cob School, honorees are Stephen Babyak, Victoria Bee, Kristy Bennett, Lauren Bird, Laurie Brehm, Kelly Clarke, Philip D'Amato, Meagan DeBona, Michael Fina, and Betsy Sahr; from Glenville School, Andrea Casson, Carolyn Kalinski, and Tracey Zeranski; from Hamilton Avenue School, Dr. Daniel Hoppe, Emily Khoshaboo, and Angelina Lucas; from the International School at Dundee, Lindsey Babyak, Cheryl Clark, Marlene Fernandez, Rosanna Sangermano, and Alison Tepper; and from Julian Curtiss School, Ariel Wilshaw. Additional honorees include Colette Kraemer from New Lebanon School; Megan Collins from North Mianus School; Jessica Jagde from North Street School; Suzanne Gold and Sandra Zuccarello from Old Greenwich School; Lea Attanasio, Gail Griffin, Diana Luzzi, and Kimberly Rich-Zeale from Parkway School; Madelyn Hand from Riverside School; and from Central Office, Danielle Comisso, Karen Martin, Eugene Matejek, Kirk Mertz, and Allison Pugni. Recipients are recognized for their positive impact on students and the school community.

**SPORTS**

**GYM REPAIRS COMPLETED AHEAD SCHEDULE**

The gym floor at Greenwich High School has been fully repaired following a recent leak. The repairs were completed ahead of schedule, and the gym will host its first home basketball games on January 8. The girls' teams will play on January 10.

**GHS HOCKEY TEAM SHOWS PROMISE**

Greenwich High School's boys hockey team is off to a solid start with a 2-2-1 record, showing strong performances despite narrow losses to New Canaan and Darien. The team has been bolstered by key wins against Northwest Catholic and Woodstock Academy, along with standout play from junior forward Teddy Johnson and

senior goalie Luka Priatka.

**BRUINS DOMINATE UPPER CANADA COLLEGE**

Mason St. Louis and Joe Salandra powered Brunswick School to a 6-2 victory over Upper Canada College on Jan. 4, combining for five goals and four assists. The Bruins improved to 13-0-2 with the win, led by St. Louis' hat trick and Salandra's two goals and three assists.

**GHS GIRLS BASKETBALL STAYS UNDEFEATED**

Greenwich High School's girls basketball team extended their perfect season to 6-0 with road victories over Fairfield Ludlowe (43-37) and Shepaug Valley (47-20). Freshman Zuri Faison led the team with 17 points in the win over Ludlowe, while junior Madi Utzinger scored a game-high 15 points against Shepaug Valley.

**GHS SHOWS STRONG EFFORT**

Greenwich High School's girls ice hockey team outshot Trumbull/St. Joseph 40-16 but fell 4-1 on January 3, with only one goal from Eleanor Fine. Despite the loss, the Cardinals showed significant improvement, with coach Doug Jebb praising their effort and aggressive play.

**HALL-CONARD TRIUMPHS IN WINTER CLASSIC**

The Greenwich High School varsity girls ice hockey team hosted the 2024 Winter Classic against Hall-Conard at Greenwich Skating Club on December 28, 2024. Hall-Conard won the game 3-0 in a competitive matchup.

**BRUINS HOCKEY TEAM CLAIMS VICTORY**

Brunswick School's hockey team is off to a strong start with a 10-1-1 record, including a thrilling 4-3 overtime win against Northwood to claim its third consecutive Kevin Mutch Holiday Tournament title. The team displayed resilience and skill throughout the tournament, highlighted by key performances from Joe Salandra, Tucker Spiess, and Ben Taylor.

**GHS STAYS PERFECT WITH DOMINANT WINS**

Greenwich High School's girls basketball team improved to 4-0 after dominant victories over Hall High School (66-30) and Joel Barlow High School (38-21). The Cardinals have won all four games by over 15 points, showcasing strong team performance and defense.

**GHS GIRLS ICE HOCKEY SHINES**

The Greenwich High School girls ice hockey team has shown strong signs of improvement, including depth, balanced scoring, and solid defense, leading to a 2-1 start with victories over Wilton and Ridgefield. With a mix of experienced leaders and talented underclassmen, the Cardinals are aiming for a top-four finish in the FCIAC and playoff success.

**SH DOMINATES RIVAL WITH DEFENSE**

Sacred Heart Greenwich remains undefeated with a dominant 69-29 win over Greenwich Academy, utilizing strong defense and balanced scoring from 10 players. Senior Aisha Hassan led the charge, while the team showcased its depth and preparation for upcoming tournaments.

**GHS STARTS SEASON WITH DOMINANCE**

Greenwich High School's girls basketball team started the 2024-2025 season with dominant wins, defeating Hillhouse 51-20 and Bassick 43-8. The Cardinals are off to an impressive 2-0 start, with key contributions from senior captains and a strong team chemistry.

**LOCAL POLITICS**

**FROM HARTFORD**

**AVERY STEPS DOWN, SILVERMAN TAKES OVER**

Vanessa Roberts Avery, U.S. Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced her resignation, effective January 17. She served in the role since May 2022, focusing on issues like gun violence, drug trafficking, and civil rights. Marc H. Silverman will take over as Acting U.S. Attorney after her departure.

**ACROSS CT**

**COSTCO RECALLS FLU MEDICATION**

Costco is recalling Kirkland Signature Severe Cold & Flu Plus Congestion medication sold in October and November due to potential contamination with foreign materials. Affected products are marked with lot code P140082 and item number 1729556. Customers are advised to stop using the product and return it to any Costco location for a full refund.

**GRANTS EMPOWER LOCAL NONPROFITS' GROWTH**

Local non-profits are encouraged to apply for federal Community Development Block Grant funding by February 5. The funding supports programs and projects for low- and moderate-income clients between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026. Applications are managed by the Town's Community Development department and available online.

**BIRD FLU DRIVES EGG PRICES UP**

The CDC reports a rise in bird flu cases, leading to culling of infected flocks and reduced egg production. Egg prices have nearly doubled compared to last year, with 129 million birds affected nationwide. Prices are expected to remain high until the outbreak is contained and production stabilizes.

**FLAGS LOWERED FOR PRESIDENT CARTER**

Flags in Connecticut have been lowered to half-staff to honor former President Jimmy Carter, who died on December 29 at age 100. Following federal law, flags will remain at half-staff for 30 days. Half-staff observances honor prominent





# RMA Presents: Why the Supreme Court is the Most Conservative Branch of Government

By FRANK SCARPA

The Retired Men's Association speaker on December 18, introduced by Spike Lipschutz, was the Honorable Jed S. Rakoff. Judge Rakoff has served as a U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York since 1996. He has published over 200 articles and has co-authored five books. He presented his own point of view on the history of the Supreme Court's interventions, in a talk entitled "Why the Supreme Court is the Most Conservative Branch of the U.S. Government."

In his lecture, Judge Rakoff focused on the Supreme Court's approach to constitutional interpretation throughout history. He began by stating his own philosophy, citing Benjamin Cardozo's view that a constitution should state principles for an expanding future, not just rules for the present. However, Judge Rakoff argued that this approach has not been the dominant one for the Supreme Court throughout most of its history. He posited that the Supreme Court has typically looked backward, using the Constitution as a tool to override progressive legislation and deny protection to minorities and unpopular individuals. He acknowledged that this conclusion might seem surprising, given that the Warren Court, which inspired him to become a lawyer, took a more progressive approach. However, he suggested that the Warren Court was an exception in the Court's history.

To support his argument, Judge Rakoff delved into the early history of the Court. He noted that in its first decades, under Chief Justice John Marshall, the Court focused on establishing a broad construction of the powers of the new government and judiciary. However, he pointed out that during this period, the justices were unanimous in denying rights to African Americans and Native Americans, interpreting the Constitution as implicitly considering these groups "inferior." (Even the Declaration of Independence refers to Native Americans as "merciless Indian savages.") Judge Rakoff illustrated this point with the 1831 case of Cherokee Nation v. State of Georgia. Despite the Cherokee Nation's having signed treaties with the U.S. government, Chief Justice Marshall ruled that Native Americans were not a foreign nation in the sense meant by the Constitution, but rather "wards of the President." This decision effectively denied the Cherokee Nation the right to sue in federal court and led to their forced removal along the Trail of Tears.

The lecture then moved to focusing on the infamous 1857 Dred Scott case. Judge Rakoff explained the background of Dred Scott, a slave who had lived in free territories and sued for his freedom. The Supreme Court, in a 7-2 decision, ruled against Scott, effectively denying rights to all African Americans, whether free



Judge Jed S. Rakoff, a U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York, presented a lecture titled "Why the Supreme Court is the Most Conservative Branch of the U.S. Government," where he argued that the Supreme Court has historically interpreted the Constitution in a conservative manner.

*"The Supreme Court has typically looked backward, using the Constitution as a tool to override progressive legislation and deny protection to minorities and unpopular individuals."*

or enslaved. This approach to "originalism" led directly to the Civil War.

Judge Rakoff's presentation provided a critical perspective on the Supreme Court's historical role in interpreting the Constitution. By examining key cases and decisions, he challenged the notion of the Court as a consistently progressive institution, instead portraying it as an often-conservative force. Throughout his lecture, Judge Rakoff emphasized the importance of understanding this historical context when considering the current Supreme Court's approach to constitutional interpretation. He suggested that the Court's tendency to look backward and use the Constitution to uphold conservative viewpoints has been a recurring theme throughout its history, with few exceptions like the Warren Court.

The judge's analysis invited the audience to reconsider their understanding of the Supreme Court's function and impact throughout U.S. history. By highlighting the Court's historical treatment of Native Americans and African Americans, he demonstrated how the institution has often failed to protect the rights of marginalized groups, despite its theoretical role as a guardian of constitutional rights.

The lecture also touched on the economic biases present in the early years of the Supreme Court, noting the influence of political affiliations on judicial decisions. Judge Rakoff explained how the Court's composition shifted over time as different political parties gained power, but argued that these changes did little to alter the Court's overall conservative approach to constitutional interpretation.

In conclusion, Judge Rakoff's presentation offered a compelling argument for viewing the Supreme Court as historically conservative in its approach to constitutional interpretation. By

tracing this trend from the Court's earliest days through landmark cases, he provided a nuanced understanding of the institution's role in shaping American law and society. This historical position is crucial for understanding the current Supreme Court's decisions and its potential impact on future generations.

As an explanation for the Court's decision-making, the judge posited:

--The "political" nature of the justices' selection process.

--Conservatives, "inherently suspicious of reform," have placed more effort into influencing the judiciary.

--Emphasis on precedent is inherent in English law, and this influence was felt early on.

A brief Q and A period touched on such topics as term limits and the presidential immunity decision.

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

The RMA's upcoming presentation, "From Intuition to Insight: A Journey in Street Photography" by Jean-Marc Bara, was scheduled for 11 AM on Wednesday, January 8, 2025. Please note that all future RMA presentations will be held at Christ Church Greenwich, 254 E. Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830, in Parish Hall.

This presentation featured a curated selection of Jean-Marc Bara's street photography, exploring the question, "Why do I like this photo?" Through this lens, he discussed the relationship between a photographer's personality and visual style, the ways our brains interpret images, and practical tips for those curious about trying this rewarding hobby. Designed to engage both the eyes and the mind, the 40-minute talk was followed by a 20-minute Q&A session.

Jean-Marc Bara is an

accomplished street photographer with a passion for capturing candid moments that reveal the unexpected order, beauty, ambiguity, wonder, or humor of urban life and everyday scenes. After retiring, he rediscovered his love for photography and has exhibited his work locally, nationally, and internationally. His accolades include being a 2023 Category Grand Winner and earning two 2022 Category Silver Medals at the Paris International Street Photography Awards (PISPA). He is also a Category Silver Winner at the 2023 International Photography Awards (IPA) and the 2023 Tokyo International Photo Awards (TIFA). Additionally, Jean-Marc was a finalist at the 2023 Pisa International Street Photography Festival (PSPF) and the 2022 Miami Street Photography Festival (MSPF). Jean-Marc, his wife Marianne, and their son Patrick have lived in Greenwich since 1997, read more about this presentation and how to view it in next week's Greenwich Sentinel.

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.

RMA 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](mailto: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](mailto:info@greenwichrma.org).

# The Ongoing Significance of America's War for Independence at Greenwich Historical Society

Drawing from his broad experience as a historian and museum executive, R. Scott Stephenson, Ph.D., president and CEO of the Philadelphia-based Museum of the American Revolution, will present a lecture through the lens of the Museum's inclusive storytelling on the significance of the extraordinary events that led to the birth of America in 1776 and the patriots' eventual victory over the British in the seven-year war for independence.

Dr. Stephenson will explain how, as we reflect on America's founding nearly 250 years later, the Museum's upcoming exhibitions and programs will explore the history and ongoing significance of those momentous events that led to the birth of our nation.

The talk, which is the first in a three-part lecture series "Reflections on the Revolution" – generously supported by Sotheby's International Realty – will take place Saturday, January 18th at 2pm in the Historical Society's Barn. Tickets are by reservation only. For more information and to purchase tickets: Remembering America's Revolution.

"As we look toward to Semiquincentennial celebrations in 2026 and the Museum's 10th anniversary in 2027, it is an exciting moment to reflect on and reinvigorate our appreciation



Dr. R. Scott Stephenson

*January 18th lecture first in three-part series*

for our nation's founding story and continue to ensure that the promise of the American Revolution endures," Stephenson says. "I am thrilled to bring information about the Museum – which has engaged more than 1.5 million visitors to date through exhibitions and programming – to Greenwich and observe Connecticut's critical role in the fight for independence."

Participants are encouraged to dive deeper into the history of Greenwich during this tumultuous time by visiting

the Historical Society's current exhibition Greenwich During the Revolutionary War: A Frontier Town on the Front Line, on view through June 2025. The exhibition examines the impact of the Revolutionary War on Greenwich, including an exploration of the town's diverse communities and the daily lives of residents who were severely impacted by the brutal conflict. For more information, visit <https://greenwichhistory.org/rev>

Additional lectures in the Historical Society's three-part series

are on February 8th Understanding Black and Indigenous Land-and Waterscapes in the Telling of History, and March 8th Working for the Revolution: Patriot Women's Lives During the War. Additional information to follow.

Pittsburgh native Scott Stephenson holds a B.A. from Juniata College and an M.A. and Ph.D. in American History from the University of Virginia. From 2007-2018, Stephenson led the development of the Museum of the American Revolution's award-winning exhibitions, multimedia experiences and educational programming, as well as overseeing the care and expansion of its rich collection of art and artifacts, first as Director of Collections and Interpretation and then as Vice President of Collections, Exhibitions, and Programming. In November 2018, Stephenson was named President and CEO of the Museum. The Museum of the American Revolution uncovers and shares compelling stories about the diverse people and complex events that sparked America's ongoing experiment in liberty, equality, and self-government.

Located just steps away from Independence Hall, the Museum serves as a portal to the region's many Revolutionary sites. For more information, visit [www.AmRevMuseum.org](http://www.AmRevMuseum.org) or call 877.740.1776.



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# Greenwich Land Trust Events

ASTRONOMY WALK AND CAMPFIRE

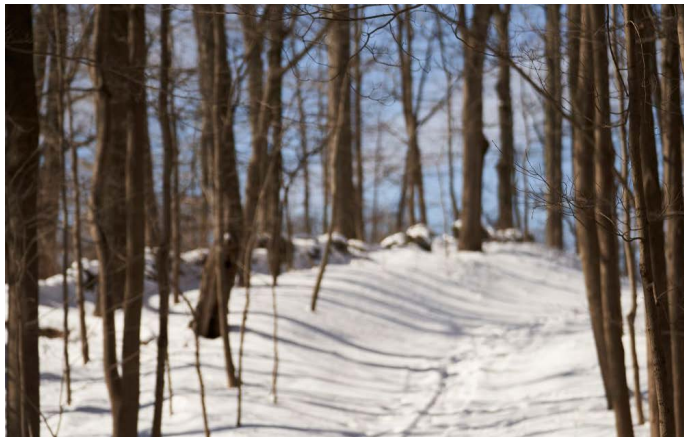


Wednesday, February 5 | 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.  
A medium-intensity nighttime hike through the Lapham Preserve. The walk will finish in the meadow with a fire and an introduction to the night sky. Learn about the moon's phases and how to locate some common constellations in the winter sky. Hot chocolate and S'mores will be provided.

Flashlights and binoculars are encouraged! Sturdy, waterproof footwear along with warm clothes are recommended.

Free for GLT Members; \$10 for non-members.  
Space is limited to 25 people and pre-registration is required.  
<https://gltrust.org/upcoming-events/>

WINTER TREE WALK



Thursday, February 6 | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.  
Partnering with the Greenwich Tree Conservancy, offering guests a chance to learn how to identify tree species during the winter at our Converse Brook Preserve. On this guided forest walk you will discuss ways to look closer at the diverse features of bark, branches, and buds to identify a varied winter landscape.

Sturdy, waterproof footwear along with warm clothes are recommended. Limited to 25.

<https://gltrust.org/upcoming-events/>

BIRDING TOUR WITH AUDUBON'S RYAN MACLEAN



Friday, February 14 | 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Join Greenwich Audubon's Senior Education Coordinator, Ryan MacLean, for a guided bird tour at GLT's Converse Brook Preserve and participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count! You'll explore the preserve and see what bird activity we can find and count all birds seen as part of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Great Backyard Bird Count community science project. We'll also talk about what birds you would expect to see this time of year and where some of our summer birds go during the winter months.

Sturdy, waterproof footwear along with warm clothes are recommended.

We'll be meeting at GLT's Converse Brook Preserve. Limited to 25 people and pre-registration is required.

<https://gltrust.org/upcoming-events/>

MAPLE SUGAR DAY AT GLT



Saturday, March 1 | 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The tradition of tapping maple trees for sap dates to the indigenous people of the Northeast and was adopted by incoming European colonists. Join us for Maple Sugar Day at Greenwich Land Trust and learn how to tap trees and make your own syrup. We will have hands-on demonstrations and stations throughout the Mueller Preserve, samples, food trucks, and more!

<https://gltrust.org/upcoming-events/>

RELEASE

## Finn family raises \$27,550 in daughter and sister's memory, for Yale New Haven Children's Hospital



The Finn family presenting the fundraising check to Drs. Marks and Puthenpura at the Pediatric Specialty Center surrounded by friends of Connor and Vivienne.

In March 2020, Mairead and David Finn lost their daughter Vivienne to an inoperable brain tumor known as Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG). She was 11 years old. To honor her life, Vivienne's brother Connor organized the 2024 Holiday Fundraiser for 10 - 18-year-old patients at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital (YNHCH). Through their efforts, the Finn family eclipsed their \$25,000 fundraising goal, bringing in \$27,550, as well as an array of gifts from an Amazon wish list.

YNHCH will use the proceeds to enhance the pediatric oncology patient experience for children admitted to the hospital. The fundraiser is a continuation of the Luke McQuillan Fundraiser which began in 2017 after Luke's own battle with cancer at the age of eight. Vivienne was one of the children positively impacted by Luke's donations. She received a pair of headphones, and she liked to listen to music during her chemotherapy treatments.

A Greenwich High School graduate and now a busy college student, Luke passed the torch to Connor and the Finn family in 2023, who are now carrying on the tradition of giving gifts to children with life-threatening diseases. In the Finn families'

first year, they raised nearly \$35,000.

The Finn family presented the check to Asher Marks, MD, director of pediatric neuro-oncology, YNHCH, associate professor of Pediatrics, Yale School of Medicine (YSM), and Vidya Puthenpura, MD, MHS, pediatric hematology-oncologist, YNHCH and assistant professor of Pediatrics, YSM, at the YNHCH Pediatric Specialty Center in Greenwich at 500 W. Putnam Avenue. Drs. Marks and Puthenpura played pivotal roles in Vivienne's care and the Finn family wanted to extend their appreciation.

There was a strong showing of support by attendees who included Connor's friends and classmates from the Brunswick School and Vivienne's friend from King School in Stamford. Mairead also expressed her gratitude to Eastern Middle School in Riverside, Sacred Heart of Greenwich, Hackley School in Tarrytown, NY and the Frederick Gunn School in Washington, CT. These institutions have helped keep Vivienne's memory alive through their generous donations and efforts to raise awareness about pediatric cancer.

The loss of a child is one

of the most devastating things anyone can experience in life. Through it all, Mairead remains grateful for the team at YNHCH and the Pediatric Specialty Center, as well as the support from the community. "Having a center of excellence with a team full of caring doctors so close to us is so important," she said. "And to have Connor and Vivienne's friends show up for Vivienne today means that Vivienne's life did not end in vain."

Greenwich Hospital, a member of Yale New Haven Health, is a 206-bed regional medical center serving lower Fairfield County, CT and Westchester County, NY. It is a major academic affiliate of Yale School of Medicine. Founded in 1903, Greenwich Hospital has evolved into a progressive medical center and teaching institution representing all medical specialties and offering a wide range of medical, surgical, diagnostic and wellness programs. Greenwich Hospital is recognized throughout the healthcare industry as a leader in service and patient satisfaction excellence. Greenwich Hospital has the prestigious Magnet designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center,

the nation's highest honor of nursing excellence. [www.greenwichhospital.org](http://www.greenwichhospital.org)

Yale New Haven Children's Hospital (YNHCH) offers Connecticut's largest and most comprehensive array of pediatric services. With 208 licensed beds, YNHCH includes two neonatal intensive care units, a pediatric cardiac intensive care unit, a pediatric intensive care unit, a pediatric psychiatry unit, an adolescent psychiatry unit, 24-hour Level 1 Pediatric Emergency Trauma Center and a pediatric surgery center. YNHCH, with campuses in New Haven and Bridgeport, is part of the nationally recognized Yale New Haven Hospital, a 1,541-bed not-for-profit teaching hospital affiliated with Yale School of Medicine. The Yale New Haven Hospital campuses and associated ambulatory sites are Magnet-designated by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. In addition to its inpatient units, YNHCH has three Pediatric Specialty Centers in New Haven and others in Greenwich, New London, Norwalk, Old Saybrook and Trumbull to provide specialty care to children closer to their communities. [www.ynhch.org](http://www.ynhch.org)

## The Flinn Gallery Presents Camera-less

January 16 to March 5, 2025

The Flinn Gallery is pleased to present Camera-less, featuring the work of Joanne Dugan, Amanda Marchand, Anne Arden McDonald and Liz Nielsen. The exhibition will introduce the public to four of the most innovative practitioners of camera-less photography working today. These artists challenge traditional expectations of photographic representation with experimental, process-driven works that push boundaries both technical and conceptual.

What is camera-less photography? It might seem a contradiction in terms but actually, the very first photographic images were created without a camera. In this practice, images are captured on photo-sensitive paper without

the use of a lens. Light, chemicals and a light-sensitive surface are its fundamental ingredients. Removing the camera means that light and chemicals interact directly without the intermediary of a camera or a negative.

The technique of making photographic images without a camera dates back to the early 1800s, at the dawn of photography. Rediscovered by the Surrealists in the 1920s, camera-less or direct photography is seeing a resurgence today, with a growing number of contemporary artists pushing the possibilities of this medium far beyond where their predecessors left off. This exhibition highlights the work of four groundbreaking artists who create powerful and highly original images by

casting shadows and filtering light on photographic paper, or by chemically manipulating its surface. The striking works on display, ranging from figurative to abstract, represent the leading edge of what is possible in this emerging field.

Joanne Dugan's one-of-a-kind images begin with cyanotype or silver gelatin photographs and light paintings, which are hand cut and collaged. Dugan is informed by Buddhist principles and meditation.

Amanda Marchand works with lumen printing in which black & white photo papers are exposed to the sun to reveal latent color. Her images relate to the passage of time, the natural world and our changing climate.

Anne Arden McDonald

employs an unorthodox collection of materials and methods from the domestic and scientific realms to create her chemigrams.

Liz Nielsen has been systematically exploring the possibilities of camera-less photography, making vividly colored photographs in the color darkroom. Her large-scale compositions straddle the border between abstraction and figuration, recalling simple natural forms such as landscapes, arches or groupings of smoothly curved stones. She calls them "Light Paintings," evoking the performative nature of their creation.

Events: Opening reception: Thursday, January 16, 2025 from 6-8pm. Artist Talk: Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 2pm

RELEASE

## Riverside Association Announces Annual Meeting

The Riverside Association's annual meeting is set for Thursday, January 30, 2025. Please join us at the St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Selleck Hall, 200 Riverside Ave) at 6:00pm for refreshments. Programming will begin at 6:30pm.

This year's meeting will focus on Safety in Riverside - encompassing our homes and cars, our schools, our roads and sidewalks, and our Riverside

businesses. The keynote speaker will be Chief of Police James Heavey. Joining him on the dais will be a school resource officer and a community impact section sergeant. Q&A to follow will provide an opportunity to ask your safety related questions.

Susan Foster, President of the Riverside Association, said "this is a great way to learn about what's going on in our community, hear

what the RA has been working on all year, and get to know your neighbors."

In the meantime, please help spread the word about the Riverside Association and tell your friends to sign up for our e-news and social media.

About the Riverside Association

The Riverside Association's purpose is to promote the interests

and welfare of the residents and property owners of the community known as Riverside, Connecticut.

Residents interested in joining the Riverside Association and making a difference in the community can reach out for more information at [info@riversideassociation.org](mailto:info@riversideassociation.org).

## Greenwich Fellowship of Clergy Holds Annual Holiday Luncheon



Back row: Rev. Emilie Finn (St. Paul's Episcopal Church), Rev. Glen Harvison (Harvest Time Church), Rabbi Mitchell M. Hurvitz (Temple Shalom), Rev. Cedric Johnson (Diamond Hill United Methodist Church), Prof. Mark Diamond (Loyola Marymount University), Rev. Dr. Edward Horstmann (Round Hill Community Church). Seated: Rev. Stephanie Johnson (St. Paul's Episcopal Church), Pastor Jim O'Hanlon (St. John's Rye Brook), Rev. Monsignor Alan Detscher (St. Catherine of Siena Church), Rev. Karen Halac (North Greenwich Congregational Church), Rabbi Gisel Baler (Temple Shalom), Rev. Terry Elsberry (Christ Church Greenwich), Rev. Leo Curry (First Church, Round Hill).



# Celebrating Fifty Years of the Oral History Project: John Gleason, Policing 1930 To 1956

BY MARY A. JACOBSON

John Gleason, born in 1907 and raised in Greenwich from the age of eight, was the descendent of six generations of blacksmiths in Ireland. However, as he said, "I'm not a blacksmith, but I have another forge I hammer at." John Gleason's "forge" was the Greenwich Police Department, where he labored from 1930-1956 from a rookie to Chief of Police. In 1975, Oral History Project volunteer Penny Bott interviewed Gleason as he described his career in the Greenwich Police Department.

In 1926, three years after Gleason graduated from Greenwich High School, the stock market crashed. "It became evident that things were going to go very badly with everybody. No one used the word 'Depression;' it later came into use. I thought at the time that, no matter what happens to the country, they're going to need police. So, I applied and was appointed in January 1930" at the age of 23.

Training and educational requirements for police officers in the 1930's was far different from today. "The training at that particular time amounted to being called into the chief's office, handed a small booklet of motor vehicle laws, putting on some other policeman's secondhand uniform, getting the badge, being sworn in by the selectmen, and being put on a post - all within a couple of hours."

Regarding educational requirements, "You didn't even have to have a grammar-school education to be appointed... They were a fine group of police officers of what we term 'the old school.' They had come up the hard way." The expected work week consisted of one day off a month with a 16-hour shift every third Sunday. "You were glad to have a job. You did what you were told, and there was no association or union or anything of that type. You were more or less completely on your own."

As far as equipment and transportation were concerned, "... there was only one car at that time, driven by the chief. Radio was unheard of." The police force of approximately 35 officers were quartered in two rooms in the basement of Town Hall." Gleason's first responsibility was as a relief patrolman. With no regular patrol cars, police moved from location to location in town by trolley. "When you went out on your post, you got on the trolley at Greenwich Avenue, and you went over to Cos Cob."

With no ambulance service in the 1930's, it was difficult to get patients to the hospital. Gleason vividly remembered responding to a victim who had been hit by a vehicle on the Post Road. He had to flag down a random car "to get the driver to help me lift the man off the road before somebody hit him...Then I ran to the Cos Cob firehouse." Gleason and the firefighter "lifted the man up to the top of the hose (of the open fire truck) and brought him to the hospital... right out in the cold, but there was nothing else to do. We had no ambulances; we had no first aid; we had nothing." A few years later, the police department operated the first public ambulance in town. "It was an old Model A Ford, called the 'Black Maria,' stationed at police headquarters."

Gleason's career progressed to that of a plain clothes officer, "checking the back doors of all the stores on Greenwich Avenue and Putnam Avenue... from ten at night to six in the morning... If I would find a door open, the orders were to get to a call box." If help was needed, "There used to be an old White Stripe Taxi Service on Greenwich Avenue... and they would come in a taxi and pick up a policeman and go off on a call." Gleason reminisced, "If someone told me at that time that one day a Greenwich policeman (in 1975) would have a little radio around his shoulder, and would be able to talk to headquarters two-way, I'd think they were ready for the nut house!"

At that time in Greenwich, "The only east-west artery was the Post Road. So everybody had to go through this corridor...There was no Merritt Parkway. There was no throughway." The Post Road was also a major artery for the transportation of alcohol to New York during the Prohibition era. Prohibition, in effect from 1920 until 1933, made the manufacture, transportation and sale of alcohol illegal.

Gleason recalled a particular case, where, working with the federal Alcohol Tax Unit, they followed a truck "with heavily loaded rear springs" on the Post Road carrying ten tons of sugar, only to uncover an alcohol-making operation, over a story high, within a home. "They had taken out the floor of the home and put in a great big copper boiler." In addition, there were the "local outfits" - a "business that did a little bootlegging on the side, or a butcher shop that kept it in the refrigerator...The complainants in those instances were almost always the wives of the purchasers... They didn't want their husbands going in and buying liquor, so they'd tell you about it."

The year 1937 can be described as a watershed year for the Greenwich Police Department. According to Gleason, the Board of Selectman and the Chief of Police commissioned a study by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. The outcome of the study resulted in numerous organizational recommendations. These included the establishment of separate traffic, patrol, safety, and detective divisions, among others. By 1941, Gleason advanced from Deputy Chief to Chief of the Police, the first time such a position was based on the results of a formal examination.

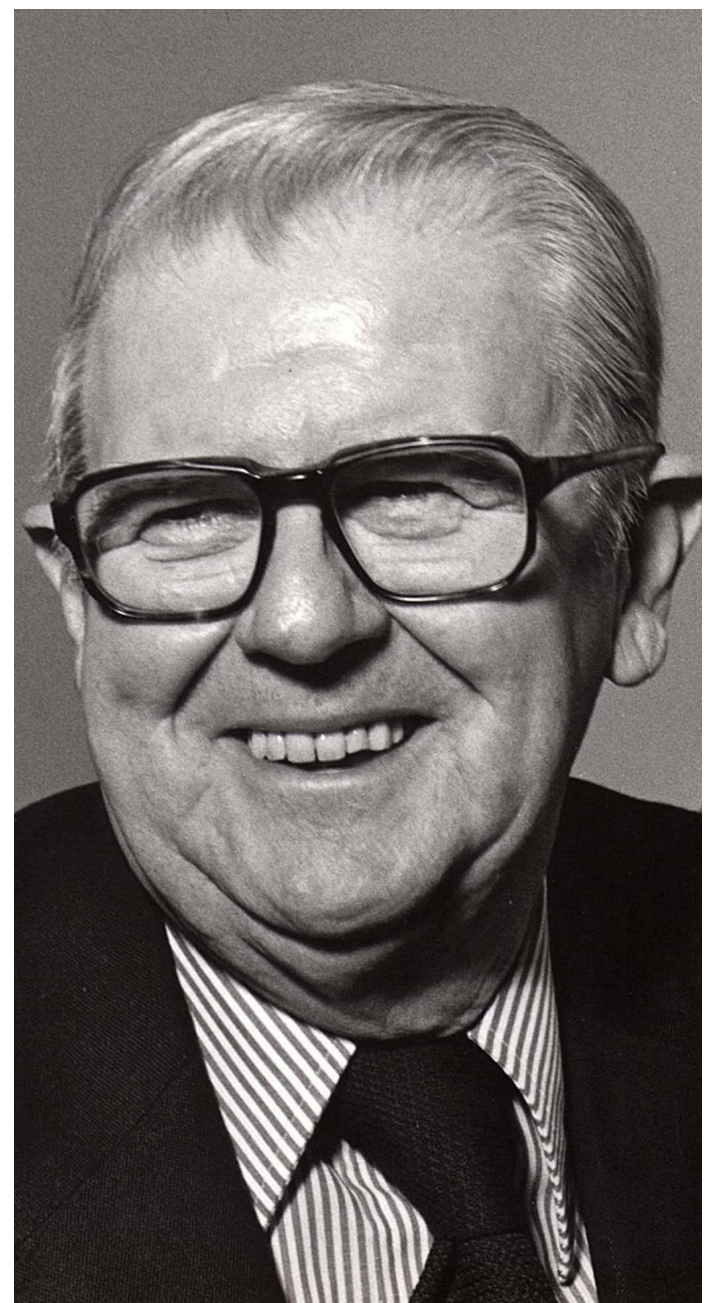


The first Greenwich police boat, 1942. Courtesy of the Oral History Project.

*"If someone told me at that time that one day a Greenwich policeman would have a little radio around his shoulder, and would be able to talk to headquarters two-way, I'd think they were ready for the nut house!"*



John Gleason, Chief of Police, 1941. Courtesy of the Oral History Project.



John Gleason, 1975. Photo by Karl Gleason.

*"O Captain! My Captain!  
The fearful test is done!  
Your mind has weathered every wrack,  
The prize you sought is won.  
The first is near,  
The yells I hear,  
The people all are screaming.  
The other guys reached for the prize  
But they were only dreaming."*

The interview "A Lifetime of Public Service" may be read in its entirety at the main library. It is also available for purchase by contacting the OHP office. The OHP is sponsored by the Friends of Greenwich Library. Visit the website at [glohistory.org](http://glohistory.org). Our narrator's recollections are personal and have not been subjected to factual scrutiny.

Mary Jacobson serves as blog editor.

"The police commissioner said, 'You're the man it's going to be and it is done on merit'... I was only 34 years old." Gleason remained in this position until 1956.

As Chief of Police, Gleason oversaw the implementation of many improvements including Red Cross training, updated standards of record-keeping and training, relocation from the basement of Town Hall, uniform traffic ticket procedures, to name a few. Gleason was proud that the department, with outside consultation, produced a "Manual of Procedures" which included police department rules of conduct. As he said, "Your conduct on and off the job is of prime importance...You are an officer at all times."

John Gleason proudly led the Greenwich Police Department for 15 transformative years. On the occasion of his appointment as Chief of Police in 1941, a local columnist, William Ryan, wrote an ode with a nod to Walt Whitman for the Port Chester Item:

## Eastern Middle School to Perform Disney's The Little Mermaid

The Eastern Middle School 2024-2025 Drama Club will perform Disney's *The Little Mermaid* in the school's Lee Book Auditorium on January 30th (at 4:30 pm), 31st (at 7:00 pm), and February 1 (at 1:00 and 6:30 pm). Thursday's tickets are \$10, and Friday and Saturday's tickets are \$20. Assigned seat tickets can be purchased online at [easternmiddleschool.ludus.com](http://easternmiddleschool.ludus.com).

The *Little Mermaid* is produced by Eastern Middle School (EMS) teachers Jennifer Badillo and Julia Fama, is directed by Fama, and features choreography by Scott Sisbarro of St. Saviour's School of Dance. All students in grades 6 through 8 were invited to participate, and approximately 100 responded to form the cast and crew.

In a magical kingdom under the sea, the beautiful young mermaid Ariel (Coco Liu) longs to leave her father, King Triton (Yusuf Syed), to pursue the human Prince Eric (Conor O'Brien) in the world above.

Ariel bargains with the evil sea witch Ursula (Diya Subramanian) and her electric eel minions, Flotsam (Delaney Thomas) and Jetsam (Noelle Marten), to trade her mermaid tail for legs. (Noelle Marten) isn't what it seems, so Ariel needs help from her friends Flounder the fish (William Kampf), Sebastian the

crab (Lo van de Rotte), and Scuttle the seagull (Maya Solomon) to make things right.

Producer and director (and 8th-grade English teacher) Julia Fama says, "This is the third and final EMS Drama Club show for many of the students involved. It has been so lovely watching them grow as performers."

Producer (and 7th-grade social studies teacher) Jennifer Badillo says, "The *Little Mermaid* is a Disney classic. We are so excited for audiences to see these fun characters come to life."

**LITTLE MERMAID CAST:**

ARIEL: Coco Liu; PRINCE ERIC: Conor O'Brien; SEBASTIAN: Lo van de Rotte  
URSULA: Diya Subramanian; FLOUNDER: William Kampf; SCUTTLE: Maya Solomon; KING TRITON: Yusuf Syed; FLOTSAM: Delaney Thomas; JETSAM: Noelle Marten; GRIMSBY: Aaron Levine; CHEF LOUIS: Tate Farnum; MERSISTERS: Lila Donnelly, Olivia Henin, Bia Hirsch, Zoey Hunter, Camille Lunt, Avi Rickert. SEA CREATURES: Sofia Barrocas, Mateo Canale, COIN CHIN, Dylan Chin, Lila Christensen, Oliver Correa, Ella Corticelli, Frida Davis, Nolan Diana, Blair Harriss, Amalia Ibarzabal, Tyler Imbrogno,

Kaitlyn Joseph, Paulina Kasprzak, Jackson Lowe, Roshni Madan, Roma Madkaikar, Jabari Mungai, Deetya Nadendia, Ansophi Otto, Saylor Palmer, Laura Pap, Cora Ramakrishnan, Harper Rao, Sadie Reynolds, James Sabeti, Belen Salvarredi, Micah Schmeidler, Gemma Slater, Matthew Stedman, Maya Stubbs, Angeliki Tyrelli, Olivia Wilmot, Sofia Yelyashkevich. HUMANS: Audrey Andrews, Allie Cofone, Phineas Collins, Eva Csatorday, Juliet D'Amore, Jasper Davis, Robert Dolan, Virginia Fix, Leila Garcia, Emma Hill, Annika Kimball, Jack Klocinski, Devan Krishnan, Bella Landres, Rose McLean, Rose Mund, James Murphy, Catherine O'Donnell, Elise Panchel, Lane Redlien, Nicholas Sabeti, Blake Siler, Sara Tirana, Catherine Zhong, Sienna Wren, Sofia Zamora

**LITTLE MERMAID PRODUCTION STAFF:**  
PRODUCERS: Jennifer Badillo, Julia Fama  
DIRECTOR: Julia Fama  
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: Jennifer Badillo  
CHOREOGRAPHER: Scott Sisbarro  
STAGE MANAGER: Jennifer Badillo  
STUDENT STAGE MANAGER: Grace Miranda  
COSTUME COORDINATOR: Laura Petit

PROP MASTERS: Jennifer Badillo, Julia Fama, Scott Sisbarro

SET COORDINATOR: Kevin Gillespie  
SOUND DESIGN & TECHNICIAN: Jim Durkin, InPhase Audio

PLAYBILL: Jennifer Badillo  
LIGHTING DESIGN: Jennifer Badillo, Miles Shore

SPOTLIGHT COORDINATOR: Joanna Savino  
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT OPERATORS: Nolan Shah, Mikey Hartofilis

TICKET SALES MANAGER: Lori Lattarulo  
HOUSE MANAGERS: Jillian Harriman, Theo Gittens

REHEARSAL ASSISTANT: Alyssa Tripi  
COSTUME COMMITTEE: Augustina Breard, Amy Dolan, Emma Garcia, Sandra Hurst, Jenni Reynolds, Amy Siler

POSTER DESIGN: Jennifer Badillo  
PUBLICITY: Ann Stedman  
LOBBY DÉCOR: Theo Gittens  
STUDENT CREW: Gary Bisbee, Luigi Carratelli, Cameron Dries, Mikey Hartofilis, Carolann Mancz, Michael Pennette, Manuel Saelens, Nolan Shah, Miles Shore, Blake Sterling



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## NEW LISTINGS

DATA FROM LOCAL REAL ESTATE AGENT  
TIMOTHY AGRO, GREENWICH STREETS TEAM  
203.461.5964

Address	List Price	Price/SqFt	SqFt	AC	BR	FB	Area
24 Taylor Drive	\$1,280,000	\$944	1,356	0.15	3	2	Cos Cob
30 Grey Rock Drive	\$1,295,000	\$470	2,756	0.28	6	3	Glenville
6 Cos Cob Avenue	\$1,350,000	\$503	2,686	0.15	3	3	Cos Cob
125 Bowman Drive	\$1,649,000	\$554	2,975	1.19	7	4	Glenville
520 Indian Field Road	\$6,250,000	\$1,363	4,584	2.51	6	5	South of Post
11 Winterset Road	\$7,995,000	\$881	9,080	2.16	6	6	South Parkway
146 Brookside Drive	\$7,995,000	\$1,046	7,644	4.01	7	6	South Parkway
406 Stanwich Road	\$13,950,000	\$1,191	11,715	2.61	6	6	South Parkway

## FEATURED OPEN HOUSES

Data Compiled by Rob Pulitano (203) 561-8092

Address	Area	Price	Day/Time	Broker
6 Cos Cob Avenue	Cos Cob	\$1,350,000	Sat 1-3 PM	Re/Max Right Choice
16 Georgetowne North	Greenwich	\$1,999,999	Sat & Sun 12-2 PM	Compass
11 Valleywood Road	Cos Cob	\$2,650,000	Sat & Sun 12-2 PM	Sotheby's
24 Taylor Drive	Cos Cob	\$1,280,000	Sat & Sun 12-3 PM	BHHS New England
530 Round Hill Road	Greenwich	\$7,500,000	Sat 2-4 PM	Sotheby's
23 Hillcrest Park Road	Old Greenwich	\$4,295,000	Sun 1-3 PM	BHHS New England
27 Weston Hill Road	Riverside	\$5,350,000	Sun 1-3 PM	Sotheby's

## NEW SALES

DATA FROM LOCAL REAL ESTATE AGENT  
TIMOTHY AGRO, GREENWICH STREETS TEAM  
203.461.5964

Address	Original List	List Price	Sold Price	DOM	BR	FB	Acres	SqFt
18 Arther Street A	\$799,999	\$799,999	\$810,000	46	3	2	0.12	1,368
20 Norias Road	\$995,000	\$995,000	\$1,000,000	46	4	4	0.34	1,914
25 W Elm Street 56	\$999,000	\$950,000	\$860,000	241	2	1		969
75 Silo Circle 75	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,205,000	44	3	3	0	2,332
4 Sachem Lane	\$1,395,000	\$1,395,000	\$1,395,000	9	3	1	0.32	1,687
40 W Elm Street 2D	\$1,750,000	\$1,750,000	\$1,750,000	22	2	2		1,465
19 Coventry Lane	\$1,800,000	\$1,800,000	\$1,780,000	11	5	3	0.34	2,624
69 Riverside Ave	\$1,800,000	\$1,800,000	\$1,600,000	30	3	2	0.4	2,136
26 Valleywood Rd	\$1,895,000	\$1,795,000	\$1,700,000	180	4	2	0.22	2,439
18 Pond Place	\$1,999,000	\$1,999,000	\$2,550,000	12	4	3	0.34	2,818
66 Lockwood Lane	\$2,495,000	\$2,400,000	\$2,405,000	147	5	4	0.24	3,262
185 Old Mill Road	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,900,000	3	3	2	1.12	2,584
248 Lake Avenue	\$2,950,000	\$2,950,000	\$2,850,000	25	4	2	0.75	3,504
27 Harding Road	\$2,990,000	\$2,990,000	\$2,775,000	106	5	4	0.18	3,802
88 Buckfield Lane	\$3,250,000	\$3,250,000	\$3,400,000	10	4	3	2.08	4,158
42 Loughlin Avenue	\$3,485,000	\$3,250,000	\$3,250,001	56	5	4	0.24	4,364
19 Mallard Drive	\$3,795,000	\$3,495,000	\$3,217,500	90	6	5	0.7	4,866
3 Bennett Street	\$3,850,000	\$3,850,000	\$3,950,000	14	5	4	0.42	4,784
155 Cat Rock Road	\$4,500,000	\$4,500,000	\$4,500,000	17	4	5	2.25	4,675
17 Alden Road	\$5,750,000	\$5,250,000	\$4,775,000	202	5	5	2.35	7,993
119 Havemeyer Pl.	\$6,250,000	\$6,250,000	\$6,250,000	0	5	4		
14 Larkspur Lane	\$6,295,000	\$6,295,000	\$6,295,000	0	5	4		9,145
139 North Street	\$7,890,000	\$7,690,000	\$7,450,000	99	5	5	0.77	8,646
29 Field Point Drive	\$7,950,000	\$7,950,000	\$7,625,000	250	4	5	1.13	6,690

# First Selectman Fred Camillo's 2025 Vision: Transformative Projects and Community Safety

BY ELIZABETH BARHYDT

Greenwich First Selectman Fred Camillo is looking ahead to 2025 with a focus on revitalizing town infrastructure, advancing public-private partnerships, and enhancing safety and recreational opportunities for residents. In an interview with The Greenwich Sentinel, Camillo outlined an ambitious agenda that includes the redevelopment of the Dorothy Hamill Skating Rink, the opening of the new Greenwich Civic Center, improvements to Veterans Plaza Park, and initiatives to address pedestrian and public safety.

### A New Era for the Dorothy Hamill Skating Rink

The redevelopment of the Dorothy Hamill Skating Rink remains one of Camillo's highest priorities for 2025. The current facility, built in 1971 and named after Greenwich's own Olympic gold medalist Dorothy Hamill, has long been a hub for skating, hockey, and community events. However, decades of wear have left the structure outdated and unable to meet modern standards.

"Having skated there in 1972 when it first opened as just a slab of ice and boards, I've seen how it's been piecemealed together over the years," Camillo said. "Today, it falls short against any other rink in Fairfield County, and probably in the state of Connecticut. It's become an embarrassment."

The proposed \$24 million

project includes building a new state-of-the-art facility on the existing baseball field while relocating the ballfield to the old rink site. This "flip" plan ensures uninterrupted rink operations during construction and creates a regulation-size ice surface, updated locker rooms, and a south-facing roof for solar panels.

"If we decided to keep it where it is, we'd need to do extra blasting due to the ledge," Camillo explained. "That would not only increase costs but also impact residents on Sherman Avenue. Moving it is the most effective way to protect them and get the construction done."

The new rink will address long-standing issues, such as substandard ice dimensions and inadequate locker rooms, while incorporating energy-efficient features. Camillo emphasized the importance of the project, saying, "We're not just building a rink; we're creating a community space that reflects the values and spirit of Greenwich."

### Transforming Public Spaces

In addition to the rink, Camillo highlighted the upcoming opening of the Greenwich Civic Center as a major milestone. "We're going to be opening up the Civic Center in a few weeks, which is exciting," he said. The project, a result of a successful public-private partnership, is part of Camillo's broader vision to enhance recreational and cultural spaces in

## Camillo highlighted pedestrian and public safety

town.

Camillo also discussed plans for Veterans Plaza Park, which will include a statue, water feature, and improved lighting. "The Veterans Plaza Park project on the Avenue, where the Bush statue will go, will be 100% privately funded," he said. The enhancements aim to create a welcoming and reflective space for the community while preserving the area's historic significance.

### Transforming Railroad Avenue: The Vision of Greenwich Crossing

The Greenwich Crossing project, which is expected to be completed within the next eight to ten months, represents a significant investment in revitalizing the area, blending commercial vitality with improved public spaces.

"Within the next probably eight to ten months, I think you're going to see Greenwich Crossing get completed, which will transform Railroad Avenue," Camillo said. He described the project as a game-changer for this central thoroughfare, creating a more dynamic and attractive entry point to the town.

"The project will improve not just the look of Railroad Avenue but also its role as a gateway to the town," Camillo explained. "We

want to make it a place that draws people in, not just one they pass through."

The redevelopment includes upgraded infrastructure, improved pedestrian access, and thoughtfully designed public spaces to make the area more welcoming. The project also ties into broader efforts to enhance Greenwich's transportation network and improve connectivity between downtown and surrounding neighborhoods.

### Revitalizing Glenville and Greenwich Avenue

The redevelopment of the American Legion Building in Glenville is another project in Camillo's sights. "It's old and needs to be totally redone," he said, noting that the building is used by organizations such as the American Legion and Boy Scouts but is currently underutilized due to its condition. Camillo has included funding for the renovations in the upcoming budget and is exploring ways to reduce costs through town managed renovations and community donations.

On Greenwich Avenue, Camillo is working on a public-private partnership to transform the Havemeyer Building. "It addresses two things: finding a place for the

Board of Education administration, who has already stated they want to leave there, and creating a potentially beautiful building and property in the heart of our commerce district," he said.

Camillo explained that the redevelopment will improve the vibrancy of the area. "When you go down that part of the Avenue at night, it becomes a dark hole. There's not much going on there. This will change that," he said.

### Pedestrian and Public Safety

Camillo highlighted pedestrian and public safety as a key priority for 2025, emphasizing ongoing efforts to make Greenwich a safer and more accessible town for residents and visitors alike. "We're going to continue to look at pedestrian and public safety, which includes sidewalks, intersections, trails, and crosswalks," Camillo explained.

The initiative involves working closely with neighborhoods across town to address specific concerns. "We're working with so many different neighborhoods in town about their individual needs and what can and can't be done," he said. Camillo emphasized the importance of tailoring solutions to each area while maintaining a consistent focus on safety.

Some of the improvements

being planned include upgraded sidewalks to ensure accessibility for all, redesigned intersections to minimize vehicle-pedestrian conflicts, and enhanced crosswalk visibility through improved lighting and signage. Trails and pathways are also being reviewed to create safer, more connected routes for pedestrians and cyclists.

"We've seen an increased focus on pedestrian safety nationwide, and Greenwich is no exception," Camillo noted. "Our residents deserve safe and accessible ways to get around, whether they're walking to school, heading to work, or enjoying a stroll in their neighborhood."

Camillo pointed to the collaborative nature of these projects, which involve partnerships with local safety advocates, town planners, and community groups. "It's a lot of work, but we're excited about it," he said, underscoring his administration's commitment to making Greenwich a leader in pedestrian safety.

"Each project we're working on—whether it's Railroad Avenue, the rink, or Veterans Plaza Park—contributes to the overall vision of a better-connected, more vibrant Greenwich," Camillo said.

# Ray Dalio Addresses Value of Giving Via TisBest

BY ANNE W. SEMMES

Greenwich philanthropist Ray Dalio has brought lasting gifts to his hometown, perhaps most visibly with the Greenwich Town Party. But now in this season of gift giving he is urging a new take on meaningful Christmas presents – that they be charity driven. And that effort is called TisBest – a non-profit that he now partners with. Co-founded by Seattle-based Erik Marks and Simeon Cathey, TisBest creates charity gift cards that allow recipients to choose which charities to support. And since its 2007 founding TisBest now lists more than 1.8 million U.S.-registered charities to choose from.

Dalio's embrace of this modus operandi of gift giving he now reportedly shares with his grandchildren able to choose their charity to gift. To learn more of how Dalio was drawn to the TisBest mission of "Redefining Gifting" the Sentinel asked Dalio a few questions.

### Q: When and why did you connect and then partner with TisBest? What inspired you?

A: About 25 years ago, I got sick of wasteful holiday giving and knew that my charitable friends

loved their charitable giving and that many others wanted to help others, so it occurred to me to give them donations to their favorite charities.

At that time, I sent them a signed check with the dollar amount filled in and asked them to write in the charity of their choice. People loved it and I loved it because the money went to great causes rather than to junk people didn't need, it was in keeping with the Christmas/holiday spirit, and it was easy to do. If we knew what charity they wanted—like teachers who wanted items for students that they specified on Donorschoose.org—we would give them those.

About 20 years ago, I started to publicize this approach to giving gifts, hoping others would catch onto the idea which they did. I later found TisBest, which made this kind of giving easier and more efficient than the checks because they offered gift cards that could be directed to all charities. They work just like any gift card in that you can go online, select any registered charity in the U.S., and click through to donate the value of the card to any one or to multiple charities.

Starting five years ago, Arianna Huffington, Jay Shetty, Paul Tudor

## "This sort of giving is redirecting a lot of money from wasteful gifts toward people in need." Ray Dalio.

Jones, and a bunch of other great friends joined me to give away 20,000 \$50 gift cards each year to anyone who wants them, if they are lucky enough to get them while they last. Now I see many people and many companies do this sort of giving.

### Q: In what ways do you see it opening the doors to people in need?

A: This sort of giving is redirecting a lot of money from wasteful gifts toward people in need. Imagine the potential. I understand that more money is spent on just candy at the holiday season than the annual budgets of the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, and Habitat for Humanity combined. I should also make clear that I do still give normal holiday gifts when I think they're most appropriate.

Q: Has it opened doors for you of unknown but worthy charities?

A: Yes. One of the best things about this gift is hearing about the

causes others care about and why. It's much better than me picking a charity for them or encouraging them to support what I support.

### Q: What are a couple of examples of family and friend responses over the years?

A: For me the best family and friends' development has been seeing how this has gone viral—so now friends who have companies are doing it for their employees—and many of my friends have joined me on the bandwagon of spreading the word. For example, Arianna Huffington has been doing this with her company and has chipped in with me over the years to make free cards available to the general public, with no strings attached. Together with other friends over the years—Paul Tudor Jones, Mehmet Oz, Kevin Systrom, Jewel, Ashton Kutcher, Reed Hastings, Gayle King, and others—we have given away over \$6 million in charity gift cards. It was a great shared friendship

experience.

### Q: Do you encourage certain charities with them?

A: No. The whole point is to let people pick what they care about, even if it might not be something I myself would choose to support. I always learn a lot about new causes in this way.

### Q: How do you see this concept speak to this particular town of Greenwich?

A: I think we are in a time of great differences in wealth and living conditions and of everyone fighting for what they want that is inconsistent with the spirit of what the holidays are supposed to be celebrating.

I also believe that the way people typically quickly and carelessly buy merchandise has made the holiday season more commercial than spiritual. Where is the goodwill toward others, especially toward those who are in

need? I think this type of giving is obviously great, especially when it's to charitable people. Having said that, I just want to make people aware of it – I don't want to push this on anyone.

As for Greenwich, that's my home. I certainly want to operate that way with those who are in my community – it's why I do the Greenwich Town Party with friends and other community members to make it happen. That experience is like this experience. I'd love those in our community to think about whether this type of giving is most suitable for some of the people they're giving gifts to.

In closing, I want to emphasize that if you are giving to people who have enough stuff in their lives, this type of gift will be unique, spiritual, will bring you closer together, will make holiday shopping easier, and will make you all feel better.

To learn more about TisBest visit [www.tisbest.org](http://www.tisbest.org)



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## REAL ESTATE From Page 1

exclude the sales under \$1 million without a mortgage contingency, those 14 listings got to a binding, non-contingent contract in 16 days, even faster than the median 22 days on market for all house sales.

### MORTGAGE BANKERS MOVED FAST IN 2024

The other thing that this means is that for those houses priced under \$1 million with a mortgage contingency the contingencies were being removed in an amazingly quick 14 days on average. The mortgage companies that are winning business in this hot market are moving much faster to get mortgages approved. (Last year in a multiple offer situation, my client and I got a mortgage commitment in 7 days from her initial meeting with the bank.)

The other thing it means is that lots of buyers are coming in already underwritten pre-approved for a mortgage. In that case all the bank needs is the mortgage appraisal to finish the mortgage approval process. If you need a mortgage to buy a house in this market, you want to get fully pre-approved. It's the best way to compete with all-cash offers from other buyers.

### MOST HOUSES SELLING AT OR OVER LIST PRICE

Another indicator of just how hot our under \$1 million market is, can be seen when you look at how much houses are selling for compared to their original list price. Under \$1 million the median sales price to original list price is at 102%. The record for most over list is 34 Francis Lane which sold for 27% over list price. It listed at \$769K and sold for \$975K.

A selling price at 27% over list seems like a lot, and it is, but 5 other houses over \$1 million did even better. The record holder was a 1,900 s.f. house on the waterfront in Old Greenwich. The house was a downsizer's dream, beautiful water views on 0.4 acres and not a lot of house to take care of. It was listed for \$3.5 million, which seemed like a lot at \$1,800/sf. The competition was fierce. It sold for \$5.55 million or 59% over list, which was \$2,897/s.f.

Going for that much over list price, some sellers might argue that the house was underpriced and should have been listed higher. At a much higher price, a lot fewer people would have come to see the house, resulting in fewer bidders and it very likely would have gone for under \$5 million due to fewer offers.

Our Greenwich Streets Team saw what value pricing could do at 37 Rockwood Lane. My brother, Russ listed it for \$2.25 million and it went for \$3.105 million or 38% over list, which itself is an amazing amount over list. However, this only got us third place for most over list price last year. Second place went to 403 Stanwich listed at \$1 million. It sold for \$1.54 million in 6 days on the market. (BTW: DOM on market is not how fast the sale happened, but how long before the time from the list date to when there is a non-contingent contract on the property. The actual sales dates are often a month or two after the contract is signed.)

It wasn't just these four houses that went for well over list price, 90 house sales out of 501 total sales in 2024 went for more than 10% over list price. Altogether, 58.9% or 295 houses went for either full list price or over list price list. Only 41.1% of sales went for under list price.

### HIGHER PRICED HOUSES HAVE FEWER DAYS ON MARKET

To further show how hot 2024 market was, take a look at our days on market over the last several years. In 2019, the median house stayed on the market for 5 months or 149 days. Two years ago in 2023, our median days on market was down to 5 weeks or 37 days to be precise. Last year in 2024, our median days on market had dropped an additional 40% to only 3 weeks on market or 22 days to be precise.

Some of the finance types out there are going to ask how could the under \$1 million market have a median days on market of 37 days as reported above, while the overall market has only 22 days on market. Don't high end houses stay on market longer? If you remember from above, our GMLS software provider continues to count days on market even though the house is under contract, if the contract has a contingency. The explanation of fewer days on market above \$1 million is that we have more all-cash deals. Only 36% of our deals over \$1 million had a contingent contract compared to 53% under \$1 million. Also, many of these "contingencies" for higher end houses are not mortgage contingencies, but other issues that often can be checked out in couple days. (I once had a one-week llama contingency to see if llamas could be kept on the property. (They could.)

### HIGH INTEREST RATES ARE NOT HOLDING BACK LISTINGS

Last year, as in 2023, homeowners were not listing houses. Only a small part of this is due to homeowners with low interest rates, who are reluctant to move. Yes, interest rates went up, and yes, some people didn't want to trade in their 3.5% mortgage for a 6.5% mortgage and its higher monthly payments. But most of the Greenwich buyers didn't have that problem, since many of them are downsizers, first time homebuyers, beneficiaries, or just doing really well.

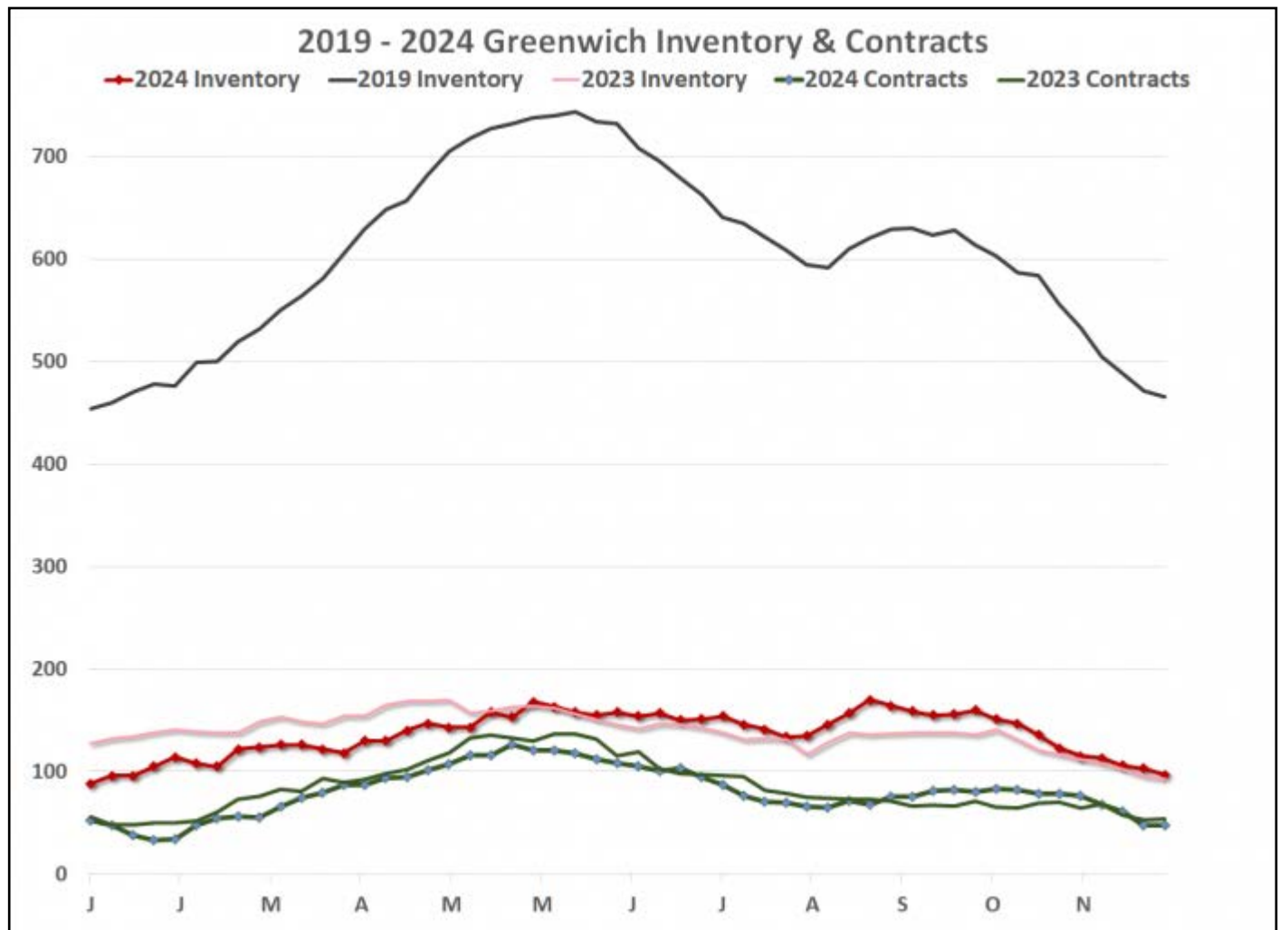
Lots of Greenwich buyers are downsizers from Westchester County, fleeing the highest property taxes in the nation to buy in Greenwich with some of the lowest property taxes in the tri-state area. Lots of these downsizers paid off their mortgages years ago and are sitting on huge amounts of equity. These downsizers are part of the 62.5% of purchasers in Greenwich that are paying all cash.

The first-time homebuyers are only concerned about whether they can make the monthly payments and have enough cash for the down payment. In Greenwich, many of these first-time home buyers have invested really well, have stock options, a large inheritance or have parents that are the generous type. They don't have a house to list, and hence aren't locked in by low-rate mortgages.

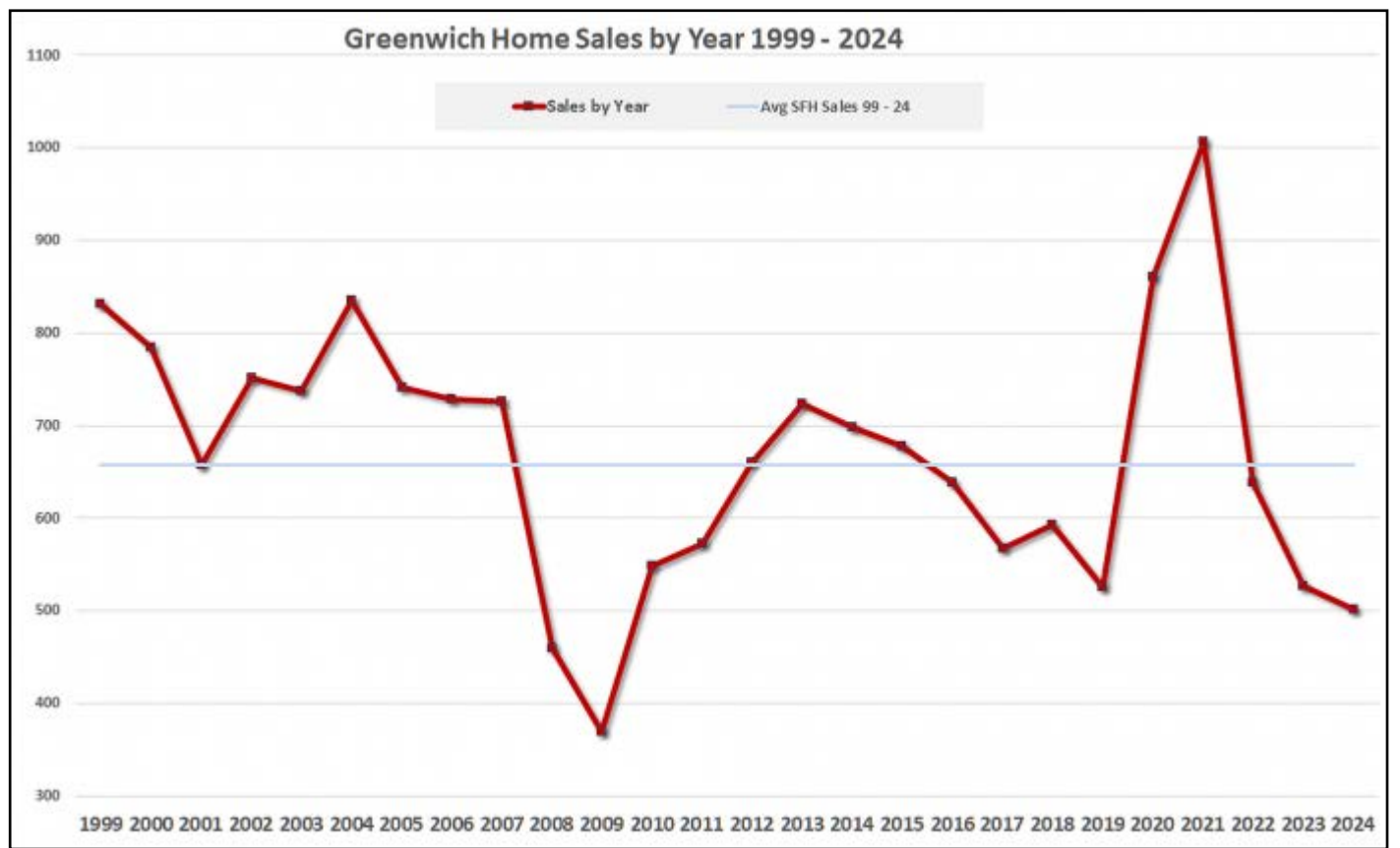
Many of our homeowners do have low-rate mortgages, but they also have done pretty well over the last few years in the stock, futures, options, and crypto markets. Some of these folks are taking money off the table and putting it in Greenwich real estate, and some realize that a bigger house is needed more than a bigger, but risky investment portfolio. For these folks, losing a low-rate mortgage is more than offset, but what they are gaining.

### 2024 SALES

This low inventory led to lower sales in the first three quarters of 2024. For the first half of the year our inventory was below what we saw in 2023. In the third quarter we saw a slight rise in inventory compared to Q3 2023. This resulted in a slight increase in sales in Q4



Our inventory is down 80% from what it was in 2019



During the Great recession sales dropped due to lack of demand. Post COVID sales dropped due to lack of inventory.

2024. Overall, we had 501 house sales in Greenwich in 2024, this is down 5% from 2023.

A promising sign is that sales were up 5.5% in the fourth quarter last year. However, these increased sales came from several contracts that closed in December, leaving us with 45 contracts compared to 53 contracts at the end of 2023. Basically, Q4 is a wash.

### OUR MID-MARKET - \$2 - \$5 MILLION

The best market in Greenwich last year was the \$3-4 million market, which was up 54% in sales. (It was followed by the over \$10 million which was up 42% last year, but more about that later). Our \$3-4 million market was up because we had more inventory and hence more to sell. In 2023, we had 56 sales from \$3-4 million, while last year sales jumped by 54% to 86 houses sold in that price range.

Our sales, from \$2-3 million, are the heart of our market and unit sales were down 11% from 119 sales to 106 sales. Part of the explanation for that 11% drop in sales is due to the 54% rise in sales from \$3-4 million. Appreciation pushed inventory from the \$2-3 million price range to \$3-4 million price range. The result was more \$3-4 million sales and slightly fewer \$2-3 million sales.

### HIGH-END MARKET OVER \$5 MILLION

Our market from \$5-6.5 million is a hot market with only 2.4 months of supply. From \$6.5 to \$10 million our market slows a bit with 5.5 months of supply. Looking from \$5-10 million sales are down from 82 sales in 2023 to 75 sales in 2024. This 9% drop is counterbalanced by the aforementioned 42% increase over \$10 million from 12 to 17 sales. Totalling everything up, sales prices over \$5 million moved higher, while sales were about the same, but we are definitely seeing more interest at the ultra-high-end.

### 2024 PRICE APPRECIATION

Since we have more than enough buyers for the limited number of listings that we have, prices are up again this year. The price appreciation in 2024 is 14.7%, 10.1% or 8.1% depending on which metric you prefer. The median sales price showed this biggest price jump. It went up 14.7% from \$2.50 million in 2023 to \$2.87 in 2024. Much of this jump in median sales price was a change in the mix of what was selling. In 2024 we had more inventory and hence more sales over the 2023 median. We also had fewer under the 2023 median of \$2.5 million. A lot of that was due to the 50% drop in sales under \$1 million.

More high-end sales and fewer sales below median will pull the median up, even if the value of individual houses has not gone up. Two

other numbers that are less affected by the shift in the market are the sold price/sf and the sales price to assessment ratio. Our sales price/sf went up from \$705 in 2023 to \$762/sf last year or an increase of 8.1%. The other ratio takes the sales price and divides it by the Tax Assessor's assessment for each property. When you compare the 2023 ratio to the 2024 ratio, you come up with an increase of 10.1%.

### INCREASING PRICES LEADS TO INCREASING EQUITY

Increasing equity is key for homebuyers. Back when I was growing up in Greenwich, houses appreciated consistently each year building equity. People bought new houses every 5 to 7 years with this increased equity.

We are seeing some of that come back, as once again, Greenwich houses are seeing significant appreciation year after year. This has led to more Greenwich homeowners looking for houses to buy with this equity. For example, if your house has gone up from \$1 million to \$1.5 million, you have \$500,000 of equity, that is a 20% downpayment on a \$2.5 million house (not counting transaction costs).

For too many people, this equity is locked up as they have nothing to buy. The resulting low inventory perpetuates the cycle as buyers won't list until they know where they are going.

### WHAT ABOUT 2025?

What will 2025 bring? What I can be sure of is we will continue to have well below-average inventory. Inventory will go up as the spring market kicks in, whether it peaks at 170 listings, as it did this year, or doubles that to 340 listings, it is still going to be well below our pre-COVID inventory levels.

Barring a recession that kills demand, prices will continue to rise as demand continues to exceed supply. Interest rate direction is another matter. It looks like Washington will continue to run major deficits, it is just a question as to whether they will be huge deficits or just really large deficits. The government is going to have rollover more and more bonds and the world is likely to require higher interest rates to keep buying them.

The big question for Greenwich sales however is not interest rates, but how well our financial markets do. If the financial markets continue to do well, then Greenwich real estate will also very likely do well.

**Mark Pruner is a founding member of the Greenwich Streets Team at Compass. He can be reached at 203-817-2871 or [pruner@compass.com](mailto:pruner@compass.com) or at the Compass office at 200 Greenwich Ave., Greenwich, CT 06831**



# Page Knox Introduces Great Artist Takes on the Annunciation

BY ANNE W. SEMMES

With her PhD in Art history, her ability to address an audience without notes with accompanying images, and with her passion for art, Greenwich's Page Knox is spellbinding. On a Sunday early in December at the Christ Church Greenwich Forum, Knox's subject was "The Annunciation. I absolutely love this topic," she began.

But the annunciation story Page has found, from her 25 plus years of lecturing at Columbia University, is now puzzling her students who are "less and less familiar with the Bible." When, "This is the moment in which the whole story begins of the Christian faith, the moment in which the word becomes flesh." In her explaining the concept of the incarnation, "The moment in which the angel, the representative of God comes to the Virgin Mary and tells her that she's going to bear the son of God and that this is an immaculate conception," one student had questioned, "So it's the first in vitro?"

"No, no, no," responded Page, "It's really a miraculous event in which God brings his son via the virgin who is a vessel who carries the Christ child and gives birth to him, making God a human on earth. And that human is then brought to redeem our sins. And it's really the beginning of the Christmas story, but it takes place as you can imagine, nine months earlier."

So, with 160 churchgoers in attendance, Page would open our eyes in particular to how a 15th century "famous Franciscan friar" named Fra Roberto Caracciolo of Lecce would winningly tell the annunciation story in his sermons while "wandering through Italy." And what he preached is now told through a scholarly book by Michael Baxandall, "Painting and Experience in Fifteenth Century Italy: A Primer in the Social History of Pictorial Style."

Fra Roberto would engage his listeners, directing them to take in those annunciation images on church walls, of how "basically, there was a conversation that takes place between the virgin and the angel" as described in Luke 1: 26-38. That conversation he called a "colloquy, a series of five successive spiritual and mental conditions or states attributable to Mary." Those five states were disquiet, reflection, inquiry, submission, and merit. Page then showed us favorite annunciation paintings that illustrate those five different states.

First off was that "fabulous altar piece" by Simone Martini Lippo Memmi from the 14th century, "made with the extraordinary use of gold leaf... And you can see on either side two important saints, the saint of Siena on the left, St. Margaret on the right with the prophets up above... The prophets are essentially telling that this event was going to happen." And "the reaction when Mary hears the salutation - she was troubled, as it says in Luke. Fra Roberto suggested her disquiet came from wonder. "In her humility, she was astonished and amazed."

And if we come to the Met's current show, "Siena: The Rise of Painting, 1300-1350" [on view to January 26], Page noted, "You will see one of the standouts of the show is Pietro Lorenzetti's 'Annunciation.' You can see that the hand of God is actually represented coming out of the cloud that sends the Holy Spirit down into Mary... But this would be the second scenario which we would call reflection... This shows the prudence of the Virgin thinking maybe I need to think about this a little bit before I say yes to this."

Another "fabulous artist" she named was Piero Della Francesca. "His phenomenal example of the Annunciation is part of a larger pictorial series called 'The Legend of the True Cross.' And this is also a moment of interrogation.

The Virgin wants to ask the angel some questions. How is this going to happen? I'm a virgin - how am I going to have a child?" Surely an inquiring Mary.

Page next named the "Annunciation" of Ambrosio Lorenzetti, the brother of artist Pietro, as "one of the most beautiful pieces in the Met's Siena show, and actually coming out of Siena... This is a piece where you can see the words coming out of the angel's mouth, and the virgin looks upward and says, 'I accept.' And note that the Virgin's crossed hands are the form of the cross. "So, this is the moment of what we would call submission, where she agrees."

Perhaps that fifth state of merit is best exemplified by Leonardo da Vinci. "And Leonardo is someone who is not terribly religious," noted Page, "but he's aware of all the things that are being said about the annunciation." And in his Annunciation, "The focus is in a much more equal relationship between the two [angel and Mary]. The focus really is on plants, on the garden, the backdrop, which creates this kind of smoky landscape... In Mary's expression you see all of those emotions, the idea of disquiet, the idea of inquiry, the idea of submission. It's all there in a very equal relationship."

"And she places her hand very importantly on the book. Leonardo really wants to give you the sense that the Virgin is intelligent, that she's engaging, she's also thoughtful... thinking about all of the things that are going to change in the world because of this very important announcement."

Leonardo, she told, "also leads us into the high Renaissance... He's making us aware of the complexities, the psychological complexities that are going on, which is something that he was fascinated with, which artists will then really look to not only in the Renaissance, but in the Baroque era, in the neo-classical era, all the way up to the works of our time."



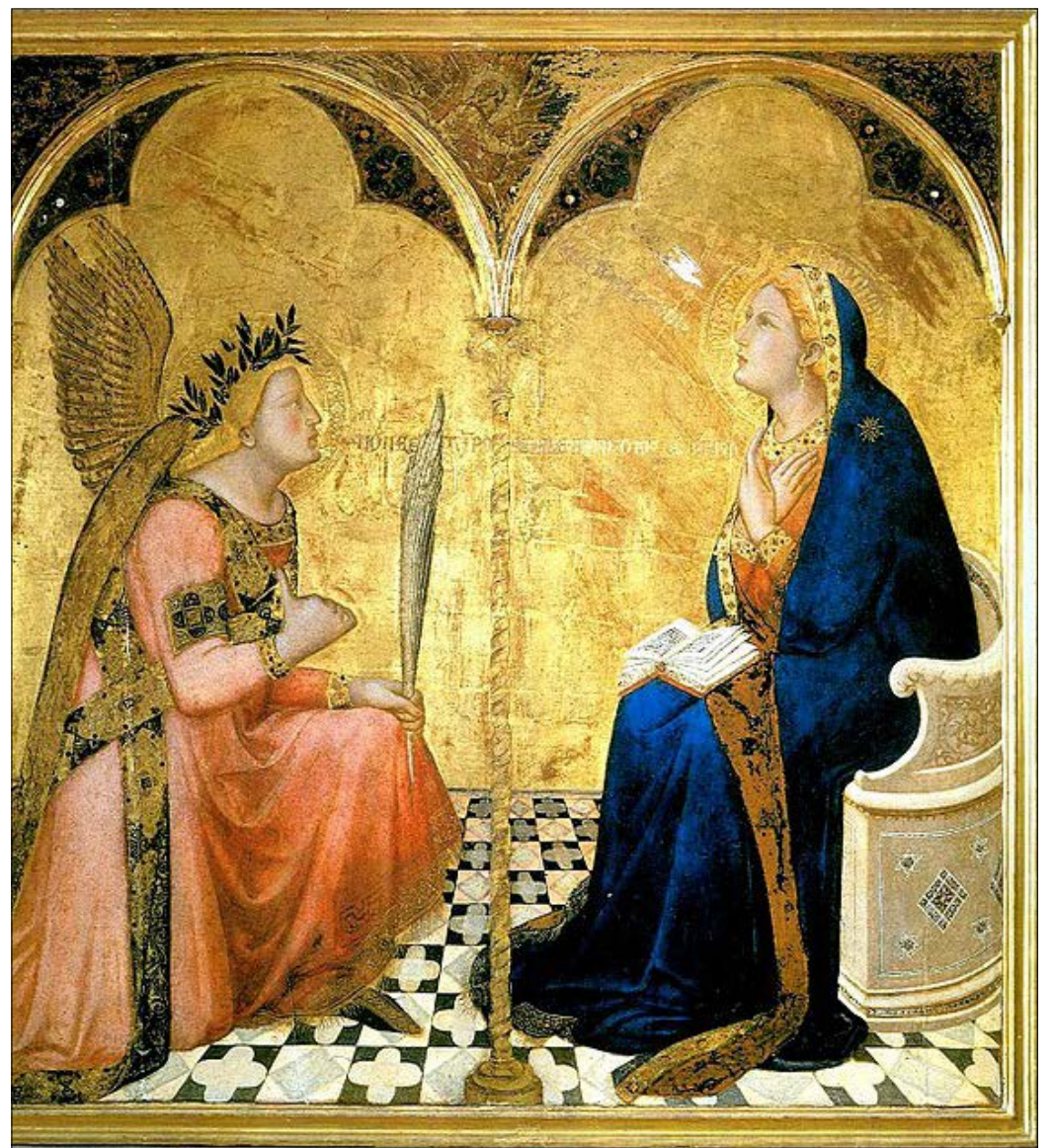
"Annunciation" by Simone Martini Lippo Memmi from the 14th century. Contributed photo.



Sienese painter Pietro Lorenzetti's "Annunciation." Contributed photo.



"Annunciation" of Ambrosio Lorenzetti, brother of artist Pietro Lorenzetti. Contributed photo.



Piero Della Francesca's Annunciation, part of a larger pictorial series, "The Legend of the True Cross," Contributed photo.



Leonardo da Vinci's "Annunciation." Contributed photo.



## Local Weather: The Week Ahead

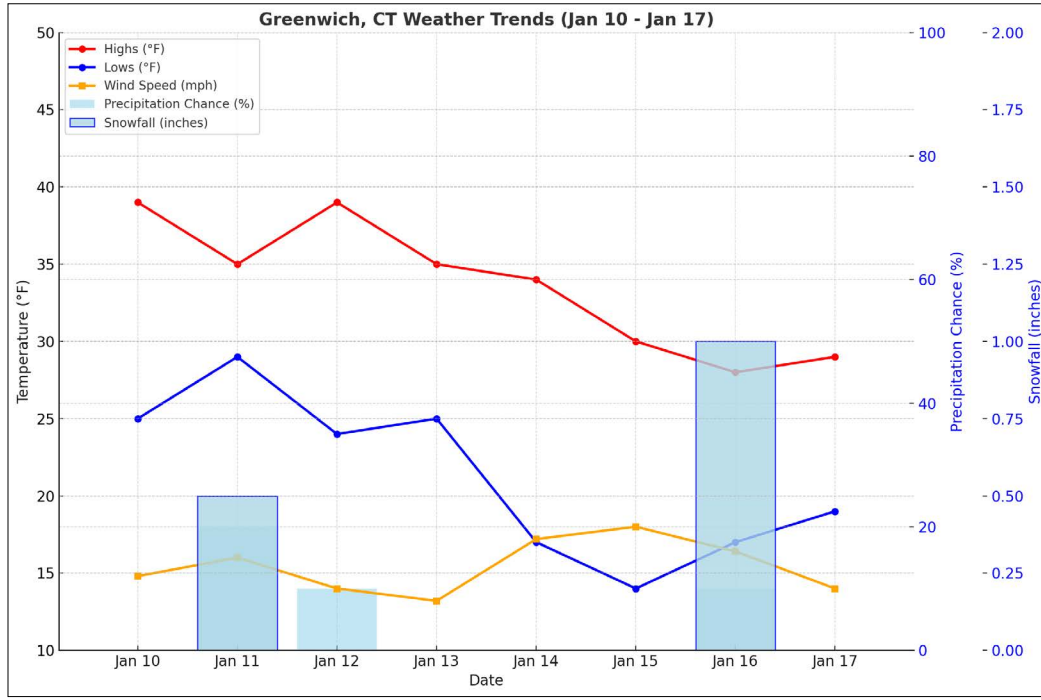
BY SENTINEL RESEARCH STAFF

Greenwich is bracing for a dynamic stretch of winter weather from January 10 to January 17, with temperatures expected to range from the mid-20s to upper 30s Fahrenheit. A mix of snow showers, brisk winds, and sunny interludes will define the week, according to meteorologists tracking the region.

The week begins with relatively mild conditions. Friday, January 10, will see highs near 39°F and sunny skies that give way to partial cloud cover by evening. Saturday brings light snow showers in the morning, with forecasters expecting minimal accumulation before clouds dominate the sky. Temperatures will hover in the mid-30s during the day and dip into the upper 20s overnight.

“We’re watching a cold front move down from the Midwest, which will bring colder air and windy conditions early in the week,” said the National Weather Service. Sunday and Monday offer a reprieve, with

Friday	38° 26°	Sunny to partly cloudy and breezy
Saturday	35° 28°	Snow showers in the morning with little or no additional accumulation; otherwise, mostly cloudy
Sunday	39° 24°	Partly sunny
Monday	37° 24°	Intervals of clouds and sunshine
Tuesday	35° 20°	Windy with intervals of clouds and sunshine
Wednesday	31° 13°	Turning cloudy in the morning followed by afternoon low clouds
Thu, Jan 16	29° 16°	Some sun, then increasing clouds



**Residents should be prepared for bitterly cold conditions and the possibility of snow accumulation later in the week.**

partial sunshine and daytime highs reaching into the upper 30s. However, winds from the northwest will make it feel much colder.

By Tuesday, January 14, the real chill sets in as Arctic air drives temperatures down to daytime highs in the low 30s and nighttime lows in the teens. Wednesday and Thursday continue the cold streak, with highs barely cracking 30°F and overnight lows sinking as low as 14°F. Increasing cloud cover late Thursday hints at a potential storm system moving into the region.

“Residents should be prepared for frigid conditions and the possibility of snow accumulation by late next week,” added the meteorologist. The week concludes on Friday,

January 17, with a return to partly sunny skies and highs around 29°F.

Greenwich residents are no strangers to winter, but the shifts between sunny skies and bitter winds this week might warrant extra attention. Officials recommend layering up, as wind chills could drop below zero on the coldest days. For those traveling, icy conditions may develop, particularly during nighttime hours.

This weather pattern mirrors typical January conditions in the region, with average highs in the mid-30s and lows in the mid-20s, along with a mix of snow and rain. But as colder air dominates, forecasters suggest keeping an eye on local updates for potential weather advisories.

## Nationally: The Week Ahead

BY EMMA BARHYDT

**NORTHEAST:** Continuing January 10, the Northeast will experience significantly below-average temperatures. The day will start with overcast skies and a high of 29°F (-2°C), dropping to 22°F (-6°C) overnight. Light snow is possible on January 11, with minor accumulations expected. Highs will remain between 24°F (-4°C) and 34°F (1°C) through January 15, with lows plunging to 8°F (-13°C). The region remains under a seasonal Arctic influence, but no significant weather disruptions are forecast. The storm affecting the Central Atlantic region is not expected to develop into a Nor’easter. Another plume of Arctic air will settle in starting January 13, keeping temperatures cold through at least January 17.

**SOUTHEAST:** Beginning January 10, the Southeast will see a mix of freezing rain and snow across northern Texas, Tennessee, northern Arkansas, northern Mississippi, and northern Alabama, with

temperatures significantly below average. South of the snow shield, expect a wintry mix, transitioning to rain in the southernmost areas. Over January 10, freezing rain and snow will move northeast, impacting northern Mississippi, northern Alabama, northern Georgia, the Carolinas, Tennessee, West Virginia, Virginia, and the Ohio River Valley. The DC Metro area is also expected to see significant snowfall.

**MIDWEST:** The Midwest will endure typical January cold with intermittent light snow. January 10 may bring accumulations under an inch, with highs near 27°F (-3°C) and lows around 25°F (-4°C). The Great Lakes region will experience significantly below-average temperatures and lake-effect snow starting January 10 in Illinois, moving into Upstate New York by the early morning of January 11.

**SOUTHWEST:** The Southwest is forecasted to experience cool, dry conditions. Highs will range

from 36°F (2°C) to 40°F (4°C), with lows between 20°F (-7°C) and 24°F (-4°C). Persistent high pressure will limit precipitation and keep the skies clear. However, these conditions may worsen drought concerns, particularly in regions like Arizona and southern Nevada, which continue to face long-term water resource challenges.

**NORTHWEST:** The Northwest will see average temperatures for this time of year, with an alternating mix of rain, light flurries, and sun beginning Jan. 10.

**WEST COAST:** California continues to face challenges from forest fires, exacerbated by severe wind storms. Consistent winds of 50 mph, with gusts reaching up to 75 mph, have been reported, further complicating firefighting efforts and recovery.

**YELLOWSTONE REGION AND GEOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS** The Yellowstone region, known for its geothermal activity, has exhibited minor seismic activity in recent weeks. According to the U.S.

Geological Survey, a swarm of small earthquakes was detected near the Yellowstone Caldera on January 8. These seismic events are consistent with Yellowstone’s regular geothermal processes. Temperatures in Yellowstone are expected to range from highs near 24°F (-4°C) to lows around 10°F (-12°C) during the forecast period. Snowfall is likely on January 11 and 12, with accumulations of up to 6 inches, which could affect access to the park’s northern and western entrances. Travelers should note that heavy snow combined with geothermal activity can create unique hazards, such as localized flooding from thermal springs.

The USGS emphasizes there is no immediate cause for alarm regarding volcanic activity, as the observed seismicity is within the historical norms for the region. Scientists continue to monitor ground deformation and hydrothermal activity, given Yellowstone’s status as a supervolcano.

## According to the Wall Street Journal

AGGREGATED FROM WSJ

### META ENDS FACT-CHECKING ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced the end of fact-checking on Facebook and Instagram, framing it as an effort to promote free expression. This policy shift aligns with the company’s outreach to the incoming Trump administration.

**TRUMP RATCHETS UP CAMPAIGN TO GAIN CONTROL OF GREENLAND, PANAMA CANAL** Former President Trump has intensified efforts to gain U.S. control over Greenland and the Panama Canal. The moves are part of broader strategies to bolster national security and resource access.

**CAN BOEING BE FIXED? AEROSPACE LEADERS OFFER A REPAIR MANUAL** Industry experts are offering detailed strategies to resolve Boeing’s operational and reputational challenges. The company continues to face scrutiny over safety and production delays.

### U.S. IN TALKS TO SWAP DETAINED AMERICANS IN AFGHANISTAN FOR GUANTANAMO PRISONER

The U.S. government is negotiating a prisoner swap involving Americans detained in Afghanistan and a high-profile Guantanamo Bay inmate. The discussions aim to secure the Americans’ release amid heightened diplomatic tensions.

### IF YOU THINK OWNING A SPORTS TEAM IS HARD, TRY NAMING ONE

Naming new sports teams has become a high-stakes challenge as owners navigate legal, branding, and cultural concerns. The process often involves fan input and extensive market research.

### EVEN WITH AN OFFICE GLUT, FIRMS CAN’T FIND THE KIND OF SPACE THEY WANT

Despite a surplus of commercial real estate, companies struggle to secure office spaces that meet modern demands. Tenants are prioritizing flexible layouts and upgraded amenities.

**U.S. PACIFIC PALISADES WILDFIRE PROMPTS EVACUATIONS AS HIGH WINDS FAN FLAMES** A 1,200-acre wildfire in Pacific Palisades is forcing evacuations as winds exacerbate the spread. Emergency crews are working to protect residential areas in Los Angeles.

### GOP-LED HOUSE PASSES LAKEN RILEY ACT WITH DEMOCRATS’ HELP

The House passed the Laken Riley Act, a bipartisan bill addressing infrastructure and public safety improvements. The legislation highlights rare cooperation between Republicans and Democrats.

### JUDGE TEMPORARILY BLOCKS RELEASE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL REPORT ON TRUMP

A federal judge has delayed the release of a special

counsel report on Donald Trump, citing legal challenges from his legal team. The report is tied to investigations into his post-presidency activities.

### WORLD ISRAEL, HEZBOLLAH FIGHTING STRETCHES A CEASE-FIRE DEAL TO THE LIMIT

Renewed clashes between Israel and Hezbollah are testing the durability of a cease-fire agreement. Both sides accuse the other of violations as Israeli forces prepare to withdraw from Lebanon.

### JEAN-MARIE LE PEN, FAR-RIGHT FRENCH FIREBRAND POLITICIAN, DIES AT 96

Jean-Marie Le Pen, founder of France’s National Front and a polarizing figure in European politics, has died. His legacy continues to influence far-right movements across the continent.

### EARTHQUAKE NEAR TIBET HOLY CITY KILLS SCORES

A powerful earthquake near a sacred Tibetan city has left dozens dead and displaced thousands. Relief efforts are underway as regional governments assess the damage.

### LIFE & ARTS TIGER WOODS’S FUTURISTIC NEW GOLF LEAGUE HAS ARRIVED. IS ANYONE GOING TO WATCH?

Tiger Woods’ latest venture, a tech-driven golf

league, is drawing both curiosity and skepticism. The initiative blends sports and entertainment in an unprecedented format.

### OPINION THE GLOBAL EV CALAMITY

A new editorial critiques regulatory frameworks from the Obama era for creating unsustainable electric vehicle markets. The authors argue for rethinking industrial policy.

### MACRON GETS REAL ON IRAN’S NUCLEAR PROGRAM

French President Emmanuel Macron has signaled a tougher stance on Iran’s nuclear ambitions. This shift reflects growing international concerns about Tehran’s intentions.

### BUSINESS & FINANCE AI STARTUP ANTHROPIC RAISING FUNDS VALUING IT AT \$60 BILLION

Anthropic, an OpenAI competitor backed by Amazon, is raising new funding at a valuation of \$60 billion. The company’s rapid growth underscores the intensifying competition in AI development.

### CINTAS MAKES \$5.1 BILLION TAKEOVER OFFER FOR UNIFORM SUPPLIER UNIFIRST

Cintas has bid \$5.1 billion to acquire UniFirst, aiming to consolidate its position in the uniform supply market. The proposed merger reflects ongoing consolidation in the industry.

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# Comedy Night!

**Friday, Jan. 24  
6:30-9:30 pm**

**Comedians Meghan Hanley  
& Moody McCarthy**

Seated dinner with an epic Taco Bar buffet,  
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Tickets \$50:  
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254 East Putnam Ave. Greenwich, CT



## Greenwich High Girls Basketball Goes 6-0

*Greenwich High remains undefeated with victories over FCIAC girls basketball foe Fairfield Ludlowe, non-conference opponent Shepaug*



Greenwich High School junior guard Madi Utzinger, right, dribbles the ball during a game against Fairfield Ludlowe on Jan. 3, 2025, at Fairfield High School. The Cardinals won the game, 43-37. Photo courtesy of Dan Utzinger.

BY DAVID FIERRO

The season of perfection continued for Greenwich High School's girls basketball team, thanks to two more road victories.

The Cardinals won their fourth consecutive road game to start the season and kept their undefeated



Cardinals freshman center Zuri Faison goes up for a shot in the low post while being tightly guarded during a road game against Fairfield Ludlowe on Jan. 3, 2025. Greenwich posted a 43-37 victory to improve to 6-0. Photo courtesy of Dan Utzinger.

record intact, improving to 6-0 with wins at Fairfield Ludlowe High School and Shepaug Valley.

Greenwich posted a 43-37 win over host Fairfield Ludlowe on Jan. 3 and topped Shepaug Valley, 47-20, in a game held on Dec. 30. Against Fairfield Ludlowe, freshman center Zuri Faison scored 17 points to pace Greenwich's balanced scoring attack.

"It was a great game of basketball with high intensity and aggression from both teams," Greenwich coach Megan Wax said of her team's win over Ludlowe.

The Cardinals held a 15-11 lead on the Falcons following the first quarter and were ahead, 27-18 at halftime. Greenwich brought a 40-31 on Ludlowe into the fourth quarter.

Faison scored 11 of her team-high 17 points in the first half to power Greenwich's offense. Elsa Xhekaj, a freshman guard, scored 10 points, including a 3-pointer for the Cardinals (6-0).

Junior guard Madi Utzinger

added eight points and senior guard/forward Alyssa Gath totaled four points in the winning effort. Also adding to Greenwich's offense were senior power forward Kate Baxendale (two points) and junior guard Juliette Pelham (two points).

Senior Kate Cimador scored a game-high 20 points to lead Ludlowe (4-2). Junior Hayden McBean had eight points for the Falcons.

The Cardinals' game versus Ludlowe was their first FCIAC matchup of the season. In their convincing win against host Shepaug Valley, the Cards led 15-0 after the first quarter and 28-9 at halftime.

"It was another great team win with contributions from every girl," Wax noted.

Utzinger poured in a game-high 15 points for Greenwich, 10 of which came in the opening half.

Utzinger made two 3-pointers on her way to having

another strong game. Faison and Xhekaj scored nine points apiece, while Baxendale, senior Lauren Dionis and sophomore Lily Nogaki had three points each for the victors.

Pelham and Gath each scored two points and senior Lauren Judge made a foul shot for a point for GHS, which once again, showed its impressive depth.

Up next for Greenwich is a big FCIAC game on Tuesday. The Cardinals remain on the road and will travel to Trumbull to play FCIAC opponent St. Joseph. Greenwich will then host Wilton on Friday (Jan. 10) at 7 p.m.

***"It was a great game of basketball with high intensity and aggression from both teams."***



Greenwich High School coach Megan Wax has the Cardinals off to a 6-0 start to its season. Photo courtesy of Dan Utzinger.



Juliette Pelham of Greenwich, left, looks to pass the ball against host Ludlowe. Photo courtesy of Dan Utzinger.

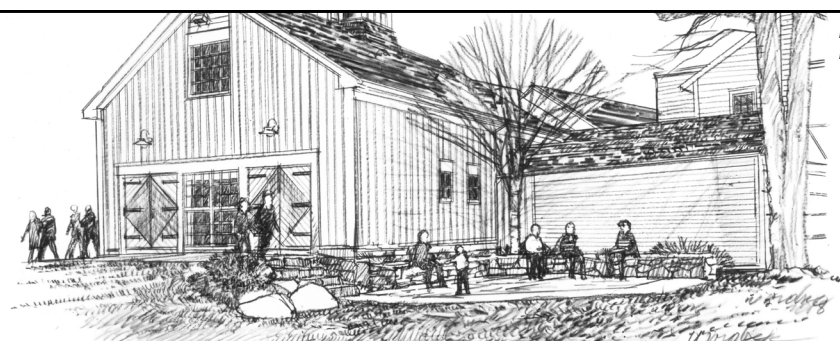


Alyssa Gath of the Cardinals shoots a 3-pointer versus Fairfield Ludlowe. Photo courtesy of Dan Utzinger.



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# Greenwich Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

## FRIDAY, JAN. 10

10 & 11 a.m.  
Sensory Storytime (Ages 18 months-48 months). Perrot Memorial Library, 90 Sound Beach Ave. Free. Register. perrotlibrary.org

10:30 a.m.  
Voices Center of Resilience: Mindful Moment Meditation. Online. Free. Register. voicescenter.org

12 p.m.  
How to Help Your Aging Parents: A Panel Discussion. Perrot Memorial Library, 90 Sound Beach Ave. Free. 203-637-1066 x15. judys@perrotlibrary.org. perrotlibrary.org

3 p.m.  
FeederWatch Fridays. Greenwich Audubon Center, 613 Riversville Rd. All Ages. Free. Register. greenwich.audubon.org/events

## SATURDAY, JAN. 11

12 p.m.  
Colonial Crafts: Make a Revolutionary War Inspired Drum in the Time Travelers KidStudio. Greenwich Historical Society, 47 Strickland Rd. greenwichhistory.org/events

1 p.m.  
Birding at the Bruce Museum with Greenwich Audubon. Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. brucemuseum.org

1 p.m.  
Science Solvers: Ducks! (Ages 4 & up). Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. Free with admission. No reservations required. Also held Sunday, Jan. 12. brucemuseum.org

7:30 p.m.  
Live Music: Kings' Highway. St. Lawrence Society, 86 Valley Rd., Cos Cob. 203-618-9036. stlawrencesociety.com/events

## SUNDAY, JAN. 12

1 p.m.  
Guided Gallery Tour: Greenwich During the Revolutionary War: A Frontier Town on the Front Line. Greenwich Historical Society, 47 Strickland Rd. Free with museum admission. Through March 9. greenwichhistory.org/events

4 p.m.  
Yale Glee Club Concert. Christ Church Greenwich, 254 E. Putnam Ave. Free - donations accepted to support the Greenwich Boys and Girls Club's new choral program. 203-869-6600.

## MONDAY, JAN. 13

2 p.m.  
Lecture: "City of Tiles: New York from Subway Stations to the Tops of Skyscrapers" by Francis Morrone, architectural historian and author. Via Zoom. Register. cceramicsc.org

5:30 p.m.  
Women's Business Development Council (WBDC): Financial Foundations: 1099 Facts - Who, What, When and How to do them. Online. Free. Register. ctwbdc.org/class-listings

## TUESDAY, JAN. 14

10 & 11 a.m.  
Bruce Beginnings: Do You See a Duck? (Ages 2 1/2-5). Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. Free with admission. No reservations required. Also held Wednesday, Jan. 15. brucemuseum.org

6 p.m.  
Purls of Wisdom: An Evening Knitting Class. Perrot Memorial Library, 90 Sound Beach Ave. Free. Register. 203-637-1066 x15. judys@perrotlibrary.org. perrotlibrary.org

## WEDNESDAY, JAN. 15

10 a.m.  
Bruce Beginnings Junior: Ducks! (ages 12 Months-30 Months). Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. Free with admission. First come, first served. brucemuseum.org

11 a.m.  
Retired Men's Association of Greenwich: Brian Walker, Son of Beetle Bailey Creator Mort Walker, "A Life in Cartoons." Christ Church, 254 E. Putnam Ave. & on Zoom. Free & open to all. greenwichrma.org

12 p.m.  
Colonial Crafts: Make a Lavender Sachet in the Time Travelers KidStudio. Greenwich Historical Society, 47 Strickland Rd. greenwichhistory.org/events

12 p.m.  
Women's Business Development Council (WBDC): Exploring Entrepreneurship - Business Start-up/Preplanning. Online. Free. Register. ctwbdc.org/class-listings

5 p.m.  
Alliance Française of Greenwich: French Cinéma-thèque - lively discussions on French films. Via Zoom. afgreenwich.org

7 - 9 p.m.  
Astronomical Society of Greenwich: Bowman Observatory Public Nights. Bowman Observatory, on the grounds of the Julian Curtiss School. Free. GreenwichStars@gmail.com. astrogreenwich.org

## THURSDAY, JAN. 16

5:30 p.m.  
Night of Holiday Cheer. River House Adult Day Center, 125 River Road Ext, Cos Cob. 203-622-0079. rfinn@theriverhouse.org

6 p.m.  
Opening Reception: "Camera-less." Flinn Gallery - Greenwich Library, 101 West Putnam Ave., 2nd Floor. 203-622-7947. flinn-gallery.com

7 p.m.  
Perrot P.I.s: January Meeting - "The Woman in White". Perrot Memorial Library, 90 Sound Beach Ave. Free. Register. 203-637-1066 x15. lending@perrotlibrary.org. perrotlibrary.org

## FRIDAY, JAN. 17

10 & 11 a.m.  
Sensory Storytime (Ages 18 months-48 months). Perrot Memorial Library, 90 Sound Beach Ave. Free. Register. perrotlibrary.org

3 p.m.  
FeederWatch Fridays. Greenwich Audubon Center, 613 Riversville Rd. All Ages. Free. Register. greenwich.audubon.org/events

4 p.m.  
Escape Jim Henson's Labyrinth (Ages 8-13). Perrot Memorial Library, 90 Sound Beach Ave. Free. Register. perrotlibrary.org

## SATURDAY, JAN. 18

12 p.m.  
Colonial Crafts: Make a "Quill" in the Time Travelers KidStudio. Greenwich Historical Society, 47 Strickland Rd. greenwichhistory.org/events

1 p.m.  
Art Adventures: Art and Work (Ages 4 & up). Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. Free with admission. No reservations required. Also held Sunday, Jan. 19. brucemuseum.org

## SUNDAY, JAN. 19

1 p.m.  
Guided Gallery Tour: Greenwich During the Revolutionary War: A Frontier Town on the Front Line. Greenwich Historical Society, 47 Strickland Rd. Free with museum admission. Through March 9. greenwichhistory.org/events

## THROUGH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

"Camera-less" Art Exhibit. Flinn Gallery - Greenwich Library, 101 West Putnam Ave., 2nd Floor. 203-622-7947. flinn-gallery.com

## SUNDAYS, THROUGH APRIL 13

8 - 11 a.m.  
Safe Roads Sunday program at Tod's Point. Traffic will be restricted on the road leading to the Point to allow walkers, joggers and cyclists to enjoy a traffic-free loop that starts and ends at the entrance to the main parking lots. friendsofgreenwichpoint.org

## MONDAY - FRIDAY

3:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
Arch Street Homework Heroes - Free after school tutoring (6th-12th grade). Arch Street Teen Center, 100 Arch St. info@archstreet.org. archstreet.org

## TUESDAYS:

10 a.m.  
Beginner Bridge with The Perfectly Polite Bridge Group. YMCA members, \$30; nonmembers, \$35. New players welcome. (Register by Monday, 6pm). 203-524-8032. greenwichymca.org

## 5 - 7 p.m.

Lighthouse, a Program of Kids In Crisis: LGBTQ Youth Group Meeting. On Zoom. Free. Open to all LGBTQ Youth & allies. 203-661-1911. lighthouse@kidsincrisis.org. kidsincrisis.org/get-help/lighthouse

## WEDNESDAYS:

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
"Tools for Aging Well" (2nd Wednesday of the Month). Round Hill Community Church, 395 Round Hill Rd. 203-869-1091. roundhillcommunitychurch.org

## 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Relaxed Duplicate Bridge with The Perfectly Polite Bridge Group. YMCA of Greenwich, 50 East Putnam Ave. Members, \$10; nonmembers, \$12. New players welcome. (Register by Tue). 203-524-8032. greenwichymca.org

## 12 - 2 p.m.

Waste Free Greenwich's Food Scrap Recycle Program: Drop off scraps at Round Hill Community Church, 395 Round Hill Rd. roundhillcommunitychurch.org/news/composting-at-rhcc

## 12:15 p.m.

Greenwich Rotary Club Weekly Lunch Meeting. Putnam

Cottage, 243 East Putnam Ave. RSVP. 203-832-3654. sheila.goggin@cbmoves.com. greenwichrotary.org

## 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Arch Street Teen Center High School Support Group for boys: Stress, Success, and Teenage Setbacks - moderated by Executive Director Kyle Silver. 100 Arch St. Register. Kyle@archstreet.org. archstreet.org

## 6:30 p.m.

NAMI-CAN (Child and Adolescent Network) Online Support Group - for parents and primary caregivers of children & adolescents, under age 21, with behavioral and emotional issues. Free. nami-southwestct.org/online-support

## 2<sup>ND</sup> WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH:

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Aging Well - an informal conversation about different aspects of aging well. Round Hill Community Church, 395 Round Hill Road. Free & open to all. 203-869-1091. roundhillcommunitychurch.org

## THURSDAYS:

8 a.m. & 4 p.m.  
Tai Chi Basic Moves. First Congregational Church of Greenwich, 108 Sound Beach Ave. Registration required. Tuition is paid as a donation made directly by the participant to abilis, Neighbor to Neighbor, or the First Congregational Church. experience-taichi.org

## 3 - 7 p.m.

Arch Street After School Programming (All Ages) - every Thursday starting Feb. 22. Arch Street Teen Center, 100 Arch St. archstreet.org

## 5 - 7 p.m.

Kids In Crisis Lighthouse

LGBTQ Youth Group Meeting - open to all LGBTQ youth in middle & high school. Wilton Historical Society, 224 Danbury Rd, Wilton. Free. 203-661-1911. lighthouse@kidsincrisis.org. kidsincrisis.org/get-help/lighthouse

## EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY:

8 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Book Exchange - choose from a huge selection of books. Holly Hill Recycling Center. Free, or, donate books. (Open every Fri & Sat. books4everyone.org

## GREENWICH LIBRARIES:

greenwichlibrary.org  
Friday, Jan. 10  
10 a.m.  
Storytime. Cos Cob Library Turret. 203-622-6883.

3 p.m.  
Innovator-in-Residence: Design a 3D Printed Twisty Vase. Innovation Lab. 203-622-7979. innovationlab@greenwichlibrary.org

7 p.m.  
Friends Friday Films: "Paddington 2." Berkley Theater. cgibbs@greenwichlibrary.org

Saturday, Jan. 11  
10:30 a.m.  
Adventures in Craft with Nicole. Byram Shubert Library Community Room. 203-531-0426.

11 a.m.  
Hooked On Crochet. Teen Commons. 203-625-6549. alaughlin@greenwichlibrary.org

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

1 p.m.  
Cloak and Dagger Book Club (This Book Club will meet temporarily at the Byram Shubert Library, during the Cos Cob renovation). 203-622-6883.

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**Shepherd's Pie \$17.99**  
Served in a bread bowl.

**Beef Stew \$18.99**

**Guinness Lamb Stew \$19.99**

**Beef Stroganoff \$21.99**  
Sautéed pieces of beef with mushrooms cooked in a sour cream sauce.

**Braciola Della Nonna \$19.99**  
Sliced Roast Beef, stuffed with spinach, onions, mushrooms, mozzarella, and breadcrumbs. Served over Rigatoni and tomato sauce.

**Lobster Ravioli \$27.99**  
Served with shrimp in a roasted pepper cream sauce.

**\*12 oz Top Choice Certified Angus New York Strip \$28.99**  
Served with baked potato and vegetables.

**Veal Osso Bucco \$29.99**

**\*Surf and Turf \$37.99**  
6 oz. Grilled Filet Mignon and Stuffed Shrimp. Served with baked potato and vegetables.

**\*14 oz Top Choice Certified Angus Ribeye \$34.99**  
Served with baked potato, asparagus and green peppercorn sauce.

Discount not applicable on Specials.  
\*Thoroughly cooking meats, poultry, seafood, or eggs reduces the risk of food borne illness.






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# Greenwich Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

3 p.m.  
*Ashforth Concert: Tune In, Play On with Mozart for Munchkins. Berkley Theater. 203-622-7940. children@greenwichlibrary.org.*

Monday, Jan. 13  
All Day  
Adult Winter Reading Challenge.

9:30 a.m.  
Little Learners (Registration Required). Children's Constellation Room.

11 a.m.  
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.  
*Byram Book Club: "The Reporter Who Knew Too Much" by Mark Shaw. Byram Shubert Library Conference Room.*

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

4 p.m.  
*The Study Escape: for High Schoolers.*

Tuesday, Jan. 14

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

1 p.m.  
*Friends Book Group.*

1:15 p.m.  
*Baby Lapsit (Registration Required). Children's Constellation Room.*

4 p.m.  
*The Study Escape: for High Schoolers. Marx Family Black Box Theater.*

5 p.m.  
*Gentle Yoga with Kristin. Byram Shubert Library.*

5 p.m.  
*New Yorker Stories Discussion Group. Online.*

7 p.m.  
*Investing: The \$400,000 Diploma. Online.*

Wednesday, Jan. 15

9:30 a.m.  
Movers & Shakers (Registration Required). Children's Constellation Room.

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

10 a.m. & 1 p.m.  
*Career Coach - Advanced Excel. Byram Shubert Library.*

10:30 a.m.  
*Fiesta de los Cuentos. Children's Constellation Room.*

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

12 p.m.  
*Brown Bag Book Club. Online.*

1 p.m.  
*LaserLab: Design & Create. Innovation Lab.*

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

4 p.m.  
*The Study Escape: for High Schoolers. Marx Family Black Box Theater.*

6 p.m.  
*Master MS Outlook: Tips for Greater Efficiency. Learning Lab.*

Thursday, Jan. 16

10 a.m.  
*Japanese Storytime. Marx Family Black Box Theater..*

11 a.m.  
*Technology Help. Learning Lab.*

11:30 a.m.  
*Qi Gong. Online.*

4 p.m.  
*Tai Chi Games for Kids with Ken Dolan. Byram Shubert Library Community Room.*

4 p.m.  
*The Study Escape: for High Schoolers. Marx Family Black Box Theater.*

5:30 p.m.  
*Community Sponsored Event: League of Women Voters Greenwich Board Meeting. 2nd Floor Meeting Room.*

6 p.m.  
*Opening Reception: "Camera-less." Flinn Gallery. Friday, Jan. 17*

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

10 a.m.  
*Goldbas Musical Story Hour. Marx Family Black Box Theater. 203-622-7940. children@greenwichlibrary.org.*

11 a.m.  
*Nonprofit Workshop: Essential Steps for Creating a Successful Nonprofit Organization. Online. greenwichlibrary.libcal.com/event/12749607*

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

7 p.m.  
*Friends Friday Films: "Will & Harper." Berkley Theater. cgibbs@greenwichlibrary.org.*

Saturday, Jan. 18  
10:30 a.m.  
Cookies with Joanne Fuss. Byram Shubert Library Community Room. 203-531-0426.

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

2 p.m.  
Jerry's Movies: "The Nun's Story" (1959) starring Audrey Hepburn. Byram Shubert Library Community Room. 203-531-0426.

**GREENWICH HOSPITAL:**  
greenwichhospital.org/events  
888-305-9253  
Monday, Jan. 13

12 p.m.  
Webinar: Preventing Falls and Improving Balance. Online. Free.

Tuesday, Jan. 14

5:30 p.m.  
Webinar: Biological Clock: Control Your Fertility. Online. Free.

Wednesday, Jan. 15

1:30 p.m.  
Parkinson's Disease Support Group - for people with Parkinson's, their families and caregivers. 260 Long Ridge Road, Stamford. Free.

5 p.m.  
Talk: Chronic Pain: Relief Through Pain Management. Greenwich Hospital. Free.

Thursday, Jan. 16  
12 p.m.  
Webinar: Tools to Manage Diabetes. Online. Free.

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

Saturday, Jan. 18

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

9:30 a.m.  
AARP-Safe Driving Course. Greenwich Hospital. \$20.

**NEIGHBOR-TO-NEIGHBOR:**  
ntngreenwich.org

Everyday, all day  
• 24/7 Food Drive Collection site at North Greenwich Congregational Church, 606 Riversville 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:**  
RedCrossBlood.org  
Friday, Jan. 10

8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Stamford Church of Christ, 1264 High Ridge Road, Stamford.

10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
St. Matthew's Church, 382 Cantioe St., Bedford, NY.

Saturday, Jan. 11

8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Archangels Greek Orthodox Church, 1527 Bedford Street, Stamford.

Sunday, Jan. 12

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

Monday, Jan. 13

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

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Agudath Sholom synagogue, 301 Strawberry Hill Avenue, Stamford.

11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Westchester Medical Center Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, 100 Woods Rd., Valhalla, NY.

Tuesday, Jan. 14

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

1 - 6 p.m.  
First Congregational Church of Darien, 14 Brookside Road, Darien.

Wednesday, Jan. 15

11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
44 Broadway, 44 South Broadway, White Plains, NY.

Thursday, Jan. 16

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

Friday, Jan. 17  
8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Stamford Church of Christ, 1264 High Ridge Road, Stamford.

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

Saturday, Jan. 18

8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
New Canaan Community YMCA, 564 South Ave., New Canaan.

Sunday, Jan. 19

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

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Temple Sholom, 300 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich.

**TOWN MEETINGS:** greenwichct.gov/calendar

Monday, Jan. 13

1 p.m.  
Planning and Zoning Commission Planning Session.

3 p.m.  
Energy Management Advisory Committee Meeting. Cone Room.

Tuesday, Jan. 14

12 p.m.  
First Selectman's Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting. Zoom Webinar.

7 p.m.  
First Selectman's Youth Commission Board Meeting. Town Hall Meeting Room.

7:30 p.m.  
Appointments Committee Meeting. Employee lounge.

7:30 p.m.  
Health & Human Services Committee Meeting. Cone Room.

7:30 p.m.  
Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting. Mazza Room.

7:30 p.m.  
Town Services Committee Meeting. Hayton Room.

7:30 p.m.  
Transportation Committee Meeting. Evaristo Conference Room.

Wednesday, Jan. 15

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

7 p.m.  
Fair Rent Commission Meeting. Zoom Webinar.

7 p.m.  
PZBA Meeting.

7:30 p.m.  
District 11 Meeting. Green-

wich Country Day School.

7:30 p.m.  
District 4 Meeting. Byram Firehouse.

7:30 p.m.  
District 8 Meeting. Cos Cob School Media Center.

Thursday, Jan. 16

11 a.m.  
FS Sustainability Committee Meeting. In Person at Town Hall Meeting Room and Virtual via Zoom.

7 p.m.  
District 10 Meeting. Round Hill Church.

7 p.m.  
District 3 Meeting. Hamilton Avenue School.

7:15 p.m.  
District 2 Meeting. Cone Room.

7:30 p.m.  
District 12 Meeting. North Mianus School Library.

7:30 p.m.  
District 5 Meeting. Riverside School Library.

7:30 p.m.  
District 6 Meeting. Old Greenwich School Library.

7:30 p.m.  
District 7 Meeting. Mazza Room.

7:30 p.m.  
District 9 Meeting. Bendheim Western Greenwich Civic Center.

8 p.m.  
District 1 Meeting. Town Hall Meeting Room.

**SAVE THE DATE:**

Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025  
5:30 p.m.  
Night of Holiday Cheer. River House Adult Day Center. rfinn@theriverhouse.org. theriverhouse.org

Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025

6 p.m.  
Foundation of Hope Charity Celebration. Hyatt Regency Greenwich. foundationofhope.us/gala

Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025

7 p.m.  
Flower Petals Adaptive Dance's 'Dance with Simone' - Charity Benefit Couples Dance. Greenwich Arts Council. \$175. eventbrite.com/e/1107933973339

Friday, Feb. 28

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

Saturday, April 26

6 p.m.  
Habitat for Humanity 40th Anniversary Gala. Hyatt Re-

gency Greenwich. habitatcf.org

Thursday, May 1  
• YWCA Greenwich's Old Bags Luncheon 20th Anniversary. Belle Haven Club. ywcagreenwich.org/events/old-bags-luncheon-20th-anniversary

• Greenwich Arts Council's "Art to the Avenue." greenwichartsCouncil.org

Sunday, May 4  
Breast Cancer Alliance 5K Run/Walk. breastcanceralliance.org

## Our Neighboring Towns

### FRIDAY, JAN. 10

7:30 p.m.  
Curtain Call presents "Steel Magnolias". The Kveskin Theatre, 1349 Newfield Ave., Stamford. Performances: Fri & Sat, 7:30pm, & Sun, 2pm (Jan. 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25 & 26). curtaincall-inc.com

6 p.m.

New Canaan Sports Trivia Night. New Canaan Museum & Historical Society, 13 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan. \$25, museum members; \$30, non-members. lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/wznsgbz

### SATURDAY, JAN. 11

11 a.m. & 2 p.m.  
Lighting the Way Puppet Show. Stepping Stones Museum for Children - Mathews Park, 303 West Ave, Norwalk. steppingstonesmuseum.org

1 p.m.

Read to a Therapy Dog. Ferguson Library - Harry Bennett Branch, Stamford. Free. fergusonlibrary.org

### SUNDAY, JAN. 12

2 p.m.  
Lighting the Way Puppet Show. Stepping Stones Museum for Children - Mathews Park, 303 West Ave, Norwalk. steppingstonesmuseum.org

### MONDAY, JAN. 13

7 p.m.  
Talk: The Future is Now. An Update on AI and Quantum Computing. Hybrid meeting: in-person at The Wilton Quaker Meeting House, 317 New Canaan Rd., Wilton, and on Zoom. Free. bit.ly/AIandQuantumComputing-Today

### TUESDAY, JAN. 14

6 p.m.  
Question, Persuade, Refer Suicide Prevention Workshop. Ferguson Main Library, Stamford. Free. Register. fergusonlibrary.org

7 p.m.

A Conversation with Entrepreneur André Swanston, a This Could Work! Series Program by CT Mirror. Ferguson Main Library Branch, Stamford. Free. Register. fergusonlibrary.org

7 p.m.

Lifechangers: Clara Bingham. Bedford Playhouse, 633 Old Post Rd., Bedford, NY. 914-234-6704. bedfordplayhouse.org

### WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8

9:30 a.m.  
Voices Center of Resilience: Parents Helping Parents Peer Support Group. VOICES Office, 80 Main St., New Canaan. Free. Register. voicescenter.org

1 p.m.

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

6 p.m.

Life Skills Series: Survival Sewing. Ferguson Library - Harry Bennett Branch, Stamford. Free. Register. fergusonlibrary.org

### THURSDAY, JAN. 16

12 p.m.  
Question, Persuade, Refer Suicide Prevention Workshop. Ferguson Main Library Branch, Stamford. Free. Register. fergusonlibrary.org

2 p.m.

Resume 101. Ferguson Main Library, Stamford. Free. Register. fergusonlibrary.org

6 p.m.

"MASC - Uhmasking Identity, Redefining Masculinity" Opening Reception. The Norwalk Art Space, 455 West Avenue, Norwalk. thenorwalkartspace.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!

**TWO WEEKENDS OF TREE PICK UP LEFT!**  
Saturday and Sunday, January 11 & 12  
Saturday and Sunday, January 18 & 19

Please email Troop 35 at [Troop35Christmas@gmail.com](mailto: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."

Thank you!



## SPORTS

# Brunswick School Hockey team Skates to Sensational 10-1-1 Record With Decisive Victories in Tournaments on the Road

By DAVID FIERRO

Brunswick School's hockey team continues to thrive, excelling on both ends of the ice in each of its games so far this season.

Through 12 games, the Bruins own a record of 10-1-1 while playing the majority of their matchups on the road. On December 22, Brunswick captured its third straight Kevin Mutch Holiday Tournament title with a thrilling 4-3 overtime win against Northwood at St. Sebastian's School in Needham, Mass.

Junior Joe Salandra scored the game-winning goal in overtime for Brunswick. He scored off a penalty shot with a snipe to the right side and into the back of the net. A Harvard University commit, Salandra drew the call after driving wide and going hard to the blue paint with 2:11 remaining in overtime.

Northwood took a 3-1 lead with 14:48 to go in the game but as head coach Mike Kennedy noted, the

Bruins never panicked and stayed the course, ultimately netting two goals in a 27-second span on a 5-on-3 and the ensuing 5-on-4. Those two tallies tied the game with 7:59 left in the third period.

The Bruins' second and third goals were tallied from the top of the crease by senior Tucker Spiess, who as Kennedy said, "played a hard-nosed brand of hockey (as usual) all afternoon long and reaped the benefits."

In the opening game of the Kevin Mutch Holiday Tournament at St. Sebastian's on Dec. 20, Brunswick went up against Williston Northampton School and faced a 3-0 deficit after 10 minutes of action. However, the Bruins staged a spirited comeback and earned a 7-5 win.

The line of senior Oliver Czaja, junior Ben Lombardi, and sophomore Keegan Kazan led the charge with five goals. Czaja scored two goals, which erased the deficit and tied the game

at 3-3 before the end of the first half.

In the second, they kept it going, as Kazan gave the Bruins their first lead of the contest – and then Lombardi netted the final two tallies after senior Alex Melillo got involved in the scoring parade.

Brunswick advanced to the finals of the Kevin Mutch Holiday Tournament with a gutsy 3-1 victory over Rivers School in the semifinals at the Henry T. Lane Rink on the campus of St. Sebastian's on Dec. 21.

Spiess tipped home the only goal of the first half after a quick snapshot from the blue line from freshman Cam Minella made its way to the net.

In the second half, Rivers pushed hard on the rush and put a lot of pucks on Brunswick goaltender Dylan Lee-Stack, but the junior and the Bruins' defensive corps held the fort until sophomore Keegan Kazan extended the lead to two after finishing off a rebound

in front. The goal came on a picture-perfect low-to-high play up the wall from junior Ben Taylor to defenseman Jack McCullough.

Rivers finally broke through with 6:51 to play, but Brunswick iced it on a late power-play goal by junior Mason St. Louis, scored on a one-timer off a pass by Salandra.

Following a brief break for the Holiday, Brunswick traveled up to Buffalo to compete in the Belmont Hill/Nichols Tournament on Dec. 28. The Bruins played St. Francis of Athol Springs, N.Y., in the first game of the tournament. After St. Francis tied the game at 1-1 early in the second period, Brunswick reeled off the next seven goals to win going away, 8-1.

Kennedy credited junior centerman Ben Taylor, who, as he said, "played a hard-nosed brand of hockey and netted the Bruins' first tally and drew a penalty that led to a PPG."

Coach Kennedy also

credited junior defenseman Hampus Vandenberg, who had four assists from the backend and Minella, who had one goal and two assists. Sophomore defenseman Harry Holland posted his first career goal for the victors.

Senior goalie LJ Bylow made his first-ever varsity start between the pipes and turned aside 19 of 20 shots from the Red Raiders to earn the victory for 'Wick.

Brunswick was dealt its first loss of the season on Sunday (Dec. 29) a 4-3 double overtime defeat against Belmont Hill School in Buffalo in as coach Kennedy described, "a fantastic prep hockey game full of momentum swings, physicality and overtime chances for both teams.

The Bruins jumped out to a two-goal lead in the first period on two goals generated by the line of sophomore Declan Minella, sophomore George Karayiannis and freshman Hunter Hanford. Junior

defenseman Hampus Vandenberg scored the first goal and senior captain Blake Stant had the second tally – his first-ever goal as a Bruin.

Belmont Hill scored the game's next three goals, carrying the territorial edge and a 3-2 lead into the third, when Brunswick dug in and played its best period of the game. Junior Ben Lombardi converted a shot from the point from freshman Minella with 7:32 remaining to knot the score at 3-3.

Following their stay in Buffalo at the Belmont Hill/Nichols Tournament will host several games once the new year starts. They will play host to Upper Canada College on Jan. 4 at Hartong Rink at 5 p.m., and play the same squad again on Jan. 5 at home at 12:30 p.m. Brunswick will then host Dexter Southfield School Jan. 10-11, the Hill School on Jan. 18 and Delbarton School on Jan. 22.

## Cardinals Girls Ice Hockey Team Defeated at home by FCIAC Foe Trumbull/St. Joseph

By DAVID FIERRO

Greenwich High School's girls ice hockey team's 4-1 loss to Trumbull/St. Joseph on Jan. 3 certainly wasn't the result of a lack of shots on goal from the Cardinals.

The Cardinals registered 40 shots on goal, while spending plenty of time applying pressure in Trumbull/St. Joseph's zone during this FCIAC matchup. Unfortunately for the Cardinals, only one shot twisted the twine.

Visiting Trumbull/St. Joseph scored two first-period goals, then added two empty netters in the game's final minute in a 4-1 victory over Greenwich at Dorothy Hamill Skating Rink. Trumbull/St. Joseph has a record of 2-2-1 overall and 1-1-1 in the FCIAC.

Greenwich's record stands at 2-5 overall 2-2 in FCIAC play. For Trumbull/St. Joseph, sophomore forward Emma Weiss recorded a hat trick and Sydney Micalizzi, also a sophomore forward, tallied one goal. The Cardinals' goal came from sophomore forward Eleanor Fine. Her goal was assisted by senior forward/captain Aubrey Roth.

"The puck didn't bounce our way," Greenwich coach Doug Jebb said. "But the girls were showing a tremendous amount of improvement. We must have had 75, 80 percent of the play in their zone. Their goalie played really well. We just have to find a way to get the puck in the net."

Lucy Kimberly, a junior, made 39 saves in goal for Trumbull/St. Joseph, which led 2-0 after the first and second periods.

"We ran into another really good goalie," Jebb said. "She made some great saves and we had a couple of opportunities in which we shot it right into her glove. The goalies are good in the FCIAC."

Greenwich held a 40-16 shots-on-goal advantage on the combined Trumbull/St. Joseph squad. Cardinals freshman goalie Eleanor Woolven also produced a stellar performance. Woolven made 14 saves and allowed only two goals, as two of the victors' goals came on empty-netters.

The Cardinals outshot Trumbull/St. Joseph, 13-5,

in the first period and also 13-5 in the second period. In the final period, as GHS scrambled in an attempt to tie the score, the hosts held a 14-1 shots-on-goal edge on the visitors.

"The skaters are responding to everything we are teaching them," Jebb noted. "They're on the puck, they're aggressive."

Trumbull/St. Joseph took a 1-0 lead on Greenwich with 9:02 remaining in the first period. Controlling the puck on a breakaway, Micalizzi snapped a shot from the left faceoff circle and the puck found its way inside the right post, giving Trumbull/St. Joseph a 1-0 advantage. Senior captain/defender Mara Ashby assisted on the game's opening tally, as she moved the puck up the ice to Weiss.

Sophomore defender Sasha Yeterian, freshman Hailey Dreher, also a defender, Roth and freshman forward Miren Woolven each registered shots on goal in the opening period for the Cards.

Trumbull/St. Joseph began the second period on a power play, but fine defensive work by GHS kept it a 1-0 game. Roth, Miren Woolven and freshman forward Charlotte Dengl-Kelly each helped the home team keep the pressure on Trumbull/St. Joseph in the second period, getting the puck to the net. Senior defender Lexi Carino, Dreher and freshman forward Lily Bittman also threatened to score during the second period, yet it was tough to get the puck past Kimberly.

With just .03 seconds left in the second period, Trumbull/St. Joseph extended its advantage, beating the clock with a goal. Weiss got her stick on a loose puck right in front of net and tapped it home, making it 2-0 in favor of the visitors.

Capitalizing on a power play, the Cards cut the Eagles' lead in half. Fine knocked in a rebound, bringing GHS to within 2-1 with 1:47 remaining in the third period. Roth had the assist on the power play goal. At the 1:25 mark of the third period, Greenwich pulled Eleanor Woolven from goal, giving it a 6-on-5



Members of the Greenwich High School varsity girls hockey team gather prior to playing Trumbull/St. Joseph on Jan. 3, 2025. Photo: David Fierro



Greenwich High's varsity girls hockey team during a faceoff against Trumbull/St. Joseph. Photo: David Fierro

advantage.

Greenwich produced a flurry of shots on goal, but couldn't score the equalizer in the waning minutes of action. Meanwhile, Weiss got her hat trick by converting two empty net goals, making the final score 4-1.

Jebb was pleased with the Cardinals' effort on both ends of the ice.

"Defensively we played really well, we were aggressive on our offensive blue line crashing line, we were holding our own defensive," Jebb noted. "This was our best game of breaking out the puck."

Captained by Roth and Carino, Greenwich

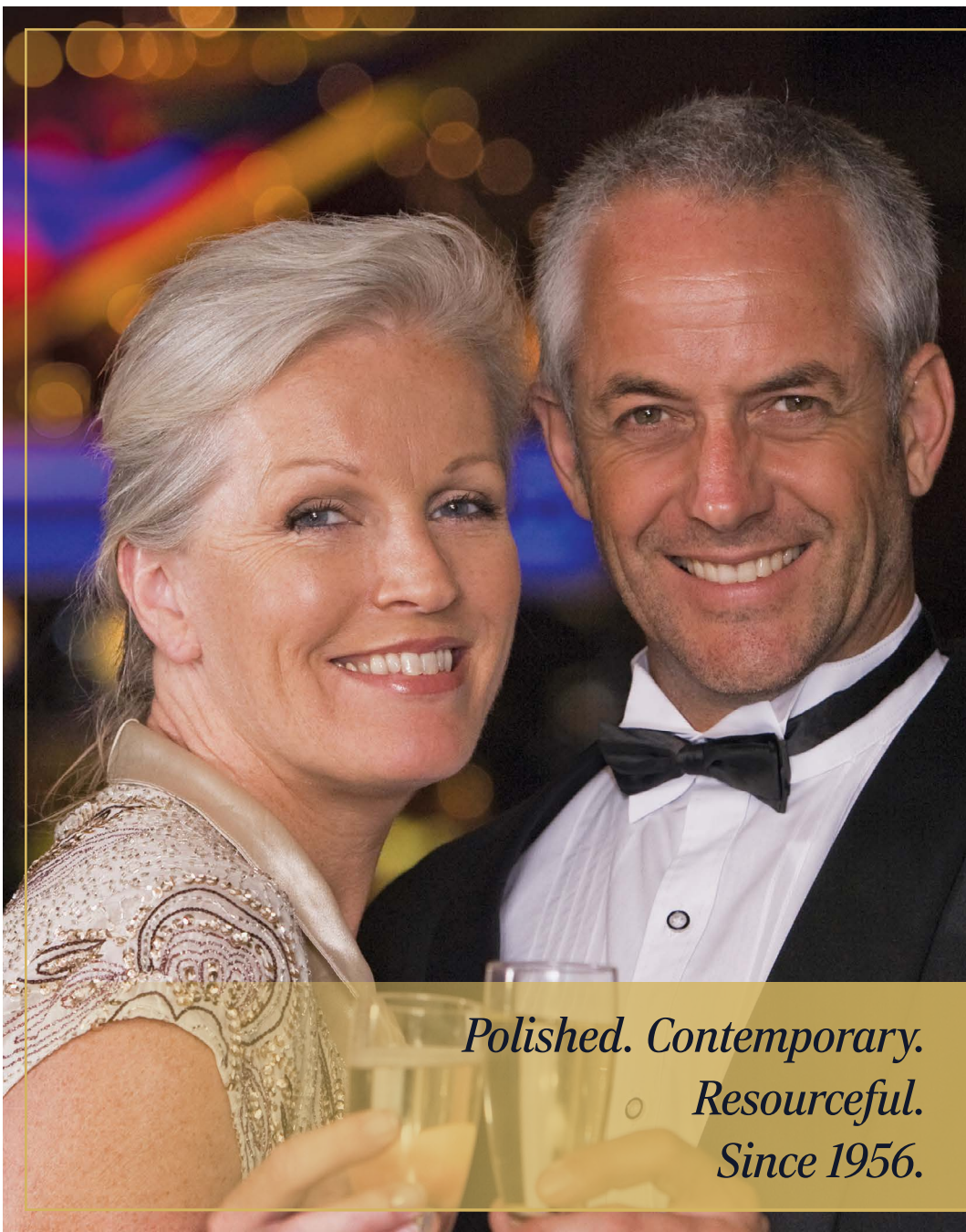
played Woodstock Academy today (Jan. 4) up at Pomfret School, then travels to Guilford on Jan. 7, before hosting FCIAC foe Stamford/Westhill/Staples on Jan. 9 at 8 p.m. at Dorothy Hamill Skating Rink.

"We've lost five games and in four of the losses we've scored one or zero," Jebb said. "But it will come, we've got a young team with 14 freshmen and sophomores. We are getting better every single day. It's hard for the girls to understand when we are not posting the results, but the process is that we are getting better."



Greenwich High's varsity girls hockey team during a faceoff against Trumbull/St. Joseph. Photo: David Fierro





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### Sudoku for Kids

	4		2
	2	3	
4		2	1
	1		

1	4		3
		1	
	1		2
2			1

		3	
3	2		1
1		2	
2			4

3			4
	4		2
4		2	1
	1		

#### SUDOKU

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

#### Easy

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

#### Hard

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

#### Very Hard

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

#### Easy

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

#### Hard

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

#### Very Hard

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

**Sudoku answers**

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

Bottom row – Very Hard

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

Bottom row – Hard

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

Bottom row – Easy

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

Top row – Very Hard

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

Top row – Hard

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

Top row – Easy



# THE HOUSE AT POOH CORNER BY A.A. MILNE

## CHAPTER III

### IN WHICH A Search Is Organized, and Piglet Nearly Meets the Heffalump Again

Pooh was sitting in his house one day, counting his pots of honey, when there came a knock on the door.

"Fourteen," said Pooh. "Come in. Fourteen. Or was it fifteen? Bother. That's muddled me."



"Hallo, Pooh," said Rabbit.

"Hallo, Rabbit. Fourteen, wasn't it?"

"What was?"

"My pots of honey what I was counting."

"Fourteen, that's right."

"Are you sure?"

"No," said Rabbit. "Does it matter?"

"I just like to know," said Pooh humbly. "So as I can say to myself: 'I've got fourteen pots of honey left.' Or fifteen, as the case may be. It's sort of comforting."

"Well, let's call it sixteen," said Rabbit. "What I came to say was: Have you seen Small anywhere about?"

"I don't think so," said Pooh. And then, after thinking a little more, he said: "Who is Small?"

"One of my friends-and-relations," said Rabbit carelessly.

This didn't help Pooh much, because Rabbit had so many friends-and-relations, and of such different sorts and sizes, that he didn't know whether he ought to be looking for Small at the top of an oak-tree or in the petal of a buttercup.

"I haven't seen anybody today," said Pooh, "not so as to say 'Hallo, Small,' to. Did you want him for anything?"

"I don't want him," said Rabbit. "But it's always useful to know where a friend-and-relation is, whether you want him or whether you don't."

"Oh, I see," said Pooh. "Is he lost?"

"Well," said Rabbit, "nobody has seen him for a long time, so I suppose he is. Anyhow," he went on importantly, "I promised Christopher Robin I'd Organize a Search for him, so come on."

Pooh said good-bye affectionately to his fourteen pots of honey, and hoped they were fifteen; and he and Rabbit went out into the Forest.

"Now," said Rabbit, "this is a Search, and I've Organized it——"

"Done what to it?" said Pooh.

"Organized it. Which means—well, it's what you do to a Search, when you don't all look in the same place at once. So I want you, Pooh, to search by the Six Pine Trees first, and then work your way towards Owl's House, and look out for me there. Do you see?"



"No," said Pooh. "What——"

"Then I'll see you at Owl's House in about an hour's time."

"Is Piglet organized too?"

"We all are," said Rabbit, and off he went.

As soon as Rabbit was out of sight, Pooh remembered that he had forgotten to ask who Small was, and whether he was the sort of friend-and-relation who settled on one's nose, or the sort who got trodden on by mistake, and as it was Too Late Now, he thought he would begin the Hunt by looking for Piglet, and asking him what they were looking for before he looked for it.

"And it's no good looking at the Six Pine Trees for Piglet," said Pooh to himself, "because he's been organized in a special place of his own. So I shall have to look for the Special Place first. I wonder where it is." And he wrote it down in his head like this:

#### ORDER OF LOOKING FOR THINGS

1. Special Place. (To find Piglet.)
2. Piglet. (To find who Small is.)
3. Small. (To find Small.)
4. Rabbit. (To tell him I've found Small.)
5. Small Again. (To tell him I've found Rabbit.)

"Which makes it look like a bothering sort of day," thought Pooh, as he stumped along.

The next moment the day became very bothering indeed, because Pooh was so busy not looking where he was going that he stepped on a piece of the Forest which had been left out by mistake; and he only just had time to think to himself: "I'm flying. What Owl does. I wonder how you stop——" when he stopped.



Bump!

"Ow!" squeaked something.

"That's funny," thought Pooh. "I said 'Ow!' without really oo'ing."

"Help!" said a small, high voice.

"That's me again," thought Pooh. "I've had an Accident, and fallen down a well, and my voice has gone all squeaky and works before I'm ready for it, because I've done something to myself inside. Bother!"

"Help—help!"

"There you are! I say things when I'm not trying. So it must be a very bad Accident." And then he thought that perhaps when he did try to say things he wouldn't be able to; so, to make sure, he said loudly: "A Very Bad Accident to Pooh Bear."

"Pooh!" squeaked the voice.

"It's Piglet!" cried Pooh eagerly. "Where are you?"

"Underneath," said Piglet in an underneath sort of way.

"Underneath what?"

"You," squeaked Piglet. "Get up!"



"Oh!" said Pooh, and scrambled up as quickly as he could. "Did I fall on you, Piglet?"

"You fell on me," said Piglet, feeling himself all over.

"I didn't mean to," said Pooh sorrowfully.

"I didn't mean to be underneath," said Piglet sadly. "But I'm all right now, Pooh, and I am so glad it was you."

"What's happened?" said Pooh. "Where are we?"

"I think we're in a sort of Pit. I was walking along, looking for somebody, and then suddenly I wasn't any more, and just when I got up to see where I was, something fell on me. And it was you."

"So it was," said Pooh.

"Yes," said Piglet. "Pooh," he went on nervously, and came a little closer, "do you think we're in a Trap?"

Pooh hadn't thought about it at all, but now he nodded. For suddenly he remembered how he and Piglet had once made a Pooh Trap for Heffalumps, and he guessed what had happened. He and Piglet had fallen into a Heffalump Trap for Poohs! That was what it was.

"What happens when the Heffalump comes?" asked Piglet tremblingly, when he had heard the news.

"Perhaps he won't notice you, Piglet," said Pooh encouragingly, "because you're a Very Small Animal."

"But he'll notice you, Pooh."

"He'll notice me, and I shall notice him," said Pooh, thinking it out. "We'll notice each other for a long time, and then he'll say: 'Ho-ho!'"

Piglet shivered a little at the thought of that "Ho-ho!" and his ears began to twitch.



"W-what will you say?" he asked.

Pooh tried to think of something he would say, but the more he thought, the more he felt that there is no real answer to "Ho-ho!" said by a Heffalump in the sort of voice this Heffalump was going to say it in.

"I shan't say anything," said Pooh at last. "I shall just hum to myself, as if I was waiting for something."

"Then perhaps he'll say, 'Ho-ho!' again?" suggested Piglet anxiously.



"He will," said Pooh.

Piglet's ears twitched so quickly that he had to lean them against the side of the Trap to keep them quiet.

"He will say it again," said Pooh, "and I shall go on humming. And that will Upset him. Because when you say 'Ho-ho' twice, in a gloating sort of way, and the other person only hums, you suddenly find, just as you begin to say it the third time—that—well, you find——"

"What?"

"That it isn't," said Pooh.

"Isn't what?"

Pooh knew what he meant, but, being a Bear of Very Little Brain, couldn't think of the words.

"Well, it just isn't," he said again.

"You mean it isn't ho-ho-ish any more?" said Piglet hopefully.

Pooh looked at him admiringly and said that that was what he meant—if you went on humming all the time, because you couldn't go on saying "Ho-ho!" for ever.

"But he'll say something else," said Piglet.

"That's just it. He'll say: 'What's all this?' And then I shall say—and this is a very good idea, Piglet, which I've just thought of—I shall say: 'It's a trap for a Heffalump which I've made, and I'm waiting for the Heffalump to fall in.' And I shall go on humming. That will Unsettle him."

"Pooh!" cried Piglet, and now it was his turn to be the admiring one. "You've saved us!"

"Have I?" said Pooh, not feeling quite sure.

But Piglet was quite sure; and his mind ran on, and he saw Pooh and the Heffalump talking to each other, and he thought suddenly, and a little sadly, that it would have been rather nice if it had been Piglet and the Heffalump talking so grandly to each other, and not Pooh, much as he loved Pooh; because he really had more brain than Pooh, and the conversation would go better if he and not Pooh were doing one side of it, and it would be comforting afterwards in the evenings to look back on the day when he answered a Heffalump back as bravely as if the Heffalump wasn't there. It seemed so easy now. He knew just what he would say:

Heffalump (gloatingly): "Ho-ho!"

Piglet (carelessly): "Tra-la-la, tra-la-la."

Heffalump (surprised, and not quite so sure of himself): "Ho-ho!"

Piglet (more carelessly still): "Tiddle-um-tum, tiddle-um-tum."

Heffalump (beginning to say Ho-ho and turning it awkwardly into a cough): "H'r'm! What's all this?"

Piglet (surprised): "Hullo! This is a trap I've made, and I'm waiting for a Heffalump to fall into it."

Heffalump (greatly disappointed): "Oh!" (After a long silence): "Are you sure?"

Piglet: "Yes."

Heffalump: "Oh!" (nervously): "I—I thought it was a trap I'd made to catch Piglets."

Piglet (surprised): "Oh, no!"

Heffalump: "Oh!" (Apologetically): "I—I must have got it wrong, then."

Piglet: "I'm afraid so." (Politely): "I'm sorry." (He goes on humming.)

Heffalump: "Well—well—I—well. I suppose I'd better be getting back?"

Piglet (looking up carelessly): "Must you? Well, if you see Christopher Robin anywhere, you might tell him I want him."

Heffalump (eager to please): "Certainly! Certainly!" (He hurries off.)

Pooh (who wasn't going to be there, but we find we can't do without him): "Oh, Piglet, how brave and clever you are!"

Piglet (modestly): "Not at all, Pooh." (And then, when Christopher Robin comes, Pooh can tell him all about it.)

While Piglet was dreaming this happy dream, and Pooh was wondering again whether it was fourteen or fifteen, the

Search for Small was still going on all over the Forest. Small's real name was Very Small Beetle, but he was called Small for short, when he was spoken to at all, which hardly ever happened except when somebody said: "Really, Small!" He had been staying with Christopher Robin for a few seconds, and he started round a gorse-bush for exercise, but instead of coming back the other way, as expected, he hadn't, so nobody knew where he was.



"I expect he's just gone home," said Christopher Robin to Rabbit.

"Did he say Good-bye-and-thank-you-for-a-nice-time?" said Rabbit.

"He'd only just said how-do-you-do," said Christopher Robin.

"Ha!" said Rabbit. After thinking a little, he went on: "Has he written a letter saying how much he enjoyed himself, and how sorry he was he had to go so suddenly?"

Christopher Robin didn't think he had.

"Ha!" said Rabbit again, and looked very important. "This is Serious. He is Lost. We must begin the Search at once."

Christopher Robin, who was thinking of something else, said: "Where's Pooh?"—but Rabbit had gone. So he went into his house and drew a picture of Pooh going on a long walk at about seven o'clock in the morning, and then he climbed to the top of his tree and climbed down again, and then he wondered what Pooh was doing, and went across the Forest to see.



It was not long before he came to the Gravel Pit, and he looked down, and there were Pooh and Piglet, with their backs to him, dreaming happily.



"Ho-ho!" said Christopher Robin loudly and suddenly.

Piglet jumped six inches in the air with Surprise and Anxiety, but Pooh went on dreaming.

"It's the Heffalump!" thought Piglet nervously. "Now, then!" He hummed in his throat a little, so that none of the words should stick, and then, in the most delightfully easy way, he said: "Tra-la-la,

tra-la-la," as if he had just thought of it. But he didn't look round, because if you look round and see a Very Fierce Heffalump looking down at you, sometimes you forget what you were going to say. "Rum-tum-tum-tiddle-um," said Christopher Robin in a voice like Pooh's. Because Pooh had once invented a song which went:

Tra-la-la, tra-la-la,  
Tra-la-la, tra-la-la,  
Rum-tum-tum-tiddle-um.

So whenever Christopher Robin sings it, he always sings it in a Pooh-voice, which seems to suit it better.

"He's said the wrong thing," thought Piglet anxiously. "He ought to have said, 'Ho-ho!' again. Perhaps I had better say it for him." And, as fiercely as he could, Piglet said: "Ho-ho!"

"How did you get there, Piglet?" said Christopher Robin in his ordinary voice.

"This is Terrible," thought Piglet. "First he talks in Pooh's voice, and then he talks in Christopher Robin's voice, and he's doing it so as to Unsettle me." And being now Completely Unsettled, he said very quickly and squeakily: "This is a trap for Poohs, and I'm waiting to fall in it, ho-ho, what's all this, and then I say ho-ho again."

"What?" said Christopher Robin.

"A trap for ho-ho's," said Piglet huskily. "I've just made it, and I'm waiting for the ho-ho to come-come."

How long Piglet would have gone on like this I don't know, but at that moment Pooh woke up suddenly and decided that it was sixteen. So he got up; and as he turned his head so as to soothe himself in that awkward place in the middle of the back where something was tickling him, he saw Christopher Robin.

"Hallo!" he shouted joyfully.

"Hallo, Pooh."

Piglet looked up, and looked away again. And he felt so Foolish and Uncomfortable that he had almost decided to run away to Sea and be a Sailor, when suddenly he saw something.

"Pooh!" he cried. "There's something climbing up your back."



"I thought there was," said Pooh.

"It's Small!" cried Piglet.

"Oh, that's who it is, is it?" said Pooh.

"Christopher Robin, I've found Small!" cried Piglet.

"Well done, Piglet," said Christopher Robin.

And at these encouraging words Piglet felt quite happy again, and decided not to be a Sailor after all. So when Christopher Robin had helped them out of the Gravel Pit, they all went off together hand-in-hand.

And two days later Rabbit happened to meet Eeyore in the Forest.

"Hallo, Eeyore," he said, "what are you looking for?"

"Small, of course," said Eeyore. "Haven't you any brain?"

"Oh, but didn't I tell you?" said Rabbit. "Small was found two days ago."

There was a moment's silence.

"Ha-ha," said Eeyore bitterly. "Merriment and what-not. Don't apologize. It's just what would happen."



# Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg

**ACROSS**

- 1 Home to FC Barcelona's archrival
- 7 Thick serving
- 11 List-ending abbr.
- 14 Grammy winner
- 15 Walking stick
- 16 Librarian's warning
- 17 Arrangements of pork that are fit for a king?
- 19 Corporate VIP
- 20 "Sweetums"
- 21 Cuts of beef that may be mini?
- 23 Dominates, in sports lingo
- 25 Drug that is "dropped"
- 26 Kemper of "Bridesmaids"
- 27 Proper
- 30 Glowing
- 32 Oolong or rooibos
- 33 Classic email provider
- 34 Bout stopper: Abbr.
- 35 Trendy dressers ... or a hint to 17-, 21-, 54- and 60-Across
- 40 Sean Lennon, to Yoko Ono
- 41 Schlep
- 42 Northern neighbor of Calif.

**DOWN**

- 43 Squirrel, slangily
- 46 Certain social media followers, cutely
- 49 Awards show host
- 50 "Well, \_\_\_-di-dah!"
- 52 Samples Snapples, say
- 54 Iceberg lettuce dishes for the well-heeled?
- 58 Tom Collins' spirit
- 59 In favor of
- 60 Starch that pairs nicely with a starched shirt?
- 62 Bottom-row PC key
- 63 Cookie with a limited-edition Pumpkin Spice flavor
- 64 following Lent
- 65 "Science Guy" Bill
- 66 Converse alternative
- 67 Dr. Jekyll's evil half

**ACROSS**

- 5 Travelers' lodgings
- 6 Alternative to milk, at a chocolate shop
- 7 Surgical souvenirs
- 8 Final bit of coffee
- 9 Small colony members
- 10 Was victorious over
- 11 Intensify
- 12 "Lola" band
- 13 Opted for
- 18 Greasy
- 22 Giants great
- 24 Tennis match segments
- 28 (Shrug)
- 29 Boxing champion Ali
- 31 Give permission for
- 33 "Life of Pi" director Lee
- 35 At one point

**DOWN**

- 36 Short tale that may be personal
- 37 Banned
- 38 "\_\_\_ we there yet?"
- 39 Golf ball supports
- 40 Vessel for cooking gumbo or goulash
- 44 Brain wave reading, for short
- 45 Converse alternative
- 46 Cuisine with pad see ew
- 47 Slob's room
- 48 Treated maliciously
- 51 Voices below sopranos
- 53 Drum kit piece
- 55 Achy
- 56 Consider
- 57 Train in a ring
- 61 Cigar residue

**PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER**

A	W	L	S		P	A	M		A	M	P	S			
S	H	E	L		H	A	S	I	N		L	A	R	A	
H	O	M	E		E	R	I	C	A		A	G	O	G	
V	O	D	K		A	M	A	R	T		I	N	I	S	
M	I	N		O	V	A		O	U	T		C	P	R	
A	L	B	A	N	Y			R	E	D	S	E	A		
A	L	A	B	A	M	A	S	L	A	M	M	E	R	S	
M	E	R	E		E	T	A	I	L		S	T	O	P	
						S	T	O	R	A	G	E			
					B	A	H	A	M	A	M	A	S		
S	W	I	V	E	L				S	O	N	I	C	S	
U	R	G	E			M	D	S		N	E	R	O		
S	O	R	R	Y		W	A	R	E	C	L	O	S	E	D
A	T	E			A	A	M	I	L	N	E	T	A	O	
N	E	D			P	R	O	P	A	N	E		A	M	I

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# Looks Good Enough To Eat by Emily Carroll

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14							15					16		
17							18					19		
20					21						22			
23			24			25				26				
	27			28	29			30	31					
			32				33					34		
	35	36				37				38	39			
40					41				42					
43			44	45				46				47	48	
49						50	51				52			53
54					55				56	57		58		
59					60						61			
62					63					64				
65					66					67				

## Horoscopes

**Aries**

March 21-April 19

Mars remains retrograde in Cancer, urging a cautious approach to personal endeavors. The Full Moon in Cancer on January 13 illuminates domestic matters, prompting reflection on home and family dynamics. As the Sun enters Aquarius on January 19, focus shifts to social connections and community involvement.

**Taurus**

April 20-May 20

Venus in Pisces from January 2 enhances your social charm, fostering harmonious interactions. The Full Moon on January 13 brings attention to communication, encouraging open dialogues. With Mars retrograde in Cancer, it's prudent to reassess short-term goals and learning endeavors.

**Gemini**

May 21-June 20

Mercury enters Capricorn on January 8, sharpening your focus on financial planning and resource management. The Full Moon on January 13 highlights income and values, prompting a reassessment of priorities. As the Sun moves into Aquarius on January 19, intellectual pursuits and higher learning become prominent.

**Cancer**

June 21-July 22

Mars retrograde enters your sign on January 6, signaling a period of introspection and reevaluation of personal goals. The Full Moon in Cancer on January 13 brings emotional matters to the forefront, encouraging self-care and reflection. As the Sun transitions into Aquarius on January 19, focus shifts to shared resources and deepening partnerships.

**Leo**

July 23-August 22

With Mars retrograde in Cancer, it's an opportune time to reflect on subconscious motivations and past actions. The Full Moon on January 13 illuminates the need for rest and spiritual renewal. As the Sun enters Aquarius on January 19, partnerships and collaborations gain prominence, highlighting the importance of balance in relationships.

**Virgo**

August 23-September 22

Venus graces your partnership sector from January 3, enhancing harmony in relationships. The Full Moon on January 13 emphasizes social networks, urging you to evaluate your role within groups. As the Sun moves into Aquarius on January 19, attention turns to health and daily routines, making it an ideal time to implement positive habits.

**Libra**

September 23-October 22

**Venus in Pisces**

from January 2 enhances your daily work environment, fostering pleasant interactions with colleagues. The Full Moon on January 13 brings career matters to light, encouraging a reassessment of professional goals. As the Sun enters Aquarius on January 19, creative pursuits and romantic endeavors take center stage, inspiring personal expression.

**Scorpio**

October 23-November 21

The Full Moon on January 13 highlights educational pursuits and belief systems, prompting introspection. With Mars retrograde in Cancer, it's a favorable period to reassess long-term goals and philosophical perspectives. As the Sun transitions into Aquarius on January 19, focus shifts to home and family matters, encouraging domestic harmony.

**Sagittarius**

November 22-December 21

Venus in Pisces from January 2 enhances your home environment, promoting familial harmony. The Full Moon on January 13 brings attention to shared resources and financial obligations, urging careful management. As the Sun moves into Aquarius on January 19, communication and local activities become focal points, encouraging intellectual engagement.

**Capricorn**

December 22-January 19

The Sun continues to illuminate your sign until January 19, highlighting personal initiatives and self-expression. The Full Moon on January 13 emphasizes partnerships, encouraging balance between personal needs and relationship dynamics. As the Sun enters Aquarius, financial matters and value systems gain prominence, prompting practical planning.

**Aquarius**

January 20-February 18

Venus in Pisces from January 2 enhances your financial sector, potentially bringing opportunities for increased income. The Full Moon on January 13 highlights health and daily routines, encouraging the adoption of beneficial habits. As the Sun moves into your sign on January 19, personal projects and self-expression take precedence, inspiring new beginnings.

**Pisces**

February 19-March 20

Venus enters your sign on January 2, enhancing personal charm and attracting positive attention. The Full Moon on January 13 brings creative projects and romantic matters to the forefront, encouraging heartfelt expression. As the Sun transitions into Aquarius on January 19, introspection and spiritual growth become key themes, promoting inner peace.

# FAMILY TIME Crossword

The (K) Clues Are for Kids

Created by Timothy E. Parker

**ACROSS**

- 1. (K) Farm door fastener
- 5. Have an edge up against
- 9. Be mistaken
- 12. (K) "Do others ..."
- 13. (K) Thorny, beautiful bloom
- 14. (K) Fail a polygraph test
- 15. (K) World Cup cry
- 16. Color in the four-color process
- 17. Healthy resort
- 18. Add nutrients to
- 20. (K) Cheetah's asset
- 22. (K) Also, at the end of a sentence
- 23. "Not guilty" is one
- 25. (K) Watch, as a movie
- 27. Rough-skinned tangelo
- 29. (K) Sand holder on the beach

**DOWN**

- 33. Too valuable to be lost
- 36. (K) Yesterday is in the \_\_\_
- 37. Again from square one
- 38. (K) Snowmobile steerer
- 39. Camouflaged communication
- 41. Poet's "before"
- 43. (K) Opposite of omega
- 46. (K) Denver football pro
- 49. Part of a stock exchange?
- 50. (K) Place to build a building
- 53. (K) At the summit of
- 54. Tourist guide?
- 55. (K) Touchscreen image
- 56. Beyond dry, as dusty land
- 57. (K) Winner's number?
- 58. (K) Already in the mail
- 59. Typical new driver

**DOWN**

- 1. (K) Massive
- 2. Soon, in poems of old
- 3. (K) Players on the field for the first pitch
- 4. Jonas Salk's target
- 5. (K) St. Louis sight
- 6. (K) Seven-year-old dude
- 7. (K) Old Glory's land
- 8. On edge
- 9. (K) "Where \_\_\_ can you get food this good?"
- 10. (K) Like a yellow banana
- 11. (K) Be literate
- 19. Grand achievement
- 21. (K) Mama's mate
- 23. (K) The Spirit of St. Louis is one
- 24. Grown-up nits
- 25. (K) Drink very hot tea
- 26. Noteworthy historical period

**DOWN**

- 28. (K) Happy
- 30. Any person not present
- 31. Variety or type
- 32. Flowery necklace of Hawaii
- 34. (K) Carve into stone
- 35. Expensive washstand pitcher
- 40. Fertile spot in a desert
- 42. (K) One way to cook beef
- 43. (K) Firing-range rounds
- 44. A bank offers it
- 45. Catholic VIP
- 46. (K) Like a twisted metal bar
- 47. (K) Apple center
- 48. (K) Like an un-shut door
- 51. (K) Beverage chiller
- 52. (K) Heavy shipping weight

Can you find the answer to this riddle within the solved puzzle?

It can be well-placed?

Look for the answer in next week's paper.

**PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER**

A	C	T		O	D	S		T	W	I	N	
H	E		V	E	I	N		A	I	D	E	
E	L		A	M	M	O		S	P	O	T	
F	E	R	R	I	S	W	H	E	E	L	S	
T	H	Y		B	A	R						
P	E	E		C	Y	A	N		G	O	P	
E	X	A	S	L	O	N	G	H	O	R	N	
A	N	T		O	I	N	K		E	L	B	
				O	W	N		H	A	D		
C	A	S	I	O	N	A	L	L				
M	O	O	S		C	R	E	W		E	K	
A	N	T	I		A	C	E	S		A	L	E
N	E	S			L	A	D	E		F	L	Y

Previous riddle answer:

**Metal core?**

23-D) ETA

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
18				19			20	21				
			22			23	24					
25	26			27	28			29	30	31	32	
33			34					35				
36					37					38		
				39	40			41	42			
43	44	45					46			47	48	
49					50	51	52			53		
54					55					56		
57					58					59		

# 7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

**CLUES**

- 1 failing miserably (7)
- 2 cooked briefly on high heat (6)
- 3 pirate, generally (8)
- 4 deep-seated (9)
- 5 giving off a little light (10)
- 6 they recognize pathogens (10)
- 7 query with a ring attached (8)

**SOLUTIONS**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

MME	GADE	SEA	BOM	RE
BING	ED	OP	INGR	RING
NE	AN	GLI	RED	DIES
TIBO	AL	PR	OS	AIN

Previous Answers: TALKER 2. HAIRSPRAY 3. CHARTLESS 4. UNTETHERED 5. TABLECLOTH 6. LEVER 7. ERRANDS 8/23

The answers to this week's puzzles can be found in next week's issue.

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# What is a snowflake?

Snowflakes start high in the sky where it's very cold. There, water in the clouds turns into tiny ice crystals. This happens when the temperature drops below freezing, which is 32 degrees Fahrenheit (0 degrees Celsius).

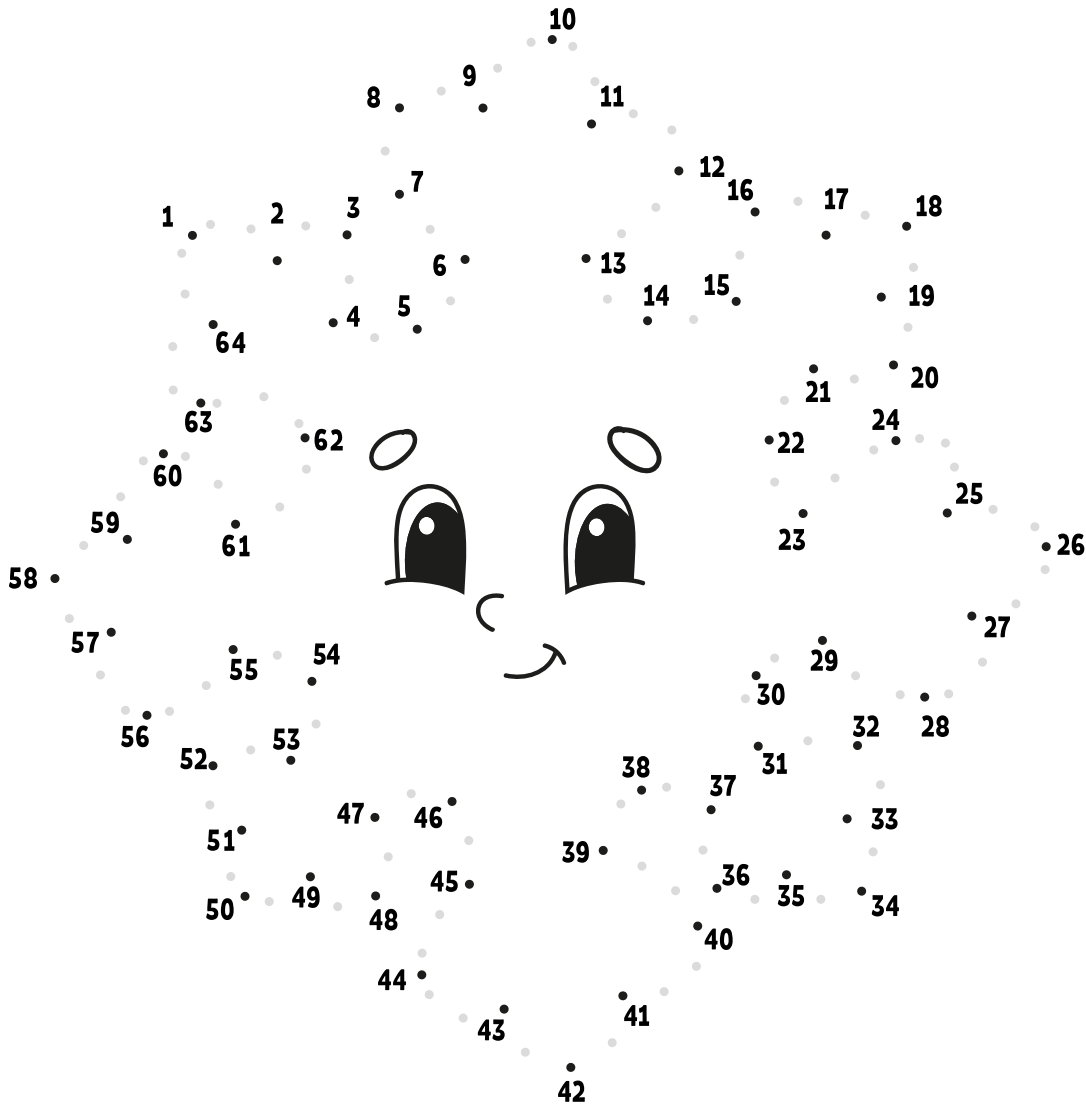
Each ice crystal begins with a speck of dust or pollen in the cloud. Water vapor in the air sticks to this speck and freezes, making a tiny

bit of ice. As this crystal falls, it keeps bumping into more water vapor, and each time, more ice forms on it, making it grow.

The shape of a snowflake depends on how cold it is and how much water is around. If it's really cold, the snowflake might be simple and spikey. If it's a bit warmer, it can grow into more complex, intricate patterns with

branches or plates.

Because the temperature and humidity change as the snowflake falls, each snowflake takes a unique path, leading to no two snowflakes being exactly alike. They all have six sides because of the way water molecules like to bond when they freeze. When enough snowflakes fall, they pile up and we see snow on the ground.



**FIND TWO IDENTICAL SNOWFLAKES**

**CRACK THE CODE**

..... Winter .....

Crack the code to reveal more words.

1	2	3	2	4	5	2	6		7	8	9	7	10	11	3	2			
5	12	6	2	10	6	2	2	7											
13	8	9	11	1	12	14	7		15	2	16		14	2	12	6			
17	6	8	7	10					7	15	8	16							
19	12	15	20	12	6	14			7	15	8	16	17	9	12	21	2		
7	21	11	11	15	18				13	8	3	21	2	14					
7	3	12	6	17					11	3	2		7	21	12	10	11	15	18
13	8	10		3	8	3	8	12											
7	9	2	1	1	11	15	18												
7	15	8	16	4	12	15													

S N O W F L A K E

**How many?**

**ADDITION FOR KIDS**

☺ = 1   ☹ = 2   😊 = 3   😞 = 4

☺ + ☹ =

☺ + ☹ =

☹ + ☺ =

☺ + ☹ =

**ADDITION FOR KIDS**

☺ = 1   ☹ = 2   😊 = 3   😞 = 4

☺ + ☹ =

☺ + ☹ =

☹ + ☺ =

☺ + ☹ =

**MATH GAME**

🐧 + 🐧 = 4

🐧 + 🐿 = 7

🐿 + 🐧 - 🐱 = 2

🐿 =   🐱 =   🐧 =

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

**time to play**   **How many?**

← left   → right

**KIDS GAMES**   **HOW MANY LEFT & RIGHT?**

**time to play**   **How many?**

↑ up   ↓ down

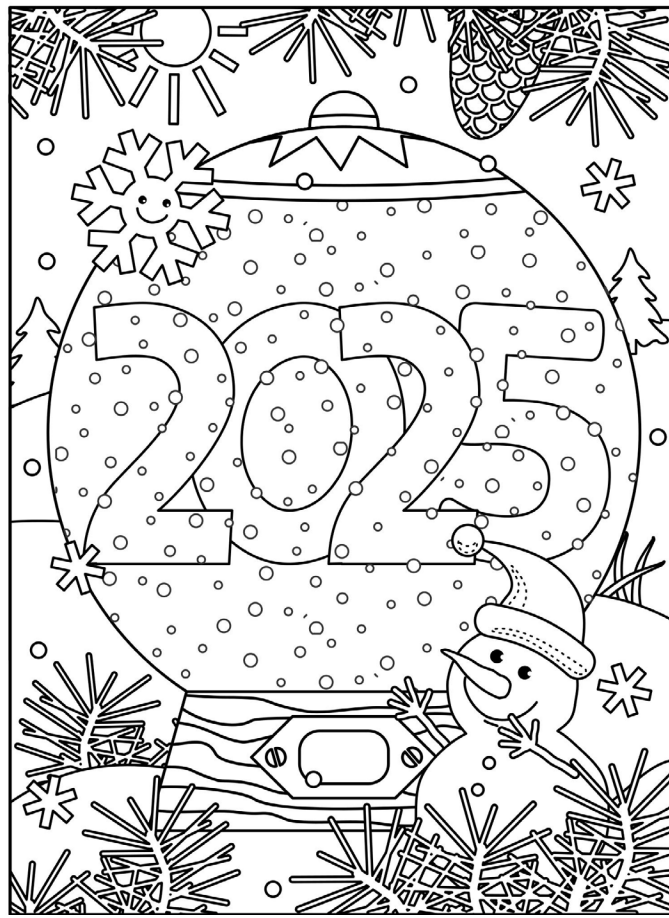


# Winter wordsearch

W	N	Q	S	E	T	A	K	S	C	I	S	N	E	S
P	Y	M	R	O	T	S	R	S	S	F	D	U	J	K
V	S	N	O	W	M	A	N	T	I	K	J	B	L	I
K	X	O	U	S	M	E	T	W	C	U	W	I	J	S
S	L	S	C	J	Z	T	V	D	I	F	M	P	A	G
F	D	E	D	U	F	R	N	K	C	R	N	W	I	H
Q	H	V	J	P	A	E	L	V	L	O	K	I	T	B
D	L	O	P	J	J	E	H	P	E	S	H	T	X	L
L	L	L	M	H	J	S	T	K	S	T	J	K	H	I
S	I	G	U	A	S	N	C	A	H	R	E	C	I	Z
V	H	Q	C	T	L	O	M	Y	W	K	V	Q	V	Z
A	H	L	J	W	E	W	S	C	X	F	X	G	F	A
H	R	W	L	O	D	B	V	C	M	X	O	A	V	R
D	Q	Y	Z	M	E	K	A	L	F	W	O	N	S	D
G	K	R	D	S	Z	F	Q	C	V	P	B	H	J	C

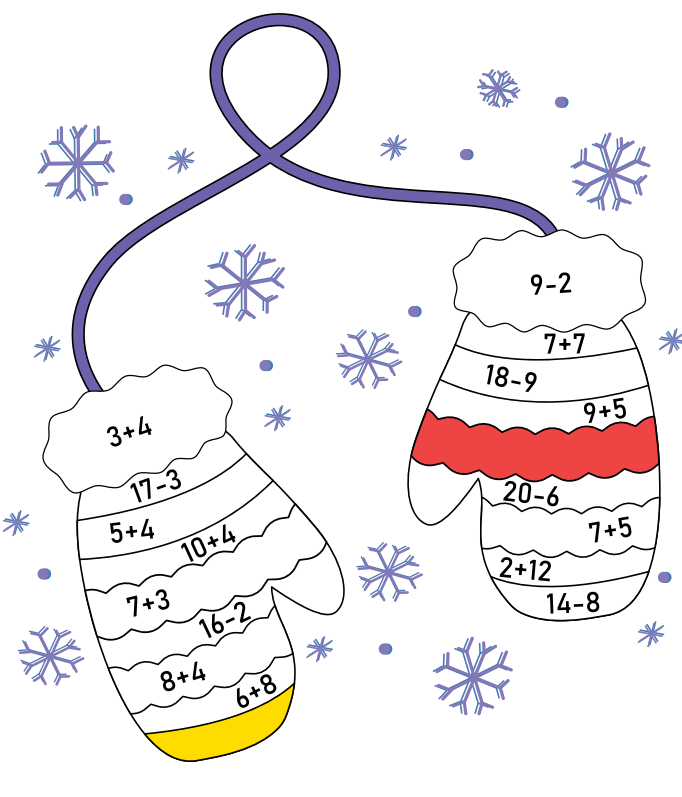
Snow Frost Skates Ice Tree Blizzard Sled  
 Icicles Hill Gloves Snowman Hat Snowflake  
 Skis Storm

Find 10 differences. Color the picture.



Write the name of a color next to each number.  
 Then solve and color each part of the picture.

- 6 = \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 = \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 = \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 = \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 = \_\_\_\_\_
- 14 = \_\_\_\_\_



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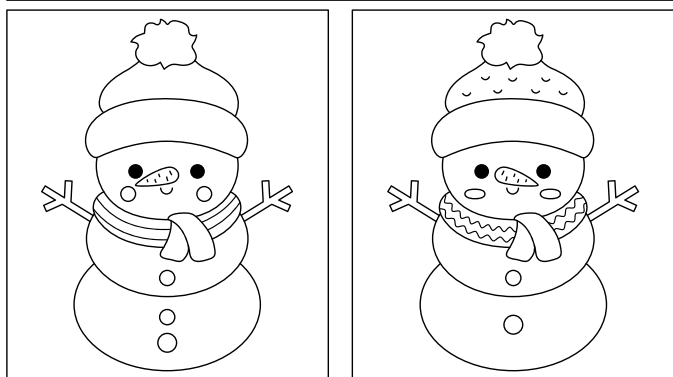
**203-869-0022**

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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!!!

### FIND 5 DIFFERENCES

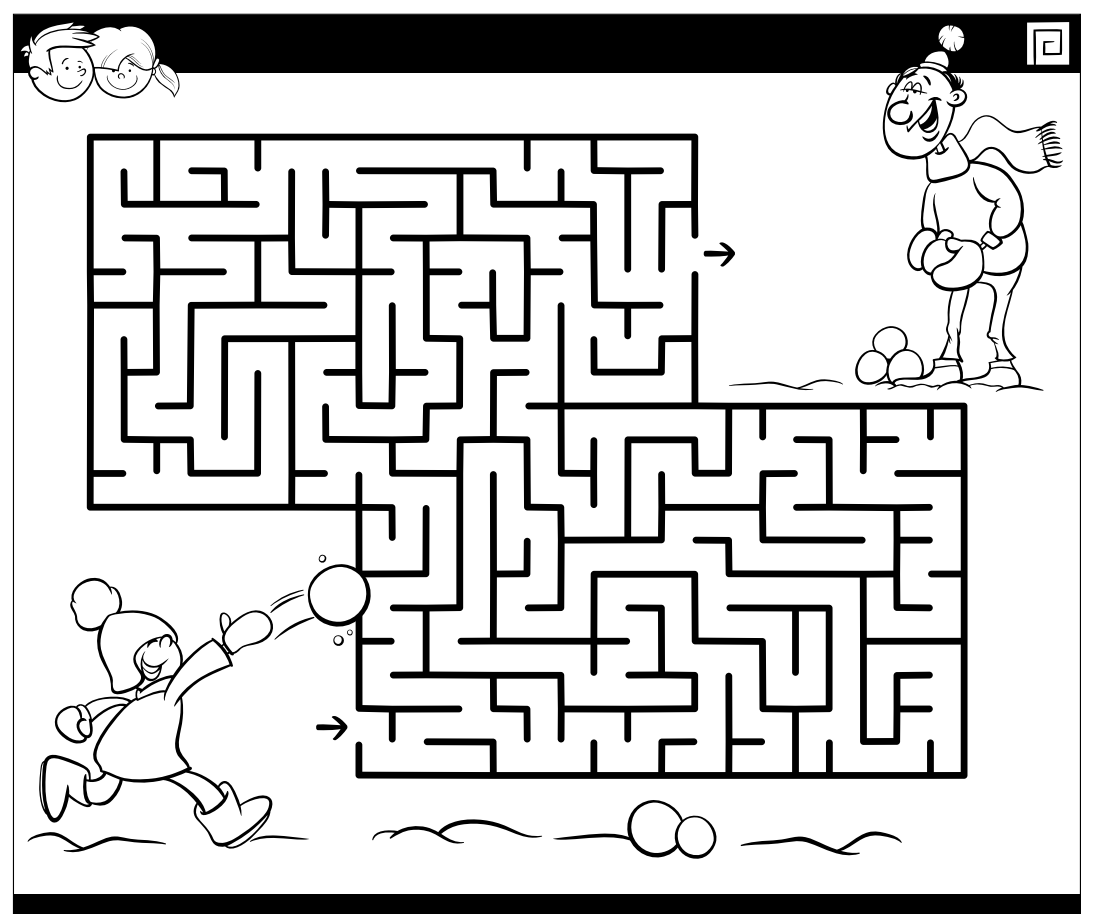


Find the animals in the picture and color them in.



MAZE  
1-10

Math problems in circles: 9-8, 5+1, 4+2, 3-1, 7-4, 3+3, 9-4, 2+2, 1+6, 7+1, 7-3, 5-3, 2+8, 3+6.





# The Sentinel Educational Pages

COLUMN | WILDLY SUCCESSFUL: THE MERLIN

## An Uncommon Hunter; A Master in the Air

BY JIM KNOX

A flash of motion caught my eye. The swift beating of sharply pointed wings zipped the creature past me like a dart. There, somewhere just south of the Merritt Parkway, it vanished into a sheltering grove of hardwoods. In that brief moment, I had just observed an uncommon Connecticut resident whose unpredictable occurrences make it a memorable wildlife sighting throughout its vast range.

The Merlin, *Falco columbarius*, is a powerful little falcon that employs surprise and speed to ambush its fleet avian prey. In fact, its scientific name, columbarius means pigeon, referring to both its robust pigeon-like build and its fondness for fast flying pigeon and dove prey. Tucking their wings close to their bodies in swept position, and zig zagging close to the ground like swallows, Merlins fluidly “bank and flank” in pursuit of prey. Possessing agility on the wing that enables it to catch songbirds and shorebirds—and even darting dragonflies and flitting bats that elude other hunters—a hunting Merlin is a remarkable sight. Ranging from 10 to 14 inches long with a 20-29-inch-long wingspan, these falcons are small, yet their compact frames tip the scales at 6 to 11 ounces, imbuing them with muscle power to overtake and capture their swift prey. Though typically Slate blue, males can range from silver to black on the cap, wings, and back with a cream buff-streaked breast. Females and juvenile birds are brownish gray above with similar cream and buff streaking below.

With a global range encompassing open habitat, shrubland, forests, meadows, marshes, rural and urban parks, prairies and steppe throughout the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Africa, the Merlin is a highly adaptable and successful creature. With populations stable and increasing throughout the



The Merlin

*The swift beating of sharply pointed wings zipped the creature past me like a dart. It vanished into a sheltering grove of hardwoods.*

world, Merlins have many factors contributing to their success. They are consummate opportunists, forgoing nest building, utilizing the nest of other species such as crows and magpies, conferring an advantage in prime nest locations and energy-saving preparation. These falcons can thrive in wilderness or in close proximity to people, hunting ubiquitous, introduced House Sparrows in cities and towns. They are also expert pair-hunters which coordinate to more effectively flush and capture flocking birds such as starlings and waxwings. One bird will fly low and fast, diving into a flock, chasing the birds into their mate’s line of attack or drive the flock high in

the sky to exhaust them out where their mate will single out their spent prey to make the kill.

In our region, Merlins typically breed and nest in northern New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. They pass through the Nutmeg State on their way to their migration destinations further south yet some overwinter in Connecticut, mainly along our coast. Though they tend to appear unpredictably, a flock of birds—especially shorebirds—exploding into flight is often a strong indicator that a Merlin is on the hunt. If you are lucky enough to witness this, scan quickly as these falcons can rocket by at more than 50

So how can a falcon slightly larger than a Robin aid us in our daily lives? Simply, we can adopt lessons from these little powerhouses. Combining offensive strategy with innate ability, the Merlin is hard to beat. When identifying objectives, we should take ample time to observe and assess our options, selecting a target before locking onto it with single-minded pursuit. Once a goal is achieved, we can take a vantage point that enables us to assess our next major goal, rest up for the relentless pursuit of that goal, and then launch our explosive effort to achieve victory.

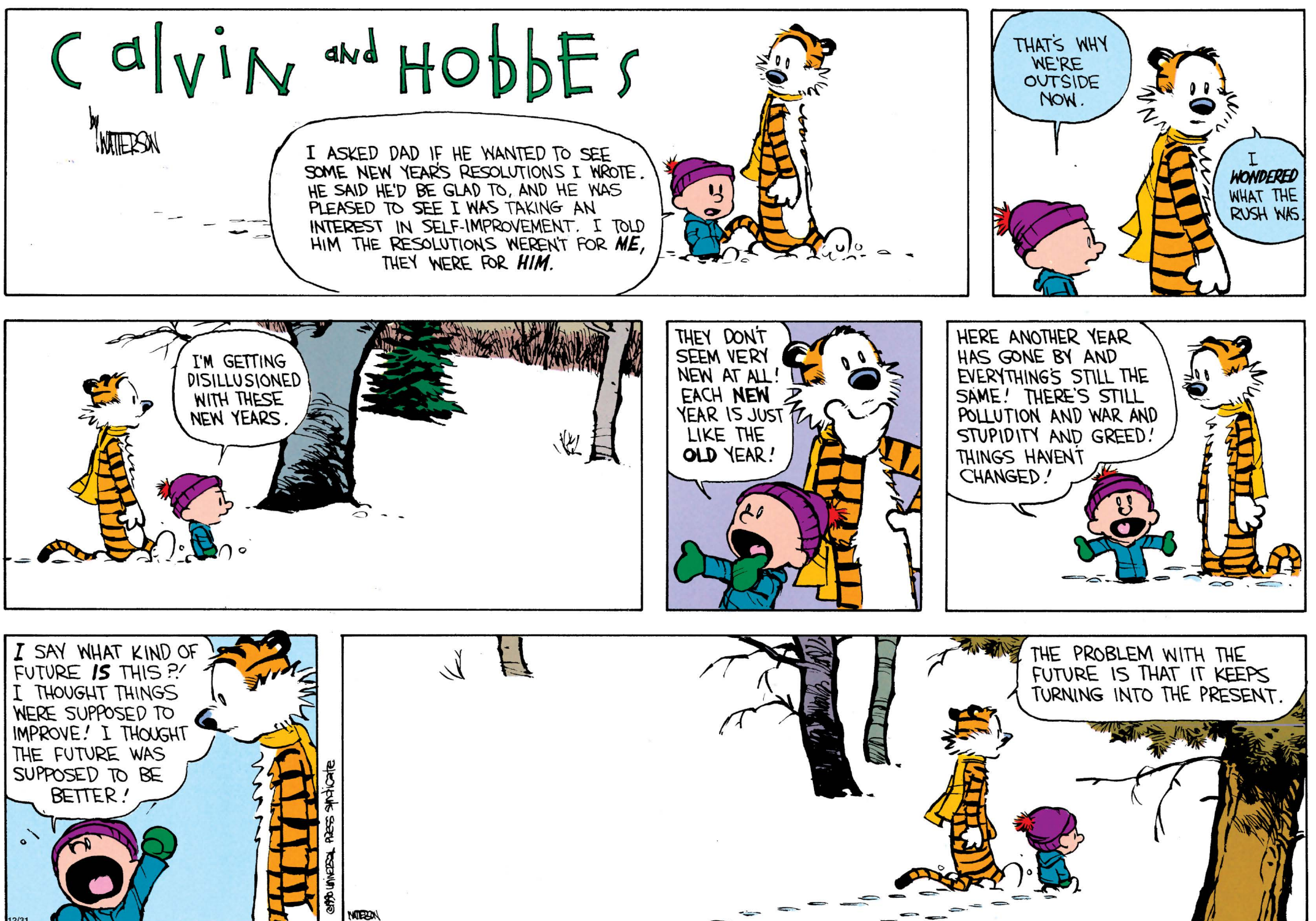
With hunting success rates hovering between 4.9-17.2%, even the swiftest Merlins miss more than succeed—their frequent failures stoking their redoubled effort—driving their inevitable success. When we possess the good fortune of a skilled partner, we should avail ourselves to teamwork which confers energy conservation and synergy alike. With the Merlin as our guide, our personal victories will not be assured by our swiftness or strength alone, but by our ability to gather ourselves after falling short, to spread our wings, and to launch anew.

*Jim Knox is Curator of Education at Connecticut’s*

miles per hour!

Beautiful, powerful, and swift, the Merlin inspires admiration, but it also evokes emulation. A bird of nobility down through the centuries, the Merlin was an esteemed hunting falcon to royals the world over. Mary Queen of Scots and Catherine the Great hunted Skylarks with Merlins, earning the bird the

title Lady’s Hawk. The reasons for the Lady’s Hawk’s success are pronounced. These gifted hunters exhibit hallmark patience, observing their surroundings—scanning for opportunity from prominent perches. Resting, when necessary, they conserve their energy to tackle equally agile prey as well as far larger prey such as ptarmigans or grouse.





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