

News briefs and photo submissions may be emailed to [Emma@GreenwichSentinel.com](mailto:Emma@GreenwichSentinel.com)

POLICE & FIRE

Patrol Responds Swiftly to Emergencies

Last Wednesday, the Cos Cob Fire Police Patrol company responded to four incidents. Patrol 2 handled two motor vehicle accidents on I-95 North and South, then Utility 2 addressed a water issue on Greenwich Avenue. Later, Patrol 2 responded to a basement fire at a Cos Cob residence and conducted standard firefighting operations.

Greenwich Detective Honored For Service

The Greenwich Lions Club presented the 2024 Dr. John Clarke Police Officer of the Year Award to Detective First Grade Michael Rooney. Rooney was recognized for his 21-year career, including his work in the Special Victims Section investigating online child exploitation and conducting undercover operations. His efforts led to multiple arrests and his 2022 appointment to the FBI Child Exploitation Task Force.

FROM TOWN HALL

On April 28, a ceremony was held at Town Hall to recognize veterans of the Korean War. Veterans who served during that time were invited to be added to the list of honorees receiving citations from Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz. The event was open to the public and took place at 4 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Town Honors Armenian Genocide Remembrance



On Thursday morning, the town held a ceremony at Town Hall to recognize the Armenian genocide, during which approximately 1.5 million Armenians were killed by the Ottoman Empire between 1915 and 1923. First Selectman Fred Camillo issued an official proclamation marking the Day of Remembrance. The event was attended by over 100 people, including descendants of victims and survivors. Photo Credit: First Selectman Fred Camillo's Community Connections

AROUND TOWN

Greenwich Launches Community Needs Survey

The Greenwich United Way, in partnership with Fairfield University, has launched its 2025 Needs Assessment survey to identify and prioritize human service needs in Greenwich. The data collected will inform future programs and funding decisions, with

Continued on Page 2

Green Thoughts

By ANNE W. SEMMES

Live in each season as it passes, breath the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit, and resign yourself to the influence of the earth.” Henry David Thoreau. As shared by Audubon Awardee Eunice Burnett, discovered when in third grade as told in her recent talk.



On a spring afternoon, April 30, a boom lift wrapped in patriotic imagery stood in front of Greenwich Town Hall, framed by lush spring blossoms and a newly restored façade now fully visible without scaffolding. The lift, operated by a private window-cleaning contractor, is part of the Sunbelt Rentals Gives Back initiative in partnership with the Gary Sinise Foundation. Adorned with silhouettes of saluting service members and the American flag, the lift transforms an ordinary municipal task into a mobile tribute to veterans and first responders. To support the Foundation's mission—building smart homes for wounded veterans, helping Gold Star families, and equipping first responders—visit [garysinisefoundation.org](http://garysinisefoundation.org).

## Lift for a Cause: Spotlighting Gary Sinise Foundation

By ELIZABETH BARHYDT

Town Hall's front plaza took on new meaning Wednesday morning as a striking piece of equipment turned heads for more than just its utility. Under a cloudless blue sky and flanked by trees in full spring bloom, a boom lift wrapped in patriotic imagery was parked along the flag-lined walkway—its message clear, visual, and powerful.

The lift, operated by a private window-cleaning contractor, is part of the Sunbelt Rentals Gives Back initiative in partnership with the Gary Sinise Foundation. The equipment wrap features silhouettes of saluting soldiers, an American flag motif, and the logos of both the foundation and Sunbelt Rentals. The temporary presence at Town Hall coincided with seasonal maintenance work, but it also served as a public tribute to those who

serve in uniform.

“I salute this private company for bringing attention to a very worthwhile cause and applaud their patriotism,” said First Selectman Fred Camillo. “It’s great to see a gesture like this, especially when it comes from the private sector.”

Founded in 2011 by actor and humanitarian Gary Sinise, the foundation supports veterans, first responders, and their families through initiatives such as building mortgage-free smart homes for wounded service members, providing trauma services and mobility support, and organizing community events for families of fallen heroes.

To learn more or donate, visit [garysinisefoundation.org](http://garysinisefoundation.org). Every contribution helps fund life-changing programs for America's defenders and their loved ones.

## Community Champion: Joe Kelly to Receive 2025 Sentinel Award



Joe Kelly, a lifelong Greenwich resident has been named the 10th recipient of the Sentinel Award, the highest honor presented annually by the Greenwich Sentinel. Known for his decades of hands-on service to the town, Kelly has shaped civic life as a youth sports coach—most notably leading the Greenwich High School rugby team to state and national success—and as chairman of the Greenwich Board of Education, where he championed bi-partisanship, academic excellence, school modernization, and student-centered leadership as well as a former volunteer firefighter. In both elected office and volunteer roles, Kelly has embodied the values of kindness, service, and community commitment that define the Sentinel Award. The ceremony will be held on Thursday, June 26.

COLUMN

By JILL WOOLWORTH, LMFT

A skilled professional understands that her clients' life experiences are just as important as her own professional expertise. She meets her clients on level ground. Wise leaders do the same with their subordinates.

It is hard to trust a person who towers over others, or one who looks down at us from a lofty platform of expertise or judgment. Level ground is the best place for trustworthy relationships, including professional ones. Level ground is about attitude, not knowledge.

We communicate our attitude by word choices, tone of voice, and especially body position. Others stay calmer when we are eye to eye with them because we are no longer intimidating. Overriding our desire to impress is a powerful way of showing compassion. Sarah had to fire her

employee. Beth was an oncologist with bad news. Both left their desks and took chairs facing the people to whom they were bringing bad news. Being face to face made their difficult messages easier to hear. Zach sat on a stair below his disobedient four-year-old so that he could look into his



son's eyes. When he did so, his anger softened and his son was better able to listen because Daddy was no longer twice as tall as he was. Illustrated by Wajih Chaudhry

Excerpt from Jill Woolworth's books The Waterwheel, available at Diane's Books locally and Amazon.com.

COLUMN

## GenZ Hustle looks different now (and that's a good thing)



By JENNIFER OPENSHAW

For generations, grit has been measured in long hours, constant availability, and visible hustle. Think: staying late, always saying “yes,” and proving your worth by being the last one out of the office.

As top psychologist and author Angela Duckworth's research has shown, grit is indeed about passion and perseverance over the long term. That's still true—but what grit looks like in action has changed.

Gen Z - many of them right here in Greenwich – is navigating a different world—and they know it. They've come of age during back-to-back disruptions: the 2008 recession, a global pandemic, skyrocketing tuition, and a rapidly shifting job market. They're the first generation raised entirely in the digital era, and they're leveraging that to work smarter—not louder.

Today, grit is less about performative effort and more about purposeful energy:

- 93% of Gen Z knowledge workers use at least two AI tools weekly to streamline productivity (Axios)
- 70% say they would leave a job for better technology (Adobe)
- 84% want to start their own business (Forbes)

This is a generation that sees value in efficiency, and grit in the pursuit of meaning and autonomy. Whether through side hustles, entrepreneurial ventures, or creative flexibility, Gen Z is showing a new kind of resilience—one rooted in intentionality and innovation.

The Perception Gap: Why Misreading Grit Hurts Us All  
Still, many leaders misinterpret

these behaviors. In one survey, 33% of hiring managers said Gen Z lacks work ethic.

To be honest, I had wondered this myself.

But that perception misses the context.

This generation is strategic. They've seen what happens when loyalty to a job isn't rewarded—when layoffs, burnout, and economic crashes hit without warning. Their cautiousness isn't a flaw—it's a lesson learned.

They care about mental well-being. They value flexibility. They want growth—but not at the cost of authenticity.

And if they don't “act” like eager interns of the past, it's not because they don't care. It's because they don't equate performative busyness with impact.

The Smart Play: Lead Gen Z Like You'd Lead Any Strategic Shift.

Let's approach this like any other business challenge: use the

Continued on Page 13

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# Join us in fostering joy and connection.

Volunteer your time or donate to support enrichment programs and enhance resident life at The Nathaniel Witherell.

- **Friends** works with people who care deeply about vulnerable seniors in our community, ensuring their lives are valued and days enriched.
- We're looking for people who genuinely care for seniors, people who will honor and enhance their lives as they face the challenges of rehabilitation and long-term care.
- We'd love to have you on board!

Visit [friendsofnathanielwitherell.org](https://friendsofnathanielwitherell.org) to learn more.

**Friends** of Nathaniel Witherell

NEW BRIEFS  
From Page 1

a focus on specific neighborhood needs. The seven-minute survey is open to all Greenwich residents and available here: [https://fairfield.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5bf6OraQiX4IA3I](https://fairfield.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5bf6OraQiX4IA3I)

**Volunteers Improve Mianus River Park**  
Nearly 50 volunteers and Greenwich Parks and Recreation staff took part in the third annual Earth Day event at Mianus River Park, planting over 20 native trees and removing invasive species. The effort focused on conservation and trail improvements throughout the 391-acre park, which spans Greenwich, Stamford, and state-owned land. Nearly 100 trees have been planted as part of this initiative over the past three years.

**Greenwich Beaches Open With Passes**  
Beginning May 1, access to Greenwich Point and Byram Park requires either a resident seasonal pass or a single-entry ticket. Residents must renew their proof of residency before purchasing a OnePass. Seniors must update their residency verification, which expired in December 2024, to buy or activate passes.

**Art Festival Returns to Greenwich**  
Art to the Avenue began its 28th annual event on May 1 and will run through May 26. The festival displays artwork for sale in local Greenwich Avenue storefronts and includes artist meet-and-greets, live music, and a performance by yo-yo artist John Higby. The event is organized by the Greenwich Arts Council.

**Debra Mecky Announces 2025 Retirement**



Debra Mecky will retire in 2025 after serving over 29 years as executive director and CEO of the Greenwich Historical Society. During her tenure, she led a major renovation of the campus, secured National Historic Landmark status for the Bush-Holley House, and expanded the organization's reach and mission. Her leadership significantly shaped the Society's operations and public engagement. Photo Credit: **Greenwich Historical Society**

**Greenwich Promotes Storm Safety Preparedness**  
Severe Weather Awareness Week, observed nationally from April 20 to 26, emphasizes the importance of preparing for spring and summer storms. Residents are advised to create emergency kits, establish communication plans, and sign up for local emergency alerts. The town's Emergency Management Department works with the National Weather Service to provide timely forecasts and safety information.

**Art in the Park Returns**  
The 7th annual Art in the Park event will be held at Binney Park in Old Greenwich on Sunday, June 1, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with a rain date of June 8. Over 50 local artists will exhibit and sell a variety of artworks, including paintings, photography, wood carvings, and mixed media. Featured participants include Obi Obi Japan, a group that repurposes traditional Japanese garments into accessories, with proceeds supporting nonprofit causes.

**Greenwich Launched Community Connection Week**  
Greenwich launched its first "Phone Down, Enjoy the Town" initiative, which ran from April 28 to May 4. The campaign encouraged diners at participating restaurants to turn off their phones during meals to promote in-person interaction. The goal was to support more focused, device-free conversations among community members. Volunteers Gather For Annual Cleanup  
Volunteers gathered at Tod's Point for the annual "Live Like Luke" cleanup event. The effort was held in memory of a young man named Luke. Participants worked to remove debris and improve the condition of the area. Photo Credit: Mike Manning

**LOCAL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS**

**Fill-A-Truck Drive Begins Tomorrow**  
The Department of Public Works is collecting food and household items for Neighbor to Neighbor starting tomorrow. Donations can be made at Town Hall or at the upcoming Touch-A-Truck event. Virtual donations are also accepted at: <https://amplify.ampyourgood.com/user/campaigns/4742>.

**Community Supports Veterans Through Breakfast**  
On Saturday, April 26, American Legion Post #29 and the Daughters of the American Revolution Horseneck Chapter held their annual pancake breakfast fundraiser. The event offered pancakes, breakfast meats, drinks, and cookies, with tickets priced at \$20 for adults and \$10 for children over 10; children under 10 attended for free. Proceeds supported local youth programs, and donations over \$20 were tax-deductible.

**Greenwich Avenue History Comes Alive**  
The Greenwich Historical Society and Untapped New York have launched "Rediscover Greenwich Avenue", an interactive exhibition featuring historic walking tours and large-scale murals with QR codes providing archival information. The program runs from May 1 to July 31 and includes scheduled guided tours on select Sundays, along with a related indoor exhibit, "Two Way Street", at the Greenwich Arts Council through May 31. Visitors can also explore the history independently using the QR-coded murals at four locations along the Avenue.

**Greenwich Club Welcomes Aquatics Director**  
The Boys & Girls Club of Greenwich has named Janet Poillon as its new Aquatics Director. A longtime Greenwich resident and experienced swim instructor, Poillon will oversee swim programs, safety initiatives, and staff management. Her appointment coincides with the Club's ongoing facility renovations,

including a redesigned aquatics center set to open in September 2025.

**Daffodil Show Celebrates Community Creativity**  
The annual Greenwich Daffodil Society show took place at Christ Church Parish Hall, featuring rows of daffodils and floral design entries. This year's event included collaborations with Coffee for Good and the Maggie Daly Arts Cooperative, with one artwork interpreted in the Artistic Division. The theme was "Cycle on Over," and guests could bid on decorated bicycle baskets and enter a raffle for a bicycle.

**St. Moritz Pastry Shop Closed**  
St. Moritz Pastry Shop at 383 Greenwich Avenue closed permanently after Sat., April 26.

**QXO Acquires Beacon Roofing Supply**  
QXO, a Greenwich-based building products distributor, has acquired Beacon Roofing Supply in an \$11 billion deal, making it the largest publicly traded distributor of roofing and related materials in the U.S. Beacon, a Fortune 500 company with over 580 branches across North America, is now a wholly owned subsidiary of QXO. As part of the acquisition, QXO also closed an \$830 million equity private placement.

PEOPLE IN TOWN

SCHOOLS

**Old Greenwich School Renovation Begins**  
Old Greenwich School has begun a \$47 million renovation project to address longstanding infrastructure issues, including poor ventilation, flooding, ADA noncompliance, and safety concerns. The updates will be completed in phases through January 2028 and include new HVAC and sprinkler systems, accessibility improvements, a secure entrance, and additional classroom and outdoor space. The school will remain operational during construction. Greenwich Honors Six Distinguished Teachers  
Greenwich Public Schools has named six educators as 2025 Distinguished Teachers. The honorees are Frances Bittman, Bethany Fuscald, and Dr. Beena Ramachandran from Greenwich High School; Robin Chenot from North Mianus School; Julia Haas-Godsil from Glenville School; and Ralph Marmor from Western Middle School. The selection was based on nominations reviewed by the Distinguished Teachers Awards Committee.

**GHS Chess Team Wins Third**  
Greenwich High School's Chess Club won the Connecticut State Championship for the third consecutive year. The team also reached the semifinals of the Fairfield Interscholastic Chess League after a 10-1 regular season. This marks the program's third straight state title.

**Seniors Support Schools Through Internships**  
Greenwich High School seniors will serve as teacher assistants in elementary and middle schools this spring through the school's internship program. The program, started in 1997, places students in local organizations and offices during their final month. This year, 612 seniors are participating, with over 100 assigned to district schools.

**WMS Socks Raise Awareness**  
Students and staff at Western Middle School wore mismatched socks to raise awareness for Sam Buck, an eighth grader with vanishing white matter disease. The event raised over \$4,000—three times the previous year's amount—through donations and sock sales. Teachers organized the fundraiser and promoted it locally and nationally.

**Sacred Heart Expands Tennis Facilities**  
Sacred Heart Greenwich has completed an expansion of its Lower Campus tennis facilities, increasing from six to nine post-tension concrete courts. The project supports a growing athletics program, which now includes six tennis teams and 70 student-athletes across Middle and Upper School. The new courts will also be used in physical education classes and future community events.

**Cooper Taylor Wins National Award**  
Cooper Taylor, Class of 2026, won second place in the Engineering and Technology category at the National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium. His project focused on improving VTOL drones through a new tilt mechanism and modular design. He received an \$8,000 undergraduate scholarship for his work.

**GHS Student Presents AI Research**  
Greenwich High School freshman Raghav Ramji conducted original research titled "Inductive Linguistic Reasoning with Large Language Models", which was accepted for presentation at the 38th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) in December 2024. His work was featured in the conference's poster session, which included researchers from academia and industry. Ramji also presented the same research at the New England NLP Symposium at Yale University.

**Middle School Science Teams Advance**  
For the first time, all three middle schools in the district sent teams to the U.S. Department of Energy's Regional Science Bowl in Glastonbury. Nearly 60 students participated, supported by a grant from the Greenwich Alliance for Education and mentorship from the Greenwich High School science team. Central placed fourth, Eastern's two teams placed seventh and eighth, and Western's "A" team placed fourth in the Wildcard Round.

**Glenville Students Shine at STEM Fair**  
Glenville School held its first STEM Fair this month, featuring projects from students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Exhibits included experiments such as creating a tornado model, generating wind, and building devices like a walking robot and solar oven. Some projects also focused on educational topics like reducing plastic use.

**Holocaust Education Shared With Students**  
Earlier this month, Eastern Middle School sixth graders attended a classroom presentation by four members of 3GNY, a nonprofit of Holocaust survivors' descendants. The speakers shared their families' Holocaust histories to help students understand historical and

ongoing issues of intolerance. The event was funded by the school's PTA.

**Whitby Students Showcase Artistic Talent**  
Whitby School held a Middle School Art Show at the Bruce Museum featuring student artwork. The event was organized under the direction of art teacher Amy Budzelek. It highlighted the students' creative work and marked a successful exhibition.

**Sacred Heart Students Earn Honors**  
Students from Sacred Heart Greenwich participated in the Connecticut Council of Language Teachers Poetry Recitation Contest in March, competing in multiple languages including French, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, Polish, Arabic, and Portuguese. Several students earned top-three placements across both Middle and Upper School divisions. Others participated without placing but demonstrated language proficiency through their performances.

**GCDS Students Honor Survivor Through Memorials**

Rabbi Dr. Aliza Erber, a Holocaust survivor, spoke to students in the "Holocaust and Human Behavior" course at GCDS. She shared her experiences of hiding in the Dutch woods for two years and the challenges her family faced during and after the war. Students presented Holocaust memorial projects inspired by related literature.

**Tyler Malkin Earns National Recognition**  
EXPLR named 106 students National STEM Champions for their achievements in the National STEM Challenge, including GHS freshman Tyler Malkin. Champions were given an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to present their projects and received free access to EXPLR's educational platform. Tyler developed a low-cost test for iodine deficiency and also received the National STEM Festival Alumni Award.

**Students Lead Composting Effort Successfully**  
Mrs. Vaccarino and her students from Eagle Hill School collected four buckets of food scraps from the school dining hall and delivered them to the Holly Hill Transfer Station for composting. The material will be processed at a Connecticut composting facility. The school community is participating in waste reduction through composting and mindful food consumption.

**Greenwich Students Win Science Honors**  
Greenwich students earned top honors at the 2025 Junior Science and Humanities Symposium and the Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair for projects in biotechnology, artificial intelligence, diagnostics, and environmental science. Lula Wang and Tyler Malkin placed first in their respective categories and will advance to the national JSHS competition. Multiple students received awards across disciplines, with several earning trips to the International Science and Engineering Fair.

SPORTS

**Greenwich Cheer Team Makes History**  
The Greenwich High School varsity cheerleading team was formally recognized by state lawmakers for winning multiple titles this past season. The team secured championships at the FCIAC, Class LL, state, and New England regional levels—marking the first time a Connecticut team has won the New England title. Coaches and staff were also acknowledged for their roles in the team's success.

**GHS Girls Lacrosse Rebounds Strong**  
After consecutive losses, Greenwich High School's girls lacrosse team secured two FCIAC wins against Fairfield Warde and Trumbull, improving its overall record to 5-5. The team showed stronger coordination and execution, leading to a 16-6 victory over Warde and a 16-4 win over Trumbull. These wins marked their first conference victories of the season ahead of the postseason.

**GHS Girls Tennis Stays Unbeaten**  
The Greenwich High School girls varsity tennis team began the 2025 season with a 7-0 record, continuing the strong performance that led to a 21-1 finish and a CIAC Class LL championship in 2024. In their most recent match, they defeated Trumbull 7-0, winning all matches in straight sets. Returning players have moved into key roles and maintained consistency across singles and doubles positions.

**Brunswick Dominates Darien With Precision**  
Brunswick School defeated Darien High School 12-7 in a nationally ranked lacrosse matchup on April 26. Senior Aidan Diaz-Matos won all 20 faceoffs, including his 500th career win, giving Brunswick consistent possession. The Bruins pulled away in the second half with strong offensive and defensive performances, improving their record to 10-2.

**GHS Shows Grit Despite Loss**  
Greenwich High School's girls lacrosse team lost 16-6 to Ridgefield High School on April 24 after narrowing the gap to two goals by halftime. Ridgefield dominated the second half, outscoring Greenwich 9-1 and controlling possession. The Cardinals fell to 3-5 overall and 0-3 in the FCIAC, while Ridgefield improved to 7-2 and 2-0 in conference play.

**GHS Boys Tennis Reaches 50**  
Greenwich High School's boys tennis team has won 50 consecutive matches, continuing an undefeated streak that began in 2023. The team defeated Staples High School 4-3 on April 24, winning three of four singles matches and one doubles match. The Cardinals have won back-to-back FCIAC and CIAC Class LL state championships.

**Sacred Heart Edges Greenwich Academy**  
Sacred Heart Greenwich defeated Greenwich Academy 11-10 in a Varsity A lacrosse game on April 23, 2025. Sacred Heart led by six goals early but played much of the second half shorthanded due to penalties, allowing Greenwich Academy to tie the game before Sacred Heart scored the winning goal in the fourth quarter.



# The First Bank of Greenwich ushers in spring with remarkable art display by Dollka and Dave Morico

By LIZ LEAMY

Last Wednesday, more than 125 people gathered at The First Bank of Greenwich Cos Cob headquarters to celebrate the spring season with festivities in sparkling style to experience and view the fantastic display of culturally inspired paintings and other artworks created by Dollka and Dave Morico of the Dollka & Dave Gallery in New Canaan.

All throughout this event, The First Bank of Greenwich main room was teeming with all sorts of people who spent their time visiting and chatting with one another while also taking in the Morico's extensive display of paintings, prints and other mixed media works centered around such iconic cultural individuals, brands and National treasures as the Statue of Liberty, Brooklyn Bridge, Coca Cola, Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Marilyn Monroe, Grace Kelly and Frank Sinatra, among more subjects.

"Dollka and Dave are amazing and both of them have different flares with their artwork," said Frank Gaudio, President and Chief Executive Officer of The First Bank of Greenwich. "This is a big day for me because of this and the fact that everybody here is a dear friend of mine."

Gaudio also spoke about the importance of art in its relation to the community as well as The First Bank of Greenwich.

"As I drive down North Street every day on my way to work, I've never really looked at the greenery as the way I've been looking at it this year. It is gorgeous and it is like art," said Gaudio. "Art comes in many ways, in paintings, in music and in the friends and moments we all have together."

Certainly this sentiment was also felt among all of those on hand at this event, especially the

*"Greenwich is beautiful with such an incredible community of people," said Dollka Morico*

Doricos, who expressed their deep gratitude at being part of this event, with their work scheduled to be displayed at the bank's Cos Cob headquarters for an extended period of time, with it also being available for purchase.

"Thank you Frank, you guys are our family," said Dollka Morico in response to Gaudio. "You've welcomed us so many times and we are so grateful to be here. I study art and I think a lot about it, whether it's Chanel, Polo or whatever it is or might be. I think it through and how it connects to us and affects us emotionally. It all connects us together."

Dollka Morico also spoke about how the subjects of her paintings represent hope, strength and so much of what can be accomplished through staying true to a dream.

"Women like Coco Chanel didn't give up and with Marilyn, it was the same thing," said Dollka Morico. "Ralph Lauren and his Polo brand are also amazing. His work reflects the American dream as well as the classic style of so many Hollywood movies. He personifies America and its dream and possibilities."

In addition, she talked about the effect these individuals have had on the culture as a whole.



Frank Gaudio, President and CEO of The First Bank of Greenwich, Jodi DeCrenza, an artist whose studio is based in Hastings-on-the-Hudson and Jessica Fitzpatrick, Assistant Vice President, Digital Marketing & Strategic Engagement for The First Bank of Greenwich (Photo by Liz Leamy)

"I always look for the goodness in what all of these people represent and how they affect us and how people also want to be part of it," said Dollka Morico.

Along with this memorable display of art, attendees also enjoyed food and beverages provided by local establishments such as Meli-Melo and Versailles Patisserie and V Bistro, both of which are located on Greenwich Avenue as well as Val's Putnam Wines & Liquors, while listening to live music performed by Lawrence Cooley and some of his colleagues.

More than anything, it was apparent everyone at this celebration played an integral role

in its terrific success, that is for certain.

"Working and being at this beautiful event with The First Bank of Greenwich has been amazing. The artwork is gorgeous and I love the meaning behind it all," said Chantal Benavidez, an event team staff member. "Everyone has been so kind and helpful and it has just been a

wonderful experience in every way."

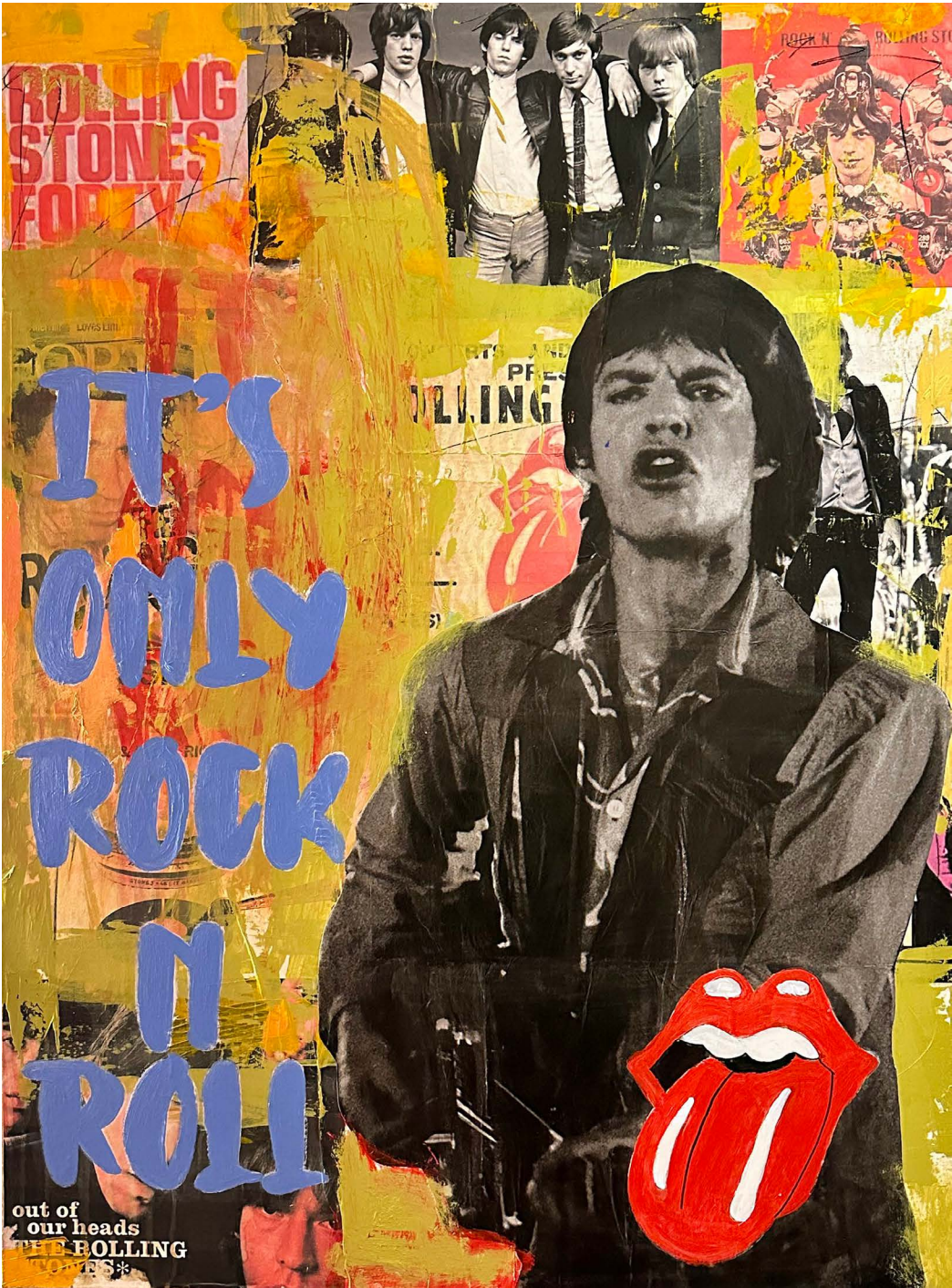
Dollka Morico concurred, adding that the whole mood of the event expressed so much of the spirit of Greenwich.

"Greenwich is beautiful with such an incredible community of people," said Morico. "It's beautiful how everyone supports the community whether it's through

their love of the arts or other things. People want to give their best and that's what I love about it. It makes me want to do better."

For more information on the Moricos and their art, please look them up at:

**DOLLKADAVEGALLERY@gmail.com**  
**DOLLKAANDDAVE.com**  
**DDMorico (instagram)**



Dollka Morico of the Dollka & Dave Gallery based in New Canaan, poses in front of one of her works featured as the center of the spring celebration event at The First Bank of Greenwich in Cos Cob last week. (Photo by Liz Leamy)

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# Four-member Greenwich skating crew helps Skyliners clinch bronze at World Championships

By Betsy Frances

Last month, the 20-member New York metro area-based Skyliners Junior skating team, of which four of its athletes are based in Greenwich, clinched bronze at the World Junior Synchronized Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden in triumphant style.

This stellar squad, who is coached by Josh Babb, put the pedal to the metal, racking up the event's third-highest score, a 201.27, among the event's formidable 24-entry roster that featured teams from such countries as Canada, Finland, Croatia, Sweden, Japan, Great Britain, Spain and Australia.

This contingent, who trains in the New York metro area, stood on the podium alongside Teams Elite Junior of Northbrook, Illinois, the other Team USA entry who claimed first with a 205.28 and Team Fintastic Junior of Finland, who scored silver with a 201.87.

These results, in turn, also designated this as a golden moment for the U.S. with the two Team USA entries bringing home

two of the three total medals at this celebrated event.

The Skyliners, who were second at the 2025 U.S. National Synchronized Championships last February (where Teams Elite was first), meanwhile, earned high marks for their short program to 'Turandot' by Puccini and free skate to the 'Interstellar' film soundtrack composed by Hans Zimmer, both of which they performed with great speed, flow and command while executing such moves as lifts, line footwork sequences and slides in outstanding fashion.

Notably, the four-member Greenwich squad on this team included Emily Duarte, 17, a Greenwich High School senior, Jenny Kessler, 17, a Greenwich High School junior, Danielle Kim, 17, a Greenwich High School junior and Anna Dolgov, 14, a Greenwich High School freshman, who collectively comprised one-fifth of the team's 20-member roster.

"It was an incredible experience to see everyone skate and knowing that hundreds of individuals were supporting

us, whether they were in the stands or at home watching," said Jenny Kessler, who is coached individually by Liz Leamy and Nancy Leamy of Greenwich as well as by Jason Briggs of Rockland County, New York. "The skating community is close knit and everyone [there] felt like family. In fact, I remember this one time after the Short Program competition was over, teams such as Italy, Finland and Canada all came together in a circle and started to dance and celebrate with music. Overall, even when we were competing against one another, we will always support one another at the end of the day." (Kessler, meanwhile, also mentioned how delicious the Swedish candy was as well.)

"We are very proud of the two skates we were able to put out, especially our short program," said Duarte, the Skyliners Junior Team Captain who is trained individually by Nancy Leamy, Director of the Greenwich Skating School at the Dorothy Hamill Rink in Byram. "We were all focused and driven throughout the week because we

knew how much the competition meant to one another."

Duarte further elaborated about the great chemistry among everyone on the team.

"As the team captain, I carried a lot of pride in the team chemistry and trust we had built," said Duarte. "I was able to call the other skaters on Skyliners Junior my family after working together all season and forming memories that I will carry with me into adulthood."

Over the years, all four of the Greenwich-based Skyliners have spent a significant amount of their time training at the Hamill Rink, with the majority, Duarte, Dolgov and Kessler, having also started skating in its Learn to Skate group lesson program.

"I'm very proud of them," said Leamy, who also coaches Dolgov and Kim on an individual basis. "They represented the U.S. in a memorable manner and their result was both hard earned and well deserved."

Leamy also spoke about their excellent work ethic.

"With each of these skaters,



(L to R) Anna Dolgov, Emily Duarte, Danielle Kim and Jenny Kessler, all of whom are from Greenwich and attend Greenwich High School, celebrate the Skyliners Junior team bronze at the 2025 World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden last March. (Photo courtesy of Skyliners organization)

the primary focus was their desire to skate and the motivation to do things correctly and well," said Leamy. "They always work hard and are all about learning through their practice and experience and to not get frustrated from mistakes or making mistakes, and instead use them as learning tools."

According to these athletes, all of the time, energy and effort they've put into their skating thus far has been a fulfilling experience

for them on so many levels.

"Skating has always been an important part of my life and living in such a close-knit community has allowed me to share this part of my life with family and friends," said Duarte. "Whether it is skating at the Dorothy Hamill Rink with my mom (Amanda) and younger sister (Valentina) or showing my friends synchro videos at school, I have always been able to express my love for skating."

## Sacred Heart Hosts 4th Earth Day Celebration

On Friday, April 25th, Sacred Heart Greenwich hosted their 4th Annual Earth Day Celebration. The event will brought together the entire student body, faculty, and special guests for a morning of immersive, hands-on workshops and outdoor activities designed to inspire environmental stewardship.

This year's celebration featured more than 30 workshops, led by 72 student presenters and 31 faculty leaders, covering topics such as moss science research, bluebird habitats, composting, tree planting, and the much-anticipated return of the beloved

baby goats. Guests from Network schools St. Philomena and Stuart Country Day School were also in attendance.

### Sustainability in Action

Sacred Heart Greenwich has emerged as a regional leader in environmental education through programs such as beekeeping, a student-run herb garden, and a bird-watching club. This spring, the school will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its first-ever chicken coop, marking another step in its commitment to sustainable practices. Sacred Heart Greenwich's commitment to environmental stewardship

and sustainability is rooted among our mission and goals, stating that students of the Sacred Heart commit themselves to a social awareness that impels to action and promise to be effective stewards of the earth's resources and work to alleviate the climate crisis. To learn more about our program, visit our sustainability website.

### Acknowledging the Land

As part of this year's Earth Day celebration, Sacred Heart Greenwich will formally present its official Land Acknowledgment for the first time to the entire school community. Developed over

the course of three years through in-depth student research and guided by faculty member Chris Gerrity, the statement honors the Wiechquaesgeck peoples, the original stewards of the land Sacred Heart Greenwich has occupied since 1942.

This moment marks a significant step in recognizing the school's connection to the land and its historical context. In collaboration with Audubon International and through a long-standing partnership with the Greenwich Land Trust, Sacred Heart Greenwich continues to preserve and restore its natural

surroundings. Ongoing efforts to remediate pastoral landscapes across the property reflect a conscious and active commitment to honoring the past while informing a more sustainable future.

Grounded in Goal III of the Sacred Heart mission—"Justice calls us to accept responsibility for the care of God's creation"—the Land Acknowledgment serves as a call to action. It affirms our role as environmental stewards, accountable for the care of the land once shared with Indigenous ancestors. Rooted in Catholic Social Teaching, it emphasizes

the sacred relationships between people and the earth—the soil beneath our feet, the skies above, and the waters that sustain life.

### Audubon Certification

Sacred Heart Greenwich was certified in 2022 to be an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. We are one of only three schools in the country to receive this designation. This shows our school's strong commitment to sustainability and stewardship in five different categories: environmental planning, wildlife, water, resources, and education.

## Audubon Leadership Awardee Eunice Burnett Honored at Event

By Anne W. Semmes

At sunset a week ago Thursday, overlooking the green rolling hills of the Tamarack Country Club stretching across 180 acres of backcountry Greenwich, the 235 nature enthusiasts gathered for the 2025 Audubon Connecticut Environmental Leadership Awards Benefit. Being honored was Awardee Eunice Burnett of Greenwich for her impactful work in conservation and environmental community building.

***“Native plants are weapons that we can use to combat the dual existential crises of biodiversity loss and climate change.”***  
**Eunice Burnett.**

But before Burnett's notable acceptance talk were remarks by Dr. Elizabeth Gray, CEO of the National Audubon Society, and introduced as the first female to hold that office since Audubon's founding in 1905. Gray had just arrived from Washington attending the U.S. Climate Action Summit Leaders Forum. "It's a true pleasure," she began, "to be here tonight in a room full of people who have the same passion that I do for birds and for nature and for the future that we're all building together."

Gray thanked Greenwich Audubon board chair Kim Gregory "for bringing together this community in honor of Eunice Burnett and her remarkable contributions." More thanks went to Gregory and to Mike Burger, vice president and executive director of Audubon Connecticut and New York "for growing the Audubon flock." Gray cited the "action in Greenwich at the Audubon Center. We're restoring 22 acres of early successional habitat and we're doing that by planting pollinator gardens, by revitalizing trails and by expanding forest edges that are supporting really important bird and pollinator habitat."

"At the heart of this effort," Gray noted, "is our guiding star: bending the bird curve – halting and ultimately reversing the decline of birds across the Americas. Because birds are more than beautiful. They are symbols of our connection to the natural world, and sentinels of its health." Thus "When birds are doing well, the planet's thriving and when birds are in decline, we've got some serious challenges to tackle and work to do. So, that's why the work

that we do not only protects birds, it strengthens communities such as this one that's in the room tonight. It helps us all build resilience and it improves the quality of habitat, not just for birds, but also for people."

### AWARDEE EUNICE BURNETT

Awardee Eunice Burnett was introduced by Burger as "epitomizing community building and action." "When Eunice sees something that needs to be done, she steps up and does it...Just recently she had an idea to prepare and deliver bird-centric welcome boxes to families who are new to the area to welcome them to Greenwich and introduce them to the Greenwich Audubon Center. What a great idea."

Burnett, who serves on the board of Audubon Connecticut/ Audubon New York, began with humility, "I'm just an average person who has a deep appreciation for nature and maybe that's why I'm a good person to talk to all of you tonight." Her formative influences followed.

She began her work in her twenties as an equity research analyst. "As I researched the chemical industry," she told, "I became aware of what some companies like Monsanto were doing to our environment in food supply...When I had children, everything took on new intensity. Mercury in tuna fish, pesticides in fruits and vegetables, nitrates in hot dogs, trans fats in everything...I stopped feeding my Kentucky group blue grass sod nitrogen fertilizer to prevent algae growth in our local freshwater ponds. Our landscapers were not happy...I was rewarded with the sighting of a beautiful Luna moth on my lawn. I swear its green wings flapped me a little thank you for its natural playground."

Taking her three kids skiing where she had skied in her youth on "the highest mountain" of Germany, she shared, "When we finally arrived, we did not see a giant snow-capped mountain. Instead, we saw a bare granite rock. The ski resort was now a ghost town. The tiniest dirtiest patch of snow was the only remnant of the once magnificent glacier. Amid my shock and horror, I had an epiphany. I had put these three people on the planet. I owed it to them to make sure that the planet was still functioning when they were my age."

### JOINING THE ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK

Burnett then "sought out like-minded people who supported environmental organizations with their time, talent, and treasure." She was inspired to do the same. "I chair Green Our Children to benefit research at Mount Sinai's Children Environmental Health Center. I chair the environmental education committee at the Junior League where it's monitored by Susie Baker...who has

received Audubon's Environmental Lifetime Achievement Award and is an overall total force in conservation. She's here tonight. Thank you, Susie."

Burnett "became part of a great environmental committee at Stanwich School." She joined GRAB - the Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board. She worked with the Environmental Task Force and Greening of Greenwich, "both town initiatives headed by Lin Lavery, who at the time was Second Selectwoman. Shout out to Lin."

Burnett then became a board member of Audubon Connecticut. "That was 16 years ago. I joined the board to help our state start its Audubon and Home Initiative, which many of you know today as Bird Friendly Communities. Its goal is to teach people the best practices to develop their properties into healthy habitats for humans, birds, and other wildlife."

Over the years Audubon had taught her, "how to be a better steward of the natural world through the interconnectedness of the ecosystem. Conservation with a bird focus has a positive, broader impact on all wildlife, including humans." To spotlight that interconnectedness, she quoted Thoreau. "All parts of nature belong to one head as curls of a maiden's hair."

Continued on Page 5

For nearly seven years, she has served on the board of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) or TNC. "TNC and Audubon often collaborate to achieve important conservation objectives. After decades of a more siloed approach, environmental organizations are now taking a page from nature's playbook. They have begun to work together, mirroring the ecological interconnectedness that exists in nature. They have realized that they belong to one head as the curls of a maiden's hair."

### THE POWER OF NATIVE PLANTS

Burden has also "become fascinated by native plants and their importance to the wellbeing of our pollinators and birds. Native plants are weapons that we can use to combat the dual existential crises of biodiversity loss and climate change." To learn more of "how that works," she invited attendees to come to a "Pollinator Potluck" program in May at Round Hill Community Church.

This spring, she suggested, "Think about planting a native plant to feed our birds and pollinators – an Oak tree, Service berry, American Holly, Chokeberry or Spicebush...And come winter, "put up a bird feeder and experience the joy of watching and hearing titmice, nuthatches, black capped chickadees, downy and hairy woodpeckers..." And download Cornell Ornithology's bird app Merlin on your phone. "The program will help you



Environmental Leadership Awardee Eunice Burnett of Greenwich giving her notable talk. Photo by Elaine Ubina.



Dr. Elizabeth Gray, CEO of the National Audubon Society at her introductory talk at the Environmental Leadership Awards Benefit. Photo by Elaine Ubina.

identify birds you hear when out and about - or don't. Instead, just sit outside, watch and listen."

She concluded with her hope, "We can all agree that these bird songs are beautiful and moving and their absence would be tragic. We may not agree on everything, but diversity of ideas and

solutions AND biodiversity are critical to our survival - humans as well as birds." But "Let us agree that birds are worth saving for our future generations."

Burnett would leave us with another Thoreau quote: "As I love nature, as I love singing birds...I love thee, my friend." "Thank you all for coming."









By LAUREN RABIN

sharing. I thought about how the topics may be connected and decided to turn to ChatGPT (Artificial Intelligence) to help me brainstorm.

Here is the response to my question (prompt): What do the NFL draft, the Greenwich public school budget, and PTA revenue sharing have in common?

“That’s an interesting mix — but they actually do have something in common if you think about it:

- Resource allocation and competitive advantage.
- NFL Draft: Teams try to draft players who will give them the best chance to win — it’s all about wisely allocating limited picks to build a strong roster.
- Greenwich Public School Budget: School districts decide how to distribute limited funds across schools, programs, and salaries to serve students best—basically, they try to “draft” the best outcomes with their money.
- PTA Revenue Sharing: PTAs decide how to collect and distribute funds to schools, especially if one school raises way more money than another — again, it’s about making choices to create fair opportunities across the system.

All three are about managing scarcity, making strategic choices, and balancing fairness and excellence.”

I was then asked if I wanted a punchier version, too, for

Before submitting an article for the *Sentinel*, I think about a theme or concept for days. Over the past week, I have considered the NFL Draft, the Greenwich Public School budget, and PTA revenue

# Artificial Intelligence

*I considered how the topics may be connected and decided to turn to ChatGPT (Artificial Intelligence) to help me brainstorm.*

example, if I was trying to use this for a speech or a post.

I answered yes and got “that they’re all about turning limited resources into the best possible outcomes. Whether it’s building a winning team, funding a top-tier education, or ensuring every school has a fair shot — it’s a high-stakes game of strategy, fairness, and opportunity.”

Then, I made a quick pivot on my topic. Do readers know how artificial intelligence can help in our daily lives? Students use it for research, tutoring, and writing help. Developers get coding assistance or generate scripts. Marketers create content, ads, and social media posts. Designers develop images and visual ideas. Businesses automate tasks and create reports or summaries.

We use it to boost our productivity, so I asked ChatGPT to create a morning routine to increase my productivity. In seconds, it pulled together elements of what I already knew and routinely did, but in such a prescribed manner that I wanted to share!

- “1. Wake Up Early (5:30–6:30 AM)
- Waking up early gives you quiet time before the world wakes up.
- Avoid checking your phone for the first 30 minutes.
- 2. Make Your Bed (2 mins)
- Quick win to build momentum and a sense of order.
- 3. Hydrate (5 mins)
- Drink a full glass of water with lemon or electrolytes to

rehydrate after sleep.

- 4. Move Your Body (10–20 mins)
- Light exercise like yoga, stretching, or a short walk.
- Optional: 10-minute bodyweight circuit (squats, push-ups, planks, jumping jacks).
- 5. Mindfulness or Journaling (5–10 mins)
- Meditation, breathing exercises, or gratitude journaling.
- Focus your mind and reduce stress.
- 6. Review Goals + Plan Your Day (10 mins)
- Look over your top 3 priorities for the day.
- Visualize success and block time in your calendar.
- 7. Eat a Healthy Breakfast (15 mins)
- Protein + healthy fats + slow carbs (e.g., eggs, avocado toast, oatmeal).
- Optional: Coffee/tea after food, not before.
- 8. Listen to Something Inspiring (Optional)
- While getting ready, listen to a podcast, audiobook, or upbeat music to spark motivation.
- 9. Start With a Focus Block (First 60–90 mins of Work)
- No emails or meetings—just deep work on your most important task.”

Coffee after breakfast is going to be a hard one for me, but I am going to give it a try. Let me know what you think about giving ChatGPT a try, or ideas on how to turn our limited town resources into the best possible outcomes.

*Lauren Rabin, Selectwoman, Marketer, Problem Solver*

## LETTER

### A Legacy: Honoring Anne Semmes for Decades of Environmental Reporting

To the Editor,  
Please join me in congratulating Anne W. Semmes on her recent recognition with the 2025 Greenwich Sustainability Award. For more than 40 years, Anne has chronicled the life of our community with insight, dedication, and an unwavering eye for the intersection between people and the natural world.

Her environmental journalism has documented the restoration of the Greenwich Audubon Center, the threat of invasive ivy to our tree canopy, and the efforts of local volunteers working to plant native species along the Post Road. She has explored the growing urgency of food sustainability in New England and amplified the voices of conservationists

across town. Anne’s stories do not preach—they reveal. Her interviews and profiles carry an archival sense of detail, while never losing their capacity to inspire.

In honoring Anne, we also acknowledge the work of the *Greenwich Sentinel*, which has remained committed to publishing serious, sustained coverage of conservation, climate, and environmental stewardship. This kind of journalism isn’t ornamental—it’s essential.

We’re fortunate to have Anne’s pen and the *Sentinel’s* pages preserving and protecting our shared natural environment.

*Ed Thomas*

## LETTER

### Armenian Genocide Reminds Us To Be On Guard in America

I was pleased to see that the Town of Greenwich officially commemorates the Armenian Genocide. Although Americans are more familiar with the genocide committed against Jews in Nazi Germany, the Town’s recent commemoration should remind us that any community can be targeted when hatred becomes rampant. Today, America faces a unique political climate that some are comparing to the Nazi’s rise. Its primary targets are not Jews, however, but immigrants -- mostly Hispanics and Arabs.

Remember that the Nazi’s did not originally advocate for the death of all Jews. Instead they preached their expulsion. And their concentration camps were not originally death camps. They started as harsh prisons for Jews and other disfavored people.

*Andrew Pizor*

## LETTER

### Protecting Greenwich’s Coastline

Dear Editor,  
As a student studying sustainability, I am deeply concerned about the growing vulnerability of Greenwich’s coastline. Our beautiful waterfront, now lined with an increasing number of homes, faces serious threats from rising sea levels and stronger, more frequent storms. Continued development without environmental safeguards

*Our beautiful waterfront, now lined with an increasing number of homes, faces serious threats from rising sea levels and stronger, more frequent storms.*

not only endangers fragile ecosystems but also puts residents at significant financial risk. The economic impact of future flood damage, insurance losses, and disaster recovery could strain both individual homeowners and our town’s

resources. We must act now by investing in resilient infrastructure, restoring natural buffers like wetlands, and adopting smarter coastal development policies. Protecting our coastline is not just an

environmental issue, it is essential to preserving the safety, economy, and long-term future of Greenwich.

*Sincerely,  
Katy Athan*

## LETTER

### An Open Letter To The Board Of Estimation & Taxation

AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR FELLOW COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO SIT ON THE BOARD OF ESTIMATION & TAXATION:

At the request of community members, the Greenwich PTA Council (PTAC) hosted an online Petition to the Greenwich Board of Estimation & Taxation (BET).

The petition went online at 6:00 AM on Monday, April 21st and will remain available for people to sign until May 5th.(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdCM-mJu96uNVOP0lwElrky2DomyoRVZtlqMN-7LxKBQBHa8ljQ/viewform?usp=sharing)  
But as of Wednesday night – in just 2 ½ days – 1,560 people signed the petition, in agreement with this petition statement:

Petition to the Greenwich Board of Estimation & Taxation (BET):

We request that the BET call a special meeting before May 5th to reconsider the BOE/GPS operating budget for fiscal year 2025-2026, and to vote to increase funding to better meet the financial needs of THE Greenwich Public Schools.

The undersigned support this petition:  
I do not agree with the BET decision to cut \$4,048,621 from the proposed BOE/GPS operating budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Therefore, I request that the BET call a special meeting before May 5th to reconsider the BOE/GPS operating budget for fiscal year 2025-2026, and to vote to increase funding to better meet the financial needs of the Greenwich Public Schools

As the members of the BET are aware, Greenwich’s First Selectman issued a public statement calling on the BET to

*We urge the members of the BET to heed the calls from the community, from the RTM, from the First Selectman, and from others. Call a special meeting before May 5th. Vote to increase funding to better meet the financial needs of the Greenwich Public Schools.*

reconsider the budget, and the schools budget specifically ([And, as the members of the BET are also aware, the RTM took the unusual step of taking up and overwhelmingly passing a Sense of the Meeting Resolution that requests that the BET re-open the Operating Budget vote for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, to better meet the financial needs of Greenwich Public Schools \(\[https://www.greenwichct.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Minutes/\\\_04212025-7256\]\(https://www.greenwichct.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Minutes/\_04212025-7256\)\).](http://email.membershiptoolkit.com/ls/click?upn=u001.dP20uh2xUDz7Jlu9WhAzXU-Br2Tooe4BTsb3TF17fiPzdCFHGtOWOw-gguZl2Gq98nhthlVvICB-2FmTqOU-y18BS9DA-3D-3D3DqW_SAPOqwHy9g6DF0cOleRUKxT12U-2bO9bMgqqEgeV9wKj-2Ful-2FNW5K-Fls4TP7yiYUSRSStiQJNOU5MqITdk-MIXxjtxXp2bwJEdR4RHf3SS063YjK0B-BAYsFGNaxNsaPloV5-2F-2BR06rSVRx-9Zz-2BpL0erlGqr9PkjW5-2FRUe-vlhqLXGlxfqdIMPvUpJ4oDrGdSn-B4CawGLDKR8bYnS-2ByaoAyo2dXt-dlAefXhcDLa6KYoxYL5px3LCX3NBC-tRN-2BIThyFG00BpudGdYOC3vIZkj8D-vRfqFokcfXePleAzZkT16gGHM00XKyKUn-2LIHuHHSzBcZr7oeir6HFXdvgcdY08W-navSpoqiLaBRE9DluxWrMpicCKGPw-bHTCqn-2Bpmc-2BVk5VclU).</p></div><div data-bbox=)

And as the members of the BET are now aware, the community has presented a petition from a broad cross section of the community: 1,560 people (and counting!) who are Greenwich residents (85%) and Greenwich voters (70%), Greenwich educators (16%), Greenwich home owners (67%), business owners (10%) and rental and commercial property owners (4%), parents of children in the Greenwich Public Schools (76%) and parents of children in the private schools (12%). As of Wednesday night, 125 current students in the Greenwich Public Schools have signed the petition (and counting!), as have 214 adults who are former students in the Greenwich Public Schools (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FqPjIwlfHE76mIpstiX2EDlyPONLetvqv/view?usp=sharing>).

The PTAC Board of Directors and 1,560 members of our community urge the members of the BET to heed the calls from the community, from the RTM, from the First Selectman, and from others. Call a special meeting before May 5th. Vote to increase funding to better meet the financial needs of the Greenwich Public Schools.

*The Greenwich PTA Council Board of Directors  
John Fisher, President*

## LETTER

### Sleeping Taxpayers

Dear Sleeping Taxpayers,  
Please wake up.

Just because the PTA, the BOE, and the superintendent can fire up a roomful of parents doesn’t mean they speak for the entire town. It means the rest of us aren’t paying enough attention—yet.

The Greenwich Public School system has become an unchecked black hole of spending, operating without meaningful fiduciary oversight. There’s no line-item control with GPS—just a blank check.

Pushed too far, the town will wake up. The silence is not agreement; it’s temporary trust.

The Superintendent will continue to enjoy unfettered and opaque budgeting processes, trying to wring every possible dollar out of taxpayers.

The rest of us have limits—and we should start demanding accountability for where every cent is actually going because I do not believe all \$200 million is going for the kids.

*Jan Copper Smith*

## LETTER

### Greenwich Alliance for Education Supports Funding Public Education

“A measure of communities is how they value their students.”  
New York Teacher, 12/8/2005

There are many exceptional teachers in the Greenwich Public Schools who create connections, enrich young minds and adapt creatively to the ever- changing world around them. They teach and instill a growth mindset. Our students work hard, research, question and gather input from others so that they can meaningfully contribute to their community.

We urge BET members to reflect the same growth mindset in their approach to the public school’s budget. In the budget cycle you have -

-Asked questions and received detailed responses from the BOE members and the GPS administrators

-Heard powerful testimony from parents, teachers and students, from citizens of all ages including those who do not have school age children, and from other town officials

-You have at hand a wealth of evidence-based data and community input

Greenwich Alliance for Education agrees with the First Selectman, the RTM, PTA Council and the hundreds and hundreds of individuals who have submitted comments and signed the online petition, all of whom have requested that the BET reopen and reconsider the public school’s budget.

Listen. Reflect. Lead. Pay attention to these informed voices and vote for the financial needs of the schools, for the children and teachers in our district, and the overall health of the Greenwich community.

*Julie Faryniarz, Executive Director  
Greenwich Alliance for Education*

Greenwich Alliance Board Members:

Gia Burton	Leila Horn
Bob Chaney	Cindy Lyall
Nicole Chaudhri	Alissa Pecora
Gabriel Cid	Trish Rohr
Doug Fenton	Donna Rosato
Bill Finger	
John Fisher	Danielle Jean-Guillaume Sittol
Hilary Hoffmeister	Nancy Weissler

Since 2006, the Greenwich Alliance for Education, our town’s education foundation has funded \$5.1MM in programming for GPS students and teachers. 90% of these dollars have reached under-resourced students. [www.greenwichalliance.org](http://www.greenwichalliance.org).



# The Surprising Expansion History of the Universe

## Acceptance of the accelerating universe took about a decade, requiring cross-verification through other cosmological observations.

By Mike Abrahams

Dr. Adam Riess, a Bloomberg Distinguished Professor at Johns Hopkins University and the Space Telescope Science Institute, addressed the April 23rd meeting of the Greenwich Retired Men’s Association, sharing the remarkable story behind the discovery that the universe’s expansion is accelerating.

Introduced by RMA members Jay Schondorf and Jim Fishbein, Dr. Riess’s talk offered insights into cutting-edge cosmology, its challenges, and the profound questions that remain. Schondorf, who is Dr. Riess’s father-in-law and has been an RMA member for 13 years, highlighted the personal connection, noting that his daughter Nancy had met Dr. Riess at MIT and they were married at the Greenwich Hyatt in 1998. Fishbein, an RMA member who has presented a series on astronomy, noted Dr. Riess’s status as the first Nobel Prize winner to address the group.

Dr. Riess, who shared the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics for his work, explained that while the expansion of the universe had been known for nearly a century, the unexpected finding was that this expansion is speeding up, propelled by what is now called dark energy.

He described cosmology as the study of the structure and development of the universe. A key challenge in cosmology, Dr. Riess explained, is measuring vast cosmic distances. Drawing parallels to earthly methods like parallax or using “lighthouses” of known brightness, he detailed how astronomers use “standard candles” in space. These are objects whose intrinsic luminosity is understood, allowing their observed brightness to reveal their distance. One crucial type of standard candle is the Type Ia supernova, the explosion of a white dwarf star that exceeds a critical mass, known as the Chandrasekhar limit. Discovered decades ago by astronomer Edwin Hubble, the expansion of the universe is observed through a relationship known as Hubble’s Law, where distant galaxies appear to move away faster. This apparent motion is measured by redshift, a stretching of light wavelengths caused by the expansion of space itself. Measuring the expansion rate allows cosmologists to estimate the age of the universe. Early measurements by Edwin Hubble implied a universe only 2 billion years old, which was known to be incorrect even at the time. Over decades, as measurement techniques improved, including the



Professor and Nobel Laureate Adam Riess gave a clear explanation of how his team discovered that the expansion of the universe is accelerating.

use of supernovae, the age estimate grew to the current value of 13 to 14 billion years.

Cosmologists pondered the fate of the universe based on its expansion velocity and mass, much like considering the trajectory of a cannonball fired from Earth. However, Dr. Riess recounted how Albert Einstein, while developing his theory of general relativity, considered the possibility that empty space itself could possess repulsive gravity, introducing what he called the cosmological constant. Although Einstein initially deemed this his “biggest blunder” after Edwin Hubble confirmed the universe was expanding, the idea of repulsive gravity remained a possibility.

The universe’s vast distances provide a unique record of the past, as light from distant objects takes billions of years to reach us. Looking at more distant objects reveals the universe’s state further back in time. By the 1990s, scientists realized this allowed them to measure whether the universe’s expansion was slowing down due to gravity. Dr. Riess, working with the High-Z Supernova Team, set out to measure this expected slowing by comparing distant and nearby supernovae. His initial analysis yielded a result implying negative mass, which didn’t

make sense, but it suggested the universe expansion was actually accelerating, not decelerating.

An email chain among colleagues reflected the surprise and skepticism this finding generated just before Dr. Riess’s wedding in 1998. Colleagues like Alex Filippenko remarked on the surprising data. Bruno Leibundgut questioned if they were prepared to defend the result. Brian Schmidt, with whom Dr. Riess would later share the Nobel Prize, also found it perplexing. Robert Kirshner, Dr. Riess’s thesis advisor, felt it would be “silly” to announce a non-zero cosmological constant and then retract it. Despite the initial hesitation, the team, including members like Mark Phillips, John Tonry, Alejandro Clocchiatti, and Nick Suntzeff, ultimately agreed to report their observations. A competing team from Lawrence Berkeley National Lab reached the same conclusion with independent data shortly thereafter. The finding was named the “breakthrough discovery of the year” by Science Magazine in 1998.

Acceptance of the accelerating universe took about a decade, requiring cross-verification through other cosmological observations. These included measurements of the Integrated Sachs-Wolfe effect, studies of the radiation left over from the Big

Bang, observations of galaxy clusters, and measurements of the universe’s scale. Dr. Riess noted winning the Nobel Prize in 2011 solidified the acceptance of the work.

Despite this confirmation, the exact nature of dark energy remains a mystery. Potential explanations include vacuum energy, temporary field energy, or a modification of Einstein’s theory of gravity. Dr. Riess highlighted a current challenge: the “Hubble constant tension,” a discrepancy between the expansion rate measured using nearby objects and the rate predicted from observations of the early universe. This tension suggests there might be missing elements in the standard cosmological model, known as Lambda-CDM which describes the universe as being composed of about 25% dark matter, 70% dark energy, and 4% ordinary matter.

Future missions, like the Euclid space telescope and the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope aim to gather more data to address these questions. Dr. Riess expressed concern about proposed significant cuts to astrophysics funding for NASA and other scientific bodies like the NSF and NIH, noting the potential negative impact on research progress and the future of young scientists. He underscored the importance of basic science research, citing how Einstein’s seemingly esoteric work on general relativity became fundamental to modern technologies like GPS. Ultimately, understanding dark energy is crucial because it dominates the universe, dictates its fate, and lies at the intersection of quantum theory and general relativity, two fundamental but currently incompatible theories of physics. The significant discrepancy between the dark energy predicted by theory and what is observed indicates something profound about physics remains unknown.

A robust question and answer session followed.

The RMA’s upcoming presentation, “Art Fakes and Forgeries” by Serdar Arat, is scheduled for 11 AM on Wednesday, May 7, 2025. Note: This and future RMA presentations will be held at Christ Church Greenwich, Parish Hall, 254 E. Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830.

Art fakes and forgeries give

us the combined satisfaction of a crime mystery and the profound contemplation of what we expect from art in the first place. As fakes get more outrageous and damaging, some forgers enjoy celebrity status, their fakes are studied in museum exhibitions, and museums around the world are full of undetected fakes. We will explore how forgers convince, how they are detected, and why authenticity matters.

Serdar Arat is a visual artist of Turkish origin, living and working in NY since 1980, with nearly 40 one-person and 60 group exhibitions primarily in New York City and Istanbul. Many reviews and articles about his work include half a dozen in The New York Times, a monograph by Bill Arning, a documentary film by Ken Calhoun among others. Recipient of a Pollock Krasner Foundation Grant, his works are in many public and private collections mainly in the USA and Turkey. He has also served as a faculty member and gallery director/curator until 2018, and currently continues to present lectures at the intersection of art and issues of interest. His website is [www.serdararat.com](http://www.serdararat.com).

To stream the presentation by Serdar Arat at 11 AM on Wednesday, May 7, click on <https://bit.ly/30IBj2l>. This presentation will also be available on local public access TV channels, Verizon FIOS channel 24 and Optimum (Cablevision) channel 79.

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).

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COLUMN



By PATRICIA CHADWICK

Michael Lewis has just published another book—this one in collaboration with six other writers, each of whom is renowned as an author. The title: **WHO IS GOVERNMENT?** and the subtitle: **The Untold Story of Public Service** were intriguing. Devouring the book last weekend, I was inspired—each story was a morality tale in its own right. Each subject was a remarkable employee of the federal government who was hardly known to the world at large, but who through diligence, passion, intelligence, curiosity and sacrifice, brought immense value to the public.

A few of the stories include Michael Lewis's, "The Canary," about Chris Mark, the unlikely engineer. The son of a Princeton professor, he was a rebellious teenager who chose to eschew college and went to work as a coal miner in West Virginia in the mid-1970s. He eventually earned a Ph.D. and went to work for the federal government at the Bureau of Mines where he devised a "roof rating" system for long wall mines that became the global standard for safety and

has saved the lives of countless of coal miners. Dave Eggers, a prolific writer, covers the story of Nancy Grace Roman and her career at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Born in 1925, she was the first woman at NASA, where, today, where thirty-one percent of its staff are women. She was known as "The Mother of the Hubble," but preferred not to be singled out. The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, with a panoramic field of vision one hundred times greater than the Hubble, will be launched in a few years.

Perhaps the most emotionally gratifying chapter is by Casey Cet, a staff writer at the New Yorker. Titled, "The Sentinel," it is about Ronald Walters, who currently leads the National Cemetery Administration, a federal government agency that arranges a burial place for any veteran whose family requests a spot in a National Cemetery. I quote from the book, "Thanks to Walters's efforts, 94 percent of American veterans live no further than 75 miles from a veterans' cemetery.

"The Cyber Sleuth" is the story of Jarod Koopman of the IRS and is written by Geraldine Brooks, the author of the bestseller, *Horse*. Jarod's passions are Brazilian jiu-jitsu and accounting. He turned an internship with the IRS in 2001 into a career there, where his sleuthing has led to the rescue of twenty-three children from

***How on earth could Congress approve such a cockamamie scheme? No wonder the social security system is perpetually on the verge of bankruptcy. But who was I to argue with the good news lady?***

rape and assault and the arrest of 370 pedophiles, and has in the past ten years returned more than \$12 billion to victims of crime and to the Treasury.

A paragraph by Michael Lewis sums up the reason **WHO IS GOVERNMENT?** is such a gem. "Democratic government isn't really designed to highlight the individual achievement of unelected officials. You never hear a word about who these people are or where they come from or why it ever occurred to them to bother. Nothing to change the picture in your head when you hear the word 'bureaucrat.' Nothing to arouse curiosity about them or lead you to ask what they do, or why they do it."

At a moment in our American life when there appears to be disdain for the work of so many federal government employees, *Who is Government?* is a must read. By shedding light on the value of their work, the book is a reminder of the respect we owe to all public servants. A couple of factoids may also be enlightening. From a post-World War II high of 5.2% of the workforce in 1952, civilian jobs in the federal government have declined over the last seventy years to under 2% today with

approximately three million federal employees. Given the fact that federal government spending has soared over that period, it's fair to say that the productivity of the federal employee base has also soared.

On the last page of the book, there is an exhortation that reads: Has a federal employee inspired you or made a positive impact on your community, on our country, or on the world? Share that story with the Partnership for Public Service: [yourstories@ourpublicservice.org](mailto:yourstories@ourpublicservice.org). I'm sharing one of my own here.

It was eleven years ago. I had recently turned sixty-five and faced the fact that I was about to enter a new stage in life by becoming a social security recipient. I duly made an appointment at the local Social Security office to discuss my options. I don't remember the date but the time had been specified for 2:15pm. The waiting room was packed, and I was grateful for the newspaper I brought. When my number was called, precisely at 2:15pm, I walked up to the appointed window. The white-haired lady behind the plexiglass knew more about me than I had expected—that I was married and that my husband had

already been receiving Social Security for himself and our two children (by reason of his turning sixty-five before they had turned eighteen). She was solicitous about my financial needs, and I reassured her that I was still working and was happy to postpone receiving any payments for as long as was allowed. That was when her personality came to the fore. "Oh, Sweetheart," she said, her voice part motherly and part teacherly. "There's a wonderful plan just for you. You can collect half of your husband's social security and not touch your own, which will earn eight percent compounded each year. Then when you reach seventy, your income will be far higher than if you start taking it out at sixty-six." I quickly processed the arithmetic and wondered to myself, *How on earth could Congress approve such a cockamamie scheme? No wonder the social security system is perpetually on the verge of bankruptcy.* But who was I to argue with the good news lady? Her mastery of the subject was impressive and her grace in carrying out what I would have thought to be a desultory occupation was edifying. The memory of that meeting with the epitome of

a gracious public servant has remained vivid in my mind. But for the life of me, I couldn't remember her name. Most likely, she had not shared it with me, but how could I tell my story if I was unable to recall her name? So two days before this column went to press, I drove over to the social security office and signed in electronically. Within ten minutes I was facing a pleasant woman behind a plexiglass window and sharing with her my strange request. I told her about Michael Lewis' book and how I wanted to add my modest experience to the list of federal employees whose work is appreciated. She understood and began searching the records until she found the date of my visit, but there was no employee name. "She was so vivacious," I blurted out, "and so knowledgeable. And she called me 'sweetheart' and 'honey' and 'darling.'" It was then that the woman's eyes lit up and nodding her head, she smiled and said, "When you give that description, I know who it was—Mrs. Chavis." "Has she retired?" I queried. "Yes." "And may I have your name also?" "Ms. Rodriguez." Mission accomplished. Thank you, Mrs. Chavis and Ms. Rodriguez for caring.

# Olympic medalists Maia and Alex Shibutani shine on sidelines at 2025 Boston Worlds

By LIZ LEAMY

Maia and Alex Shibutani, the 2018 two-time Olympic bronze medalists, three-time World medalists and two-time U.S. champions who originally hail from Greenwich, were, much to the delight of many, on hand at the 2025 World Championships at the TD Garden in Boston last week where they spent time catching up with friends and others to designate this as yet another golden moment for them since the last time they were at this venue in 2016, it was where they clinched a World silver medal.

Maia, who attended Greenwich Academy, and Alex, who went to Brunswick School, appeared as buoyant as they connected with so many of their friends and others from the figure skating community at this event.

During their visit, they were also joined by Marina Zoueva, their longtime coach who had also worked with Meryl Davis and Charlie White, the 2014 Olympic champions.

***"We love Greenwich," said Maia and Alex Shibutani, the two-time 2018 Olympic medalists who hail from Greenwich and were at the 2025 World Championships at the TD Garden in Boston last week, the same spot where they clinched World silver in 2016. "That's where we started skating."***

"It's great to be here and be with everyone," said Alex, who, along with his sister, are official sponsored athletes for the Ralph Lauren Corporation as well as brand ambassadors for Tumi, Inc.

Alex and Maia, meanwhile, have also worked with such other worldwide brands as Intel, Coca-Cola Corporation's Minute Maid, the Hershey Company's Ice Breakers and Smucker's Milk Bones.

In 2020, Maia and Alex wrote the popular book 'Kudo Kids: The Mystery of the Masked Medalist,' a fun middle-grade mystery that takes place at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. (Michelle Schusterman also joined them as a fellow author of

the book, while Yaoyao Ma did its illustrations.)

During their time at the TD Garden, Maia and Alex beamed when asked about Greenwich by the media.

"We love Greenwich," said Maia and Alex. "That's where we started skating."

Growing up, Maia and Alex had spent time training at the Hamill Rink in town where, on particularly cold days, they would go to the warming hut and sit under the heat lamps to get warm.

During that period, the two trained with Slavka Button, the U.S. Olympic and World coach from Greenwich who taught the 1972 U.S. Olympic bronze medalist, Janet Lynn, and who



Alex Shibutani (left), Maia Shibutani (right), the 2018 two-time Olympic bronze medalists who originally hail from Greenwich with their longtime coach, Marina Zoueva at the 2025 World Championships in Boston last week, the same spot where they clinched a World silver medal in 2016. (Photo by Liz Leamy)

had sadly passed away in March 2024.

Asked about the prospect of visiting Greenwich in the

future, Maia and Alex said they are looking forward to visiting and spending time here in the future.

"We definitely want to come back," said Alex.

# Rye fourth graders work in tandem with Bread of Life pantry to help support area community

By LIZ LEAMY

Several weeks ago, 17 fourth graders from the Midland School in Rye banded together in enthusiastic fashion to help assist the Bread of Life with its popular bi-weekly pantry.

This crew, which was organized several years ago by the school's Parent Teacher Organization in tandem with its teaching staff and the Bread of Life representatives, could be seen having a terrific and productive time at the pantry that is held every other Monday at 65 Orchard Avenue in Rye from 10am to 12pm.

Throughout this slightly rainy morning, this hard-working crew spent most of their time doing such things as help pack vegetable bags, carry and put together bags filled with dry items such as peanut butter, pasta and canned goods and help pass bags out to pantry recipients, among other things.

"This is an amazing opportunity for everyone to give back and the kids are very excited to be here," said Greg Moraitis, teacher of the group who is in his 21st year

of teaching and 20th year at Midland School, located on 312 Midland Avenue in Rye. "This is such a great experience for all of them and they are all doing such a great job."

The Bread of Life representatives agreed.

"Each year, one of the fourth grade classes [at Midland] joins us at the pantry to serve their food insecure neighbors," said Sue Wexler of Rye, Director of Community Outreach for the Bread of Life and Giving Tree Global, Inc., which is also a partner of Trinity Church has locations in Greenwich, New Canaan and Westchester. "I do not know who is more blessed by our time together, the students, teachers, volunteers or food recipients. It is wonderful to see the joy on the recipients' faces as they are handed food by the smiling children."

Wexler said several weeks prior to this event, she had visited with the students at Midland to help provide them with information on the issue of food insecurity.

"Each year, I go to the school to teach the students about food

insecurity and the work that we do at the Bread of Life to help feed the bodies and souls," said Wexler, who also grew up in Greenwich and had attended Greenwich High School. "Food insecurity is on the rise in our area and we have seen the numbers of people who come to our pantry on a Monday rise significantly."

Wexler added that the Bread of Life has been partnered with Midland School with this effort for nine years running.

"Midland School holds food drives throughout the school year with the highlight being their community service week which occurs each spring and each year, one of the fourth grade classes joins us at the pantry to serve their food insecure neighbors," said Wexler. "The kids learned today what it truly means 'stop for the one in front of you.'"

Moraitis expressed similar sentiments.

"This is a great opportunity for the kids to get involved and be of service out of the classroom," said Moraitis. "This experience is all about gratitude



Some of the Midland School fourth graders with their teacher, Greg Moraitis and Sue Wexler, Director of Community Outreach for the Bread of Life organization based in Rye, during their time helping out with its popular bi-weekly pantry. (Photo courtesy of the Bread of Life organization)

***"This is an amazing opportunity for everyone to give back and the kids are very excited to be here," said Greg Moraitis, teacher of the group who is in his 21st year of teaching and 20th year at Midland School, located on 312 Midland Avenue in Rye. "This is such a great experience for all of them and they are all doing such a great job."***

and the importance of working together to help one another."

For more information about how to get involved or donate to

the Bread of Life, please contact them at:

Giving Tree Global Inc./Bread of Life

65 Orchard Hill Avenue  
Rye, NY 10580  
[info@givingtreeglobal.org](mailto:info@givingtreeglobal.org)  
9146029783



# Worship 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: Saturday, May 3, 1:30pm.*

**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. *Women's Brunch featuring Peggy Walker as the keynote speaker: Saturday, May 17, 10am, RSVP to [gbcfellowship246@gmail.com](mailto:gbcfellowship246@gmail.com).*

**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. The Prayer Shawl Ministry would like to invite parishioners who knit or crochet (or would like to learn) to join us to knit or crochet prayer shawls. The next monthly meeting is on Saturday, May 3, 9:30am, in the School Hall.*

**St. Catherine of Siena & 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 (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). Volunteer Opportunity: Share Your Time and Compassion! Our Parish Partners Ministry of Hope is seeking kind-hearted volunteers to support our homebound parishioners. To sign up or learn more, please contact Jeannemarie Baker at (203) 637-3661 (ext. 375)*

or ParishPartners@stc-sta.org. *Music in the Spring – an hour of Jazz: Sunday, May 4, 2:30pm, free (donations welcome). St. Catherine's Support Circle: "Advice from a Professional Recruiter" presented by Sandy Gross: Thursday, May 8, 7-8:15pm, Zoom Meeting, please RSVP by Monday, May 5 to the meeting chair, Michelle Bucaria at [michelle.bucaria@yahoo.com](mailto:michelle.bucaria@yahoo.com).*

**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. *New Day Bereavement Program: Tuesdays, 1-2:30pm, through March 18. Breakfast: Sunday, May 4, after 9 & 10:30am Masses, \$12 for Adults & \$8 for children, all are welcome.*

**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.*

**St. Timothy Chapel**  
1034 North St.; 203-869-5421

Mass: Sat: 4pm (Vigil Mass). Sun: 11am.

**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. First Friday Devotion: May 2 – there will be 9am Mass, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Act of Consecration, and Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament. Confessions will also be available 8:30-8:55am. First Saturday Devotion – pray the Rosary: May 3, 9am. "The Class of Life" – A Theatrical Experience starring Paul Failla: Saturday, May 17, 7pm, \$50, Tickets sold until May 13, for tickets contact Nancy Casino at 914-403-1749.*

**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  
[christiansciencet.org/greenwich](http://christiansciencet.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, 1-5pm. Bibles and children's books for sale. *Sermon for May 4: Everlasting Punishment.*

**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. *Third Sunday of Easter, Holy Communion: May 4, 10am.*

**Round Hill Community Church**  
395 Round Hill Rd;  
203-869-1091  
[www.roundhillcommunity-church.org](http://www.roundhillcommunity-church.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. Harmony for Hope Benefit Concert: Sunday, May 4, 4pm. DIY Mother's Day Bouquet Event – Supporting Moms in Need: Saturday, May 10, 10am-12pm, in the parlor, \$10 per bouquet, with all proceeds benefiting Malta House.*

**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. *RISE Against Hunger Meal Packing (no church service): Sunday, May 4, 10am-12pm.*

**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 10:30am worship. *Teddy Bear Story Hour at Coffee For Good: Saturday, May 3, 8am. 2CC Moms' Sip & Swap: Friday, May 16, 6:30-8pm.*

**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 Sun, 8:45am, 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. Book Study: The Anxious Generation: Sundays, March 30 & April 6, 11:15am. Joyful Noise with Anna Leinbach: Sundays, April 6, May 11, June 1. Joyful noise with Rob Mathes: Sundays, March 30, April 27, May 25, June 29, 5pm. Lenten Lectio Divina with Rev. Tim: Wednesdays, through April 16, 11:15-11:45am, Chapel. Family Bingo Night: Friday, May 2, 5:30pm. In-person Tour at Yale Art Gallery Saturday, May 3, 11am, 1111 Chapel St, New Haven. Sunday Forum: Paul's Letters: Ancient Wisdom for Modern Times: Sunday, May 4, 11:15am. Free Book Discussion: "The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store" by James McBride: Tuesday, May 6, 12pm, Dogwood Books & Gifts. Bishop Jeffrey Mello "My Recent Trip to the War-Torn Holy Land": Tuesday, May 6, 6:30pm Dinner & 7pm Presentation, free but registration is required. Randall Atcheson Organ Performance: Friday, May 9, 6pm, General Admission - \$25, Students - Free. Free Talk & Breakfast: "Civility in Turbulent Times and the Future of American Politics": Saturday, May 10, 8:30am, Tomes-Higgins House, RSVP. Joyful Noise with Music by Anna Leinbach: Sunday, May 11, 5pm.*

**St. Barnabas Episcopal Church**  
954 Lake Ave.; 203-661-5526  
[www.stbarnabasgreenwich.org](http://www.stbarnabasgreenwich.org)

Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 10AM (in person and livestreamed). Our exciting Sunday School programs for kids and youth take place during the 10am service: Children's Church for kids 4-8 years old, and YC (Youth Church) for those 9+. Children are also welcome in church for both services, and child-care is provided all morning in our nursery. Sundays also feature joyful preaching by our clergy, Father Justin and Rev. Phoebe, and beautiful music by our director of music, Marnus Greyling, and the St. Barnabas Choir. Come experience the joy of the God of Jesus Christ. 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.stpaulsriveraside.org](http://www.stpaulsriveraside.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. *Good Friday Service: April 18, 7pm. Easter Egg Hunt – April 19, 11am, all are welcome.*

**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. "Colorful Profiles" – Short Stories of Extraordinary Lives from Jewish History: Four Sundays, beginning May 4, 9:30am.*

**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, 7-9pm, First Presbyterian Church. Soul Spa - Torah Study: Saturdays, 10am, on Zoom. Pride, Pain and Purpose Astride the Mideast: alternating Tuesdays through June 24, 7pm, 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. *Tora Study with Rabbi Gerson: Sunday, May 4, 9:45am. Lunch 'n Learn with Cantor Rubin: Thursday, May 8, 12pm.*

**Temple Sholom**  
300 E. Putnam Ave.;  
203-869-7191  
[www.templesholom.com](http://www.templesholom.com)

Services - In-person and virtual Friday night Shabbat services, 6:30pm & Saturday morning Shabbat services, 10:30am. *Celebrate Israel Concert: Sunday, May 4, 4pm. Game Night: Mah Jongg & Canasta: Monday, May 5, 7pm. Sisterhood Annual Lag B'Omer Trip: Tuesday, May 6, Meet at 8:30am (bus pick-up/drop-off location provided upon registration).*

**Lutheran**  
**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
286 Delavan Ave.;  
203-531-8466  
[www.firststpaul.com](http://www.firststpaul.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

day 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 [revivecfm@gmail.com](mailto:revivecfm@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 & above, are offered. Praise & Prayer Night: 6pm on the First Sunday of each month. Live stream and recorded media are available at [stanwich-church.org](http://stanwich-church.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 [Albertsonpcc@gmail.com](mailto:Albertsonpcc@gmail.com) for registration and Zoom Links). *Virtual Spiritual Mediumship: Mondays, May 5, 12, 19 & June 2 & 9, 7-9pm, \$120 register at CS-DPastor@gmail.com. In-person Psychic Fair: Saturday, May 10, 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. *Trinity Women's Breakfast: Saturday, May 3, 9-11am, Ministry Center. Mother's Day Celebration: Sunday, May 11, 11:30am, Greenwich Service.*

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

Worship: Sundays, 10am. *FPCG Il Barbiere di Siviglia Opera Trip: Saturday, May 3, 10:15am-5pm. Spring Lunch: Friday, May 9, 12-3pm.*

**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.LivingHopeoct.org](http://www.LivingHopeoct.org)

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



COLUMN



By Rev. Maxwell Grant

Years ago, when I was teaching, I had a student whose life went off the deep end, and who had to step away from school for a while to get her life back on track.

Happily, she did, and the day of her return was a great one—literally, a story of someone who had departed shamefully under cover of darkness now returning triumphantly in the full light of a new day.

She was transformed — and as best I can tell, her transformation has stuck, and the life she has gone on to build has been full and very happy.

I'm also sure it has not been entirely easy.

Way back when, I saw one early moment that probably wasn't.

It was on that wonderful warm, spring day of student's return, as we happened to be walking by one of her old haunts.

At that moment, one of her old crew stepped out and ran over to give her a big hug.

"You're back!" she said. "Oh, honey, we've missed you!" Her smile was big and genuine.

And then she added, seeming to forget that a teacher was standing right there: "Do you want to come up to my room and...hang out until sports?"

Being the teacher, I was prepared to intervene. I need not have worried. Showing a graciousness beyond her years, my young friend warmly declined.

Smiling, she said, "Oh, I don't think that would be such a great idea for me..." She let it hang there

for a fraction of a second.

And her former friend smiled back, maybe as her own request caught up with her, and said, "Ok, honey. No problem."

They hugged again and parted ways.

In telling the story again, I'm been tempted to end with an old cliché like, "And that was that."

It is true that, as far as I know, my student never did revisit her former haunts or take back up with her former circle.

But if that was hard for her, or what parts made it hard — if turning the page wasn't as simple "that was that" — I never knew.

That gap in the record is important to acknowledge, even in a happy story.

It's also a reminder that when the church talks about new life, we may err a bit in making new life sound easier than it is.

We should try harder to make sure we don't.

For so many people, even when it's clear there is so much else (and better) to live for, and every reason to try, this is not the hard part.

Loving people or turning over a new leaf rarely end with the flick of a switch, even when it's obvious that the people or the habits we rely on aren't good for us. Few of us are made of such steely determination.

The grace that leads us to reach for new life often requires the strength to let go of the old one, not just once on a sunny spring day, but in the cold and cloudy moments when the comforts and companionship of the old life seem, however briefly, to make a lot of sense again.

Developing that strength is a whole other grace of its own.

Unfortunately, we tend to let that pass in silence — to tolerate those gaps in the record, as if the inspiration ought to be enough.

Early in my career as a pastor,

*The grace that leads us to reach for new life often requires the strength to let go of the old one, not just once on a sunny spring day, but in the cold and cloudy moments.*

I was invited to offer an invocation at the open meeting and annual dinner for the AA group that met every morning in our church basement.

When I arrived, in a moment that is probably repeated in the life of every meeting on a regular basis, I was astonished to recognize so many faces—congregants, neighbors, parents and grandparents of my kids.

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When I arrived, in a moment that is probably repeated in the life of every meeting on a regular basis, I was astonished to recognize so many faces—congregants, neighbors, parents and grandparents of my kids.

It was profoundly humbling to witness their joy in lives I hadn't truly understood as "new," and to realize the strength this required, even as they went about daily life without much fuss or fanfare.

Not everyone sees this is religious terms, of course, but for me, it was revelatory.

The God who makes all things new is the God who works to sustain all things on either side of our moments of clarity.

I'd heard that in seminary. In principle, I surely believed it.

But what a difference to see it in action — to encounter grace

abounding in real time.

God's love and presence don't need to be flashy to be very, very good.

They may not make things easy, even as they quietly sustain us.

In fact, it's probably better if they don't.

The chapters of our lives rarely end with "that was that," so easy conclusions tend to be premature at best and false at worst.

Yet in the letting go and the taking hold, God is with us.

The proof is all around us. Let's pass the word.

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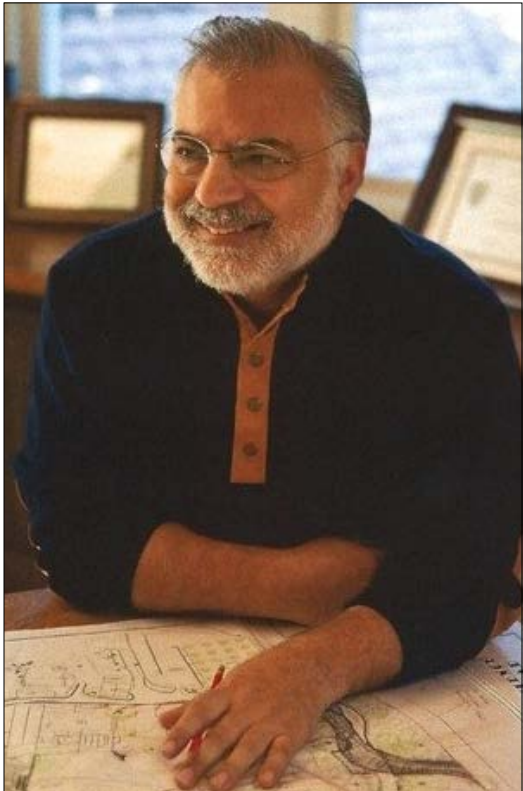
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*Rev. Maxwell Grant, PhD has served as senior minister of the Second Congregational Church of Greenwich since 2012. He is also Board Chair of the Congregational Library and Archives in Boston and Moderator of the Fairfield West Association of the United Church of Christ.*

# Obituaries

*The Sentinel does not charge for obituaries because every life in our community deserves to be honored and remembered without financial barriers. By providing this service at no cost, we ensure that families can share their loved ones' stories freely, preserving their legacies as part of Greenwich's history. To submit an obituary email [Carroll@GreenwichSentinel.com](mailto:Carroll@GreenwichSentinel.com)*



JOHN CONTE, JR.

John Robert Conte Jr. died suddenly, at home, on April 22, 2025.

John was born in Greenwich, CT, at Greenwich Hospital on July 16, 1959, to John and Principia Conti. He attended Greenwich schools and graduated from St. Mary High School in 1977, where he played goalie on the varsity hockey team and was Senior Class President.

After high school graduation, John attended the State University of New York, where he earned a degree in horticulture. With a passion for the beauty of trees, he later became a CT State licensed arborist. John went on to become a CT and NY licensed Landscape Architect as well. To further his professional acumen, he also studied Architectural History at Columbia University and Horticulture at Harvard Graduate School of Design. He frequently described these studies as a "hobby" because he so loved what he did in his work life.

John had decided early on that he wanted to work alongside his father in their family business, Fairfield Tree Service, which was founded by his father, in Greenwich, in 1937.

John and Kim took over ownership of Fairfield Tree Service in 1985. Along with his love for trees, he developed a passion for landscapes and their design. He grew the business into Fairfield House & Garden Co., specializing in landscape construction and fine home building. Along with Fairfield House & Garden, John later formed a second business in Greenwich, Conte & Conte, which focuses on Landscape Architecture and Engineering.

John was a true visionary. As soon as he stepped onto a property, he could visualize how to transform it into something magical and unique. Over the years, he developed an extensive portfolio of beautiful landscapes that came to life under his direction, many of

which can be found right in Greenwich. John envisioned and created unique design solutions, always seeing past the ordinary to find the extraordinary. And always, John was a champion of trees and their protection.

John married his beloved wife, Kimberly (Steven-son) Conte, in 1983. Like John, Kim too is a lifelong Greenwich native. They raised their two adored sons in Greenwich, while running the family business together for 41 years. John met Kim in 1982 on the Byram Park softball field when Kim was set up for a blind date with someone else. Unfortunately for that date, John spotted Kim and Kim spotted John at that game, and it truly was love at first sight for each other. They were engaged seven months later. That love was at the center of everything they did – how they raised their children, how they worked so beautifully together, and how they treated their family, friends, colleagues, clients and strangers. All with love.

John was a consummate family man. He most loved time spent gathering with his family and friends. He threw many large gatherings at his beloved "Lang-horne Lodge" home. His home was always open to everyone, and John had a knack for making those in his presence feel comfortable, cared for and loved.

John had so many talents and enjoyed many hobbies. What made them most enjoyable to him, though, was sharing them with others. He loved taking family members for a spin on the Long Island Sound in his beautiful boat, or painstakingly setting up his intricately-created Christmas train scene on the outside porch for all the grandchildren and nieces and nephews to enjoy. He loved to keep the outdoor fireplace he built, stoked for visitors to gather around, while bringing you the best tasting cappuccino around. John loved people and John loved life.

Upon returning home to Greenwich whenever traveling, John always commented on what a privilege it was to come home to the beautiful town of Greenwich. He marveled at its beauty and character. And he was passionate about keeping its best qualities for generations to come. Because of this, John gave generously of his time, throughout his life, to the many town organizations in which he was involved. John's wise, steady counsel made him an asset to the numerous non-profits and Greenwich Town agencies on which he served. He was a board member of Family Center, the Greenwich Chapter of the Boy Scouts, the Greenwich Land Trust and Greenwich Audubon. John was Board President for Greenwich Green & Clean, the Round Hill Association, and the Greenwich Tree Conservancy. John spent many years as Co-Chair of both the Greenwich Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency and the Architectural Review Committee.

John will be so sorely missed. But those who knew John can be continually reminded of him as they ride through the beautiful Greenwich streets. It is likely they'll be passing by a landscape that he designed, or a welcoming park that he created, or a lovely storefront design that he approved, or a tree that he saved.

John is survived by his beloved wife, Kimberly, sons, John III (Juliana) and David, grandchildren, David Jr., Giovanni and Eloise, and siblings: Cheryl Conte, Regina Lupo (Anthony deceased), Sandra Marr (Richard), sister-in-law, Leslie T. Stevenson; brother-in-law, Peter B. Stevenson (Kathy), and many beloved nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Calling hours were Tuesday, April 29 at Cox and Graziano Funeral Home. A Memorial Funeral Mass was held on Wednesday, April 30 at St. Michael's Church, Greenwich.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in John's memory to the following charities: Greenwich Botanical Center, Greenwich Tree Conservancy, Greenwich

Land Trust, Greenwich Audubon, or, simply, just plant a tree.



MAISEY O'DONNELL

Catherine Mason "Maisey" O'Donnell died in Boston, MA on Friday, April 25 from injuries sustained in a car accident in Florida.

Born in Nashville, TN on October 16, 2006 to Elizabeth Keating O'Donnell and Christoph Tobias O'Donnell, Maisey was raised in Concord, MA where she was a senior at Concord-Carlisle High School.

Maisey was a gifted athlete and student. She was the two-time Massachusetts MIAA Division I State Diving Champion and was undefeated in her Junior and Senior seasons. She was the three-time North Sectionals Champion and Dual County League Champion and a four-year varsity letter winner. In club diving, as a four-year member of Boston Area Diving, she earned AAU All-American honors her junior year and competed at USA Diving Nationals and Red, White and Blue Nationals.

Maisey also excelled academically. She was an honors student at Concord-Carlisle High School. She was a member of the National Honor Society and a National Merit Commended Scholar. She was accepted to the Class of 2029 at Williams College, and was eagerly looking forward to diving for the Ephs.

Maisey was beautiful, inside and out. She was humble, ethical, and highly intelligent. She could perform under pressure and rise to the occasion. She was a tremendous friend, sister, and daughter. She was giving and kind, especially with the many younger divers in the diving community. She led by example, lifting newcomers and celebrating her fellow competitors. She loved Taylor Swift, Crumbl, and her daily iced coffee. She made sure her hair was done, regardless of how little she had slept. She was a self-described optimist.

Maisey is survived by her parents and sister, Emery "Emmy" C. O'Donnell, her great-grandfather Thomas L.P. O'Donnell, Sr. of Hingham, MA, her grandparents R. Keating Hagmann and Ann R. Hagmann of Cos Cob, CT, and her aunts Caroline R. Hagmann of Stamford, CT, and Anna C. O'Donnell and her husband, Bulent Ceylon of Bangkok, Thailand, her uncle, Tilman J. O'Donnell and his wife, Melinda Kinnaman of Stockholm, Sweden, and her four cousins.

Family and friends will gather to celebrate Maisey's life during visiting hours at Dee Funeral Home, 27 Bedford Street, Concord, MA on Friday,

May 2 from 4 to 8 p.m. Her Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, May 3 at 1 p.m. in St. Bernard's Church at Holy Family Parish, 12 Monument Square, Concord Center. Additional seating and streaming of the service will be available at First Parish, 20 Lexington Road, Concord Center. A live stream link will be shared on the funeral home website.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be sent to the Maisey O'Donnell Fund, a fund at the Community Foundation for MetroWest (<https://www.communityfoundationmw.org/maisey-odonnell-fund>). The Fund will benefit the diving community and facilities in Concord and the greater Boston area. Nothing would make Maisey happier than to see the local diving facilities improved for the benefit of future divers to allow them grow through diving, as she did. Checks may also be mailed directly to The Maisey O'Donnell Fund, c/o Community Foundation for MetroWest, 3 Eliot Street, Natick, MA 01760 or simply call the Foundation directly to make a donation.

Arrangements are entrusted to Dee Funeral Home & Cremation Service of Concord, MA. To share a remembrance or photo of Maisey, please visit [www.DeeFuneralHome.com](http://www.DeeFuneralHome.com).

KAREN GREENBERG

Karen Greenberg, longtime resident of Greenwich, CT, passed away on April 23, 2025. She was 86 years old.

Karen was born in Greenwich, CT at Greenwich Hospital, where her mother, Sylvia worked as a private duty nurse. She was the daughter of Samuel and Sylvia Greenberg.

She grew up in Port Chester, New York, the oldest of three, with her sister, Ellen and brother, Frank. After graduating from Port Chester High School, Karen headed to Bennington College in Vermont for a year before spending a summer in Europe taking in all the art museums. Then she returned to NYC to study at The Arts Students League of New York and lived near Greenwich Village where she had many wonderful friends. Karen had some success selling her semi - abstract oil paintings of people and flowers after joining a cooperative art gallery on 10th St. The twenty artist members had solo and group shows, and Karen sold more than anyone else in the gallery. She did supplement her income teaching nursery school and leading after school art programs for children at various churches, community centers; at a Saks Furniture Store she had classes of gifted students. Karen also did some freelance work for publishing houses compiling indexes. Karen also attended the Cooper Union Art School, located in East Village, New York City.

Seeking a better climate, she spent three years in San Francisco and four in Salt Lake City, then moved back east to Greenwich about thirty years ago. She has called Witherell Home since the fall of 2011.

Karen enjoyed painting, cultural activities, such as theatre and music. Karen will be remembered for her good free spirit, beautiful artwork and sense of humor. She enjoyed talking with other residents at Witherell that were interested in the arts. Friends and family loved her deeply.

She is survived by her brother, Frank Greenberg, sister, Ellen Johns, and niece, Rachel Greenberg.

Karen is predeceased by both her parents.

The Greenberg Family sincerely appreciates Nathaniel Witherell staff and nurses for the care they provided to Karen.

Services are private. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to American Civil Liberties Union.



COLUMN

# Confronting the “Brokenness” Within



By RABBI MITCHELL HURVITZ

How does God look upon our “brokenness?”

An ancient Midrash teaches: All that God prohibited in an animal sacrifice, God accepts in a human being. What does God prohibit in an animal sacrifice? As the Book of Leviticus records, ‘Anything blind, broken, maimed, with a wart, or defect, may not be brought as an offering to the Lord.’ But, all these things which render a sacrifice unfit, God fully accepts; the Holy One sees as fitting in a human being.

The Chazal (Sages of Blessed Memory) understood, only too well, that we often live in a state of brokenness. Besides the larger challenges of world

affairs, societal woes, etc., we often confront brokenness in our interpersonal relationships, state of personal health, or the health of loved ones.

Oscar Wilde wrote: Each man kills the thing he loves...Some do it with a bitter look, Some with a flattering word...Some kill their love when they are young, And some when they are old; Some strangle with the hands of Lust, Some with the hands of Gold...Some love too little, some too long, Some sell, and others buy; Some do the deed with many tears, And some without a sigh: For each man kills the thing he loves, Yet each man does not die.

Our unkind words and actions - even small and minor - break the world. Each of us experiences brokenness, sometimes as the victim and sometimes as the culprit. But, from our brokenness we can prompt mending.

“For everything I do that will tear at you let me say I’m sorry now.” (“I’ll Say I’m Sorry Now” by John Leventhal & Shawn Colvin)

## How does God look upon our “brokenness?”

As the poet and songwriter Leonard Cohen wrote, “Ring the bells that still can ring, forget your perfect offering. There is a crack in everything—that’s how the light gets in.”

God never wants brokenness for us. However, God can always embrace us when we are fractured. When our willingness is in place, God can help us find the ability to let the light back into our darkened lives. Rabbinic dogma asserts that when we participate in the mitzvah of teshuvah (repentance), we embrace letting God’s light back into our lives.

Brokenness is difficult. While we can’t lessen the pain, we can alleviate the suffering. We can radically accept what we cannot change or control. After that, we can utilize the energies available to us to confront those challenging items we can change or control effectively, and this is where God can bolster our

resolve. We can learn from our mistakes, grow and change, acknowledge the hurt we feel or have caused, and find the resolve to move forward.

Perhaps God would want us to have a “perfect offering,” but such perfection can never be achieved in our mortal lives, as the physical body is fragile.

The light comes through the cracks only if we let it in. Our bodies are made from the dust, but our souls are made in the image of God. The physical will eventually break, but the soul can be made whole.

The Psalmist reminds us that God will never reject a “crushed and broken heart.” We are broken vessels, but: All that God prohibited in an animal sacrifice, God accepts in a human being.

Reb Nachman famously taught, “There is nothing more whole than a broken heart.” The broken heart facilitates the light that can penetrate the cracks of

our lives. The mortal condition is that we will all become broken somehow. No matter our path, where we came from, where we started, or where we finished, no matter how rich or poor we are, everyone will become broken at one point or another.

However, our brokenness can connect us. It can be the incubator of our greater love and empathy for others. We can share our personal experiences with others. Our struggles can serve as a mechanism for personal growth and an example for others. The temptation is to avoid challenges, but we then prevent our personal growth and shared humanity.

God helps us utilize our brokenness. We can emerge from the pit of despair and better appreciate the blessings we still possess. We can leave the place of darkness and subsequently more completely open our eyes to the needs of others. Then, we will be more

inclined to open our hearts and extend our arms to the warm embrace of those in need.

God understands how we need Divine support when feeling challenged. But God also enabled us to learn and grow from adversity and become more supportive of others when they feel challenged.

From our brokenness comes strength.

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

COLUMN

# Why We’re All So Tired – And What to Do About It



By MARGARITA COSSUTO, PhD

Many people assume feeling tired is just the cost of a busy life. But more often than not, the root of this constant exhaustion is poor sleep – not just how long we sleep, but how well we sleep.

Sleep is one of the most important ways our bodies and minds take care of themselves. While we sleep, the brain clears out what’s no longer needed, organizes memories, and resets our emotional balance. Meanwhile, the body repairs, restores, and recharges for the day ahead.

Think of sleep like a washing machine cycle. It needs time to run all the way through to really do its job. If we cut it short, it’s like pulling clothes out too early – they’re still tangled, unfinished, not quite ready. When we don’t give ourselves enough quality sleep, it leaves essential repairs incomplete, and little by little, we start to feel it – in our energy, our mood, and our health. Sleep isn’t a luxury; it’s the quiet work that keeps everything running smoothly.

The good news? Small, consistent changes can help rebuild healthier sleep and restore the energy you’ve been missing.

### Why Sleep Is So Disrupted for So Many

#### Stress and Worry

Stress is one of sleep’s biggest enemies. When the brain stays stuck in problem-solving mode, it’s harder to shift into the deep relaxation needed for restorative sleep. A classic sign of stress-related sleep disruption is falling asleep easily but waking in the middle of the night with a racing mind.

#### Pain and Physical Discomfort

Chronic pain, joint stiffness, and other discomforts are major contributors to poor sleep. Even mild pain can cause tossing and turning or lighter, more fragmented sleep. Conditions like arthritis, back pain, migraines, or recovery from surgery can quietly erode sleep quality over time.

#### Lifestyle Habits

Late-night screen time, caffeine after noon, and irregular sleep schedules confuse the body’s natural rhythms. Even habits we think are harmless, like “catching up” on sleep on weekends, can backfire over time.

#### Sleep Disorders

Conditions like insomnia, sleep apnea, and restless legs syndrome are surprisingly common and

## You deserve more than just getting through the day – you deserve to wake up restored.



often go undiagnosed. If sleep remains difficult after making healthy changes, it’s important to consult a doctor or sleep specialist.

### What You Can Do to Sleep Better

Improving sleep isn’t about being perfect – it’s about creating the right conditions for rest. Here’s where to start:

#### Maintain a Consistent Sleep Schedule

Our brains thrive on regular patterns. Going to bed and waking

up at the same time each day – even on weekends – helps strengthen your body’s internal clock, making it easier to fall asleep and wake up feeling refreshed.

#### Prioritize Winding Down

Protect the hour before bedtime as a true wind-down period. Turn off bright screens, avoid work and stressful conversations, and focus on calming activities like light reading, gentle stretching, or deep breathing. These small rituals

signal to your brain that it’s time to sleep.

### If Pain or Discomfort Are Disrupting Your Sleep

Talk to your doctor about managing nighttime pain. Adjusting pillows, using a supportive mattress, and practicing relaxation techniques like progressive muscle relaxation can make a real difference. Creating a more comfortable sleep environment helps the body relax more fully at night.

#### Limit Clock-Watching

Checking the clock when you wake during the night only increases anxiety. If you can’t fall back asleep within 20–30 minutes, get up, do something quiet in low light, and return to bed when you feel sleepy.

#### Be Thoughtful About Naps

Naps can be helpful, but if you’re struggling with nighttime sleep, long or late-afternoon naps can interfere. Keep naps short – about 20–30 minutes – and earlier in the day if possible.

#### If Sleep Problems Persist

If healthy changes aren’t enough, seek help. Sleep disorders

are common and getting a diagnosis can open the door to treatments that truly help. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I) is a research-backed approach that helps retrain sleep patterns, often without medication.

#### Final Thoughts

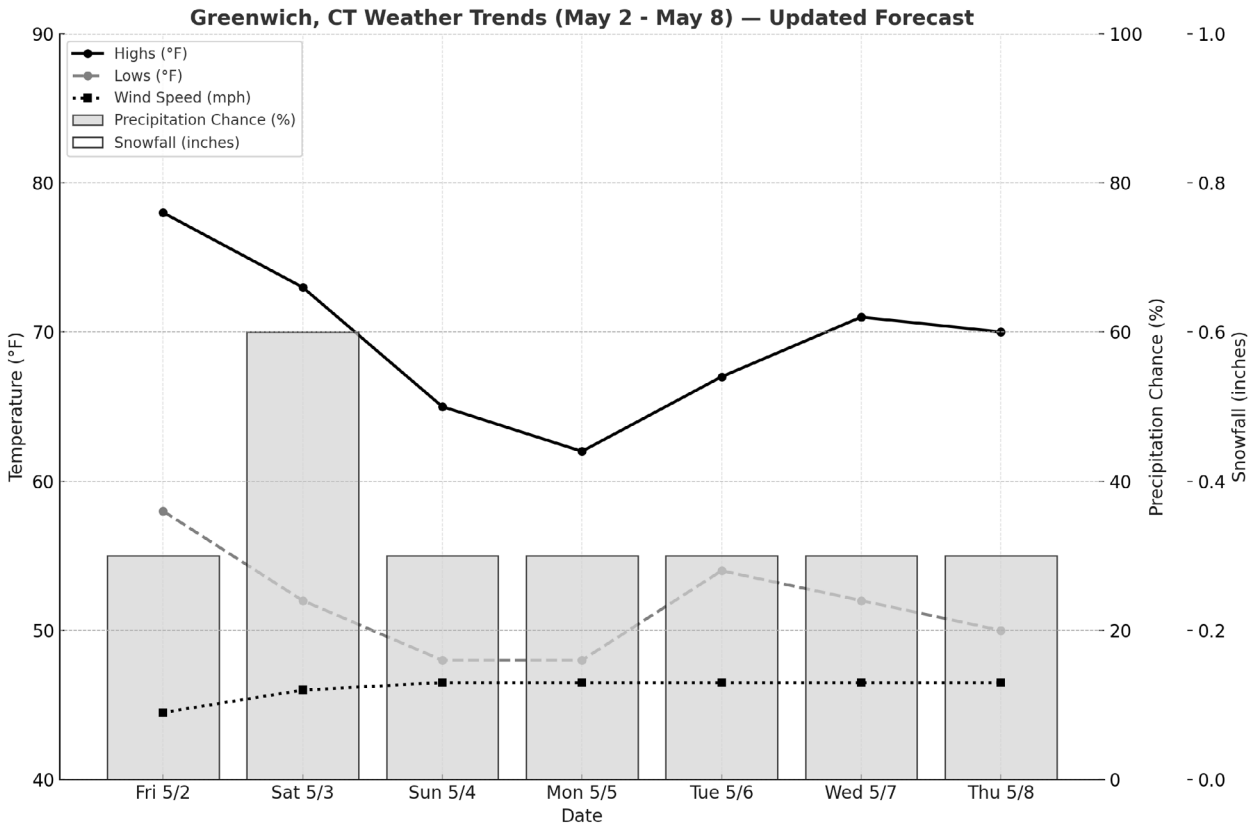
Feeling tired all the time isn’t inevitable – and it’s not something you just have to accept. Good sleep is essential for physical health, emotional well-being, and everyday energy.

Often, it’s the small changes that make the biggest difference over time. If sleep remains a challenge, know that effective help is available.

You deserve a life that feels sustainable – not just surviving the day but waking up restored and ready to live it fully. And it all starts with sleep.

*Margarita Cossuto, PhD, is a licensed clinical psychologist and the founder of Journey to Thrive Psychology in Westport, CT. She is passionate about helping adolescents and adults improve their sleep, manage anxiety and create sustainable habits for long-term well-being.*

# Greenwich Weather Forecast: Here’s What to Expect



As Greenwich enters the first full week of May, residents can expect a mix of mild temperatures, light winds, and intermittent rainfall. The weather pattern from May 2 through May 8 reflects a typical early spring transition, with no major storms forecasted but several days carrying a chance of showers.

Friday begins with partly sunny skies and above-average warmth, with highs reaching the upper 70s. There is a slight chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon, though any rainfall is expected to be brief. Saturday brings the highest likelihood of rain for the week, including the possibility of afternoon thunderstorms. While precipitation totals will likely remain under half an inch, the unsettled conditions may affect outdoor plans.

From Sunday through Thursday, the forecast remains consistent: highs in the mid-60s to low 70s, partly sunny skies, and a 30% chance of light showers each day. Winds will generally be from the northwest at 10 to 15 mph, helping to keep humidity levels in check and bringing in drier air as the week progresses.

Although no single day is expected to bring prolonged rainfall, residents should be prepared for occasional wet conditions, especially during afternoon hours. The overall trend points toward gradual stabilization, with more consistent sunshine likely returning after May 8.

Greenwich residents planning outdoor activities are advised to monitor daily updates, but can expect manageable conditions with limited disruptions.



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# Teachers Have All the Answers

By Emily Raudenbush Gum

One of my most vivid memories of middle school was an argument I had with a teacher about the nature of a line. Was it a segment that had end points and a line that stretched to infinity, or was it the other way around? I was furious that my seventh grade math teacher wouldn't admit that he had misspoken. I wouldn't let it go, and I was asked to leave the classroom. I wonder whether you thought of a story like this when reading the title of this article?

My guess is that we all have a memory — or many — of teachers who doubled down in their expertise even when they were wrong, or even when they had lost our attention, or our trust. Our memory of stories like these, seared in our minds from a young age, belies our unquestioned assumptions about what it is that teachers are supposed to be experts in. What I do not mean to reinforce in what I am outlining here is that teachers are content experts, or even experts in the cultivation of skills in their students. This is a baseline for being a teacher, and an evolving need, given the interventions of Artificial Intelligence and other technologies that are disrupting, and will continue to disrupt, education. Rather, I am inviting us to consider that teachers have all of the answers about what is needed for great education, and how best to help learners of all ages lean into relationships with

teachers as mentors, in classrooms of high trust, high expectations, and high support. By my unironic title, I mean that, whether they know it or not, teachers, as experts in their craft, collectively have everything they need to face the future demands of teaching and learning — and they likely also have all of the answers to our most intractable challenges as schools and school leaders.

The independence of teachers and the independence of independent schools are a point of pride for the American academic system. Solidified in the Supreme Court ruling that struck down a state law mandating state-run schools (Pierce v. Society of Sisters, 1925), independent schools are asked to justify that our practices are in alignment with our mission and values. There is no singular national accrediting body, as there is, for example, in England, which also has a tradition of independent schools.

Inside of these schools are independent school teachers, who are also generally not required to be credentialed by singular institutions, or even types of institutions. We take as a point of pride that our faculty are independent, critical thinkers, whose calling is to work with young people. We then invest in these educators, so that, over a lifetime of practice in the classroom, they are continually learning not only their discipline, but also best practices in how to

*the real value in our schools is in the interactions between teachers and students; moments where our learners are deeply known, ambitiously challenged, and specifically supported*

engage and support their learners.

At our school (The Frederick Gunn School), several years ago we engaged in an experiment. What would happen if we interviewed our top faculty and asked what they do to ensure excellence in their classrooms? We started by asking our department chairs and administrators to put together a list of who they would consider “top performers.” This way, we had a broad but manageable cohort. We then had a third-party specialist in behavioral interviews speak with each of these top performers. That specialist created a report of themes shared across our educators, no matter the classroom. This report was synthesized further by our Academic Dean and Department Chairs and became a framework for our school’s teaching competencies. These are behavior-based lists that help us align excellence across our classrooms, seek and receive feedback, and create goals for measured growth. We have since expanded this competency framework to other aspects of school life, and even recently to our leadership standards for school administrators. This experiment has me



wondering, and hopeful. It seems to me that our teachers, in the classroom every day with students, have within themselves answers to some of the most intractable questions that we face with students. And, I am curious, has there been a large-scale study where a research team asks a small network of identified national educators who are “top performers” about some of those challenges?

Imagine with me a research project: every school in America puts forward its three “top performers” and then we listen to what their biggest challenges are and how administrators might meet those needs. Now imagine that we actually hear them and prioritize the solutions they propose. If this project has been done, I would love to see it. What I would guess we would find, in part because this is what

we found at our school, is that the real value in our schools is in the interactions between teachers and students; moments where our learners are deeply known, ambitiously challenged, and specifically supported. The excellence of teaching is in the doing, like a craft. It is in the practice of engagement and connection with students that teachers learn the essential skills of engaging and connecting; which, as we all know, is what leads most directly to student outcomes. From a very small sample size, what I can share is that asking teachers to rely on the expertise of one another when establishing goals and striving towards excellence is a game changer in faculty culture.

The question for all schools would be: if you can name these interpersonal intangibles that lead to excellence, is it possible to coach all educators for them, and see them permeate a school culture? At The Frederick Gunn School, we are pursuing this at an intentional scale, and we are eager to find the answer.

Emily Raudenbush Gum is the 12th Head of School at The Frederick Gunn School in Washington, CT, celebrating its 175th year.



GWI graduate Neha Shukla, now a student at Duke University (Credit: Marcus Smith)

## OPENSHAW COLUMN From Page 1

data, understand the audience, and adapt the model. Gen Z is not the problem to solve. They're the partner to build with. So, if you're one of the many leaders in town, how do you engage and retain them? 1. Connect the dots to purpose – Gen Z wants to make an impact. Don't bury the “why” under the job description. 2. Offer autonomy with accountability – Give them space to lead, with guidance that builds

trust. 3. Invest in confidence-building tools – Programs like GWI's Career Accelerator teach communication, leadership, and real-world problem solving so they're equipped to thrive early. The Bottom Line If grit is about perseverance and passion for long-term goals, then Gen Z may be the most quietly gritty generation yet. They've endured instability. They've adapted fast. They've redefined success on their terms. So instead of asking why Gen Z doesn't work like we did—ask how we can lead like they need in Greenwich and beyond.



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# OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

## COLUMN

# How do we celebrate trees? Let us count the ways....

By Cheryl Dunson

As trees in Greenwich awaken from their winter slumber, it's hard not to remark on their dazzling display. The many cherry and magnolia trees are in bloom. The small, tightly wound leaves of our birches and maples are starting to make their appearance. The dappled shadows cast by our mighty canopy trees such oaks and sycamore are soon to follow.

Adding seasonal beauty to our community is only one of the benefits. Our trees provide many others: offering protection from the heat and cold, purifying our air and water, reducing flooding, softening traffic noise and the visual impacts of urban backgrounds, and providing food and shelter for birds and other wildlife. Adding to these benefits, the National Arbor Day Foundation has estimated that well-tended trees can increase property values by up to 15 percent.

Is it any wonder that the Greenwich Tree Conservancy has a variety of ways for residents to join us in celebrating trees throughout the year?

The Awesome Tree Contest is held periodically, open to all, and the categories vary with each contest. In past years, we have asked residents to identify their favorite tree on public or private lands in categories such as best climbing tree or the best treehouse tree. This year we are asking residents to submit tree-inspired photographs, artwork, and poems in the following categories: Spring Flair, A Walk Amongst Trees, All in the Details & An Ode to a Tree. Winning submissions can come from adults and children, families and individuals, in all parts of town from Byram to Old Greenwich, from downtown to back-country. This year's Awesome Tree Contest deadline is May 18 with the awards celebration being held on June 8th. Inspired by an Awesome Tree? Enter the contest: <https://greenwichtreeconservancy.org/2025-awesome-trees-contest/>

Our Treasured Trees program is an annual event which invites residents to nominate a “treasured tree” on their property which is loved because of the tree's special history, a family memory or story or its size and shape. This program seeks to raise awareness of special trees on private lands and to inspire current and future residents

to protect their trees. To recognize and celebrate these private property trees, GTC installs a nameplate on the tree identifying the scientific and common name of the tree and a framed photograph of the nameplate installation is given to each family at a festive fall reception at Sam Bridge Nursery and Greenhouses. At past receptions, families have described in loving terms why they treasure their trees, for example, the beautiful vista the tree provides in every season or fond memories of sitting in its shade at a grandparent's house. Our Treasured Trees event will be open for submissions starting on June 9 with a deadline of July 18th. More Treasured Trees program info will be available on our website.

While the Awesome Tree Contest and the Treasured Trees Program are “Greenwich-grown” GTC events, there is a statewide program that we have resurrected in Greenwich – the Notable Tree program. Among the thousands of trees in town, there are exceptional trees which are notable because of their great size, unusual species or for their historic or social significance.

In the 1980s, the Connecticut College Arboretum established the statewide Notable Tree program, surveying all 169 towns across Connecticut. The program identified over 100 notable trees on public and private lands in Greenwich (<http://oak.conncoll.edu:8080/notabletrees/>) Until recently, the current status of many of the listed trees was unknown. Since 2023, the Greenwich Tree Conservancy has submitted updates to the statewide Notable Tree Program on the status of the trees on the original list (e.g., alive, removed, size, etc.) and has begun to submit new trees for the Greenwich listing.

Greenwich's Notable Trees include Oaks, Horse Chestnuts, American Sycamores, London Planetrees and Japanese Zelkovas. Among those we have verified or newly submitted, Greenwich has 30 champions and 11 co-champions! If you have a tree on your property that you believe may be notable for its size, species or historic significance, you may contact us at: [arboretum@greenwichtreeconservancy.com](mailto:arboretum@greenwichtreeconservancy.com).

These special programs are in addition to our many ongoing programs such as “Fit in the Forest,” guided park

*As trees in Greenwich awaken from their winter slumber, it's hard not to remark on their dazzling display.*



Lisa Beebe and Sue Baker measure a Notable Tree candidate. Photo by Cheryl Dunson



Treasured Trees encourages Greenwich residents to show their appreciation for special trees in their lives. Photo by Bob Capazzo

walks, our “Tree Doctors” talks, our flower-filled Arbor Day Tree Party at McArdle's Greenhouse and our ongoing tree plantings numbering over 6000 trees in all parts of town since our inception in 2007. To find out about these programs

and more, visit us at: [www.greenwichtreeconservancy.org](http://www.greenwichtreeconservancy.org). We hope you will join us!

Cheryl Dunson is the Advisory Board Co-chair, Greenwich Tree Conservancy. To find out more about the Greenwich Tree Conservancy, visit us at: [www.greenwichtreeconservancy.org](http://www.greenwichtreeconservancy.org).





Mary Winston Codraro, Lila Nachbar, Claire McCormick, Caroline Stickel, Abby Cook, and Tess Azmak

# 100 Bags, 20 Girls, One Big Mission

By Debra McLaughlin

At Greenwich Academy - where leadership, smarts, and serious heart go hand-in-hand - two powerhouse sophomores, Caroline Stickel and Tess Azmak, are changing the game with their brand-new club: Gifts of Wheels! Their mission? Spread kindness one awesome gift bag at a time to the clients of Meals-on-Wheels, Inc. of Greenwich.

What started as a spark of an idea earlier this school year has already grown into a movement. Now, about 20 girls strong, the Gifts of Wheels club meets almost monthly. So far, the club has rolled out four fabulous themed bags - celebrating fall, the holidays, Valentine's Day, and spring - each stuffed with goodies like candy, cozy coffee mugs, and other small treasures. And every time they create a themed bag the club assembles 100 (yes, 100!) beautifully curated gift bags to ride along with Meals-on-Wheels deliveries.

"I love being involved in the community where I can actually see the impact," says Caroline, flashing a smile. Tess chimes in,

*"I love being involved in the community where I can actually see the impact," says Caroline Stickel.*

"We want to give as much as we can to the community before we graduate and head off to college!" (Spoiler alert: They're already leaving a HUGE legacy.)

Meals-on-Wheels of Greenwich - a beloved local organization that's been delivering meals and friendly visits since 1960 - couldn't be happier to have these spirited students adding extra sunshine to their deliveries.

Greenwich Academy, known for nurturing bold ideas and big hearts, is the perfect place for initiatives like Gifts of Wheels to thrive. Thanks to Caroline, Tess, and the amazing club members, the Academy's commitment to character and community is alive and kicking - and gift-bagging!

Want to learn more or support Meals-on-Wheels of Greenwich? Roll on over to mealsonwheelsofgreenwich.org.

# Quite an Honor



Willow Buscemi, Meals-on-Wheels of Greenwich program director

By Debra McLaughlin

On Tuesday, May 6th, the Town of Greenwich will proudly recognize the incredible work of Meals-on-Wheels, Inc. of Greenwich with an official proclamation from First Selectman Fred Camillo. The proclamation celebrates Meals-on-Wheels unwavering commitment to serving older adults and homebound residents with care, compassion, and consistency.

*Consider becoming part of a mission that feeds hearts as well as bellies.*

It's a moment of well-deserved recognition for a program that delivers so much more than meals - it delivers dignity, connection, and hope.

The upcoming proclamation highlights the vital role Meals-on-Wheels plays in supporting one of Greenwich's most vulnerable populations, ensuring they receive nutritious food and regular check-ins that help combat isolation. These efforts align with Greenwich's proud designation as an Age Friendly Community - a title awarded by AARP and the World Health Organization in acknowledgment of the town's dedication to healthy aging and quality of life.

A Shared Spirit of Service Every morning in Greenwich, a quiet act of kindness unfolds. As the sun rises, a team of dedicated volunteers load up their cars with carefully prepared meals, ready to bring nourishment and connection to those in need.

At the heart of this daily mission is a network of community support that keeps Meals-on-Wheels moving forward—delivering meals to as many older adults and homebound individuals as resources allow.

For someone like an 82-year-old widow living alone, this program offers more than just food—it provides reassurance and human connection. Each day, she opens her door to a friendly volunteer bringing not only a meal tailored to her needs, but also a moment of companionship.

Get Involved!

As the town prepares to honor Meals-on-Wheels, it's also an invitation for residents to reflect on the power of giving back. Volunteers are the foundation of Meals-on-Wheels. Whether you have a few hours a month or are ready to take on a bigger role, there are meaningful opportunities to make a difference. To learn more about volunteering, contact Meals-on-Wheels at (203) 869-1312 or mealsonwheelsofgreenwich@outlook.com. You can also visit mealsonwheelsofgreenwich.org for details.

Consider becoming part of a mission that feeds hearts as well as bellies.

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By Debra McLaughlin

At The Nathaniel Witherell, a town-owned nursing home in Greenwich, a walk down the hallway can feel like a stroll through a downtown gallery. Every month, the walls of this skilled nursing and rehabilitation facility are refreshed with new works from local artists—thanks to an innovative art program supported by the nonprofit Friends of Nathaniel Witherell.

The initiative, curated by Mary Tate, Director of Resident and Volunteer Services, has become a beloved feature of life at the Witherell. Residents, visitors, and staff alike look forward to each new installation.

*In the final chapters of life, art reminds us of who we are and that we still matter.*

"It's not just decoration," said Tate. "Art provides comfort, sparks conversation, and reminds residents that they are still connected to the community around them."

This month, that connection comes through the work of local artist Chris Duncan, whose exhibit Trash to Treasure is on display. Duncan's nature collages, created entirely from recycled materials, are colorful, layered pieces that explore both environmental responsibility and artistic expression. Her work has been exhibited at the Greenwich Audubon Center and other local venues, but this is the first time it's being shown for an audience that includes many lifelong Greenwich residents now living at the Witherell.

While the rotating art exhibits bring beauty to the walls, their deeper value lies in what they bring to the lives of the people who live there. Many residents, including those dealing with memory loss or mobility challenges, find art to be a powerful therapeutic outlet. Even passive engagement - simply looking at and discussing the work - can boost mood, spark memories, and foster a sense of self-worth.

The Friends of Nathaniel Witherell, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, fund the art gallery program along with a range of other life-enhancing initiatives for residents. From musical performances and holiday celebrations to gardening projects and beauty salon services, the Friends ensure that Witherell offers more than just clinical care, it offers a rich, meaningful life.

As the only skilled nursing facility owned and operated by the Town of Greenwich, The Nathaniel Witherell is a vital local institution. Many of its residents are former teachers, town employees, business owners, and volunteers who have shaped the community. Supporting the Friends is not only a way to give back to them but it's a way to invest directly in Greenwich.

"There is a real public need to enhance the lives of our elders," said Tate. "And it's a public good to ensure they are not just cared for, but celebrated."

To learn more visit [www.friendsofnathanielwitherell.org](http://www.friendsofnathanielwitherell.org). In the final chapters of life, art reminds us of who we are and that we still matter.

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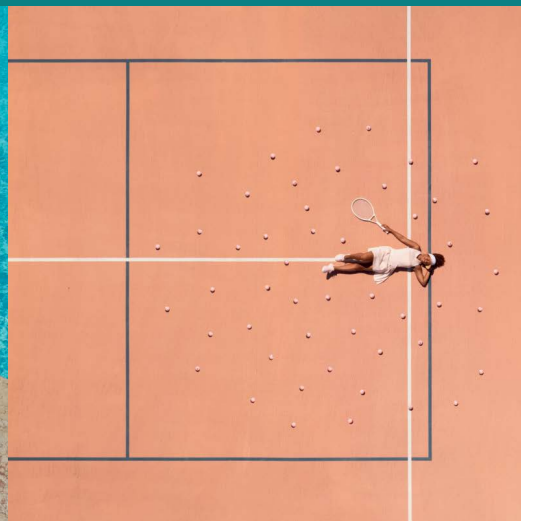
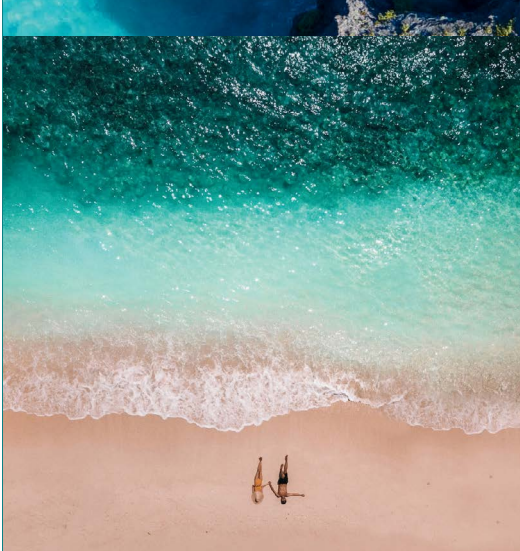




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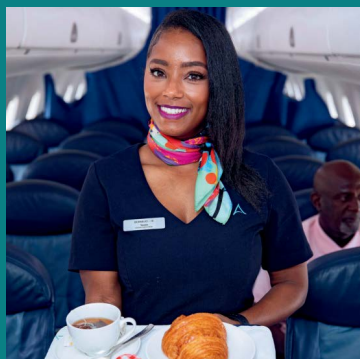
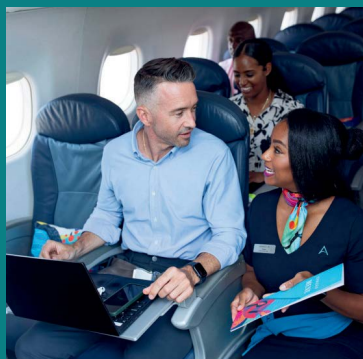
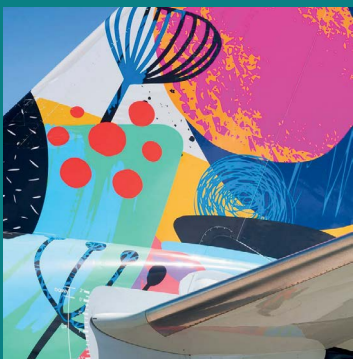


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# A Guide to Using 2025 Greenwich Real Estates Statistics to Your Advantage

By MARK PRUNER

There are a lot of statistics in real estate, and they can be manipulated to tell different stories. Gleaning the gold from the lead is not always easy. For example, last month was one of the worst months in Greenwich real estate in the 21st Century. We only had 19 single family home sales in March. The only months that saw lower sales were from November 2008 to March 2009, the heart of the Great Recession. Our single-family home sales hit their nadir in January 2009 with only 7 houses sales in the entire town of Greenwich. So, what can statistics tell us as to why 2025 is not the Great Recession part II even though March 2025 sales were not good?

## Overall house sales by month

Let's look at the monthly sales stats in more detail. One graph you see quite a bit in my Greenwich Sentinel column is the number of single-family home sales by month. The graph I usually use has home sales for each of the last two years, plus the current year to date and the 10-year average.

What is not included in, but you often see presented elsewhere in monthly sales numbers are co-ops, condos and sometimes even multi-family and land. If you are on the BET or the Town Clerk and you want to see if conveyance taxes are going up or down lumping all types of real estate together is fine, but it's not so good if you want to know how your house is doing in this market.

## Mixing up different types of property

Condos, land and multi-family all have different types of buyers with different supply and demand curves. There is some overlap but generally house buyers don't look at condos and families looking to buy land and build a new house don't look at multi-family investment properties. Lumping them together muddies the state of the house market, and due to the size of our house market, the other market stats are muted by the housing market.

You often see this housing stats about the "residential market" which includes not only houses, but condos and co-ops. If you are looking to buy a condo, that is not the number to look at. If you are looking to buy a house realize that including the lower priced condo units will throw many other stats such price/sf out of whack. So, when you see a sales number, check and see what types of property are included, mixing property types sends mixed signals.

## Month to month comparisons in a seasonal market

The other thing you often see on real estate sites is month-to-month comparisons. These also are not very useful in Greenwich as we have a major seasonal element to our sales as you can tell by the 10-year average line for single-family homes in Greenwich. The odds are very good that nearly every year, March sales will be higher than February sales and that November sales will be lower than October sales. Whether sales are up or down from the prior month generally doesn't tell you very much, because of most of the time the change from month to month is due seasonality.

If the change is different than the 10-year curve would predict, then something likely is happening and that's what we saw this March. In the 10 years before Covid, sales on average went up 18.9% from February to March. This year March sales went down 24%. Not only were sales very low in March, but they were also changing at a very rapid pace from February.

While sales were down from February to March, if we look at contracts, the best predictor of future sales, then our market is doing fine. But what about that big sales drop in March. For anyone who has been following the news, uncertainty is up, the VIX index is up, and stock prices are down. It's the latter factor that explains much of the decline in sales this March.

Our median sales price so far this year is \$3,850,000, so most of our deals are all cash, but where does that cash come from? For most of our buyers, it comes from the sale of stocks. When the stock market drops sharply, buyers delay their closing hoping the stock market will come back so they don't have to sell so many shares. This explains why sales, but not contracts, are down. Buyers under contract are delaying closings, which they can do under the standard Fairfield County Bar contract for 10 days without penalty. They then have a penalty of 1/30th of 1% per day of delay up to 30 days, before they are in default under their purchase agreement.

## Differences Among Months of Supply

Months of supply is also another very useful way to look at the overall market and at particular segments of the market. The good thing about MoS is that it includes not only sales, but the current inventory. Month of supply sets out how long it would take to sell our present inventory based on the prior sales rate. For an easy example, if we had sold one house a month so far this year and you have 9 house in inventory then you have 9 months of supply.

You can also calculate months of supply in different ways, such as only actual closed sales, sales and contracts, or just last month's sales annualized. If I am representing the seller, I like to see each of these number decline. For example, our March closed sales numbers show that from \$6.5 – 10 million, we have 6.8 months of supply, which shows a balanced market.

When you add in the 5 contracts waiting to close and assume they will all close in an average 45 days you get 6.2 months of supply, even better. The good news is that when you annualize the three March sales in this price category you are down to 6.0 months of supply. This market is improving, while all the other prices ranges saw poor March sales and higher DOM based on annualizing these poor March sales. April contracts continued to rise throughout the month as they are supposed to do in the spring market. Bottom line, the Greenwich housing market is not signaling that we are going into a recession in our real estate market.

## Days on Market

Months of supply is sometimes confused with days on market. If you total up the number of days each house was on the market and take the average, you get days on market for the whole market. If each house came on the market and sold on average in 45 days, then you have 45 days on market (DOM). The lower the days on market, the hotter the market, as buyers snatch up houses within weeks or days of coming on the market or conversely in a slow market houses sit for months without selling.

For the month of April MTD our median days on market is 18 days on market. This is a sign of a hot market. In a hot market, well-priced, newer houses sell quicker than the over-priced houses that sit on the market.

Curiously, the average days on market initially goes up in a hot market as houses that have been on the market for months and years are finally finding buyers. This is a number where the difference between the average and the median days on market can be quite large. All you need is for a couple of houses that have been on the market for 1,000+ days to sell and the average days on market will jump while the median DOM will barely budge. That's what we see in the first quarter of the year as new listings mainly come on in March and April. What is selling are listings that have over-wintered and push the median days on market, which means in the first quarter a rise in days on market, doesn't mean a slowing market.

Days on market varies

significantly by price range. The lower the price range the lower the days on market. We also see the same effect in months of supply. The rough rule of thumb is that months of supply under 6 months are a seller's market, but you get over \$5 million and sellers start feeling good when months of supply drops below 12 months.

## High-End Sales Take Sharp Jump Up

Sellers are feeling pretty good this year at the high-end of the market. In 2024, we only had 2 sales over \$10 million totaling \$29.5M, while this year we have had 8 sales over \$10 million totaling \$131.6 million. This is a 400% increase in sales and a 446% increase in sales volume. (Our team helped as we have the highest sale this year. :) It looks like some money may be moving from the stock market to high-end Greenwich real estate.

## Using Real Estate Stats to Make Decisions

So, if you are thinking about listing your house or considering buying, what numbers should you look at? Here's a quick 5-point check list:

- Are overall are sales and inventory up or down?
- How are sales and inventory changing in your area and your price range?
- What is the months of supply for sales, what about with contracts added in and with the prior month annualized?
- What is the difference in median sales DOM and inventory DOM year-over-year? Is it getting better or worse over the last few months?
- How is your market doing on a year-over-year basis and against the 10-year average?

## The important info is in the details.

For the seller, months of supply and days on market are significant factors in how aggressively you have to price your house. When these numbers are high you want to be at the lower end of price per square foot and have better staging than your competition. For buyers, you can afford to be more aggressive in your negotiating, particularly where you have other options that are satisfactory.

But numbers are just numbers, when it comes down to one-on-one sales negotiation. When you are negotiating you want to know the needs of the other persons, their personalities and their stress tolerance. In negotiations, these are often more important than how soft or weak the market is. Knowing the numbers and knowing how to negotiate in the Greenwich market is what gives you the best result, a sense of control and can even make buying or selling a house fun.

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Address	Original List	List Price	Sold Price	DOM	BR	FB	Acres	SqFt
1 Putnam Hill 2J	\$425,000	\$425,000	\$450,000	18	1	1	0	0
1 Putnam Hill 4K	\$560,000	\$560,000	\$575,000	10	1	1	0	985
6 Robertson Lane 7	\$925,000	\$925,000	\$925,000	10	2	2	1	1,700
24 Maplewood Drive	\$1,195,000	\$1,195,000	\$1,182,500	22	3	1	0.2	1,222
12 Bolling Place	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,450,000	14	3	2	0.13	1,380
10 Nutmeg Drive	\$1,950,000	\$1,950,000	\$2,200,000	15	4	4	2	3,500
20 Church Street A 61	\$1,995,000	\$1,995,000	\$2,100,000	35	4	3		1,858
35 Indian Field Road	\$2,095,000	\$2,095,000	\$2,020,000	20	4	3	0.36	2,906
42 Sherwood Avenue	\$2,495,000	\$2,495,000	\$2,520,000	11	5	3	2.01	3,736
17 Ridgebrook Road	\$2,850,000	\$2,850,000	\$3,250,000	6	4	3	0.49	3,019
1 Saint Claire Avenue	\$2,995,000	\$2,995,000	\$3,565,000	4	4	3	0.28	3,404
7 Robin Place	\$3,395,000	\$3,395,000	\$3,395,000	28	5	4	0.3	4,050
37 Lincoln Avenue	\$4,550,000	\$4,550,000	\$4,550,000	0	5	5	0.31	4,700
70 Sumner Road	\$5,495,000	\$5,495,000	\$5,480,000	19	6	6	4	9,340
34 Quail Road	\$5,495,000	\$5,495,000	\$5,650,000	26	5	7	2.35	6,498
528 Field Point Road	\$6,950,000	\$6,195,000	\$5,700,000	305	6	5	1.35	7,554
33 Byram Shore Road	\$7,595,000	\$6,999,000	\$6,423,500	273	6	4	0.73	4,010
111 Conyers Farm	\$18,995,000	\$17,995,000	\$15,500,000	87	6	9	18.43	14,284

FEATURED OPEN HOUSES				
ROB PULITANO 203-561-8092				
Address	Area	Price	Day/Time	Broker
61 Stirrup Lane	Riverside	\$4,800	Sun 1-3 PM	BHHS New England
3 Putnam Hill #3F	Greenwich	\$415,000	Sun 1-3 PM	Century 21
19 Putnam Park	Greenwich	\$560,000	Sun 1-4 PM	BHHS New England
61 Stirrup Lane #61	Riverside	\$895,000	Sun 1-3 PM	BHHS New England
77 Havemeyer Ln #416	Stamford	\$1,250,000	Sat 11-2 PM	BHHS New England
77 Havemeyer Ln #416	Stamford	\$1,250,000	Sun 11-2 PM	BHHS New England
8 Somerset Lane	Riverside	\$1,650,000	Sat 12-2 PM	Sotheby's
8 Somerset Lane	Riverside	\$1,650,000	Sun 1-4 PM	Sotheby's
7 Griffith Road Road	Riverside	\$1,995,000	Sat 1-3 PM	Prevu
7 Griffith Road Road	Riverside	\$1,995,000	Sun 1-3 PM	Prevu
39 Riverside Avenue	Riverside	\$2,250,000	Sat 1-3 PM	BHHS New England
39 Riverside Avenue	Riverside	\$2,250,000	Sun 1-3 PM	BHHS New England
897 Lake Avenue	Greenwich	\$5,200,000	Sun 1-4 PM	Coldwell Banker

NEW LISTINGS							
TIMOTHY AGRO, GREENWICH STREETS TEAM, 203.461.5964							
Address	List Price	Price/ SqFt	SqFt	AC	BR	FB	Area
2 Putnam Park	\$499,000		0	0	3	2	South of Post
1465 E Putnam Avenue 527	\$525,000	\$670	784	0	1	1	Old Greenwich
169 Mason Street 3F	\$568,000	\$861	660	0	1	1	South of Post
1 Relay Court	\$895,000	\$804	1,113	0.09	3	2	Cos Cob
52 Locust Street	\$999,999	\$731	1,368	0.14	3	2	South of Post
18 Mary Lane	\$1,225,000	\$787	1,556	0.28	3	2	Riverside
85 Indian Field Road	\$1,295,000	\$434	2,983	0.36	5	2	South of Post
19 Pond Place	\$2,125,000	\$703	3,023	0.28	5	4	Cos Cob
39 Riverside Avenue	\$2,250,000	\$811	2,775	0.26	5	4	Riverside
2 Lakeview Drive	\$2,450,000	\$831	2,950	0.38	3	2	Riverside
523 E Putnam Avenue B	\$3,095,000	\$952	3,251	0	3	3	Cos Cob
80 Sawmill Lane	\$3,495,000	\$877	3,986	1.3	4	4	South Parkway
10 Lakeview Drive	\$3,495,000	\$603	5,800	0.28	5	5	Riverside
2 Prescott Lane	\$3,795,000	\$1,333	2,847	0.25	3	4	South Parkway
512 North Street	\$3,999,000	\$981	4,078	2.97	5	4	South Parkway
33 Cliffdale Road	\$4,500,000	\$854	5,272	4.01	5	4	North Parkway
50 North Street	\$5,500,000	\$1,097	5,012	0.96	5	5	South Parkway
0 Rich Island	\$6,500,000	\$2,294	2,833	0.5	6	4	Byram
21 Calhoun Drive	\$6,800,000	\$891	7,632	1.81	5	7	South Parkway
79 Richmond Hill Road	\$7,195,000	\$966	7,447	4.38	6	6	North Parkway
8 Woodside Road	\$7,995,000	\$1,404	5,693	1.9	5	4	South Parkway
35 Club Road	\$9,950,000	\$1,118	8,896	0.71	6	6	Riverside
406 Stanwich Road	\$10,900,000	\$875	12,461	2.61	7	8	South Parkway
31 Meadow Lane	\$13,900,000	\$1,246	11,157	2.29	6	7	South Parkway
29 Round Hill Club Road	\$17,450,000	\$1,470	11,870	3.93	7	8	South Parkway
45 Binney Lane	\$27,950,000	\$2,081	13,428	1.07	8	11	Old Greenwich

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## Mother's Day Raffle

The Greenwich Historical Society is hosting a Mother's Day floral raffle featuring arrangements donated by local nurseries and garden clubs. The arrangements will be unveiled at a public event on Thursday, May 8, from 5–7 p.m., with curated gifts and custom baskets available for purchase from vendors like Molly and Mags, Stitch Trove LLC, and Vivid Cottage.

Floral displays will remain on view until

Friday, May 9, at 3 p.m., when the raffle closes. Tickets are \$25 each or \$100 for five; purchases of \$50 or more at the Museum Store earn one complimentary ticket. Winners will be announced at 4 p.m. on May 9. Proceeds benefit the Historical Society's arts and education programs. Extended Museum Store hours and complimentary gift wrapping will be offered on May 8.

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Thank you to all the sophisticates, literary enthusiasts, and very clever Sentinel readers!

The winner of our APRIL competition is.....

Sentinel Literary Competition

APRIL Writing Challenge #425: Ladybug Paradox WINNERS!!!

Young Writers Reveal the Strength Beneath the Surface

The Sentinel’s “More Than I Seem” contest invited writers ages 15 and under to explore hidden strength, misunderstood appearances, and the quiet power that often goes unnoticed. Inspired by the dual nature of the ladybug—small and beautiful, but formidable and essential—this month’s entries reflected a wide range of interpretations, from quiet objects to creatures at war. Out of a strong field of candidates, two pieces rose to the top: “Eraser” by Mary Caroline Creighton and an untitled piece about a hair tie by Kayla Kiczek.

Both selections demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of the contest theme, revealing a deep sense of empathy and insight into the unnoticed things that shape our lives.

Winner: "Eraser" by Mary Caroline Creighton

They think I just erase.

People think that after I do my work, their stories, poems, drawings and thoughts are gone.

But no, I absorb their words. I remember.

Twenty years ago, a girl scribbled on a wall and later her mother tried to used me but failed slightly.

A week before now, someone erased the word ‘no’. I remember.

For most of my life, I sit on a counter or in a drawer.

So I read the words and looked at the doodles.

Since I was bought, I’ve done this.

Over and over.

Again and again.

I remember.



Mary Caroline Creighton’s “Eraser” distinguishes itself with a quiet, layered power. Written from the perspective of a simple school supply, the piece transforms an object associated with erasure into a vessel of memory and endurance.

The voice of the eraser is haunting and self-assured. “They think I just erase,” it begins, immediately challenging the reader’s assumption. Rather than destroying words, the eraser absorbs them, remembering every scribble, doodle, and half-formed thought. Details like “a girl scribbled on a wall” and “someone erased the word ‘no’” introduce emotional weight without overt explanation, trusting the reader to sense the undercurrents of rebellion, loss, and persistence.

Creighton’s use of repetition—“Over and over. Again and again. I remember.”—builds a rhythmic inevitability, evoking the endless, unseen labor of bearing other people’s stories. The language is plain but evocative, with every word doing its work cleanly. The choice to portray the eraser not as a destroyer but as a witness elevates the piece beyond a clever idea into something poignant and memorable.

In fewer than 100 words, “Eraser” fulfills the prompt’s call to reveal hidden strength and unseen complexity. It reminds readers that what seems expendable may actually be indispensable—and that endurance itself can be a quiet kind of power.

Honorable Mention: Untitled (Hair Tie) by Kayla Kiczek

You take me for granted. You leave me in the car door’s pocket and forget about me. You lose me in the cushions of your couch. Sometimes you even intentionally fling me at your little sister.

Remember that time you were playing soccer and your hair was in your face? I was there for you! Or the time I helped you close that bag of chips.

All I’m asking is that when you don’t need me, please just keep me on your wrist. Because one day you’ll realize you need me again, and I’ll be there.

Kayla Kiczek’s untitled entry about a forgotten hair tie is lively, relatable, and sharp in its emotional appeal. Speaking directly to the reader with lines like “You take me for granted” and “All I’m asking is that... please just keep me on your wrist,” the hair tie’s voice is half-pleading, half-reproachful.

The tone is conversational but edged with hurt. Kiczek deftly catalogs the indignities endured by the object—lost in car doors, flung in sibling fights, trapped under couch cushions—while reminding the reader of the hair tie’s small but crucial acts of loyalty: keeping hair out of eyes during a soccer match, sealing a bag of chips.

The ending carries a bittersweet resonance: “Because one day you’ll realize you need me again, and I’ll be there.” In just a few sentences, Kiczek captures the essence of devotion often overlooked until it is needed most. The hair tie, like many unseen helpers in life, asks only for respect—and promises reliability in return.

This piece exemplifies how humor and heart can coexist within a simple framework, offering a lighter but no less meaningful interpretation of the contest’s theme.

The “More Than I Seem” contest revealed an impressive range of talent and thoughtfulness from young writers. Mary Caroline Creighton’s “Eraser” is awarded the \$25 prize and publication for its profound exploration of memory and endurance, while Kayla Kiczek’s hair tie entry receives honorable mention for its spirited and affecting voice.

Both pieces succeed in surprising the reader with what lies beneath the surface—and demonstrate that in the hands of skilled young writers, even the smallest things can carry the greatest weight.

Perception and Precision: Writers Explore Hidden Power

In the Sentinel’s April competition, young writers were challenged to craft a scene, monologue, or vignette in 250 words or fewer, focused on a character who uses perception as their strength. The entries reflected sharp storytelling instincts and a remarkable ability to create lingering moments of revelation. After careful review, two pieces stood out: “Good Girl” by Erica Blair and “Old Thom, the Gatekeeper” by an anonymous entrant.

Each entry interpreted the theme with nuance, balancing understatement with decisive moments of clarity. Both reveal that quiet power is often the most potent kind.

Winner: "Good Girl" by Erica Blair

Good Girl

I grew up the dependable one. The experts say the youngest daughter of alcoholic mothers always learns to mother them. Not sure if it was genuine empathy or just a means of survival. She’s been gone for decades, but I’m still the one with the detailed weekly schedule, the fully stocked refrigerator, the list of emergency phone numbers taped to the front door. The one who still sends Christmas cards with stamps and handwritten notes. Remembers birthdays. The one with the shoulder to lean on, to cry on. "Oh, just call her. She always knows the answer." The calm in everyone else’s storm.

But I am the other, too. No one suspects she exists, given my outwardness. The one who wakes up in the middle of the night to write poetry or read obscure Shakespeare. Who can’t bear to watch the animal rescue commercials, hoping the film crew took all those suffering creatures home. Who was 19, the struggling student in New York. One dark golden night, that Russian dancer whose name everyone knew, still knows, chose her, of all the people in the room, of all the people in the world, to share champagne, to quietly exchange regrets and lost things and hopes as though they were friends for years. When they danced, he held her against his magnificent body as if she were his other inner self.

So now you know who I am, under the shell.



Erica Blair’s “Good Girl” succeeds by layering two selves within a single voice. The narrator describes herself first through the eyes of others: dependable, organized, endlessly responsible. She is the one families lean on, the one who sends handwritten Christmas cards, the one everyone assumes will remain unshaken.

Yet beneath that orderly exterior, Blair reveals a second, more private self: a young woman who writes poetry at midnight, who aches at the sight of suffering, who once danced with a world-renowned Russian dancer under New York’s golden lights. This internal portrait is drawn with emotional precision and literary restraint, allowing readers to feel the depth without being told explicitly.

The language throughout is clean, confident, and specific. The use of detail—such as the fully stocked refrigerator and the stamps on Christmas cards—grounds the piece, while the final image of the dance creates a resonant echo that lingers beyond the last sentence. Blair’s narrator controls how she is perceived by the world, using the "Good Girl" mask when needed, but maintaining an undiminished private core.

“Good Girl” captures the prompt’s spirit: a strategic use of perception, with a reveal that unfolds quietly but with enduring impact.

Runner Up: "Old Thom, the Gatekeeper"

Old Thom, the gatekeeper, leaned on his staff and watched the sunrise spill gold across the valley. Travelers waved as they passed — most thinking him a harmless relic, a dreamer. They were wrong. Beneath the ivy at the gate’s edge was a stone marked with a hidden rune, and Thom alone knew how to wake it. When bandits came — cloaks dark, knives drawn — Thom stood firm. He tapped the stone thrice with his staff. At once, the old trees stirred, roots twisting from the earth, fencing the invaders. Villagers arrived to find Thom smiling, dusting his hands, as the would-be attackers struggled inside the living snare. The mayor offered a feast. Thom politely declined and wandered back to his cottage. There was more work yet to do. The road must always be watched. And he — guardian of small places — watched better than any hero the bards ever sang about.

Among the many strong entries, "Old Thom, the Gatekeeper" offered a vivid and memorable depiction of overlooked strength. The piece describes Thom, a seemingly harmless old man tending a quiet gate. Most travelers view him as a relic, but Thom carries ancient knowledge: a hidden rune beneath ivy, a command over the living trees. When bandits arrive, it is Thom’s subtle wisdom that protects the village.

The writing here balances pastoral imagery with a decisive turning point. The sunrise spilling gold, the tapping of the staff, and the sudden uprising of roots create a cinematic effect. The line “the road must always be watched” reinforces Thom’s constant, unseen vigilance. His work is not loud or celebrated, but it is vital.

Though this entry stretches the fantastical elements further than others, it remains grounded in the emotional truth that perception shapes outcomes. Thom allows others to underestimate him—and by doing so, he preserves the safety of his home.

The April competition produced outstanding examples of quiet, strategic power used to shape the world. Erica Blair’s “Good Girl” wins the \$100 prize and publication for its elegant layering of public and private identity. “Old Thom, the Gatekeeper” receives a \$50 honorable mention for its lyrical portrayal of hidden guardianship.

Both pieces show that true power often lies not in grand declarations, but in silent certainty—and that those who are underestimated may, in fact, be the ones holding everything together.

APRIL IS FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH  
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A savings program designed for kids to build healthy financial habits.

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203.629.8400

**STAMFORD**  
900 SUMMER ST.  
STAMFORD, CT 06905  
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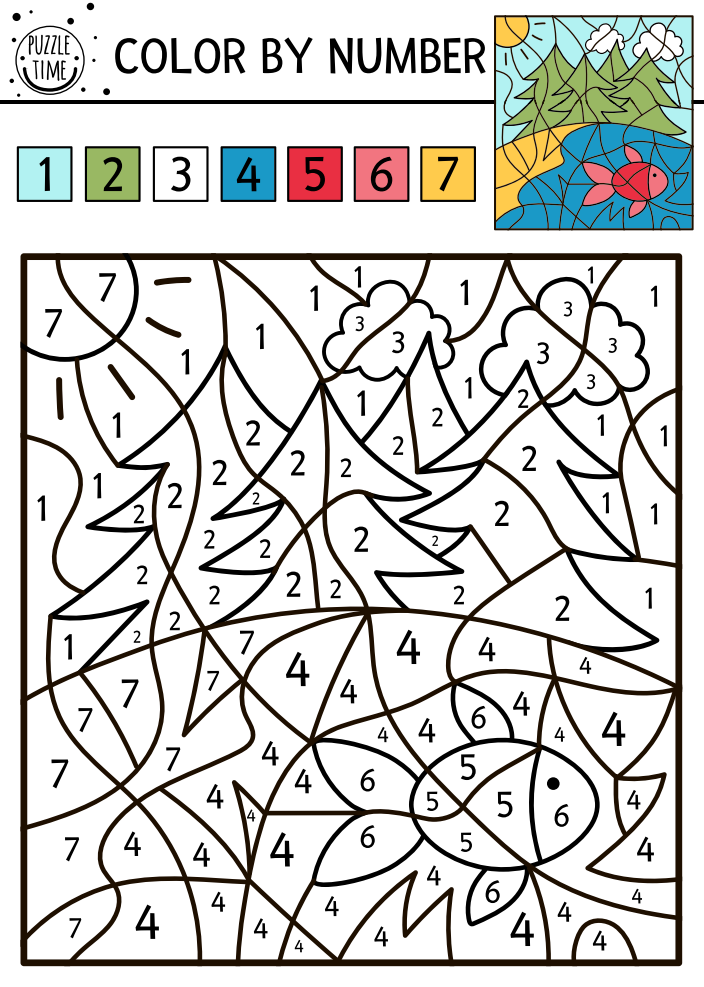
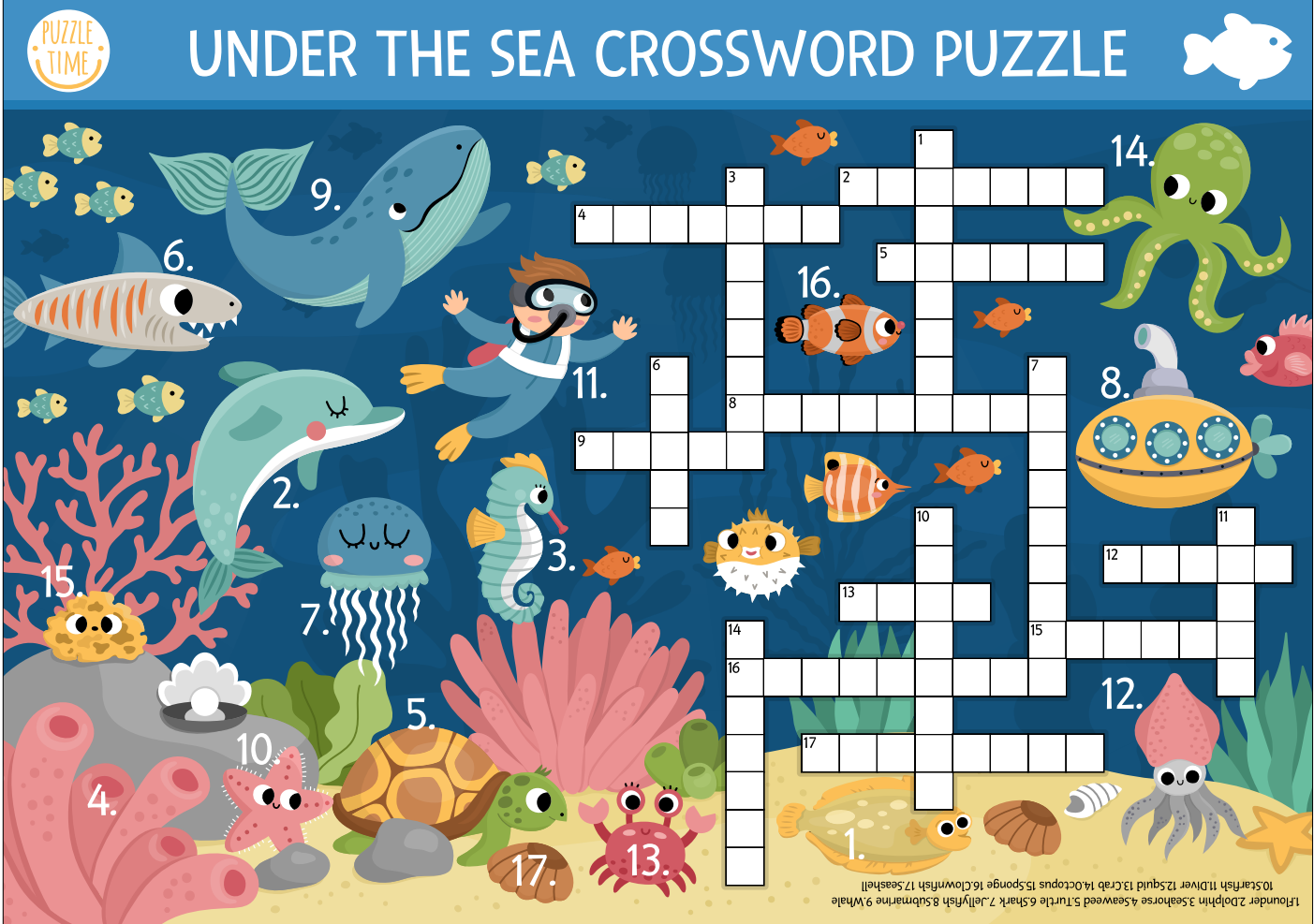


Join us at  
Tony's at The J House  
for Mother's Day  
Brunch or Dinner on  
Sunday, May 11th.




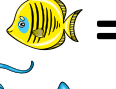




Treat the special  
moms in your life to  
delicious entrees,  
seasonal  
enhancements &  
specialty, handcrafted  
cocktails!

HAPPY  
Mother's Day

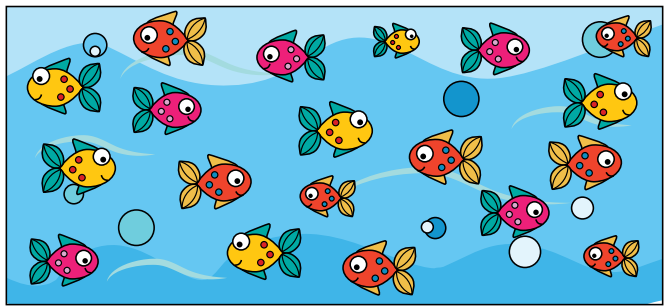







### Counting game for kids


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### How many..?





















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### How many

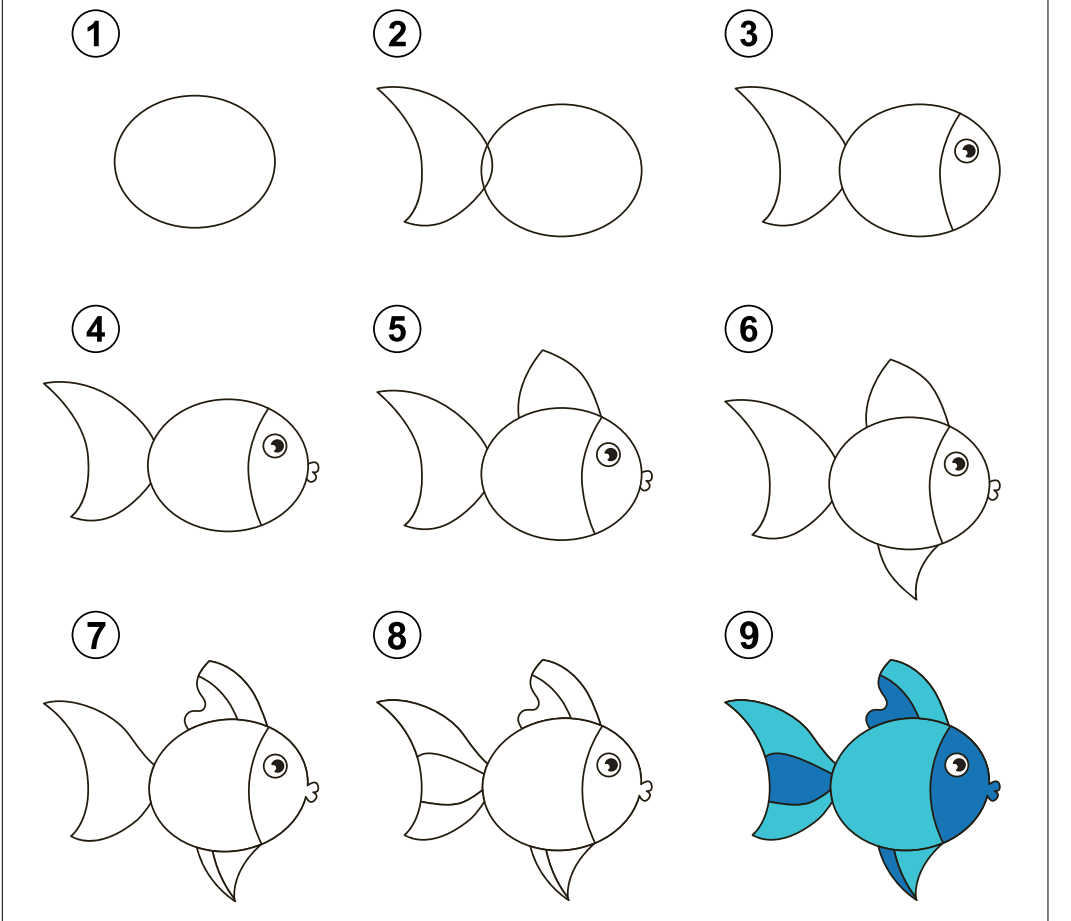
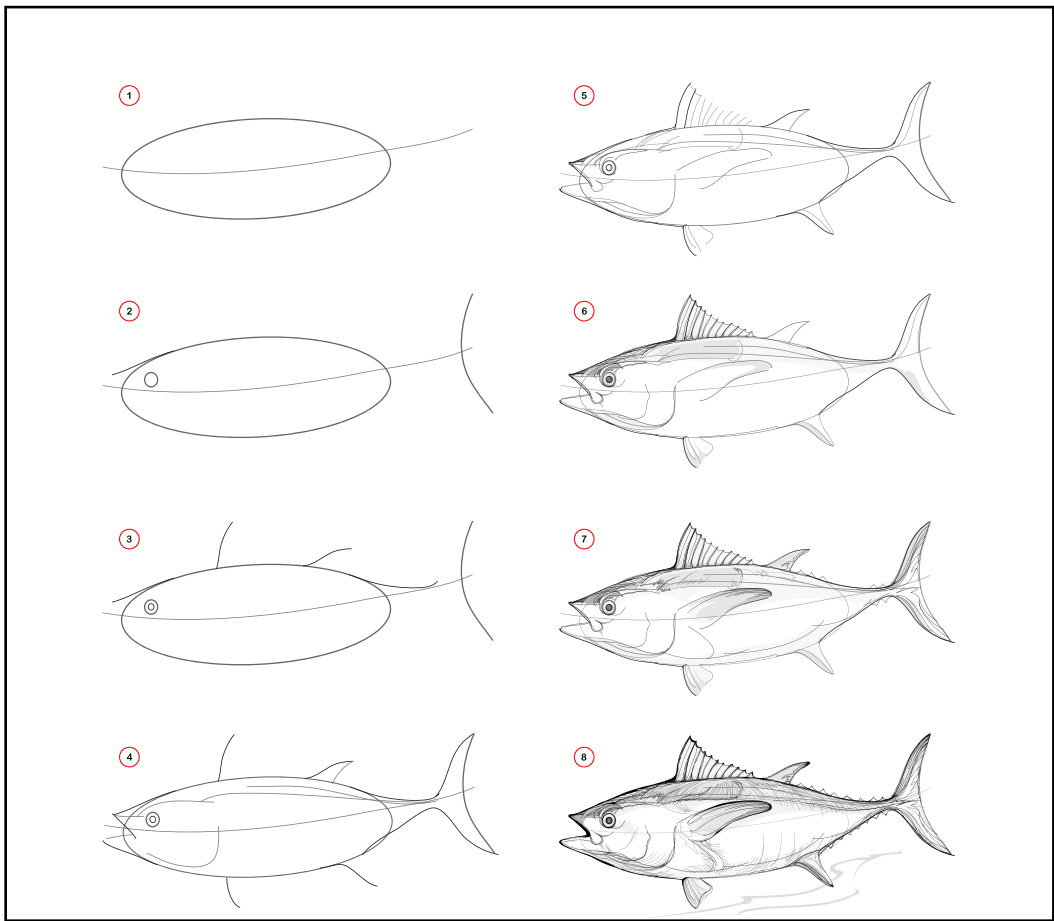


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### HOW MANY FISH?

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## How To Draw *(great for neuroplasticity in adults too)*



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Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

FRIDAY, MAY 2

10 & 11 a.m.  
Sensory Storytime (Ages 18 months-48 months). Perrot Memorial Library, 90 Sound Beach Ave. Free. Register. perrotlibrary.org

10 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 1 - 3 p.m.  
The Friends of Nathaniel Witherell Volunteer Open House. Nathaniel Witherell, 70 Parson-age Road. mary.tate@witherell.org.

1:30 p.m.  
Concert & Cake First Friday Concert Series: Dr. Kunyoung Kim, piano. Greenwich Arts Council, 299 Greenwich Ave. greenwich-arts council.org

3:30 - 9 p.m.  
North Mianus’ “Pow Wow!” North Mianus School, 309 Palmer Hill Road. Rain date: Sunday, May 4, 11am-5pm. northmianuspta.membershiptoolkit.com

4 - 7 p.m.  
May Gardener's Market Early Buyers Sale. Greenwich Botanical Center, 130 Bible St. \$20 donation to shop. 203-869-9242. greenwichbo-tanicalcenter.org

6 p.m.  
Open Arts Alliance and The Wallace Center present “The Spring Follies.” Greenwich Arts Council, 299 Greenwich Ave. Free. Registra-tion required. openartsalliance.com

7 p.m.  
Cinco De Mayo Latin Dance Class. YMCA of Greenwich, 50 East Putnam Ave. Free. RSVP. greenwichymca.org/events

SATURDAY, MAY 3

7 a.m.  
Spring Migration Bird Tour. Greenwich Audu-bon Center, 613 Riversville Rd. Free, donations are encouraged. greenwich.audubon.org/events

8 a.m.  
Teddy Bear Story Hour with Jenny. Coffee for Good, 48 Maple Ave. 203-979-4898.

8:30 a.m.  
Spring Bird Breakfast. Greenwich Audubon Center, 613 Riversville Rd. All ages. Free, do-nations are encouraged. greenwich.audubon.org/events

9 a.m.  
Meet for Coffee at the Bruce: Conversations with Robert Kalman. Bruce Museum, 1 Muse-um Dr. Free. brucemuseum.org

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Byram Park Cleanup. Meet at the beach entrance. RSVP. Rain or shine. greenwichgre-nandclean.org/byram-park-cleanup

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
May Gardener's Market. Greenwich Botanical Center, 130 Bible St. Free Admission. 203-869-9242. greenwichbotanicalcenter.org

10:30 a.m., 12 p.m. & 2 p.m.  
Rediscover Greenwich Avenue – Guided Walk-ing Tours. Greenwich Historical Society, 47 Strickland Rd. Members, \$20; Non-Members, \$25. greenwichhistory.org/ghs-events

11 a.m.  
Strong Mother: Charity Pilates for Mother’s Day. Performance Optimal Health Greenwich, 35 River Rd. eventbrite.com/e/1319381809509

11 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
North Mianus’ “Pow Wow!” North Mianus School, 309 Palmer Hill Road. Rain date: Sunday, May 4, 11am-5pm. northmianuspta.membershiptoolkit.com

12 p.m.  
Colonial Crafts: Make Your Own Butter in the Time Travelers KidStudio. Greenwich Histori-cal Society, 47 Strickland Rd. greenwichhisto-ry.org/events

1 p.m.  
Birding at the Bruce Museum with Greenwich Audubon – a tour of the neighboring Oneida Sanctuary. Meet at the Bruce Museum Lobby. Free. RSVP. brucemuseum.org.

1 p.m.  
Science Solvers: Spring Pollinators (Ages 4 & up). Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. Free with admission. No reservations required. Also held Sunday, May 4. brucemuseum.org

1 p.m.  
Sustainable Landscapes: Designing with Native Plantings with Louis Fusco. Greenwich Botani-cal Center, 130 Bible St. 203-869-9242. green-wichbotanicalcenter.org

1:30, 2, or 3 p.m.  
Friends of Greenwich Point: “Looks Like Springtime! Come See Baby Animals.” Innis Arden Cottage, Tod’s Point. Free. Register. friendsofgreenwichpoint.org.

2 p.m.  
India Cultural Center of Greenwich (ICC): Ho-lifest. Roger Sherman Baldwin Park, 100 Arch St. holi2025.org

3:30 p.m.  
Greenwich Young Life Pickleball Tournament. Pickleball America, 140 Atlantic St., Stamford. greenwich.younglife.org

6 p.m.  
Greenwich Historical Society: “Two Way Street” art installation. Greenwich Arts Council, 299 Greenwich Ave. Free. greenwichhistory.org/rediscover-greenwich-avenue/#walkingtour

SUNDAY, MAY 4

8:15 a.m.  
Breast Cancer Alliance’s 5K Run/Walk for Hope. Richards of Greenwich. breastcancer-al-liance.org

9 a.m.  
Friends of Greenwich Point: “First Sunday Bird Walks”. Tod’s Point. All ages welcome. Bring binoculars. Free. friendsofgreenwichpoint.org.

10:30 a.m., 12 p.m. & 2 p.m.  
Greenwich Historical Society: Re-Discover Greenwich Avenue Guided Walking Tours. \$20, Members; \$25, Non-members. greenwich-history.org/events

2 p.m.  
Fred Elser First Sunday Science: The Indig-enous Roots of Organic Agriculture. Free. brucemuseum.org

2 p.m.  
Bruce Experiences: French Films: The Divine Sarah Bernhardt (Sarah Bernhardt La Divine). Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. brucemuseum.org

2 p.m.  
Pizzi String Quartet performs. Perrot Memori-al Library, 90 Sound Beach Ave. Free. Registra-

tion required. perrotlibrary.org

2 p.m.  
“The Music Rings On” Handbell Concert. First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich, 1 West Putnam Ave. Free. fpcg.org/handbell-concert

3 p.m.  
Rachmaninoff Vespers concert. Christ Church Greenwich, 254 E. Putnam Ave. \$20-\$75. sky-larkensemble.org

MONDAY, MAY 5

1 p.m.  
Greenwich Decorative Arts Society Lecture: “Women Dressing Women: A Lineage of Female Fashion Design.” Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. \$30, greenwichdecorativearts.org

TUESDAY, MAY 6

9:30 a.m.  
Perrot Memorial Library: Perrot Walks at Tod’s Point. Free. 203-637-1066 x15. perrotli-brary.org

10 & 11 a.m.  
Bruce Beginnings: Museum ABC’s (Ages 2 1/2-5). Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. Free with admission. No reservations required. Also held Wednesday, May 7. brucemuseum.org

1 p.m.  
Operation Parent Webinar: Parenting in an Addictive World: When to Step In & How to Help. Online. Register. share.hsforms.com/24-GBH0qmQCGw5YWellF1qgrs9fo

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

10 a.m.  
Bruce Beginnings Junior: Museum ABC’s (ages 12 Months-30 Months). Bruce Museum, 1 Mu-seum Dr. Free with admission. First come, first served. brucemuseum.org

11 a.m.  
Retired Men's Association of Greenwich: Serdar Arat, Artist, Educator, “Art Fakes and Forgeries.” Christ Church Greenwich, 254 East Putnam Ave. & on Zoom. Free & open to all. greenwichrma.org

12 p.m.  
Colonial Toys: Make and Play with Marbles in the Time Travelers KidStudio. Greenwich Historical Society, 47 Strickland Rd. green-wichhistory.org/events

12 p.m.  
Women Speaker Series – Supportive Parenting for Anxious Childhood Emotions. YMCA of Greenwich, 50 East Putnam Ave. Free & open to the community. RSVP. greenwichymca.org/events

12 p.m.  
Women's Business Development Council (WBDC): Financial Foundations: Access to Capital Bootcamp – 3 Part Series. Online. Free. Register. ctwbdc.org/class-listings

1 p.m.  
Plant Morphology Dandelion Drawing - Part 3 with Jeanne Reiner. Greenwich Botanical Center, 130 Bible St. \$50, GBC Member, \$75, Non-member. Register. greenwichbotanical-center.org

7 p.m.  
Book Discussion: "Estranged: How Strained Female Friendships Are Mended or Ended," by Susan Shapiro Barash. Perrot Memorial Library, 90 Sound Beach Ave. Free. Register. 203-637-1066 x15. perrotlibrary.org

8:30 - 10:30 p.m.  
Astronomical Society of Greenwich: Bowman Observatory Public Nights. Bowman Obser-vatory, on the grounds of the Julian Curtiss School. Free. GreenwichStars@Gmail.com. astrogreenwich.org

THURSDAY, MAY 8

10 a.m.  
Open Knitting Drop-In Program. Perrot Memorial Library, 90 Sound Beach Ave. Free. perrotlibrary.org

1 p.m.  
Planting the Summer Vegetable. Greenwich Botanical Center, 130 Bible St. \$10, GBC Mem-ber, \$20, Non-member. Register. greenwichbo-tanicalcenter.org

1 p.m.  
Women's Business Development Council (WBDC): Business Essentials: CT Paid Leave for the Self-Employed (Bilingual). Online. Free. Register. ctwbdc.org/class-listings

6 p.m.  
Greenwich Audubon Center: Pollinator Pot-luck: Growing Together - Ecological Gardens, Food Security, and Local Resilience. Round Hill Community Church, 395 Round Hill Rd. Free. RSVP. greenwich.audubon.org/events

FRIDAY, MAY 9

10:30 a.m.  
Voices Center of Resilience: Mindful Moments – Mindfully Managing Stress. Online. Free. Register. voicescenter.org.

6 p.m.  
Kids Night Out! Swim Edition. YMCA of Greenwich, 50 East Putnam Ave. Drop=off begins at 6pm. Register. greenwichymca.org/events

6 p.m.  
Randall Atcheson Organ Concert. Christ Church Greenwich, 254 E. Putnam Ave. \$25, General Admission; Free, Students. christ-churchgreenwich.org/upcoming-events

SATURDAY, MAY 10

7 a.m.  
Spring Migration Bird Tour. Greenwich Audu-bon Center, 613 Riversville Rd. Free, donations are encouraged. greenwich.audubon.org/events

8 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Household Hazardous Waste Day. Island Beach Parking Lot – Arch Street. greenwich-greenandclean.org.

8:30 a.m.  
40th Annual Riverside Run – 3 Mile Run/ Walk. Eastern Middle School, 51 Hendrie Ave. riversidepta.membershiptoolkit.com

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast. YMCA of Greenwich, 50 East Putnam Ave. Free & open to the community. RSVP. greenwichymca.org/events

12 p.m.  
Colonial Crafts: Make “Scherenschnitte” Cards for Mother’s Day in the Time Travelers KidStu-dio. Greenwich Historical Society, 47 Strick-land Rd. greenwichhistory.org/events

SUNDAY, MAY 11

1 p.m.  
Art Adventures: Pointillism (Ages 4 & up). Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. Free with admission. No reservations required. bruce-museum.org

SATURDAYS, THROUGH MAY 3

9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Sam Bridge Winter Market. Through May 3. Sam Bridge Nursery & Greenhouses, 437 North St. sambridge.com/farmers-market.

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; non-members, \$35. New players welcome. (Register by Monday, 6pm). 203-524- 8032. greenwi-chymca.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. kidsin-crisis.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. roundhillcom-munitychurch.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 Recy-cle Program: Drop off scraps at Round Hill Community Church, 395 Round Hill Rd. roundhillcommunitychurch.org/news/com-posting-at-rhcc

12:15 p.m.  
Greenwich Rotary Club Weekly Lunch Meet-ing. 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@arch-street.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. namisouthwestct.org/online-sup-port

2nd WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH:

**IN HONOR OF NATIONAL POLICE WEEK,**  
we invite you to JOIN US for

**POLICE DAY**

**\*Bouncy Castle**  
**\*Drone Demonstration**  
**\*Car Seat Installation**  
**\*Guided Tours Every Half Hour**  
**\*K-9 Demo**  
**\*Food**

**May 10th, 2025**  
**10:00AM to 2:00PM**  
**POLICE ALLEY**  
**11 Bruce Place**



# Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

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. experiencetaichi.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, May 2  
9:30 a.m.  
Senior Chinese Book Discussion Group. Online. ywang@greenwichlibrary.org.  
10 a.m.  
Storytime. Cos Cob Library Turret. 203-622-6883.  
1 p.m.  
LaserLab: Design & Create. Innovation Lab. 203-622-7979. innovationlab@greenwichlibrary.org.  
7 p.m.  
Friends Friday Films: “Conclave.” Berkley Theater. cgibbs@greenwichlibrary.org.  
Saturday, May 3  
10 a.m.  
Satur-yay! Storytime. Children's Constellation Room. 203-622-7940. children@greenwichlibrary.org.  
10:30 a.m.  
Hatha Yoga for Adults with Inger. Byram Shubert Library Community Room. 203-531-0426.  
11 a.m.  
Technology Help. Learning Lab. 203-625-6560. csherman@greenwichlibrary.org.  
1 p.m.  
3D Printed Millennium Falcon Wireless Mouse. Innovation Lab. 203-622-7979. innovationlab@greenwichlibrary.org.  
2 p.m.  
Chess for All with Ian. Byram Shubert Library Community Room. 203-531-0426.  
Sunday, May 4  
3 p.m.  
Friends Performing Arts Series: Musicians from Marlboro Berkley Theater. 203-622-7910. dsalm@greenwichlibrary.org  
Monday, May 5  
9:30 a.m.  
Little Learners (Storytime Lottery). Children's Constellation Room.  
11 a.m.  
All Together Storytime. Marx Family Black Box Theater.  
11:30 a.m.  
Blood Pressure Screening. Community Room #5.  
12 p.m.  
Byram Lunch Bunch Book Club: "The First Ladies"

by Marie Benedict. Byram Shubert Library Conference Room.  
1 p.m.  
Introduction to Patents and Trademarks. 2nd Floor Meeting Room.  
3:15 p.m.  
Nutmeg Book Club with Ms. Flynn "Falling Short" by Ernesto Cisneros. Byram Shubert Library Conference Room.  
4 p.m.  
The Study Escape: for High Schoolers. Teen Commons.  
5 p.m.  
Special Education IEP Review with Nick Coletti. Cos Cob Library Turret.  
Tuesday, May 6  
10 a.m.  
How to Conduct, Record, and Preserve Your Family History: presented by the Greenwich Library Oral History Project. 2nd Floor Meeting Room.  
11 a.m.  
Storytime with Patty (Birth - Pre-K). Byram Shubert Library Community Room.  
1:15 p.m.  
Baby Lapsit (Storytime Lottery). Children's Constellation Room.  
3:45 p.m.  
Pen to Paper. Cos Cob Library Community Room.  
4 p.m.  
Legos @ the Library with Deirdre. Byram Shubert Library Community Room.  
4 p.m.  
The Study Escape: for High Schoolers. Teen Commons.  
Wednesday, May 7  
9:30 a.m.  
Movers & Shakers (Storytime Lottery). Children's Constellation Room.  
10 a.m.  
Baby Lapsit in the Stacks. Cos Cob Library Turret.  
10 a.m.  
La Leche League of Greenwich/Stamford/Rye. Byram Shubert Library Community Room.  
11 a.m.  
Early Walkers in the Stacks! Cos Cob Library Turret.  
11 a.m.  
The Nurse is in: Free Blood Pressure Screening. Byram Shubert Library Conference Room.  
1 p.m.  
LaserLab: Design & Create. Innovation Lab.  
4 p.m.  
Mother's Day Craft with Lucia (Registration Required). Byram Shubert Library Community Room.  
4 p.m.  
Teen Advisory Board (Grades 7+). Teen Commons.  
4 p.m.  
The Study Escape: for High Schoolers. Teen Commons.  
Thursday, May 8  
10 a.m.  
Japanese Storytime Marx Family Black Box Theater.  
10:30 a.m.  
Volunteer Training: Adopt-a-Shelf. Main Library.  
11 a.m.  
Bilingual Birdies (Storytime Lottery). Children's Constellation Room.  
11 a.m.  
Tech Help. Learning Lab.  
6 p.m.  
Flinn Gallery Opening: Elemental. Flinn Gallery.  
7 p.m.  
Ashforth Children's Concert: Vive la France! Music from French Speaking Countries with Darwin and Friends. Byram Shubert Library Community Room.  
Friday, May 9  
All Day event  
All Libraries Closed: Staff Training Day.  
Saturday, May 10  
10 a.m.  
Blooming Beginnings!: Art, Movement & Mindfulness (ages 3-5). Children's Constellation Room. 203-622-7940. children@greenwichlibrary.org.  
10:30 a.m.  
Bio-Field Therapy with the Healing Touch Team. (Registration Required) Byram

Shubert Library Community Room. 203-531-0426.  
11 a.m.  
Technology Help. Learning Lab. 203-625-6560. csherman@greenwichlibrary.org.  
1 p.m.  
Cloak and Dagger Book Club. Online. greenwichlibrary.libcal.com/event/12684658  
1 p.m.  
PrintLab: 3D Printing Studio. Innovation Lab. 203-622-7979. innovationlab@greenwichlibrary.org.  
2 p.m.  
Art Society of Old Greenwich: Art Opening Reception "Hidden Treasures. Byram Shubert Library Conference Room. 203-531-0426.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL: greenwichhospital.org/events  
888-305-9253  
Monday, May 5  
6 p.m.  
AARP-Safe Driving Course. Greenwich Hospital. \$20.  
Wednesday, May 7  
11 a.m.  
Better Breathers: Support Group. Greenwich Hospital. Free.  
12 p.m.  
Webinar: Preventing Falls and Improving Balance. Online. Free.  
1:30 p.m.  
Parkinson's Disease Support Group. 260 Long Ridge Road Stamford. Free.  
5:30 p.m.  
Parkinson's Disease, Essential Tremor and HIFU Treatment. Greenwich Hospital. Free.  
7 p.m.  
Pediatrician 101. Greenwich Hospital. Free.

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, May 2  
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
First Presbyterian Church Stamford, 1101 Bedford St., Stamford.  
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Village of Mamaronock, 1 Harbor Island Park, Mamaronock, NY.  
Saturday, May 3  
8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Archangels Greek Orthodox Church, 1527 Bedford Street, Stamford.  
Sunday, May 4  
7 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Greenwich Blood Donation Center, 99 Indian Field Rd.  
Monday, May 5  
11 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Greenwich Blood Donation Center, 99 Indian Field Rd.  
Tuesday, May 6  
11 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Greenwich Blood Donation Center, 99 Indian Field Rd.  
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Belle Haven Club, 100 Harbor Drive, Greenwich.  
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Shippan Landing, 232 Harbor Dr., Stamford.  
1 - 6 p.m.  
First Congregational Church of Darien, 14 Brookside Road, Darien.  
Wednesday, May 7  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

American Legion Post 347, 1 Locust Ave., Flint Park, Larchmont, NY  
11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
West Harrison Senior Center, 251 Underhill Ave., West Harrison, NY.  
Thursday, May 8  
7 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Greenwich Blood Donation Center, 99 Indian Field Rd.  
Friday, May 9  
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
The Rowayton Community Center, 33 Highland Ave., Norwalk.  
12 - 5 p.m.  
Port Chester Senior Center, 222 Grace Church St., Port Chester, NY.  
Sunday, May 11  
7 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Greenwich Blood Donation Center, 99 Indian Field Rd.

TOWN MEETINGS: greenwichct.gov/calendar  
Monday, May 5  
10:30 a.m.  
Architecture Review Committee (ARC). Sign-Meeting.  
1 p.m.  
Planning and Zoning Commission Briefing.  
7 p.m.  
Education Committee Meeting. Town Hall Meeting Room.  
7 p.m.  
Finance Committee Meeting. Hayton Room.  
7 p.m.  
Public Works Committee Meeting. Evaristo Conference Room.  
7:30 p.m.  
Land Use Committee Meeting. Cone Room.  
7:30 p.m.  
Legislative & Rules Committee Meeting. Mazza Room.  
Tuesday, May 6  
4 p.m.  
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting.  
7 p.m.  
Transportation Committee Meeting. Evaristo Conference Room.  
7:30 p.m.  
Appointments Committee Meeting. Town Hall Meeting Room.  
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.  
Wednesday, May 7  
12 p.m.  
Cancelled: FS Antisemitism and Anti-Hate Task Force Meeting.  
6 p.m.  
FS Hamill Rink Task Force Meeting. In-Person at Dorothy Hamill Rink and Virtual via Zoom.  
7 p.m.  
Architecture Review Committee (ARC) Regular Meeting.  
7 p.m.  
PZBA Meeting.  
7 p.m.  
District 11 Meeting May 7.  
Greenwich Country Day School, 401 Old Church Road.  
7 p.m.  
District 8 Meeting. Cos Cob School Media Center.  
7:30 p.m.  
District 4 Meeting. Byram Firehouse  
Thursday, May 8  
10 a.m.  
BET Audit Committee. Mazza Room.  
7 p.m.  
District 10 Meeting. Round Hill Church, 397 Round Hill Road.  
7 p.m.  
District 12 Meeting. North Mianus School Library.  
7 p.m.  
District 3 Meeting. Hamilton Avenue School.  
7 p.m.  
District 6 Meeting. Old Greenwich School Cafeteria.  
7 p.m.  
District 7 Meeting. Mazza Room.

7:15 p.m.  
District 2 Meeting. Cone Room.  
7:30 p.m.  
District 1 Meeting. Town Hall Meeting Room.  
7:30 p.m.  
District 5 Meeting. Riverside School Library.  
7:30 p.m.  
District 9 Meeting. Bendheim Western Greenwich Civic Center.

SAVE THE DATE:  
Wednesday, May 7  
6 p.m.  
Food Rescue US: “Celebrate Food Rescue US.” The Loading Dock, Stamford. foodrescueus25.givesmart.com  
Friday, May 9  
6 p.m.  
YMCA of Greenwich’s An Evening in Las Vegas Annual Gala. Greenwich Country Club. greenwichymca.org/events  
Saturday, May 10  
6 p.m.  
“After Glow” The Bruce Gala After Party. Bruce Museum. 1072.blackbaudhosting.com/1072/Bruce-Gala-2025  
Friday, May 16  
7:30 a.m.  
BIC’s 12th Annual Spring Benefit Breakfast. Hyatt Regency Greenwich. secure.qgiv.com/for/blcbenefitbreakfast2025/event/12thannual-springbenefitbreakfast  
Saturday, May 17  
7 p.m.  
Spring for Abilis Gala. Greenwich Country Club. e.givesmart.com/events/GGE  
Sunday, May 18  
9 a.m.  
The Junior League of Greenwich’s “Touch-A-Truck”. Greenwich Town Hall. e.givesmart.com/events/Hfh  
Saturday, May 24  
10 a.m.  
Greenwich Town Party. Roger Sherman Baldwin Park. greenwichtownparty.org  
Monday, May 26  
10 a.m.  
The annual Old Greenwich Memorial Day Parade. Sound Beach Avenue.  
Thursday, May 29  
9 a.m.  
Children’s Learning Centers of Fairfield County (CLC) 9th Annual Golf Outing. The Stanwich Club, Greenwich. bit.ly/CLC2025GolfOuting  
6:30 p.m.  
Kids Helping Kids’ Spring Celebration. Italian Center of Stamford. kidshelpingkidsct.org  
Saturday, May 31  
9 a.m.  
Greenwich Concours d’Sport. Roger Sherman Baldwin Park. greenwichconcours.com  
Sunday, June 1  
10 a.m.  
Greenwich Concours d’Elegance. Roger Sherman Baldwin Park. greenwichconcours.com  
Wednesday, June 4  
6 p.m.  
Scouting America Greenwich Council’s Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner. Hyatt Regency Greenwich. greenwichscouting.org  
Friday, June 6  
Family Centers "Midnight in Monte Carlo" benefit. Private Greenwich residence. familycenters.org/product/midnight  
Saturday, June 7  
6 p.m.  
Wild Wine, Beer & Food Safari. Connecticut’s Beardsley Zoo. beardsleyzoo.org/wild-wine.html  
Monday, June 9  
10 a.m.  
VOICES (Voices Center of Resilience) 11th Annual Golf Outing. Quaker Ridge Golf Club, Scarsdale, NY. voicescenter.org.  
Monday, June 23  
11 a.m.  
YWCA Greenwich’s Annual Golf Tournament. Greenwich Country Club. e.givesmart.com/events/I6i/

Our Neighboring Towns

FRIDAY, MAY 2

3:45 p.m.  
Solar System & Night Sky Planetarium Show. Stamford Museum and Nature Center, 39 Scofieldtown Rd., Stamford. Members: \$5; Non-Members: \$8. stamford-museum.org

6:30 p.m.  
The Russ Davis Band. Bedford Playhouse, 633 Old Post Rd., Bedford, NY. Free admission, no reservation required. 914-234-6704. bedfordplayhouse.org

7:30 p.m.  
Curtain Call presents “A Jukebox for the Algonquin”. The Kveskin Theatre, 1349 Newfield Ave., Stamford. Performances: Fri & Sat, 7:30pm, & Sun, 2pm (May 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11 15, 16, 17 & 18). curtaincallinc.com

SATURDAY, MAY 3

10 a.m.  
The Norwalk Art Space & The Westport Farmers’ Market Culinary Arts Celebration. The Norwalk Art Space, 455 West Ave., Norwalk. thenorwalkartspace.org

SUNDAY, MAY 4

4 p.m.  
Charis Chamber Voices concert. First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan, 178 Oenoke Ridge Rd., New Canaan. \$25 (\$20 for seniors, \$15 for students). charisvocals.com

TUESDAY, MAY 6

7 p.m.  
John Jay Homestead Lecture Series: Glorious Lessons: John Trumbull, Painter of the American Revolution, with Richard Brookhiser. Bedford Playhouse, 633 Old Post Rd., Bedford, NY. 914-234-6704. bedfordplayhouse.org

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

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

THURSDAY, MAY 8

6:30 p.m.  
National Security in a New Era with Dr. Lori Esposito Murray. Ferguson Main Library, Stamford. Free. fergusonlibrary.org

FRIDAY, MAY 9

1 p.m.  
VOICES (Voices Center of Resilience): Preparedness Workshop Preparing Individuals and Families for an Emergency. Westport Center for Senior Activities, 21 Imperial Ave, Westport. Register. voicescenter.org.

4 p.m.  
Basket Weaving for Mother's Day. Ferguson Main Library, Stamford. Free. Register. fergusonlibrary.org

SATURDAY, MAY 10

1:30 p.m.  
Gizmo's Pawesome Guide to Mental Health. Ferguson Main Library, Stamford. Free. Register. fergusonlibrary.org

SUNDAY, MAY 11

2 p.m.  
A Year in Kimono Presentation, An Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Program. Ferguson Main Library, Stamford. Free. Register. fergusonlibrary.org

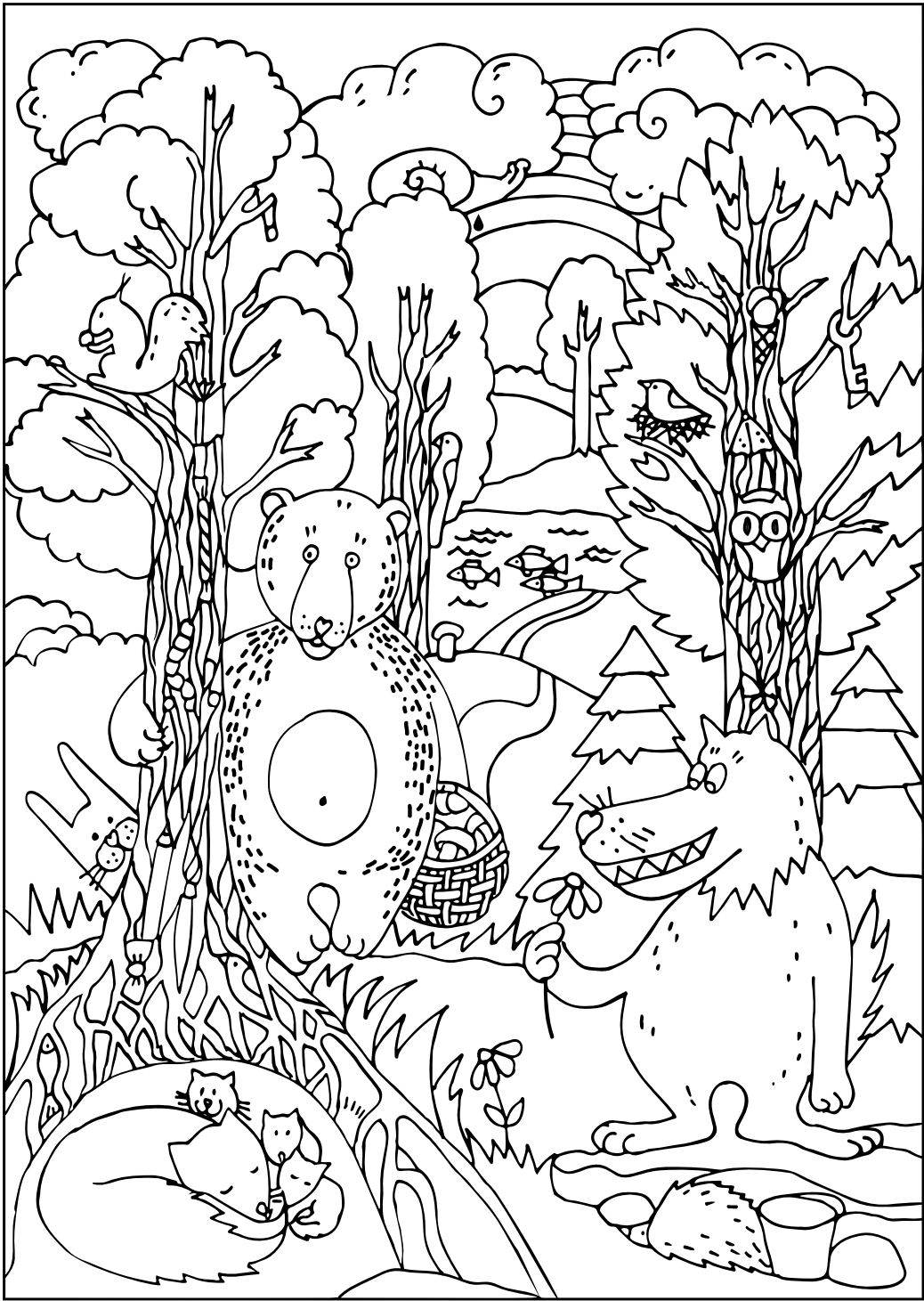
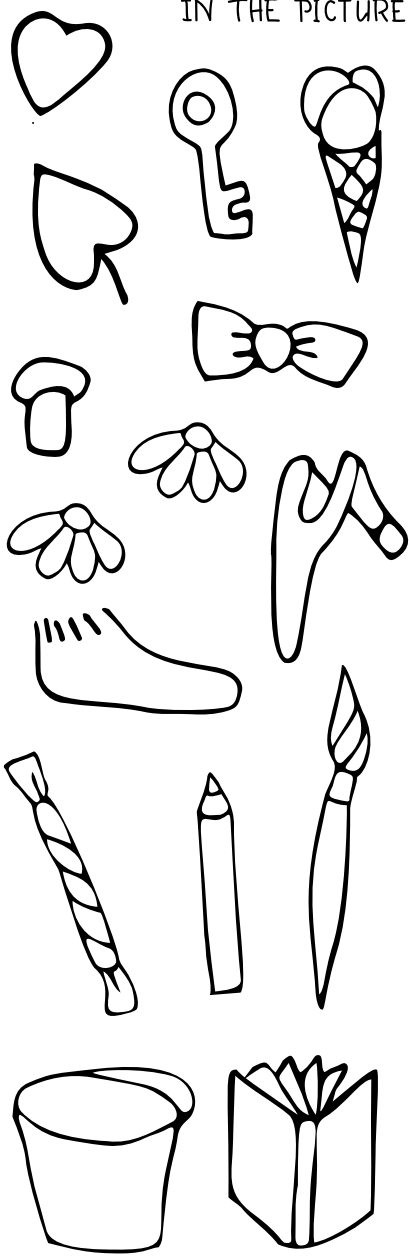






# Find and color.

FIND 15 HIDDEN  
OBJECTS  
IN THE PICTURE



FIND HIDDEN  
FOREST ANIMALS



## Sudoku for Kids

	6		1		2
	3	2		5	
	4	5			3
6			5	2	
		6			1
4		1	3		5

6	1		3		4
		3		1	
			5		
2	3	5		6	1
	5		6	3	
	2	6		4	

	1			4	
2	3		5	6	
	2		4		5
	5	3		1	
5			6	2	
	6	2		5	

		5			6
	6	2	5		4
	2			6	
1		6	4		5
	5		6		
6		3	1		2

## SUDOKU

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

### Easy

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

### Hard

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

### Very Hard

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

### Easy

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

### Hard

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

### Very Hard

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

Sudoku  
answers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bottom row – Very Hard

Bottom row – Hard

Bottom row – Easy

Top row – Very Hard

Top row – Hard

Top row – Easy



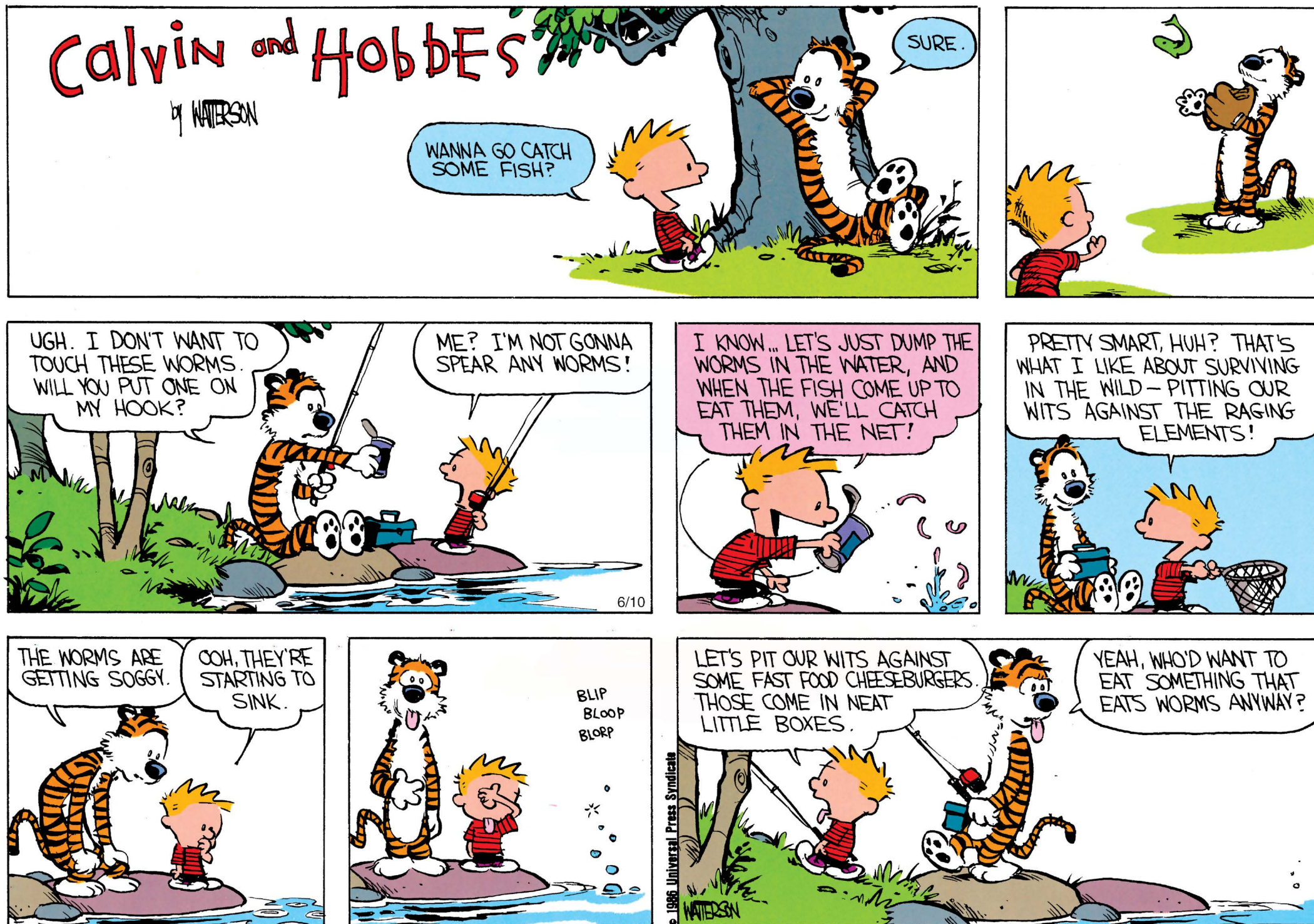






## EDUCATION

*From the Sentinel Foundation: the educational page for our readers.*



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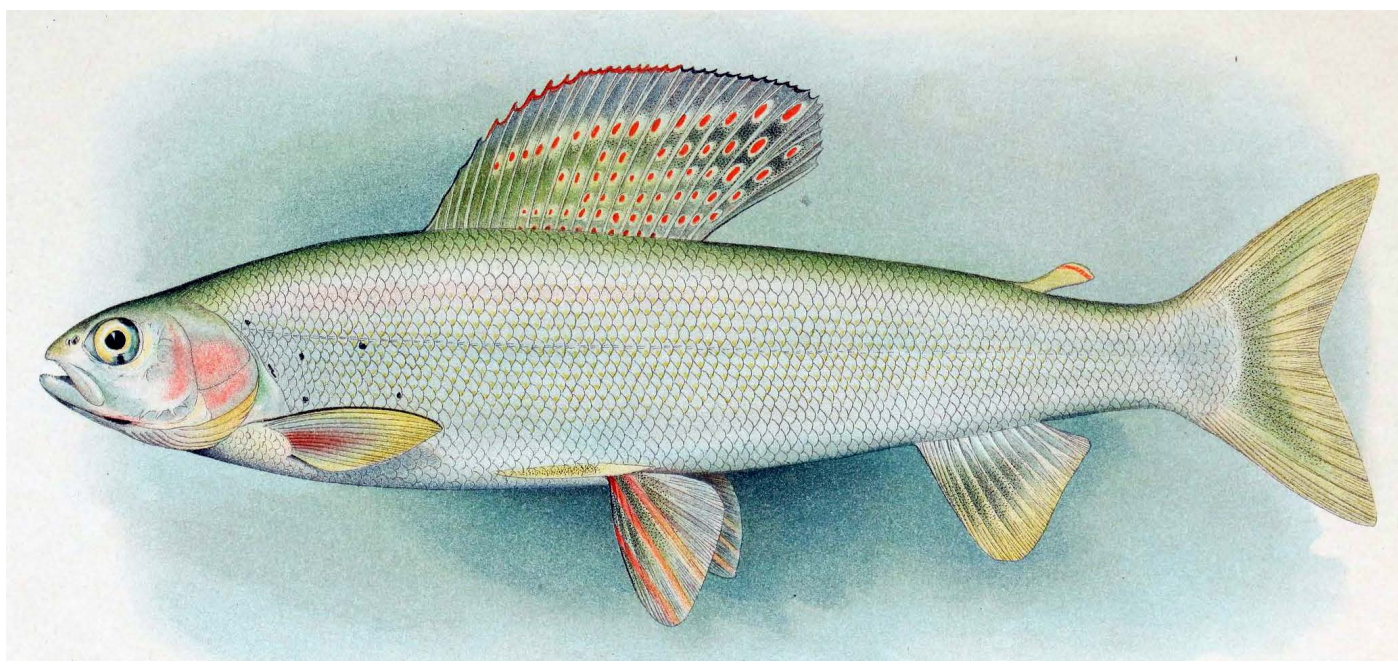
## COLUMN | WILDLY SUCCESSFUL: THE ARCTIC GRAYLING

# Why the mystique surrounding a fish?

Sometimes, it's enough—to come upon swirling silt in a streamside track the instant after an animal has darted off—to feel a connection with an elusive wild creature. To know you are breathing the same air, treading the same ground, or swimming the same waters of a true wilderness creature brings a certain restoration to the soul. Yet, there are other times when those moments are tantalizing. They beckon us ever onward in our quest to glimpse that living embodiment of nature we seek.

The Arctic Grayling *Thymallus arcticus*, is a creature of many facets. Simultaneously a species of acute conservation need and near mythic allure to anglers the world over, it is even elusive. Naturally occurring throughout high-latitude and high-altitude regions of Alaska, Canada, Siberia and select waters within Montana's upper Missouri River watershed, these regal fish have been introduced in a few alpine lakes throughout the Rocky Mountains—and as of 2025—in Michigan, where they formerly occurred. A member of the salmon family, it is unlike any other fish. Though it possesses a long silvery streamlined body like so many of its trout and salmon kin, the Arctic Grayling's unmistakable field mark is its enormous ascending sail-like dorsal fin. Exhibiting a shining and changeable color palette of iridescent pink, green, blue, and purple along its flanks with accenting black spots, the grayling is a stunning creature. With vivid aqua spotting and a scarlet border on the dorsal fin during spawning, these fish glow as nature's living art.

With 14 related species worldwide, grayling range throughout the wilderness regions of the Northern Hemisphere. Fulfilling the ecological roles of freshwater



*Surviving in only the coldest, purest, oxygen-infused streams, rivers, and lakes, these rare fish are an indicator species*



Mink, Black Bears, Grizzly Bears, and humans. More than any other food source, the Arctic Grayling serves as a key subsistence species for the Inupiat People of Alaska's North Slope. While the hemispheric Arctic Grayling population is considered secure, southern populations such as the Missouri River drainage are losing habitat to temperature change and increasingly unpredictable drought conditions which result in extremely low and warm water conditions.

I have encountered these fish at the Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center in West Yellowstone, Montana. Swimming nose to the swift current in their enormous exhibit of more than 1,000 gallons of oxygen-rich water flowing over a free stone bottom, they held my fascination. Still, I longed to observe them in the wild. More recently, I visited their pristine habitat high in the Canadian Rockies, in Kananaskis, Alberta. I approached the mirror-like alpine lake with reverence, swirled my hands in the cold

clear water and scanned in vain for these freshwater phantoms.

Why the allure? Why the mystique surrounding a fish? For me, and for many others the Arctic Grayling is far more than simply another living species. As a creature which requires nothing less than the most pristine habitat conditions, its presence is synonymous with true wilderness. Surviving in only the coldest, purest, oxygen-infused streams, rivers, and lakes, these rare fish are an indicator species, confirming optimal environmental conditions by their presence. For me, the grayling is the embodiment of nature's purity and wildness.

So, what can we learn from these beautiful creatures? Like many of us, grayling require certain conditions which enable them to survive and thrive. Without those conditions, these rare and beautiful creatures struggle. Like the grayling, we must learn to seek out those conditions that enable us to thrive. We must pursue environments which foster our own wellness and growth and adapt our preferences according to what nature affords us. Unlike the grayling, we can do an awful lot to conserve what is both vital and desired. Through insightful stewardship, we can contribute to our own environmental health and that of other species at the same time. My quest for the grayling continues. It is not dependent upon seeing the living ethereal creature, but upon exploring a world that will always value and protect clean pure waters and the creatures that swim within them.

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





# Preeminent surgeons caring for you, their neighbors

## Maureen P. McEvoy, MD

*Breast Surgeon; Breast Surgery Fellowship Director, Montefiore Einstein and Assistant Professor, Albert Einstein College of Medicine*

Raised in Connecticut and a resident of New Canaan, Maureen P. McEvoy, MD, provides comprehensive breast surgery care using minimally invasive and oncoplastic techniques to achieve cosmetically optimal outcomes. She focuses on minimizing surgery and maximizing patient care, offering surveillance for those with a high risk of breast cancer, performing lumpectomies, mastectomies and nipple-sparing mastectomies, and practicing de-escalation of axillary surgery.

A graduate of Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Dr. McEvoy completed a two-year clinical

research fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center followed by a breast surgical oncology fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard’s teaching hospital.

Dr. McEvoy has served on national committees and written national guidelines on ways to decrease lymphedema through smarter axillary surgery. She has presented her work on breast cancer nationally and has received awards at national conferences.



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