

News Briefs

POLICE & FIRE

Greenwich Expands School Zone Safety

Greenwich police will expand the town's photo speed-enforcement program to include Greenwich High School on Hillside Road, with a warning period beginning Dec. 8 and citations starting Jan. 8, 2026. Earlier camera sites at Central Middle, Glenville, and Parkway schools begin issuing citations Dec. 17. A 2024 speed study at GHS recorded 6,342 violations in five days—about 10% of all vehicles—prompting the addition of this location.

Winter Ash Safety Measures Strengthen

Recent fires across Connecticut have been traced to fireplace and woodstove ashes that were not fully extinguished or properly stored. Fire officials are urging residents to cool ashes for several days, keep them only in lidded metal containers stored outdoors away from buildings, and maintain working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in their homes. These steps

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GREEN THOUGHTS

"We need to change our way of thinking. We need to ask about every major decision we make as a people, as a nation 'How will what we do today affect our people seven generations ahead?'"

Jane Goodall interviewed in "Witness to Belief," by Russell J. Levenson, Jr., 2025.

GHS Closes Fall Season With a Surge of Titles and Postseason Triumphs



Anna Lenschow, Shay Sippel & Sophia Gega are among the members of the Greenwich High School varsity soccer team cheering for teammate Harriet Franks after she was named MVP of the Class LL soccer final. Photo by David Fierro.

Greenwich High School closed its fall season with a surge of championship performances. Three varsity teams secured state titles, one advanced to the state football final, and another reached the boys soccer final after a dominant run. The scale of achievement formed a portrait of a school moving with purpose, each program fortified by preparation, confidence, and depth.

The football team extended its postseason run with a commanding semifinal victory that signaled its readiness for a title defense. With Hector Lopez running around, away and through Fairfield Prep's defense, Phil Tarantino completing key passes, and the defensive unit swarming to the ball, there was no doubt Greenwich would earn a return trip to the destination it had targeted all season. That destination is the CIAC Class LL final, which the Cardinals reached in dominant fashion.

Lopez ran for 152 yards and two touchdowns on 28 carries and Tarantino passed for 75 yards with one touchdown, while running for 104 more, powering third-seeded Greenwich to a 31-10 win over second-seeded Fairfield Prep. Greenwich, which won last year's Class LL title, will face Southington in Saturday's final. "We've been playing so great," Lopez said. "The whole team has come together. Every single day we work so hard in practice, we're just ready for another state championship."

The Cardinals outgained Prep 340-199 and controlled possession for more than 30 minutes. Coach Anthony Morello said, "It's a cold, wintery

"This group set a standard that will guide the teams that follow,"
Coach Kurt Putnam

night, you got to seize the momentum right out of the gate. The plan was to come out, score first and put the pressure on." Greenwich executed early and sustained control, taking the lead for good on an 11-play drive capped by senior captain Jack Kelly's Wildcat run. From there, Greenwich widened the margin with a 30-yard touchdown from Tarantino to Hudson Squires. "Phil threw a perfect ball, it hit me right in the bread basket," Squires said. Tarantino credited the design: "We saw the safety coming down, so we did a little hitch-and-go."

Greenwich's defense secured the lead. Justin Carroll partially blocked a punt, Michael Golden added a sack, Sebastian Parra recorded five tackles, and Andy Stedem produced two tackles for loss. "I think we thrive when we bring pressure," Carroll said. Lopez added two second-half touchdowns, and Tarantino noted, "I feel like our offense has really found its rhythm since the Thanksgiving game." Morello said, "We succeeded in all three facets of the game and that's how you win a game like this." Parra added, "Our goal isn't to make it, it's to win it."

Girls soccer delivered a long-awaited

milestone with its first state championship. Greenwich defeated Amity 4-0 in the CIAC Class LL final, pressing from the opening whistle, controlling the midfield, and converting opportunities with assurance. The result reflected years of development that reshaped the program's competitive posture.

Girls volleyball followed with its own CIAC Class LL title, defeating Glastonbury 3-1 after dropping the opening set. The team recalibrated quickly and controlled the match through measured passing, strong blocking, and confident attacks. Senior captain Heidi Zieme led with 20 kills and 15 digs, completing a 25-1 season and securing the team's third state championship.


Swimming and diving claimed another State Open title at Yale's Kiphuth Exhibition Pool, posting 721 points. The win completed a sweep of FCIAC, Class LL, and State Open championships, propelled by school records, All-American qualifying swims, and depth across events. Veterans and younger athletes combined to sustain pressure throughout the meet.

Boys soccer reached the CIAC Class LL final with a 20-1 record before falling to Staples. Set-piece execution shaped the 3-0 result, but the Cardinals' season displayed balance, structure, and steady play. Coach Kurt Putnam noted the strength of the group and the standard it set.

Full stories by David Fierro appear on pages 15 and 16.

COLUMN

I am the Star



By ICY FRANTZ

I suppose you could say I have the best seat in the house.

Obviously.

I mean – look at me.

Front and center.

Top billing.

Literally.

Not that I sit. Stars don't sit.

We perch... with purpose.

Gracefully. Elegantly.

Leaning slightly to the left because someone (I won't name names) jammed my base onto a branch that was CLEARLY not up to the job.

But fine. I make it work.

My shine isn't quite what it used to be – I'll admit that.

But honestly?

A slightly dulled star is still a star.

Let this matter.

Let this hold.

Let this feel like love.

And it does.

If anything, it gives me a vintage-y, heirloom vibe.

Very "passed down with love" meets "still hotter than any ornament below me."

And speaking of below – and I do mean below – the ornaments are trying their absolute hardest. Dear ones.

Popsicle sticks, googly eyes, pom-poms, pipe cleaners glued together. Every one of them beaming with pride like, "I'm ART!"

Sweet children... you're memories, not masterpieces.

Then there are the Santas

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Make It a December to Remember





SHREVE, CRUMP & LOW

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



Stanwich
CHURCH

202 TACONIC ROAD
GREENWICH, CT

stanwichchurch.org

CHRISTMAS EVE

Services



DECEMBER 24TH

3PM • 5PM • 7PM







SHREVE, CRUMP & LOW

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



Christmas Eve at Second Congregational Church

Family Service at 3:30 p.m.
No rehearsal Nativity Pageant, all welcome!

Festival Service at 6:30 p.m.

Candelight Worship at 11:00 p.m.



2CC.ORG



Round Hill
Community Church
invites you to:

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

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

Nursery care available

roundhillcommunitychurch.org

395 Round Hill Road
Greenwich CT 06831



Families CHRISTMAS AT CHRIST CHURCH GREENWICH

Complimentary child care available during Sunday services,
9:30 am - 12:30 pm

SUNDAY, DEC 14

9:00 am "Messy Church" Eucharist
for young families

5:00 pm Benjamin Britten's
"A Ceremony of Carols"
performed by the St Cecilia
Choir of Girls

SUNDAY, DEC 21

(No Messy Church today)

10:00 am Annual Children's Nativity
Pageant and Reception

5:00 pm "Carols by Candlelight" sung
by the combined choirs
of Christ Church Greenwich

SATURDAY, DEC 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

12:00 pm Young Family Worship
Service with Deacon Susie

3:00 pm Family Worship Service



Advent & Christmas Services & Events

Sunday, December 14

8:00 & 10:00 am | Worship Service

11:15 am | Free Sunday Forum & Breakfast,
"Celebrating the Lamb's Victory"
with Harry Attridge
former Dean of Yale Divinity School

5:00 pm | Benjamin Britten, A Ceremony of Carols
Sung by the St Cecilia Choir of Girls with a harp

Sunday, December 21

(No Messy Church Today)

10:00 am | Annual Children's Christmas
Nativity Pageant

5:00 pm | Carols by Candlelight
Sung by the combined choirs of Christ Church

Monday, December 22

5:00 pm | "Blue Christmas" in the Chapel
for those who are struggling during the holidays

Christmas Eve Wednesday, December 24

12:00 pm | Children & Young Family Eucharist

3:00 pm | Children & Family Eucharist

5:00 pm | Festival Holy Eucharist

9:30 pm | Choral Prelude by Choir Alumni

10:00 pm | Christmas Eve Choral Eucharist
followed by champagne reception

Christmas Day Thursday, December 25

11:00 am | Holy Eucharist

christchurchgreenwich.org
254 East Putnam Ave., Greenwich, CT



TRINITY CHURCH INVITES YOU TO Christmas Eve Service

WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 24 | 4 P.M.

CHILDCARE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIRTH TO 4 YEARS OLD

HYATT REGENCY
1800 E. PUTNAM AVE.
OLD GREENWICH

LIVESTREAM THE SERVICE
WWW.TRINITYCHURCH.LIFE





HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!

CHILDREN & FAMILIES
EUCCHARIST SERVICE

DECEMBER 24 AT 2 PM

CAROLS & CRAFTS
CUPCAKES & CANDLES INCLUDED

ST. BARNABAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
954 LAKE AVENUE

Worship Services

Assemblies of God

Harvest Time Church

1338 King St., 203-531-7778
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. Anchor Night for Young Adults, 3rd Fri of month. *“Carol of the Toys” Kids’ Christmas Production: Saturday, Dec. 13, 6pm & Sunday, Dec. 14, 11am. Anchor Night for Young Adults: Friday, Dec. 19, 7pm. Christmas Eve Worship Services: 3:30 & 5:30 pm.*

Baptist

First Baptist Church

10 Northfield St.; 203-869-7988
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

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

Catholic

Sacred Heart Church

95 Henry St.; 203-531-8730
www.sacredheartgreenwich.org

Mass: Mon-Fri, 7am (in the Chapel); Saturday Vigil, 4pm (in Church); Sunday: 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30am. Confessions: Sat, 3-3:30pm or by appointment. Divine Mercy Prayer Group: Wed, 7-9pm. Prayer Group: Thu, 4-5pm, in the Chapel, 38 Gold St. All are welcome. *Ministry to the Homebound: if you, or someone you know, is homebound and would like a priest visit you, call the Rectory at 203-531-8730. Stations of the Cross: All Fridays during Lent, 6:30pm, in the Church, All are welcome. Family Mass with Christmas Pageant: Sunday, Dec. 14, 9:30am, followed by Breakfast with Santa. Confessions for Parishioners: Tuesday, Dec. 16, 6:30-7:30pm. Youth Mass: Sunday, Dec. 21, 11:30am. Christmas Eve Masses: 4pm in the Church (Live Stream), 10pm in the Church. Christmas Day Masses: 7:30 & 10am, in the Church.*

St. Catherine of Siena & St. Agnes

4 Riverside Ave; 203-637-3661
www.stc-sta.org

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

Masses: Saturday, 3-4pm – Confessions (Specific dates confirmed weekly in bulletin.) Vigil Mass, 5pm. Sunday: 7:30am, 9am (Family Mass), 10:30am (Traditional Mass), 5pm (Teen Mass), all at St. Catherine's Church). Masses in other Languages: French Mass - 2nd Sunday of the month, 11am. Italian Mass - 3rd Sunday of the month, both at St. Catherine's Chapel. Spanish Mass, 6:30pm, St. Catherine's Church. Daily/Weekdays: Mon, Tue, Thu & Friday: 7am – Daily Mass, St. Catherine's Church; 5:15pm – Daily Mass, St. Catherine's Chapel. Tuesdays: Rosary, 6pm, St. Catherine's Chapel. Wednesdays: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 8:30am-4pm, St. Catherine's Church. *Ongoing: Food & Essentials Drive for Neighbor to Neighbor (there will be a car or SUV with an open trunk in the parking lot across from St. Catherine's church on Tuesdays, 9-11am. Join Music Ministries for choir rehearsals – Traditional, Contemporary, Teen, Cherub, Family Mass Choir - contact Music Director, Dr. Liya Petrides at music.director@stc-sta.org with questions. 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. Christmas Tree Lighting: Sunday, Dec. 14, 6pm, in front of church. Bilingual Mass – Mañanitas a nuestra Virgen de Guadalupe: Sunday, Dec. 14, 10:30am.*

St. Mary Church

178 Greenwich Ave.; 203-869-9393
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. *Women's Advent Retreat: Saturday, Dec. 13, 9am-12pm, at St Paul's Church, 84 Sherwood Ave., Greenwich. Christmas Concert: Sunday, Dec. 14, 3pm, in the Church. Christmas Eve Masses: 4pm (Chapel & Church) 5:30 & 10pm. Christmas Day Masses: 9am, 10:30am & 12:15pm.*

St. Michael the Archangel

469 North St.; 203-869-5421
www.stmichaelgreenwich.com

Mass: Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:15pm. Sunday Masses: 8am, 9:45am, 12pm, 5:15pm. Daily Masses: Mon-Sat, 9am. *Candlelighting in Memory of Children: Sunday, Dec. 14, 7pm. Tree Lighting, Carolling & Co-*

coa: Saturday, Dec. 20, 6:15pm. Family Formation Levels 1-6/Nativity/Pageant: Sunday, Dec. 21, 9:45am. Christmas Eve Masses: Family Mass, 4pm; Mass with concert, 5:30pm; Mass Concert, 8:30pm; Mass, 9pm. Christmas Day Masses: 8am, 10am, 12pm; Adoration, 9:30am; Confession, 9:30am & 5:30pm.

St. Timothy Chapel

1034 North St.; 203-869-5421

Mass: Saturday Vigil Mass, 4pm. Sunday Mass, 11am. *Christmas Eve Mass: 5pm.*

St. Paul Church

84 Sherwood Ave.; 203-531-8741
www.stpaulgreenwich.org

Mass: Mon-Thu: 8am; Sat: 4pm (Vigil); Sun: 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30am. Confessions: Daily, 7:30am; 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 Thu. of every month, 7:30pm. Women's Advent Retreat: Saturday, Dec. 13, 9am-12pm, at St Paul's Church.*

St. Roch Church

10 St. Roch Ave; 203-869-4176
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. *Celebrate the Virgen De Guadalupe – Mass in Spanish: Friday, Dec. 12, 7:30pm. Christmas Tree Lighting: Saturday, Dec. 13, after the 4pm Vigil Mass. Heitor Caballero recital – works for piano & organ: Sunday, Dec. 14, 4pm.*

Christian Science

First Church of Christ, Scientist

11 Park Pl; 203-869-1555
christiansciencet.org/greenwich

Sundays: Church and Sunday School at 10:30. Weds. 7:30pm testimonies of healing. Call # for all services 203-680-9095 code 520520. Reading Room 333 Greenwich Ave. M-F 1:00-5:00 203-869-2503. Bibles, Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, children's books, and more. *Dec. 14: God the Preserver of Man. Dec. 21: Is the Universe, including Man, evolved by atomic force? Dec. 28: Christian Science. Jan. 4: God.*

Community

First Church of Round Hill

464 Round Hill Rd; 203-629-3876
www.firstchurchofroundhill.com

In-person worship: Sundays, 10am. *Dec. 14: Third Sunday of Advent Lighting of the third candle of Advent (joy), 10am. Dec. 21: Fourth Sunday of Advent Lighting of the fourth candle of Advent, 10am. Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols (All cordially invited: we look forward to sharing with you), 5:30pm.*

Round Hill Community Church

395 Round Hill Rd; 203-869-1091
www.roundhillcommunitychurch.org

Weekly Sunday Worship services in the Sanctuary at 10am or online at 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. Annual Christmas Pageant: Sunday, Dec. 14, 10am, all are welcome. Longest Night Service: Saturday, Dec. 20, 3:30pm. Christmas Eve Worship Service: 4pm.*

Congregational

The First Congregational Church

108 Sound Beach Ave; 203-637-1791
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. *60th Annual Handel's Messiah Concert: Saturday, Dec. 13, 4pm, \$20 suggested donation. First Church Christmas Party: Sunday, Dec. 14, 5pm. Christmas Eve Services: Children's Service, 10am; Family Service, 3pm; Festival Candlelight Carol, 6pm; Candlelight Service with Communion, 9pm.*

North Greenwich Congregational

606 Riversville Rd; 203-869-7763
(Instagram photos and videos @north_greenwich_church)

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

Second Congregational Church

139 E Putnam Ave; 203-869-9311
www.2cc.org

Sunday Worship, 8:30 & 10:30am. Livestream available for 10:30am service. Children's Chapel during 10:30am worship. Follow us on Facebook & Instagram: @2CCGreenwich. All are welcome here! *Teddy Bear*

Story Hour at Coffee for Good: Saturday, Dec. 20, 8am. Moms’ Group Sip & Social: Saturday, Dec. 20, 2:30pm. Christmas Eve Worship: 3:30pm Family Service (with no-rehearsal Nativity Pageant open to all); 6:30pm Festival Service; 11pm Candlelight Worship.

Episcopal

Anglican Church of the Advent

606 Riversville Rd; 203-861-2432
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

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. *Friday Bible Study with Rev. Tim Hamlin: Fri, 10am. Messy Church Eucharist: Sun, 8:45am. Bagels & Bibles: Sun, 10:05am. Sunday Forum: “What is the New Testament” with Yii-Jan Lin: Dec. 7, 11:15am. Men's Bible Study with Rev. Elsberry: Wednesday, Dec. 10, 7pm. Sunday, Dec. 14: Sunday Forum: “Celebrating the Lamb's Victory” with Prof. Harry Attridge, 11:15am. Benjamin Britten, A Ceremony of Carols, 5pm. Women's Ministry Christmas Gathering: Thursday, Dec. 18, 6pm. Sunday, Dec. 21: Children's Christmas Pageant & Holy Eucharist, 10am; Christmas Pageant Reception, 11:15am; Carols by Candlelight, 5pm. Christmas Eve Worship: Children & Young Family Eucharist, 12pm; Children & Family Eucharist, 3pm; Festival Holy Eucharist, 5pm; Festival Holy Eucharist, 10pm (9:30 Choral Prelude). Christmas Day: Holy Eucharist, 11am.*

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

954 Lake Ave.; 203-661-5526
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.stpaulsriverside.org

Worship: Sundays, 10:15am (in person and streaming). Coffee hour immediately following worship service in Selleck Hall. Sunday School (including frolic Fatih class for toddlers 2+) in the Children's Chapel downstairs – drop-off starts at 10am. Ongoing: Neighbor-to-Neighbor food drive box by office door. Pick-up is every Thursday morning. *Christmas Eve: Pageant, 3:30pm; Candlelit Service with Musical Prelude, 6pm; Candlelit Service with Communion, 6:30pm. Christmas Day Service, 10:15am. Lessons & Carols: Sunday, Dec. 28, 10:15am.*

St. Saviour's Episcopal Church

350 Sound Beach Ave; 203-637-2262
www.saintsaviours.org

In-person Service: Sundays, 10am.

Jewish

Chabad Lubavitch of Greenwich

75 Mason St.; 203-629-9059
www.chabadgreenwich.org

Please visit our website for details on Shabbat services, classes, programs and more. Soul Spa: *The Five Books of Miriam: Uplifting Feminine Voices: Sat, 10am-12pm, on Zoom. Unlocking the Jewish Prayerbook-Opening the Liturgy: Sun, 5-6pm. Menorah Lighting & Concert: Sunday, Dec. 14, 4:45pm. Grand Menorah Parade: Sunday, Dec. 21, 4pm, Old Greenwich Fire Station to Greenwich Avenue.*

Congregation Shir Ami

One W. Putnam Ave; 203-274-5376
www.congregationshirami.org

All services, programs and celebrations are available online via Zoom. *Kabbalat Shabbat: Fridays, 7-9pm, First Presbyterian Church. Soul Spa - Meet the Midrash: Saturdays, 10am, through Aug. 9, on Zoom.*

Greenwich Reform Synagogue

92 Orchard St.; 203-629-0018
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. *Guest Cantor Elizabeth Sternlieb: Friday, Dec. 12, 6pm. Lunch 'n Learn with Cantor*

Rubin: Thursday, Dec. 18, 12pm. Chanukah Tot & Family Services & Dinner: Friday, Dec. 19, 5:15pm, RSVP.

Temple Sholom

300 E. Putnam Ave.; 203-869-7191
www.templesholom.com

Services - In-person and virtual Friday night Shabbat services, 6:30pm & Saturday morning Shabbat services, 10:30am. *Toy Drive to Benefit David's Treasure Chest Toy Closet: through Dec. 31. Itsy Bitsy Playgroup: Friday, Dec. 12, 9:15am. Chanukah-themed Together Shabbat: Friday, Dec. 12, 5:30pm. Shabbat Mishpacha: Saturday, Dec. 13, 11:15am. Text Study (On Zoom): Monday, Dec. 15, 9am.*

Lutheran

St. Paul Lutheran Church

286 Delavan Ave.; 203-531-8466
www.firstpaul.com

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

Methodist

Diamond Hill United Methodist

521 E. Putnam Ave.; 203-869-2395
www.diamondhillumc.com

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

First United Methodist Church

59 E. Putnam Ave.; 203-629-9584
www.fumcgreenwich.com

Virtual Sunday Worship: 10am. Sunday School – Lunch and Learning Bible: 12pm. Sunday Korean School: 1-4pm, Education Building.

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

Stanwich Church

202 Taconic Rd.; 203-661-4420
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. Live stream and recorded media are available at stanwichchurch.org. We'd love to meet you here! *Christmas Eve Candlelight Services: 3, 5 & 7pm. Nursery care is provided at the 3 & pm services for ages 4 & under.*

Center for Spiritual Development. NSAC

293 Sound Beach Ave; 203-637-4615
www.Center4SpiritualDev.org

Sunday Service (hybrid: in-person & virtually on zoom): 7pm. Virtual Children's Lyceum (ages 5-14): 3rd Sunday of the month, 10-10:40am. Healing Service: 3rd Thursday of the month, 7-7:30pm. (Email Albertson-pcc@gmail.com for registration and Zoom Links). *Psychic Fair: Saturday, Dec. 13, 11am-4pm. Guided Meditation: Tuesday, Dec. 16, 9-9:45am, Free, All are welcome.*

Trinity Church

5 River Rd. (Office); 203-618-0808
www.trinitychurch.life

All are invited to Trinity's morning Worship Service at 10am every Sunday. We meet at the Hyatt Regency, 1800 E Putnam, Old Greenwich. Kids programs are offered for up to 5th grade and Youth programs are available for middle & high schoolers. Livestream and recorded messages can be viewed at www.trinitychurch.life. Hope you can make it! *Middle School Christmas Party: Tuesday, Dec. 16, 7pm. Lessons & Carols: Thursday, Dec. 18, 7pm. Christmas Eve Service, 4pm.*

Presbyterian

First Presbyterian Church

1 W. Putnam Ave.; 203-869-8686
www.fpcg.org

Worship: Sundays, 10am. *Carols by Candlelight: Saturday, Dec. 13, 4-7pm. Christmas Pageant: Sunday, Dec. 21, during 10am Worship. Christmas Eve Services: Family-friendly, 10am; Celebration, 6pm; Communion Service, 10pm.*

Grace Church of Greenwich

89 Maple Ave.; 203-861-7555
www.gracechurchgreenwich.com

Worship: Sundays, 10am, The Boys & Girls Club of Greenwich, 4 Horseneck Ln. & 4:30pm, Woman's Club of Greenwich, 89 Maple Ave. Church Lunch: 1st Sunday of every month, 12–2pm, Boys and Girls Club of Greenwich. Prayer Meeting: 3rd Sunday of every month, 10-10:30am, Boys and Girls Club of Greenwich. All are welcome. *Christmas Party: Thursday, Dec. 18, 6-8:30pm. Christmas Eve Service: 3-4pm.*

Living Hope Community Church

38 West End Ave; 203-637-3669
www.LivingHopect.org

Worship In-person & online (LivingHopect.org/livestream): Sundays: 10am. *Forum for Fathers: Are you a man with or who has kids or family members with ADHD? We meet Sundays at 9am at the church to pray, seek God, and encourage each other. Contact Todd.klair@gmail.com for more information. Christmas Pageant: Sunday, Dec. 21, 9:30am. Christmas Eve Service: 5-6pm.*

RMA Presents “The World That Wasn’t: Henry Wallace and the Fate of the American Century”

By BOB GIAQUINTO

Drawing on newly accessible archival secrets, historian Benn Steil, a prominent American economist and Senior Fellow and Director of International Economics at the Council on Foreign Affairs in New York, presented a stunning reevaluation of one of America’s most important—and certainly most fascinating—“almost presidents,” at the December 3 meeting of the Greenwich Retired RMA’s Association. Introduced by RMA member Bob Rimmer, Dr. Steil’s presentation explored the subject of his book, “The World That Wasn’t: Henry Wallace and the Fate of the American Century.” His research, utilizing striking new findings from Russian, FBI, and other archives, painted a decidedly less heroic portrait of the man whose political defeat led to Harry Truman becoming president upon Franklin D. Roosevelt’s death in 1945.

The central historical puzzle addressed by Dr. Steil was the massive “what-if” of the 20th century: What if Wallace, not Truman, had been FDR’s running mate in 1944? Given Wallace’s strong opposition to the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, the containment policy, the creation of NATO and West Germany and the Berlin airlift, a Wallace presidency would have yielded a very different world.

Wallace himself was an enigma. He was a pioneering agricultural geneticist whose hybridization experiments resulted in the harder, abundant corn strains consumed today. In Iowa, the small company he founded to commercialize this work was later sold to DuPont for \$9.5 billion in today’s dollars. Yet, this rigorous scientist was also a mystic, engaging in alternative ways of knowing, such as astrology, seances, and theosophy. He was even responsible for recommending the Masonic Eye of Providence on the dollar bill to Franklin D. Roosevelt. Dr. Steil suggested that Wallace, who loved humanity but struggled with actual humans, would likely be diagnosed with Asperger’s if alive today, noting that Wallace’s temperament was not suited for politics.

Henry Wallace was the editor of a prominent farm journal when 40% of the USA was involved in agriculture. Wallace’s political ascent began when FDR, seeking someone to save the farm belt during the Depression, chose the staunch Republican Wallace as his first agriculture secretary in 1932. As Secretary, Wallace presided over the distribution of enormous subsidies (\$1.2 trillion in today’s dollars) and controversially ordered the premature slaughter of six million hogs and the destruction of millions of acres of already planted cotton to boost prices.

During this period, archival findings revealed Wallace’s deep entanglement with White Russian artist and mystic Nicholas Roerich, whom Wallace addressed as “Dear Guru.”

Roerich cultivated Wallace for influence, especially once he became agriculture secretary. In 1934, Wallace provided cover for Roerich to lead a Central Asia expedition, allegedly to find drought-resistant seeds. In truth, Roerich was attempting to build a theocratic state called Shambhala by taking territory from Siberia, Manchuria, Tibet, and Mongolia. When the expedition imploded in scandal, Wallace publicly denied knowledge of Roerich’s political activities, managing to avoid a complete falling out with FDR.

Wallace was eventually selected as FDR’s third-term running mate in 1940. As vice president, he was given serious responsibilities, leading the Bureau of Economic Warfare and engaging in public battles with Commerce Secretary Jesse H. Jones over procurement strategies. Before the 1944 convention, with FDR visibly failing, Democratic National Committee leaders successfully lobbied to push Wallace off the ticket due to concerns he was a “crazy mystic too close to the Soviets.”

Sent on a supposed emissary trip to China, Wallace spent four weeks touring Joseph Stalin’s Gulag Archipelago in Siberia. The Soviets constructed an elaborate Potemkin continent for him to tour, using political prisoners to stage magnificent concerts and dressing young communists as hardy miners. Wallace, who compared the director of the Gulag system, NKVD official Ivan Nikishov, to the head of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), effusively praised the Soviet accomplishments. In China, Wallace advocated for Soviet desiderata in Manchuria—specifically control of ports like Dalian and Port Arthur. The items Wallace championed were the same concessions Stalin later demanded from FDR at Yalta, making Wallace, in effect, the “father” of the Sino-Soviet Treaty.

Though Wallace led the first ballot at the 1944 convention, DNC leaders coalesced support for Harry Truman. Dr. Steil’s extensive investigation refuted the long-standing legend that Truman’s victory was corrupt, concluding that Truman won legitimately.

After his defeat, Wallace became commerce secretary under FDR and then Truman. His time was marked by chaos, including instigating mass strikes. His lead economic advisor, Harry Magdoff, a Soviet agent going back to the 1930s, fed him information and drafted speeches attacking Truman’s foreign policy.

In 1948, Wallace ran for president under the New Progressive Party, funded and controlled by the Communist Party USA (CPUSA). Russian archives revealed that in March 1948, Wallace secretly met with Soviet UN Ambassador Andrei Gromyko to discuss how Wallace could secure an agreement with Stalin to prove the Cold War was Truman’s fault. Dr. Steil found documentary evidence, including Stalin’s handwritten

Wallace’s political ascent began when FDR, seeking someone to save the farm belt during the Depression, chose the staunch Republican Wallace as his first agriculture secretary in 1932.



Economist and historian Benn Steil presented a new view of former Vice President and 1948 Presidential candidate Henry Wallace based on recently discovered archival documents.

edits, proving that the Soviet leader personally altered Wallace’s major campaign speech. Wallace was overwhelmingly defeated, winning only 2% of the total vote. Thirty percent of his total came from New York Jewish communists.

Dr. Steil noted that a Wallace presidency would have placed major Soviet assets like Harry Dexter White (a top Treasury official whom the Soviets considered an important source) and Laurence Duggan (State Department official) in critical cabinet roles. While Wallace might not have prevented the Cold War, he would have ensured the U.S. fought it from an enormous disadvantage, potentially giving the Soviets control over Turkey, Iran, the Korean Peninsula, and Germany. Wallace eventually broke with the Communists after the Korean War and began supporting Republicans like Dwight D. Eisenhower. He died in 1965.

The RMA’s next presentation, “A Theory of Everything: To Help Everyone Rise to Today’s Challenges,” by Bill Harvey, is scheduled for 10:45 AM on Wednesday, December 17, 2025. This presentation will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, 1 West Putnam Avenue, in Greenwich (note change in location).

In this conversation author Bill Harvey will use slides and video to discuss his book “A Theory of Everything,” and how to thrive in an increasingly challenging world.

Einstein was among the first of the modern physicists to imagine that all of science could one day be stated in a

single theory that would cover all phenomena, and he may have coined the term “theory of everything.” In Bill’s vision of reality consciousness is all that exists, and matter-energy-space-time exist within consciousness. Quantum physics gets closer and closer to that same vision every day, while physicalists violently reject it.

Bill discusses this debate among physicists, and speculates as to the reasons for the disagreements. He also relates his theory to explain why all religions may in fact have come about the same way he came about his theory. He hypothesizes that the present world turmoil may trace to the absence of a sense of higher purpose and meaning which would prevail if his theory were to be given credence.

Science was originally known by the name “natural philosophy” which contained a branch “metaphysics.” Religion and science were side by side within philosophy. The schism making them enemies is a relatively recent development. Bill gives his interpretation of how materialistic accidentalism has caused a world culture in which nobility has become something that social media users cringe at the thought of.

Bill Harvey is the founder and Executive Director of the Human Effectiveness Institute, and the author of eight books, including the groundbreaking Mind Magic: Doorways into Higher Consciousness (now in its 6th edition). He is also a leading market researcher, and has consulted with more than 100 Fortune 500 companies.

h t t p s : / / w w w . humaneffectivenessinstitute.org/

To stream the presentation by Bill Harvey at 10:45 AM on Wednesday, December 17, click on <https://bit.ly/30IBj2l>. This presentation will also be available on local public access TV channels, Verizon FIOS channel 24 and Optimum 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.

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A Plan for Change: Pillars and Policy Goals

By ELIZABETH BARHYDT

This three-part series examines how one Greenwich family's loss has sparked a broader effort to change the landscape of pediatric cancer care. The series follows the creation of the Vivienne C. Finn Foundation beginning with its first fundraising dinner, launched in memory of 11-year-old Vivienne Cecilia Finn, who died in 2020 from a diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma, one of the most aggressive childhood brain tumors.

Part One introduced readers to Vivienne Cecilia Finn, a Sacred Heart of Greenwich student whose diagnosis with diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma led her family into a world of radiation, MRIs and clinical trials. Her story became the foundation for a new organization created in her name

Part Two examined pediatric neuro-oncology at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital, where Dr. Asher Marks and Dr. Vidya Puthenpura described the realities of treating rare childhood brain tumors, the pressures families face and the gaps that persist in supportive care.

When the last plates of Vivienne's favorite dessert (ice box chocolate cake) left the tables at the Founders' Dinner, the focus of the evening shifted from remembrance to resolve. For the Finn family, telling Vivienne's story is essential. But the creation of the Vivienne C. Finn Foundation is not only an act of grief or love; it is a response to structural gaps that continue to shape the lives of children with cancer. This final installment examines those gaps and the foundation's plan to close them—through research investment, family support and legislative change now gathering traction in Hartford and Washington.

For many in the room that November night, the statistics Mairead Finn shared were jarring. "Only four percent of the National Cancer Institute's budget goes to pediatric cancer research," she said. Of that, an even smaller fraction supports the rarest cancers, including diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma. The imbalance is long-documented by pediatric organizations and acknowledged by clinicians. Drug companies, operating in a financial model built around adult disease, face little incentive to develop treatments for cancers that strike fewer individuals and often require longer, costlier early-phase trials. As Dr. Asher Marks noted, "It's a very poor business decision."

That reality shapes the foundation's first pillar: accelerating drug development for rare pediatric cancers. The Finns understand firsthand how thin the pipeline can feel. After Vivienne's first clinical trial showed progression, her family began researching other investigational options. They found promise in a molecule then known as ONC201, a therapy aimed at the molecular drivers of certain diffuse midline gliomas. But the company manufacturing the drug was struggling to maintain supply for expanded use. "The parent company was running out of supply," Mairead told the audience. The family decided to make a direct philanthropic investment to keep the drug in production, and they worked closely with physicians and researchers to help open an expanded-access arm of the study at Yale.

Vivienne died four months after initiating treatment, but her parents remain convinced that she helped set the stage for progress. In 2025, the Food and Drug Administration granted accelerated approval to dordaviprone, the therapy formerly called ONC201, for certain pediatric brain tumors. Only seven drugs specifically tailored to children's cancer biology have been approved in the past several decades. The foundation's aim is to help ensure that new candidates follow more quickly. To that end, David and Mairead participate in scientific review meetings with organizations such as the Sontag Foundation and the Ellos Foundation and maintain a close partnership with the ChadTough Defeat DIPG Foundation, which evaluates promising early-stage research across the country.

The second pillar—supporting families—reflects another set of realities: the financial, logistical and emotional burdens that begin on the day of diagnosis. "One in four lose about 40 percent of their income," Mairead said. For many families, the early weeks

of treatment involve daily travel, abrupt changes in employment, time away from siblings and a sudden immersion in medical terminology. Something as small as a toiletry bag at the Ronald McDonald House made a difference in the Finns' own experience. "These are invaluable for people rushing out the door with a sick child," she said.

To meet those needs, the foundation has built a resource hub that consolidates travel assistance, lodging options, financial aid programs and psychosocial support. The site was created by a family friend known as Nini, and the foundation intends to add more Connecticut-specific resources in the coming year. The goal is not only to help families navigate their first days after diagnosis, but also to reduce disparities in access to information—gaps that clinicians say can affect outcomes.

This pillar includes another initiative strongly shaped by clinician feedback. Families facing pediatric brain tumor diagnoses often describe the treatment landscape as a maze: multiple trials, complex molecular data, differing eligibility rules and difficult decisions about whether to remain local or travel for care. The Finns helped support the launch of My DIPG Navigator, a 24-hour nurse-practitioner program offering individualized guidance on symptoms, side effects, trial eligibility and treatment transitions. "What's my next trial?" is one of the most common questions. So is, "How long should I wash out of this drug?" The service aims to give families a clear point of contact in moments of uncertainty.

The foundation's vision for family support extends beyond patients. Siblings often shoulder unspoken burdens—fear, confusion, depression and the disruption of daily life. The Finns hope to collaborate with Yale New Haven to fund psychologists dedicated to pediatric oncology families, helping ensure that children who are not patients also receive structured support. They also plan to advocate for stronger coverage of clinical trials under HUSKY and Medicaid so that Connecticut families are not forced to choose between financial stability and medical access.

The "third pillar—legislative advocacy—"has grown more urgent in recent months. At the dinner, Mairead spoke about her work with Kids v Cancer and executive director Nancy Goodman to advance the Give Kids a Chance Act, federal legislation designed to modernize pediatric trial design and improve access to combination therapies. At the time, the bill had strong bipartisan support but had not yet reached the floor.

That changed December 1. "The House of Representatives passed unanimously the renamed Mikaela Naylor Give Kids a Chance Act and so we are onto the Senate for a vote," Mairead wrote in a message updating supporters. She expressed gratitude to those who helped advance the measure. "I have received co-sponsorship from Senator Blumenthal, Senator Murphy and Representative Himes. I wish to thank them for giving kids a chance at life."

The bill's renaming carries its own story. Mikaela Naylor, a 16-year-old from Oklahoma who spent nearly six years pursuing treatment for osteosarcoma, became a tireless advocate for improving access to pediatric trials. She died on October 29. Earlier this year, Senator Markwayne Mullin introduced the bill with Senator Michael Bennet, and in the days before the House vote, Mullin announced that it would be renamed in Mikaela's honor. In remarks entered into the congressional record, Mullin described Mikaela as "a fighter and a fierce advocate" who "never once wavered in her effort to bring awareness to the importance of patient access to life-changing therapeutics and trials."

The Finns traveled to Washington and met Mikaela's parents, Cassandra and Doug. "They are the loveliest of people," Mairead said. "They told us it was surreal to see their daughter's picture on the floor of the House of Representatives—never the reality you hoped for your child but yet an honor that she will be remembered as giving her life for others." Together with other advocates, they sat in the gallery and watched the unanimous vote.



Families and advocates gathered in Washington to witness the House vote on the Mikaela Naylor Give Kids a Chance Act. The group, including Cassandra and Doug Naylor and supporters of the Vivienne C. Finn Foundation, met after the unanimous passage of the bill, which now moves to the Senate for consideration.

“Children make up 25% of the population, and they are 100% of the future.” – Mairead Finn

The bill contains two provisions that align directly with the foundation's policy priorities. The first expands the Pediatric Priority Review Voucher Program, which incentivizes companies to develop pediatric treatments by offering expedited review for future drugs. The second allows children to participate in combination trials that include both investigational therapies and already-approved targeted medicines. For diseases like DIPG, where single agents rarely produce meaningful results, the ability to study combinations earlier in the treatment process is critical.

If adopted by the Senate, the bill would represent one of the most significant federal pediatric oncology reforms in more than a decade. For the Finns and for clinicians like Dr. Marks and Dr. Vidya Puthenpura, legislative movement signals a shift toward more equitable trial design.

The foundation is also shaping a parallel effort in Connecticut. Working with State Representative Tina Courpas and State Representative Nicole Dietter, Mairead is advocating for a state tax-refund checkbox allowing residents to direct a portion of their refund to pediatric cancer research. Eight states have implemented similar programs, collectively generating tens of millions of dollars for research, family support and trial infrastructure. Mairead argues that Connecticut's contributions should support clinical research at Yale New Haven and UConn Health, giving families the opportunity to remain home while pursuing cutting-edge care. "Our kids need to do their trials at home," she said at the dinner. Keeping children local preserves school routines, reduces emotional strain and allows siblings to remain connected during prolonged treatment.

Other Connecticut priorities include strengthening HUSKY coverage for clinical trials and funding statewide nurse-navigator resources to ensure families can access timely guidance anywhere in the state. These initiatives are grounded in the realities described by Yale's pediatric neuro-oncology team: families with unmet basic needs experience worse outcomes, private insurance denials delay care, and clinical teams are stretched thin when hospital budgets cut essential psychosocial services.

The foundation's policy agenda is rooted in practical experience. Dr. Marks has seen families lose jobs, drain savings and struggle with transportation for daily radiotherapy appointments. Dr. Puthenpura's research shows that nearly half of families treated at Yale face at least one unmet basic need—food insecurity, unstable housing, difficulty paying utilities or lack of transportation. These conditions contribute to delayed presentation, increased treatment complications and higher financial stress. Legislative change cannot erase the emotional toll of childhood cancer, but it can address preventable structural barriers that worsen outcomes.

For the Finns, these issues are not abstractions. They remember scrambling for childcare for their other children, negotiating time away from work and navigating insurance approvals that arrived



VIVIENNE C. FINN
FOUNDATION
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too slowly. They remember rushing to Yale unprepared and relying on the simplest acts of generosity from strangers. They remember the difference it made when doctors were able to open an expanded-access trial near home, allowing Vivienne to sleep in her own bed and attend school when she felt well enough. "Children want to be around their siblings," Mairead said. "They want to go to school." Supporting that normalcy is part of the foundation's mission.

As the evening at the Founders' Dinner drew to a close, Mairead returned to a theme she carried through each of the three pillars. "We all live under the shade of

trees planted by others," she said. Her hope is that the work now underway will grow into trees that shelter future families—families who may face the same words she heard on Diagnosis Day but with more options, better support and a clearer path forward.

She urged attendees to remain engaged. "Give within your means, but give often," she said. She asked them to tell newly diagnosed families that the foundation exists, and to lend their voices to legislative efforts in Hartford and Washington. And she reminded them, as she had throughout the night, why this work matters. "Children make up 25% of the

American population," she said, "and they are 100% of our future."

The story of Vivienne's life launched a foundation. The work of that foundation now moves into laboratories, hospital clinics, legislative chambers and living rooms across Connecticut. The pillars set out that night—better drugs, stronger family support and smarter laws—are ambitious, but they reflect a conviction at the heart of the Finn family's mission: no child should die from cancer, and no family should face that journey alone.

Learn more at the Vivienne C. Finn Foundation online at <https://vcfinnfoundation.org/>



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Debra Mecky Addresses Her Inspired Decades Directing the Greenwich Historical Society

By ANNE W. SEMMES

Debra Mecky, as of a month ago, was heralded for her 30 years as executive director and CEO of the Greenwich Historical Society at the Society’s “History in the Making Dinner.” She and her husband Carl, having lived next door to the Society campus, now live with family in Westwood, New Jersey. With such an accomplished career, the Sentinel reached out to Mecky in her retirement to look back and share what had inspired her leadership across the decades. She richly responded.

Q: With the Greenwich Historical Society now recognized as a nationally recognized history museum during your tenure, what do you see as the major “building blocks” that made that happen.

A: The building blocks necessary to obtain national recognition are outlined in the accreditation program of the American Alliance of Museums. National accreditation is a peer-based validation of operations and impact focused on how well the Historical Society achieved its stated mission and goals, and how well its performance met standards and best practices as understood in the museum field. Greenwich Historical Society was first accredited in 2005, and I remember our excitement at the time. It has since been reaccredited in 2020.

When I arrived in 1996, there was no emergency response plan or facilities plan or personnel manual. With so many administrative challenges, much of what I had to do was to attract skilled staff and consultants who could develop curatorial and education programs for the community, and who could support the board’s financial and fundraising plans. The work took time and included the completion of historic structures reports on each of the historic buildings, a historic landscape plan to outline how the site would be interpreted, a furnishing plan for Bush-Holley House, and a master plan to guide physical expansion of the campus.

Strategic planning was an ongoing process and required paying attention to emerging opportunities and risks. Almost three decades later, I am proud of what we accomplished and that Greenwich Historical Society has gained the trust of the community and the admiration of many similar organizations who are inspired by its success.

Q: Who are on your shortlist of major players during your tenure having helped to accomplish the Historical Society’s “boldly reimagined campus.”

A: The boldly reimagined campus in Cos Cob was the outcome of long-term planning and the commitment of major players in the community. The expansion solved major barriers to our success, including lack of accessible parking and walkways, and insufficient collections storage and undersized galleries to exhibit the collections and explore diverse themes in Greenwich history. There were major players who moved the project forward.

On my shortlist are Davidde Strackbein, the board chair during the expansion who held us to high standards; the late Bruce Dixon who headed the construction committee and kept the project on time and budget; and Peter Malkin, husband of the Historical Society’s longest serving board member Isabel Malkin. As Peter often said, it was “pillow talk” with Isabel that drew him in to take on the challenge of chairing the Reimagine the Campus Campaign from 2016 to 2018, which raised approximately 14 million dollars, including a challenge gift from anonymous

donors early in the campaign to match every dollar contributed.

Q: You have shared in the early part of your career of finding “a greater appreciation and understanding of American history.” In what ways during your tenure did you witness that interest grow – with particular age groups? Are there instances you can share?

A: When I first entered the field of historic site interpretation at Historic Hudson Valley in 1981 (then known as Sleepy Hollow Restorations), the country was still experiencing the afterglow of the American Bicentennial. Historic house museums proliferated and became the most conventional type of museum in the United States. But by the turn of the 21st century, attendance was waning, even at major attractions like Colonial Williamsburg and Old Sturbridge Village. Sustaining them became increasingly challenging. The history museum field began to question the conventional business model of historic house museums and began to reimagine what their future use could look like.

Three themes that I took to heart from that time were to be a good neighbor in one’s own community, to create experiences visitors want, and to tell inclusive stories. Fortunately, Greenwich Historical Society is much more than a historic house museum. Its archives collections continue to grow and expand to tell a fuller history. Some highlights of that time in Greenwich were exhibitions on African American, Jewish, Italian and Japanese communities, done in collaboration with each community. There was a tremendous response to these exhibits and an outpouring of appreciation from people from all parts of town.

I’m proud that the Historical Society has been a good steward of its resources and continues to prioritize education and community; for example, through working with the Greenwich Public Schools to support experiential education programs for students, or through creating and sustaining the Greenwich Preservation Network, a wide cross-section of community leaders who share a common goal to protect significant buildings and landscapes and who can speak more powerfully through collaboration.

Q: What year did the Bush-Holley House become a National Landmark - as the seat and center of the Cos Cob Art Colony? And if you could meet up with one of the primary individuals in the formation of the site of the Greenwich Historical Society, such as Justus Luke Bush, or Constant Holley, or Elmer MacRae, as a member of the Cos Cob Art Colony, who would it be and why.

A: Bush-Holley House became a National Historic Landmark (NHL) in 1991 and remains the town’s only site to be so designated by the National Park Service. This sometimes confuses people because there are many important sites in Greenwich listed on the National Register of Historic Places. But the NHL designation is unique in that it speaks to the power of the site to shape our national history in significant ways. The Holley boarding house was a cradle of American Impressionism, and Cos Cob is the first art colony in Connecticut, established a decade before the art colony in Old Lyme for example. As documented by art historian Susan Larkin, it was also a place of innovation and creativity over a 30-year period from 1890 to 1920.

The Historical Society



2018 ribbon cutting of completed reimagined campus of Greenwich Historical Society featuring in foreground L to R Cynthia Blumenthal, Scott Frantz, Debra Mecky, Davidde Strackbein, Peter Malkin, Livvy Floren, and First Selectman Peter Tesei. Ubina Studios.



L to R former Greenwich Historical Society Executive Director Debra Mecky with early benefactor and board chair Claire Vanderbilt. Photo from Greenwich Historical Society.



Recently retired and honoree Debra Mecky at podium at the 2025 “History in the Making” dinner at the Belle Haven Club. Photo by Cara Gilbride/Callalily Studios.

(founded in 1931) purchased the house in 1957 from the wife of the artist Elmer MacRae, a student of John Henry Twachtman. Constant (Holley) MacRae had inherited the house from her parents Josephine and Edward Holley, who ran it as a boarding house for an artists’ clientele.

If I could go back in time to the founding of Greenwich Historical Society, I would choose to attend the board meeting when the writer Anya Seton objected to architectural plans to demolish the two-story front porch of Bush-Holley House in order to “restore” its colonial appearance. It could so easily have been removed without her passionate objections. She strenuously objected because she had a deep appreciation of the house’s art colony history (which she had experienced first-hand). It took another 30 years for the Historical Society to gain that same understanding. It’s amazing that she prevailed, but our good fortune today.

Q: What in your view is the most extraordinary time of Greenwich history? And how do you see that period of history inspiring appreciative interest in America’s 250th anniversary?

A: Bush-Holley House is also an important local landmark of the American Revolution. Having

just finished watching Ken Burns moving documentary film series (and simultaneously reading Scott Smith’s cheeky time travel adventure, A Most Revolutionary Watch), I’d like to request an audience with David Bush. Would he entertain an interview with a woman? If so, please, Mr. Bush, explain how you kept your Patriot neighbors at bay when you persistently would not sign the oath of allegiance; and how do you defend their charge that your house and possessions were spared during General Tryon’s raid of Greenwich in 1779 while your neighbors lost property and

life? And, Mr. Bush, now that we are approaching the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, how do you defend your failure to create a path to freedom for the enslaved members of your own household?

Q: In what way will your love of history continue to play a part in your life, especially in America 250? (coming in June for Dutch tall ship?)

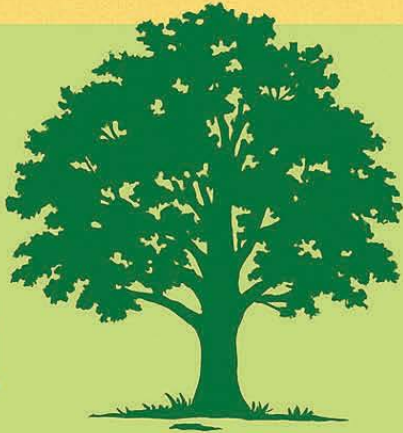
A: I am truly looking forward to the sesquicentennial of the Declaration of Independence, and was pleased to have been part

of the team inspired by board member Tom Galvin and Scott Frantz that ensured Greenwich Historical Society would bring the Dutch tall ship, Osterschide, into Greenwich harbor in June 2026, a week before the parade of ships in New York. Having attended the bicentennial events in New York in 1976, I am looking forward to the opportunity and privilege of celebrating July 4, 2026. My hope for all of us this coming year is to find inspiration from the courage and lessons from the suffering during that revolutionary time to keep the American dream alive and accessible to all.

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By SHARI SHAPIRO

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heaviness parents carry, and in the phone calls coming into our 24/7 helpline at all hours of the night. Kids are absorbing all of it, often more than we realize. And for some, home doesn’t feel like a safe place.

That’s why the SafeHaven Emergency Children’s Shelter exists.

Inside this house you’ve driven past a hundred times; something extraordinary happens each day. A child who hasn’t slept safely in weeks gets their first full night of rest. A teenager who hasn’t felt heard in months sits at the kitchen table with a counselor who listens without judgment. A young person who has been bouncing between relatives finally puts their backpack down somewhere they know they can stay.

“Home” is not a building. It’s safety. It’s consistency. It’s being welcomed without conditions.

A few mornings ago, one of our counselors was getting ready to drive a young resident to school. A box of winter clothing had just arrived from one of our corporate partners. She reached in and pulled out a warm, insulated coat, one that looked like it would fit the young boy, and held it out as he slipped his arms through the sleeves.

He tugged the zipper up to his chin, pressed his hands into the pockets.

Then he said, almost to himself, “I’ve never had a warm coat that fits me.”



Many families are surprised when they learn we run an emergency shelter for children right here in town. It’s not what people picture when they think of Fairfield County. But it has always been part of our story.

For you and me, a coat is just something you grab on the way out the door. For him, it was something entirely different... a kind of permission to feel safe, protected, and cared for. A reminder that he wasn’t an afterthought. That he belonged somewhere.

Behind these walls, that’s what we try to build every day.

But the need doesn’t stop at the shelter door. Instability isn’t always dramatic. It doesn’t always look like homelessness. Sometimes it looks like a child sleeping at a friend’s house because they’re afraid to go home. Or a teen staying late at

school because it feels calmer than the living room they left that morning. Or a parent who calls our Helpline at 10 p.m. because they’ve run out of ideas and don’t want to say the wrong thing to their child.

Here’s something most people don’t know: most of our helpline calls come from parents, not kids. Moms and dads are trying, really trying, to keep up with the emotional weight their children are carrying.

You’re not alone. None of us are.

And for the young people who do need a safe place to stay,

SafeHaven is here, 365 days a year, including every holiday. While the rest of town winds down for celebrations, our lights stay on, our counselors stay present, and our doors stay open. No child in our community should ever have to wonder where they’ll sleep tonight.

That’s the quiet promise of this little building on Post Road.

As we head into the new year, I hope we hold onto one truth: the most meaningful part of the holidays isn’t perfection, it’s connection. It’s the moments when we notice each other, check in on our neighbors, ask

a child how they’re really doing, or offer a listening ear before offering advice.

We can’t fix everything for every child. But we can build a community where every young person feels there is at least one safe place they can turn to, whether that’s SafeHaven, a TeenTalk counselor in school, or our 24/7 helpline.

And if this season feels heavy for you or someone you love, please call us. Day or night. Big problems or small ones. The Kids In Crisis 24/7 Helpline is always open at 203-661-1911. Sometimes the hardest part is reaching out. We’ll take it from there.

Shari L. Shapiro is Executive Director of Kids In Crisis

Located in Cos Cob, Connecticut, Kids In Crisis provides emergency shelter, crisis counseling, and community education programs for children of all ages and families facing crisis. Crisis can include domestic violence, mental health concerns, homelessness, substance abuse, economic difficulties, and other critical challenges. The Kids In Crisis Helpline is staffed 24 hours a day with trained Crisis Counselors, and provides free, confidential phone and face-to-face intervention, counseling, and referrals. Since its founding in 1978, Kids In Crisis has provided vital 24-hour services to almost 170,000 children and teens, and their families. Providers, educators, community members, and family members are encouraged to call the 24-hour helpline: 203-661-1911 for support.

Recognizing the Miracles of Our Daily Lives



By RABBI MITCHELL M. HURVITZ

Our Chanukah story conveys timeless lessons that resonate deeply with our contemporary Jewish lives.

The Maccabean revolt began when Jews steadfastly refused to yield to both overt coercion and subtle cultural pressures.

The Maccabees understood that authentic courage means

With every new dawn, we are invited to renew our hope and sacred pursuits by which we can assist in making today shine brighter than yesterday.

standing firm, even when confronted by seemingly insurmountable odds.

We embrace the Maccabean spirit when we refuse to abandon our sacred values or distinctive rituals.

It is the same courageous Maccabean spirit that pulses today in the heart of the modern State of Israel.

The spirit by which our Jewish resolve is unwavering, even as we confront those forces that seek to harm our physical and spiritual peace and security.

Chanukah urges us to

recognize the miracles woven through the tapestry of our daily lives.

Sunrises and sunsets are examples of God’s wonders that we must appreciate.

Discerning light from darkness is a physical, mental, and spiritual pursuit.

God calls us to be in a Divine and human partnership by which we help bring more light to our world.

With every new dawn, we are invited to renew our hope and sacred pursuits by which we can assist in making today shine

brighter than yesterday. We work with God and become the bearers of light.

The Chanukah miracle is a central part of our Jewish story.

Its heart lies not merely in oil that inexplicably lasted for eight nights, but in the bold decision to kindle that first flame, even when no logical hope remained for the oil to last for its required eight days.

Miracles do not arrive unbidden. They are only possible when we nurture them with our actions, perseverance, and faith.

Chanukah comes in the year’s

darkest days. During the darker times, we are called to respond to the deepening night not with resignation, but with the resolve by which we can multiply light and hope.

Chanukah celebrates humanity’s partnership with God, reminding us in every generation to have the courage to help miracles take root.

May each of us be worthy partners in spreading the light and may God’s miraculous radiance shine ever brighter in our world.

Chag Urim Sameach - A joyous Festival of Lights to all!

Shabbat Shalom, Rabbi Mitch 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.

The Uncomfortable Message of Advent



By MAREK ZABRISKIE

Advent makes me extremely uncomfortable. There’s always an apocalyptic – doom and gloom – Bible reading, which makes it sound like the world will end at any moment, and sometimes with all the chaos occurring in the world it seems like it will.

We are told that this is the beginning of the Good News, and it’s announced by someone of the likes of John the Baptist – a strange man indeed, who wears a coat made of camel’s hair and eat locusts and wild honey.

Advent is a time when the world that we know and the world that we think that we control falls apart, and we stand naked and alone before God. The astounding claim of Advent is that the test of reality, the test of what is really real, will be an infant boy born of a teenage mother.

And everything turns upside down and calls for a change of heart – an act of repentance on our part. It’s as if God turns to us collectively and tells us that all of us have been wandering in the wrong direction. We are called to repent. Repentance means to change direction, to take out our moral compass and go in a new direction.

Matthew adds material that Mark omitted from his gospel – a genealogy, a birth narrative with Wise Men bearing gifts, and the

Holy Family’s flight to Egypt to avoid Herod’s Massacre of the Innocent. Mary and Joseph and Jesus were refugees.

Hence, Matthew delays before introducing us to John the Baptist, who is a salty character if ever there was one. “You brood of vipers!,” shouts John. “Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance.”

John adds, “Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children of Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” John tells us that Jesus “...will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” Hence, God holds us accountable and will judge us.

So, Advent strips of us our pretensions and justifications, and we find ourselves stripped of the failed myth of secular salvation, the myth that I can save myself by hard work, success, or lots of money. The myth that democracy or capitalism, free enterprise or elite education, globalization, technology, or artificial intelligence will save us from suffering and chaos.

And in the light of our fragility, we wonder what sort of persons we called to be? What would give us meaning in a world full of so much uncertainty? We wonder where to turn in a world addicted to polarization – where some of us cannot function without division.

Jesus wants us to pay attention to the plight of those who suffer, and to do something about it. This is our mission, our calling, and our vocation. God is poor, and anyone who oppresses the poor oppresses God. Anyone who maligns the immigrant, stranger, exile, widow, or orphan violates the Bible. That’s what Scripture says.

There is always a segment of any population that craves a scapegoat. Who will it be this time? Black, white, Jew, Muslim, Liberal, Conservative, etc.

But the Gospel’s shocking answer is that there is no better place to catch the wonder of Christ in this world than in the presence of the poor, in the very people whom we would rather deny forget or deport. Christ, as the test of reality, is revealed to us in powerlessness.

And while a rich man adorned in gold might be a more powerful image of God, God considered the poor man Jesus as the ultimate picture of what He Himself looks like. Christ even tells us that the poor are He. So, if we want to see the God, we need only look at the faces of the struggling migrant worker, the undocumented citizen, people suffering, widows, and orphans.

Jesus wants us to pay attention to the plight of those who suffer, and to do something about it. This is our mission, our calling, and our vocation. God is poor, and anyone who oppresses the poor oppresses

God. Anyone who maligns the immigrant, stranger, exile, widow, or orphan violates the Bible. That’s what Scripture says.

So the shock of Advent confronts us with Christ’s subversive power. It puts a question mark beside every other human allegiance and all the idolatries that we indulge in. Our ultimate loyalty to Christ gives us freedom. Our submission to the King of Kings enables us to sit loosely with our political and social allegiances.

Are you a Republican? Christ enables you to be a critical Republican. Are you a Democrat? Christ liberates you to be a critical one. Because deep down, all real Christians are independents. And if you are a Christian, what kind are you? Do you love Jesus? Do you want to follow him?

When the Dominicans went to what was Hispaniola, now Haiti, in the 16th century, the Brethren wrote back to the Brothers in Salamanca in Spain about the violence done by their fellow Spaniards – and fellow Christians – to the indigenous people. They

were shocked, not merely by the existence of these people, but by the violence that they endured at the hands of Christians.

One of them, Father Antonio de Montecinos, preached an impassioned sermon on the First Sunday of Advent, 1511. He asked his listeners, “Are they not human? Do they have rational souls? With what right do you make war on them? Are you not obliged to love them as yourselves?” He saw the irony that the Christian Spaniards were the idolaters worshipping gold, and the pagan Indians were Christ crucified. Does this sound familiar? How could those natives in Haiti be blamed for rejecting Christ when they saw the cruelty of the Christians?

So, ask yourself, where do you see Christ in the world now, and do you love him? If Christ is the test for reality, then God help us for we fall far short of it. Because Christ sides with the oppressed, for they are Christ crucified, and it is we who nail them to the cross.

We are called to repent. Advent provides us with an opportunity – not only to recover our lost loyalty

to Christ, but also the story of freedom that has been twisted by prejudice and un-Christian hatred, leaving the world comfortless with no Good News.

Those Spaniards in 1511 were swollen with pride and the arrogance of power. They were possessed like many of us with an obsessive certainty that they alone were right. They present us with a scandal of un-Christlike Christians.

We believe our Christian story to be the ultimate one, not because its power to control, but because in its awesome humility, it brings us to our knees. Christ’s authority is expressed in self-giving. Our judge, naked, vulnerable, and fiercely humble, will soon be suckled at Mary’s breast.

In our longing for authority – a King, an Emperor, or a Dictator – we are vulnerable when things seem to be falling apart. We are in great danger of giving ourselves over to things and people less than God, when only God will satisfy us. Who is the authority in your life – Christ or something or someone far less?

In Advent Christ rescues us from the petty, debilitating allegiances, the idols for sale in the market place. Ask yourself, who or what is Lord over you? Where is your primary allegiance? Christianity, or better yet, Christ Himself, who widens the circle of affection and allegiance to include the entire world. Then, come, let us adore him.

The Rev. Marek Zabriskie is the Rector of Christ Church Greenwich, a congregation committed to serving Christ in those who are suffering and needy.



Obituaries

MARY JANE FRANCO

Mary Jane Franco, 89, a longtime Greenwich resident, died peacefully on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, surrounded by her four daughters. Mary Jane was born on May 10, 1936, to her loving parents Marian and Edwin Pasha in Detroit, Michigan. She grew up with her two older brothers, Bill and Tom, living first in Michigan and later in Bronxville, NY and West Haven, CT. Mary Jane worked at McCann-Erickson in New York City before meeting the love of her life and husband of 44 years, Michael Franco. Together, Mary Jane and Michael settled in Greenwich, CT, where they raised their five daughters and built a life grounded in faith, family, and devotion to one another.

Mary Jane, known affectionately as “Mommy” to her daughters and “Granny” to her ten grandchildren, was the embodiment of quiet warmth and unwavering empathy. Her life was defined not by accolades or attention—both of which she gently avoided—but by the depth of her care and the steadiness of her presence. She was a letter-writer, card-sender, faithful phone caller, and the heartbeat of her family’s gatherings. For more than forty years, holidays at her home meant thirty or more people seated around her table—family by blood, family by friendship, all equally welcomed.

Her faith was the foundation of her life, a source of resilience through profound loss, including the passing of her daughter Christine and her husband Michael, both taken too early. Her belief was strong, humble, and sincere.

Mary Jane was a devoted presence at swim meets, water polo and lacrosse games, plays and dance recitals. Nothing brought her greater joy than her role as “Granny” to her beloved grandchildren: Madeline, Michael, Charlie, Spencer, Alex, James, Nicholas, Isabella, Hunter, and Wells. Each one was held in her heart with enormous pride and unconditional love.

Her legacy lives most vividly in the small, consistent acts that defined her: her gentleness, her genuine listening, her total absence of judgment, and her remarkable ability to make every person feel seen, valued, and welcomed. She leaves behind a family knit tightly together by her example of steady grace.

Mary Jane is survived by her daughters: Caroline and husband Stephen Graves and their children Madeline, Michael, and Charlie; Mary Rose and husband Karl Malchow and their children Nicholas and Isabella; Theresa and husband Matt Plavoukos and their sons Spencer, Alex, and James; Catherine and husband Casey Hartley and their children Hunter and Wells. She is also survived by extended family who loved her dearly. She was predeceased by her husband, Michael Franco; her parents, Edwin and Marian Pasha; her brothers, William and Thomas Pasha; her dear sisters-in-law, Regina Kriskey, Rose Franco, Maxine Pasha; and her daughter, Christine Franco.

Visiting hours were held at Leo P. Gallagher Funeral Home in Greenwich, CT on Monday, December 8. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated at St. Mary Church on Greenwich Avenue, on Tuesday, December 9. Donations can be made in Mary Jane’s honor to Blood Cancer United (formerly Leukemia & Lymphoma Society).



STEPHANIE MUENZBERG

Stephanie I.M. Muenzberg died peacefully on December 6, 2025, at Nathaniel Witherell, nursing home in Greenwich, CT, her home for the past eight years.

Stephanie was born October 22, 1926, in Glogau, Germany, now part of Poland, to the late Georg and Maria (Morgener)Herold.

She is survived by several nieces and nephews in Germany, children of her late brother, Paul Lindenthal. Her husband’s nephew, Michael Figulla, also survives her in Germany.

She was 99 years of age and was predeceased by her husband, Eberhard J. Muenzberg, on December 8, 2001. Stephanie and Eberhard were married on October 17, 1953, in Munich, Germany, and emigrated to the United States in 1958.

They initially worked for several families in back

country Greenwich. Eberhard eventually became head sexton at Christ Church in Greenwich, and Stephanie later worked as a dental assistant to Dr. John Murray in Greenwich.

Stephanie received her dental training at a United States Army base in Germany during World War II, where she met Eberhard who had been released from a Russian prisoner of war camp due to health issues.

Stephanie and Eberhard lived in Greenwich their entire time in the United States.

A lover of all animals, Stephanie was especially fond of her black cats, Morlie, Mitzi and Maxie. She enjoyed sewing, knitting, crocheting, coloring or working on her latest puzzle. She did not drive and could often be seen bicycling around town. In her later years, she was a fixture on Greenwich Avenue, traveling on her red scooter. She knew the location of every available electric outlet!

She was known for her endearing personality, sense of humor, fabulous and decorative small dinner parties, delicious German potato salad and pride of all things Greenwich, especially summer outings to Island Beach or Tod’s Point.

Stephanie will be fondly remembered by longtime friends Rita Duff and Kathy McKnight, as well as very special friends Kathy Caviola, Pam Cunconan, Sharon DeAngelo, Judy Gordon and Rebecca Shannonhouse. These friends would like to thank the dedicated staff and volunteers at Nathaniel Witherell, plus the members of the Greenwich Chaplaincy Service for their kindness and loving care shown to Stephanie during her later years. Both are a blessing to this community.

A visitation to celebrate Stephanie’s life was held on Wednesday, December 10 at the Leo Gallagher Funeral Home, Greenwich, CT, followed by a short committal service. Interment followed at St. Mary’s Cemetery on North Street in Greenwich.

In lieu of flowers, charitable donations may be made in Stephanie’s memory to The Friends of Nathaniel Witherell, <https://friendsofnathanielwitherell.org> or 70 Parsonage Road, Greenwich, CT, 06830.



DAVID CRYSTAL, II

David Crystal II, husband (Judith Stulberg Crystal), father (Tom, Tosh and Ned), grandfather (Bear, Daisy, Luke and Harry) and friend, succumbed to cancer of the throat and the thin fog of lost memories on Sunday, November 30. He was born in New York City on February 9,1938 to Philip Edwin and Helen Bear Crystal.

His early years were spent happily in Westchester County, making friends who would last a lifetime. After his parents’ bitter divorce, he was sent to Peekskill Military Academy and then, happily, to the Trinity Pawling School. St. Lawrence University followed, and then the Boston University Law School. The happiest of David’s academic list were the two summers he spent at the University of Edinburgh. A lifelong friend and a custom-made kilt were among his favorite possessions.

David was, he said proudly, a litigator, representing the “pure and the innocent”, not an easy path in New York City in those years. He became an arbitrator for the New York Stock Exchange and was proud to become a member of FEMA.

The Crystals moved to Greenwich in 1970, raising their sons and Kirk, a labrador retriever in a comfortable Victorian house on Lake Avenue. Evening trips home were made on Metro North’s 6:15 with men who would become close friends. One of them introduced the family to New Hampshire and the Bald Peak Colony Club where they spent more than thirty years of family vacations and holidays. A cheerful, mediocre golfer, David enjoyed his games at the Peak and the Stanwich Club. An interest in trap and skeet shooting led to a membership at Preston Mountain.

Community involvement included a year as Co-President (with Judy) of the North Street School PTA. As a member of the Greenwich Skating Club Board, David spent many hours coaching hockey teams and was proudest of introducing the idea of a “House League”. The concept introduced team hockey to kids who weren’t interested in the time commitment or hadn’t the talent to play on the travel teams. David served on Parents Committees at most of the boys’ schools. In fact, he and Judy were Presidents of the committee at Rhodes, their youngest son’s college

There were other changes. Judy went to hockey games at Madison Square Garden and Giant football games (before the team crossed the river). David learned to enjoy (really enjoy) evenings on and off Broadway and even spent a couple of New Years Eves at Lincoln Center.

The final decades of their lives together they began to see the world... travelling to Europe, Asia and the

Antipodes... falling in love with the people, the scenery and the golf in New Zealand. Sixty years, five months and three weeks.



JOAN ASHER

Joan Marie Asher, 61, passed on November 18, 2025, peacefully surrounded by her loving family after a short, but incredibly courageous battle with AML leukemia. She was a treasured mama, wife, grandma, sister, aunt, cousin and friend. A light that dimmed on Earth is now shining brightly in the kingdom of heaven.

Joan is survived by her loving family: husband, David Schwartz; daughter Christina Anthony (Jeff) of Cheshire, CT; brother William Asher (Heather) of Hillsborough, NC; sister Beth Asher of Greenwich, CT; sister Amy Callahan (Brian) of Apex, North Carolina; her two granddaughters, Sienna Joy and Mila Grace, who had such a special bond with their Gigi; nephews Jack William and Liam Francis and niece, Julia Rose. Joan is predeceased by her parents; William and Barbara Asher.

Born on June 3, 1964, Joan Marie was the oldest child to William and Barbara Asher. A lifelong resident of Greenwich and Stamford, Joan attended Julian Curtis School, Central Middle School and Greenwich High School. She went on to earn her BS in Finance at Fairfield University where she graduated summa cum laude, and was the co-president of the Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society.

Joan would go on to have an impressive career working at some of the top hedge funds as Treasurer, CFO and COO. She was a Certified Investment Fund Director, an Investment Adviser Certified Compliance Professional, and had her Fundamental of Alternative Investments Certificate. She also served as Treasurer for Stamford Dollars for Scholars.

She was a dual citizen of both the USA and Ireland, and was also fluent in French.

Joan was so incredibly full of life and lived each day to the fullest. She loved spending time with her family and friends. To be in her presence was to be surrounded by laughter and love. Joan was beautiful inside and out. She was a friend to so many, the rock of our family, and had a laugh that was contagious. She was firmly rooted in her faith and she will be missed beyond measure.

Our family will have a private service but there will be a celebration to honor her beautiful life at a time yet to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating platelets at your local American Red Cross chapter in Joan’s honor. Nearly half of all platelets go to cancer patients, including those battling Leukemia And Lymphoma.

You can also make a contribution in Joan’s memory to a charity she held close to her heart; St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.



JAMES REILLY

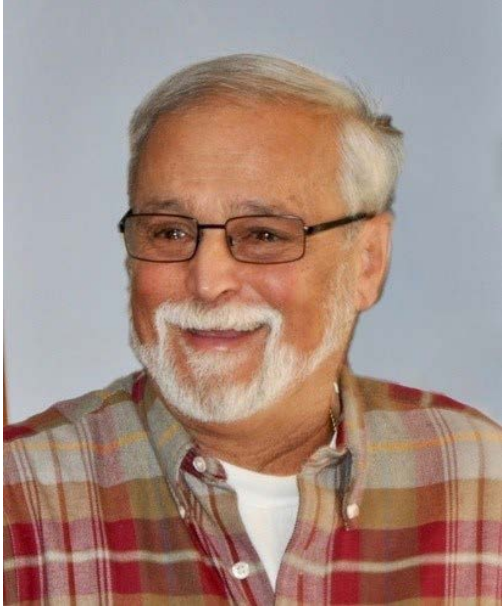
A consummate artist in every sense, Jim devoted his life to creativity, craftsmanship, and the belief that art—whether a painting, a sculpture, or a handmade object—held the power to enrich everyday life. He trained at the Silvermine School of Art and then University of Pennsylvania as a painter and sculptor. He valued the skill, integrity, and humanity in artisan work and thought every person deserved art as part of everyday life. He helped to found the Art Barn in Greenwich, which was based on the philosophy of the Arts and Crafts Movement. He also taught Fine Art at SUNY Cortland. To Jim, craftsmanship was as meaningful as any masterpiece, and he championed it throughout his life.

Jim served in the Army and shared his art there, including painting murals in the dining hall at Fort Lewis. His military experience shaped both his artistic focus and his deep commitment to community service. He later worked with Vietnam Veterans Against the War. With a particular expertise in military art, he blended his creative talent with his dedication to history and service. His compelling paintings of Native Americans and soldiers show his long-term interest in military art.

In Greenwich, he offered his creativity generously. He ran for First Selectman twice. His volunteer work included contributions to Greenwich Point—most memorably his hand-carved totem poles, which stand

as lasting symbols of his craftsmanship, imagination, and love for the town he called home. He had a second home in Stratford, Ontario in Canada where he spent significant time and he was a dual citizen.

Jim was committed to his family and had caregiving responsibilities for his brother Tom and his mother Felicia. Jim is survived by his niece, Kara; his nephews, Conor and Sean; and his cousins, Terry, Pat, Chris, and Margaret (Michigan). He was known for his big personality and his storytelling about the family. Jim loved Ireland and could sometimes be seen driving around Greenwich in his station wagon with gigantic Celtic wings. Jim will be remembered his artistic vision and his unwavering belief in the beauty of handmade work. His family, friends, fellow veterans, and the Greenwich community will miss him.



GERALD SERVIDIO

Gerald (Jerry) Servidio, a lifelong resident of Cos Cob, CT, passed away on December 3, 2025, at Green Acres of Manistee, Michigan. Born on October 26, 1940, in Greenwich, Connecticut, Jerry was the son of the late Joseph Servidio and Theresa (Scarpelli) Servidio. He graduated from Greenwich High School in 1959.

During the early 1960s, Jerry served in the United States Army in Pirmasens, Germany. It was there that he met and married his beloved late wife, Martha Faye Servidio. Jerry dedicated over 35 years of his life to working as a USPS letter carrier in Cos Cob, where he formed lasting friendships with many individuals, including the late Doc Orrico, the late Patty Macari, Gerry VanGorden, Billy Tomacelli, Roast Beef Wayne Belmont, Bobby Carlson, Barbara Urso, Kathy Starcher, RBI Dominic Francia, Merle Piasecki, and Ricky Scully. Notably, Jerry was honored with the Million Mile Plaque for his exceptional service, having never had any incidents during his 35-year career.

After retiring from his letter carrier duties, Jerry continued to work for Stolt Nielsen in Cos Cob, Connecticut, for several years.

Jerry cherished his life in Cos Cob. For years, he enjoyed making Scarpelli Sausage with his late uncles Isaac and Mac Scarpelli, his brother Tommy Servidio, and his neighborhood friends. He was also a founding member of the Cos Cob Cruisers classic car club. Jerry had many cherished memories of cruising with his good friends Carmen Morretti, Skeets Yantorno, David Belmonte, Anthony Mitchell, the late Junior Riale, Jimmy Pucci, Freddie Cofone, Art Hess, and many others.

Jerry enjoyed spending time with godson Ronnie Scarpelli, friends Danny Gentile, Rocco Ceci, Mike Creamer, Darrin Wigglesworth and fondly remembers all of their adventures. He greatly appreciated Sylvia Sikoutris’s friendship and help throughout the years and goddaughter Rona Scarpelli’s care and concern for him.

Jerry had a wide range of interests. He loved caring for the animals in his backyard, tending to his koi pond, and maintaining his flower beds. In his early years, his passion for modified racing led him to join up with the late Nicky Giardina and his wife Betty at the Danbury Racearena. In his later years, he continued to support his close friends, including the late SK Modified race car driver Teddy Christopher and race car owner Doug DiPisa and their teams.

Throughout his life, Jerry cherished the family gatherings with his parents, brother, uncles, aunts, and cousins. Saturday lunches at his parents’ home, holiday meals at his brother Tommy and sister-in-law Carol’s, and special occasions at his niece Tara and Sean’s home were all filled with love and joy.

Later in life, Jerry joined his son and daughter-in-law, GR and Teresa in beautiful Northern Michigan. He deeply cherished the love and care they had given him over the past 17 years, following the passing of his wife, Faye.

Jerry is survived by his son GR (Teresa) Servidio of Northern Michigan, brother Tommy (Carol) Servidio of Stamford, CT, sister in laws Sue Benge of Indianapolis, IN and Sharon Benge of Pittsboro, IN, nieces Tara (Sean) Mulcahey of Stamford, CT and Leslie Hunt of Pittsboro, IN and nephew Brack (Erin) Benge of Linden, MI, grand niece Reagan Benge Raubinger and grand nephews Ryan and Aidan Mulcahey, Sawyer Benge and Trae Hunt and many, many cousins.

The family would like to express their deepest gratitude for the attentive care provided by the staff at Green Acres of Manistee, MI. They wholeheartedly recommend the facility. “It is the place to be.”

Calling hours were on Wednesday December 10 at the Castiglione Funeral Home, Greenwich, CT. Funeral services were held on Thursday, December 11, at the funeral home. Interment followed in St. Mary Cemetery in Greenwich. Jerry will be laid to rest above his beloved wife Faye (the only time he came out on top)

significantly reduce the risk of preventable structure fires during the winter heating season.

Greenwich Police Open New Opportunities

A new notice on the town website announces that the Greenwich Police Department will offer an entry-level officer exam in January 2026, with a signup deadline of January 2 at 4 p.m. The message was sent to subscribers who previously opted in. Recipients can unsubscribe through the town’s website, and subscriber contact information becomes part of the public record.

Cos Cob Patrol Announces Leadership

The Cos Cob Fire Police Patrol elected its 2025–2026 line and executive officers at its annual meeting on November 11. The roster includes Chief Brian M. Kelly, a full slate of lieutenants and sergeants, and executive officers led by President Stephanie Dunn Ashley and the organization’s board of directors. Master Police Officer Patrick O’Connor administered the oaths; the all-volunteer 501(c)(3), founded in 1927, invites prospective members to contact recruitment@ccfpp.org

Holiday Partnership Keeps Greenwich Safe

The Greenwich Police Department is working with Riverside Service to offer safe transport for residents unable to drive between December 1, 2025, and January 4, 2026. Anyone needing assistance for themselves and their vehicle can call the non-emergency line at 203-622-8004. The department advises residents not to drive after drinking.

Greenwich Police Launch Holiday Toy Drive

The Greenwich Police Department is collecting new, unwrapped toys to support local children from families in need. Residents can drop off donations at the Public Safety Complex on Sunday, Dec. 7, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. All new toy contributions are accepted.

FROM TOWN HALL

Parks & Rec Fee Increase Considered

The Board of Selectmen is considering Park & Rec Fee increases. See details here:<https://www.greenwichct.gov/DocumentCenter/View/52960/CY26-PnR-Fee-Proposal-BOS-Packet>

Greenwich Strengthens Winter Safety Readiness

Greenwich residents are encouraged to enroll in Greenwich Alerts ahead of the winter months to receive timely emergency notifications. The system, operated by the town’s Emergency Management Team, provides fast updates on hazardous conditions and public-safety concerns. Residents can sign up online, by texting Greenwich to 888-777, or by using the EverBridge app.

Townwide Leaf Collection Progresses Smoothly

The town has begun its second and final round of leaf collection. Residents should place leaves at the curb as soon as their road section appears on the active schedule and stop once their street’s final pickup is complete. Final collection is finished in Sections 3, 4, 17, 18, and crews are now working in Sections 5–8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 19, and 23.

Holiday Donations Support Local Children

Toys for Tots collection boxes are located in the Town Hall lobby and at nearly 80 additional sites across Greenwich, including churches, community centers, stores, and several public schools. Boxes will be picked up on December 15, but donations will continue to be accepted afterward. The program requests new, unwrapped gifts for children of all ages, with a particular need for items suitable for middle school boys.

Holiday Donations Support Local Youth

The Greenwich Parks & Recreation Foundation is asking residents to support its Scholarship Fund, which helps local children access recreational programs such as sports and summer camps. The fund relies entirely on donations from individuals, businesses, and community groups, and contributions are tax-deductible. Community members can donate throughout the holiday season through the Foundation’s online portal.

Festive Community Tree Lighting Returns

The annual Greenwich tree lighting will take place on Friday, December 5, at 4:15 p.m. on the lawn of Town Hall. The event will feature performances by Greenwich A’Capella and Allegra Dance, along with visits from Santa. Hot chocolate and cookies will be available before the countdown to the lighting.

Stone McGuigan Continues Community Leadership

Last Tuesday, Selectperson Janet Stone McGuigan attended her final Board of Selectmen meeting, where her four years of service were formally recognized with a proclamation. She will continue in town government as a member of the RTM beginning in January. She has also agreed to serve as a tri-chair of the Sustainability Committee with Selectwoman Lauren Rabin and Environmental Affairs Director Beth Evans.

Greenwich Supports Pancreatic Cancer Awareness

Greenwich has declared November 20 as World Pancreatic Cancer Day to highlight the need for greater public awareness of the disease’s severity. In 2025, an estimated 67,440 Americans will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, which has a five-year survival rate of 13 percent and often appears only in late stages. A local survivor’s early detection and long-term survival underscore the importance of

education about symptoms and available resources.

AROUND TOWN

Greenwich Advances New Housing Development

Greenwich’s Planning & Zoning Commission voted 4–1 to approve a plan to demolish the 217-bed Greenwich Woods nursing facility and replace it with a 170-unit assisted housing development, 51 of which would qualify as affordable under state statute 8-30g. The project was reduced from an earlier 215-unit proposal after the developer was unable to secure additional sewer capacity from Westchester County, and the commission’s approval now requires the applicant to obtain a new sewer agreement or build an on-site treatment facility before occupancy. If no agreement is reached, the commission also directed the applicant to consider converting the existing building to residential use.

Greenwich Honors Pearl Harbor Anniversary

Greenwich will hold a ceremony on Sunday, Dec. 7, to mark the 84th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attacks. American Legion Post 29 will lead the observance at 1 p.m. at the war memorial on Greenwich Avenue. The 1941 attack killed more than 2,400 Americans, damaged or destroyed nearly 20 U.S. naval vessels, and prompted the nation’s entry into World War II.

Bush Statue Plan Wins Approval

The Planning & Zoning Commission approved a revised plan for a George H. W. Bush statue after multiple design and location changes. Earlier proposals were withdrawn due to space constraints, tree removals, and concerns about visibility and placement near existing war memorials. The final plan removes architectural elements, shifts the statue closer to the Havemeyer Building, and now proceeds to the Representative Town Meeting for acceptance of the private donation.

Albanian Community Marks Independence Day

The Albanian Youth Center held its 21st annual Albanian Independence Day flag-raising ceremonies on November 30, 2025, in Greenwich and Stamford. The first event took place at 11:00 a.m. at Greenwich Town Hall, followed by a 1:00 p.m. ceremony at the Stamford Government Center. Both programs included traditional performances and remarks from local representatives.

Greenwich Expands Community Mental Health

Greenwich used federal American Rescue Plan Act funds to expand local mental-health and addiction services through four established community agencies. The investment supported professional training, new clinical programs for children and teens, expanded psychiatric capacity, additional counseling, and school-based social-work services. Together, these efforts increased access to coordinated, preventive care for residents and strengthened the town’s overall support network.

Greenwich Crews Advance Leaf Collection

Greenwich Public Works has finished the first round of leaf collection in sections 3–9, 13–14, and 17–23. Crews are now working in sections 1–2, 10–12, and 15–16. The town will announce the schedule for the second collection once it is set.

Glenville Corridor Improvements Move Forward

Work on the CMAQ Glenville Corridor traffic upgrades will continue into winter as conditions allow, including new sidewalks, granite curbs, and improvements near the Glenville Road–Riversville Road intersection. Drivers should follow posted construction signs and plan for possible delays. DPW will work to keep traffic moving while the project advances.

Greenwich Honors Veterans With Wreaths

Greenwich will hold its annual Wreaths Across America ceremony on Dec. 13 at 11 a.m. at the Old Burying Ground on Byram Shore Road. The Horseneck Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will place wreaths on the graves of Revolutionary War soldiers Daniel Lyon and Daniel Sherwood, as part of the national observance taking place at Arlington National Cemetery and more than 2,100 other sites. The event honors veterans from the nation’s earliest conflicts to the present.

Greenwich Food Drive Supports Families

The Greenwich Parks and Recreation Food Drive runs through Dec. 12 to help local families facing food insecurity. Non-perishable donations can be dropped off at Town Hall, Parks and Recreation offices, the Bendheim Western and Cohen Eastern Civic Centers, and the Dorothy Hamill Ice Rink, or given online. All contributions go directly to Greenwich residents through Neighbor to Neighbor.

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS

Record Crowds Energize Turkey Trot

The Greenwich Alliance for Education’s 2025 Turkey Trot drew a record 1,779 participants, the highest attendance in the event’s 15-year history, and raised significant funds for programs supporting Greenwich Public School students. The event featured the new Mini Trot for ages 3–5, the one-mile race, and a 5K in which Kyle Grieve set a men’s course record at 15:20.3 and Zara Geddes led the women at 18:36.2. Additional age-group winners were recognized across nine divisions for both male and female runners.

Garden Club Brightens Old Greenwich

Members of the Garden Club of Old Greenwich recently prepared holiday decorations throughout the village, focusing on the main business district. Volunteers cut and arranged locally sourced greens, adding bows and ornaments to beds and planters in time for the First Light celebration. The project is part of the club’s ongoing work to support community upkeep and civic improvement.

Waste Free Holidays Inspire Action

A “Waste Free Holidays” display is available in the Town Hall lobby through December, offering a gift guide focused on low-waste options such as experiences, consumables, secondhand items, and durable goods. A virtual Lunch & Learn on practical, sustainable holiday practices will be presented by the Greenwich Conservation Commission and Waste Free Greenwich, in coordination with the PTA Council Green Schools Committee. The session will be held on Thursday, December 11, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., with registration on the Waste Free Greenwich website.

Expanded Jiu Jitsu Scholarship Program

Greenwich Jiu Jitsu Academy is expanding its Guardian Greenwich Scholarship Program, adding new spots for 2026 to provide more local students with access to Jiu Jitsu training. The initiative, created with nonprofit partner Guardian Training, aims to support youth by improving physical health, confidence, resilience, and access to safe extracurricular activities. Applications and donation opportunities are now available at greenwichjiujitsu.com/guardian-scholarship-application

Greenwich Hyperbaric Center Earns Distinction

Greenwich Hospital’s Center for Hyperbaric Medicine and Wound Healing received Accreditation with Distinction from the Undersea & Hyperbaric Medical Society, the organization’s highest level of recognition. The designation indicates the Center exceeds national standards for safety, clinical performance, and quality in hyperbaric and wound care. The program provides advanced hyperbaric oxygen therapy and specialized treatment for chronic and complex wounds.

State Grant Strengthens Witherell Facilities

The Friends of Nathaniel Witherell received a \$20,000 state legislative grant to complete two infrastructure repairs at the town-owned nursing and rehabilitation center. The funds will replace the facility’s kitchen fire doors to maintain safety compliance and install a new dairy cooler needed for proper food storage. The nonprofit supports the center through volunteer work and funding for essential projects.

SCHOOLS

Community Support Grows at GHS

Superintendent Dr. Toni Jones’ weekly update highlights the PTA-run GHS Community Pantry, which provides food and essential items to students who need them. Usage has grown from about 40 students to more than 70 each week, especially before weekends when school meals are unavailable. Anyone may contribute online at the link provided.

Difference Makers Honored Across Greenwich

Superintendent Toni Jones announced the December recipients of the Greenwich Public Schools “Difference Makers 2.0” award, which recognizes employees who have made significant contributions to the district. One staff member from each school and district department is honored monthly, with nominations submitted by principals and senior administrators. The December 2025 honorees include educators, support staff, and specialists representing schools across the district.

SPORTS

Cardinals Advance With Commanding Victory

Greenwich defeated Staples 41–7 in the Class LL quarterfinals, pulling away with a dominant second half fueled by a strong running game, steady defense, and effective special teams. Hector Lopez and Jack Kelly combined for four rushing touchdowns, while quarterback Phil Tarantino added another score and 144 passing yards. The Cardinals advanced to face Fairfield Prep in the state semifinals after outgaining Staples 379–194 and shutting the Wreckers out after halftime.

Cardinals Triumph In Thanksgiving Victory

Greenwich defeated Staples 33–19 on Thanksgiving, powered by three touchdowns from Jack Kelly, two scores from Hector Lopez, and a steady performance by quarterback Phil Tarantino. The win closed out the Cardinals’ regular season at 8–2 and secured the No. 3 seed in the Class LL Tournament, where they will face Staples again in the quarterfinals on Dec. 2. Greenwich led 20–19 at halftime and controlled the second half, outscoring the Wreckers 14–0.

Brunswick Standout Commits To Brown

Tyrus Ostrowski, a Brunswick School junior, has made a verbal commitment to play baseball at Brown University, where he was recruited as both an outfielder and pitcher. A year-round player with extensive travel-team experience, he chose Brown after connecting strongly with its new coaching staff and campus environment. Inspired by his athletic family and driven by long-standing goals, he hopes to make an immediate impact in college while continuing to pursue his dream of playing professionally.

ACROSS CT

Major Grants Boost Sound Restoration

Federal and state agencies, along with conservation partners, announced nearly \$12 million in new grants to restore Long Island Sound, bringing total 2025 project investments to more than \$20 million with matching contributions. The funding will support 36 projects aimed at reducing pollution, removing marine debris, restoring coastal and aquatic habitat, improving fish passage, and expanding public stewardship programs across five states in the Sound’s watershed. Since its inception, the Long Island Sound Futures Fund has supported hundreds of projects that have reduced nitrogen loads, restored habitat, treated stormwater, and engaged millions of residents in conservation efforts.

Holiday Catering

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Being a Good Neighbor to Greenwich Land Trust Benefits All of Greenwich

When you own 1,014 acres of open space across Greenwich (and even a bit in Stamford!), you end up with a lot of neighbors. Fortunately, most of ours are wonderful and respectful of our shared property boundaries. And why wouldn't they be? Our neighbors enjoy the benefits of increased home values, cleaner air, abundant wildlife, and scenic beauty—while we have the privilege of protecting critical open space for the entire community. It's truly a win-win.

That's why a crucial part of Greenwich Land Trust's stewardship work is annual property monitoring. Each year—typically in late fall or early winter, when vegetation has died back and preserves are easier to access—we conduct detailed inspections of all 1,014 acres across our 82 preserves.

During these inspections, staff and Volunteer Stewards walk every boundary line, locate and verify boundary markers, and ensure that they match each preserve's detailed Property Management Plan. As we move through each preserve, we document any encroachments or human impacts originating from outside the boundary—dumping (yes, even organic dumping like leaves and wood debris count!), unauthorized fencing, hunting structures, drainage pipes, vehicle tracks, or trash. Over the years we've found everything from stray lawn waste to, memorably, a couch in one of our ponds!

We also record any changes on the GLT side of the boundary, such as updates to our beehives, fencing, walls, birdhouses, culverts, and other structures. In addition, staff and stewards document significant plants—whether invasive species that need management or notable native species that are uncommon or endangered. Natural issues such as downed trees, erosion, or wetland concerns are also carefully noted.

Why Being a Good Neighbor to GLT Matters

Being a good neighbor to Greenwich Land Trust isn't just about respecting a property line — it's about helping protect the natural character and ecological health of our entire community. Every acre of open space we steward provides real, measurable benefits to the people who live nearby. When neighbors treat these shared landscapes with care, those benefits remain strong for generations.

As mentioned previously, healthy open space protects property values. Homes near well-maintained conservation land tend to sell more quickly and hold higher value than comparable



homes without access to nature. Responsible neighbors help ensure that these benefits remain intact.

Good stewardship also provides environmental services: cleaner air, flood protection, and improved water quality. Even small disturbances at a boundary — dumping leaves, moving a fence, or altering drainage — can cause outsized impacts, from erosion and stormwater issues to the spread of invasive plants. Responsible neighbors help ensure these natural benefits remain uninterrupted.

Equally important is the protection of wildlife habitat. Our preserves serve as safe corridors for birds, mammals, amphibians, and pollinators. When boundaries are respected, these animals can move, feed, and reproduce without disruption. A single encroachment — a deer feeder, a hunting blind, or yard waste dumped in a corner of the woods — can alter animal behavior or introduce species that don't belong.

Finally, being a good neighbor fosters a shared sense of responsibility. GLT does the daily work of stewardship, but the land itself belongs to the community. When neighbors treat these preserves as the valued natural resources they are, we all become partners in conserving Greenwich's landscape, ensuring it stays wild, healthy, and beautiful for everyone.

Of course, GLT can't monitor all 1,014 acres alone. As a small but mighty non profit with a full time staff of just six, we rely heavily on our Volunteer Stewards to help us with our annual property inspections. These dedicated community members are active partners in protecting Greenwich's natural heritage—ensuring that the beauty, wildlife, and ecological benefits of our open spaces continue for generations to come. Many of them have been monitoring our properties for years, and we are deeply grateful for their commitment!

You Too Can Support Greenwich Land Trust

Protecting 1,014 acres of open space takes more than dedication—it takes community support. Your contribution to Greenwich Land Trust's Annual Appeal helps fund the aforementioned property monitoring, as well as habitat restoration, volunteer programs, and all the work that keeps all of our preserves safe, healthy, and beautiful. Every gift, large or small, makes a difference. Please donate today by visiting www.gltrust.org and be a good neighbor to the land that benefits all of Greenwich!

A Unique Approach: Have you ever heard of an HCD?

By NIKKI MILLER

In an era when social-emotional learning has moved from buzzword to educational imperative, one local independent school has built its entire structure around a role most educators have never heard of.

At The Mead School, the Home Center Director (HCD) serves as part counselor, part master teacher, and part developmental expert, responsible for knowing just 15-20 students inside and out. It's a role that predates today's conversations about student wellbeing, yet speaks directly to current concerns about supporting children through increasingly complex challenges. "When prospective families ask what makes Mead special, the HCD is always my answer," said a school administrator who has worked at Mead for seven years. "The follow-up is usually, 'Can you explain what that is?'"

The HCD role represents a fundamental reimagining of traditional school structures. Rather than splitting responsibilities among counselors, deans, coaches, and classroom teachers, Mead consolidates these functions into one person who specializes in a specific two-year age span and maintains a reduced teaching load to focus on student development.

These directors know which students need to doodle during math class to focus, each child's favorite Pokémon character, and when someone has outgrown their sneakers. More importantly, they understand the developmental nuances of when to push a student academically and when to ease back. "The intensity of this

personal connection is what sets HCDs apart," the administrator explained.

The model has proven particularly valuable for families navigating modern parenting challenges. In a world where parents often turn to digital sources for guidance, HCDs provide human expertise focused specifically on child development and parenting support—what one staff member described as "a safe place to vent, celebrate successes, and respond to concerns."

As schools nationwide grapple with how to support students' social-emotional needs alongside academic growth, Mead's founding model offers one answer: deep, sustained relationships between a dedicated adult and a small group of children.

"This generation of children faces an unusually complex set of

challenges," school leadership noted. "The partnership between school and home becomes more significant than ever." As Mead continues to evolve, the HCD role remains what administrators call 'the most mission-centered piece' of their staffing model, ensuring that all other changes are measured in relation to its constancy. "It still takes a village to raise a child," they said. "We want school to be an integral part of that village in a more fragmented world."

Nikki Breakell Miller has dedicated over 20 years to independent schools in Fairfield County, specializing in special education and family support. With a deep commitment to inclusive learning, she has served as a bridge between educators and parents, helping families navigate challenges and advocate for their children's needs.



Nikki Miller during a responsive classroom morning meeting with 3rd - 5th grade Mead School students.

Second Congregational Church's Gingerbread Workshop a Sweet Success!

The Second Congregational Church, known locally as "2cc," was filled with the sweet aroma of holiday cheer and a delightful mess this past Saturday, December 7th, as its annual sold out Gingerbread Workshop.

Children and those that are young at heart exercised their creative muscles, turning simple gingerbread structures into edible masterpieces. There was even a very special appearance from Santa Claus, who posed for photos and spread extra holiday cheer, much to the delight of the attendees.

If miss out on the awesome gingerbread party? No worries! 2CC is excited to invite you and your family to two more joyful, unforgettable holiday celebrations!

First, get ready for a snuggly morning! Roll out of bed and bring your favorite teddy bear, dinosaur, or fluffy friend to our Teddy Bear Story Time! It's a sweet time for cozy stories and making new friends on Saturday, December 20th, at 8:00 AM at Coffee For Good, 48 Maple Ave.

And you absolutely cannot missthe Annual No-Rehearsal

Community Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve! This is the most special tradition because everyone gets to be a star! Children and families can simply walk right in and spontaneously become angels, shepherds, or wise people in the beautiful Nativity story.

The fun begins at 3:00 PM! We'll have costumes to choose from and a warm, hot cocoa bar waiting for you! The pageant service begins at 3:30 PM. For all the details visit 2cc.org today!



Santa's new friend Issa making sure he has directions to her house

ICY FRANTZ COLUMN

Continued from Page 1

— seventy-three of them in various vehicles: boats, cars, planes, skis, surfboards. All inexplicably cheerful.

It's... a lot. Glass balls, silver snowflakes, bright white lights. Extras. Extras.

And framed photos of gap-toothed children, braced children, bowl-cut children (sorry — not sorry), staring out from the branches.

I'm always saved for last, of course — wrapped in my little tissue-paper sleeping bag like the national treasure I am.

And then comes my big moment: lifted higher and higher in tiny chubby hands that used to wobble, then awkward tween hands that nearly dropped me, and now steady, practiced hands that know how to handle a star with some... panache.

Honestly, those hands have grown up right in front of me. And not to brag, but I have had a BIG hand in all of it.

From my perch, I monitor the situation. Needlepoint stockings hanging from the mantle — color-coordinated, hand-stitched. That grandmother did not mess around. (Respect.)

A piano in the corner that gets beautifully played some days... and other days the cat

thinks he is a musician.

He is not.

Dogs wandering around living their best clueless lives.

And the family — oh, the family.

I've watched them for years: the frantic early mornings, the shrieking, the footie pajamas, the wrapping-paper tornadoes.

Now?

They stroll in at noon with iced coffees and lattes.

No urgency. No drama.

Which is frankly rude — I used to get an entrance at sunrise.

This room aches for a toddler — believe me, I felt the structural reinforcement in those days. Toddlers have grip.

But now there is something else. A kind of softness. A tenderness.

And here's the secret from my perch: Everyone's pretending a little. Pretending not to miss the old days.

Pretending not to worry about the new ones.

Pretending they're not praying silently: Let this matter.

Let this hold.

Let this feel like love.

And it does.

Even when the love is awkward, messy, rusty.

Even when the room is tired. (It is.)

Even when someone's in a mood and someone else is overthinking.

Still — they showed up.

Do you know how rare that is?

Family doesn't gather like this much anymore.

And yet — look at them.

They came home.

There were flights.

Delays.

Traffic.

Work emails ignored.

Suitcases unpacked.

Expectations lowered, then raised, then lowered again.

And still — here they are.

Together.

That's the real magic in this room.

Not me — well, not only me.

I don't shine for the perfect Christmas. The Instagram-worthy one.

I shine for the real one.

Where hugs happen a beat too long.

Where someone gets teary for no reason at all.

Where love is imperfect, but still present.

And now... the hands. Let's talk about the hands. Because I have opinions.

I've been lifted, dropped, worshipped, dusted, and dramatically saved from falling by these hands for YEARS.

And honey, I remember every one:

Hands once sticky with frosting — and God knows what.

Hands that shoved me on crooked (RUDE).

Hands that lifted me with awe.

Hands that mended broken ornaments.

Hands that stirred gravy, wrapped gifts, tied bows.

Hands that carried babies.

Hands that comforted those same babies when they were too grown to be comforted.

Hands that held each other when life got heavy.

Hands that worked, cooked, cleaned, drove, wrote, stitched, organized, made, held on, let go.

Hands that reached out — again and again — even when it wasn't easy.

These are the real lights in this room.

I just happen to reflect them...perfectly I might add.

So go ahead.

Look up.

Notice the tilt.

Admire the shine.

(And ignore the cat — he is judging you.)

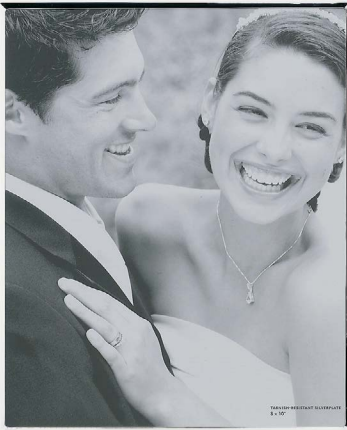
Because from the very top of this entire operation, for all these years, with all those hands gathered beneath me...

I take my bow.

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Bringing “CALM” to the Community



Soraia Monteiro (Director of Community Outreach, White Plains Hospital), Laura Himmelstein, Coordinator Healing Touch Programs, White Plains Hospital, Nancy Marshall, Admission Liaison, The Nathaniel Witherell, Toyoko Yasui, Coordinator, Holistic Nursing, White Plains Hospital, Lisa Harding, Executive Director, Friends of Nathaniel Witherell

By DEBRA McLAUGHLIN

Friends of Nathaniel Witherell - the nonprofit dedicated to enriching the daily lives of residents at the Town-owned skilled nursing and rehabilitation center - once again extended its mission beyond the walls of The Nathaniel Witherell by partnering in a free community workshop titled “Creating Space for Calm.”

The session, held on Thursday, December 4 from 4–5 PM at The Nathaniel Witherell, 70 Parsonage Road, invited the public to learn practical mindfulness and stress-reduction strategies led by professionals in holistic nursing and caregiver support. Topics included meditation, identifying everyday stressors, guided imagery, and healthy coping strategies.

For Friends, participation in this event was part of a growing commitment: not only to uplift residents and patients within The Nathaniel Witherell, but to help strengthen the

Everything Friends does is rooted in connection - between residents and volunteers, between art and emotion, between families and care.

well-being of the wider Greenwich community that surrounds and supports it.

“Everything Friends does is rooted in connection - between residents and volunteers, between art and emotion, between families and care - and this program was one more way to nurture that connection,” said Lisa Harding, Executive Director, Friends of Nathaniel Witherell.

This program was presented in partnership with The Nathaniel Witherell and White Plains Hospital.

Friends of Nathaniel Witherell has become known for initiating and supporting programs that improve quality of life: rotating art exhibits, music performances, volunteer engagement, chaplaincy support,

seasonal events, and now community wellness sessions like this one. By inviting the public through The Nathaniel Witherell’s doors for a calm-building experience, Friends helped position the facility not only as a place of care, but as a place of belonging - a hub where residents, families, staff, and neighbors could learn, breathe, connect, and feel supported.

The mindfulness session was free and open to all.

To learn more about Friends of Nathaniel Witherell or to support its work, visit friendsofnathanielwitherell.org.

For the latest updates, stories, and ways to support, follow Friends of Nathaniel Witherell on Instagram @ [friendsofnathanielwitherell](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofnathanielwitherell).

Greenwich Shows Its Big Heart with Meals-On-Wheels Surprises



One spectacular, unexpected, joy-filled gift bag

By DEBRA McLAUGHLIN

If you ever needed proof that Greenwich is filled with some of the most generous, big-hearted, and delightfully creative people on the planet, look no further than last week’s Meals-on-Wheels, Inc. of Greenwich deliveries. Meals-on-Wheels clients didn’t just receive their regular nutritious meals - oh no. They received joy. They received kindness. They received... hand cream, mints, and a deck of cards.

Yes, Greenwich showed up again.

The Piper Brothers: Gift-Giving Geniuses in Action

First, let’s talk about the Piper Brothers - Jeffrey and Jack - who may have invented the most charming care package this side of the Merritt Parkway. The pair designed and assembled adorable gift bags, each filled with:

- * A deck of cards (perfect

Meals-on-Wheels says it often, but it never gets old: when this community comes together, magic happens.

for solitaire champions and aspiring poker pros)

- * Some refreshing mints (for that “I just aced my card game” confidence)

- * A tube of hand cream (because winter hands are no joke)

If Martha Stewart and MacGyver had children, they might look a lot like the Piper Brothers.

Brunswick School Boys Bring the Turkey

To top it off, a group of young Brunswick artists-in-training created the most heart-melting Thanksgiving turkey cards you can imagine. Turkeys in all kinds of colors - every single one was priceless. And each went right into the gift bags to brighten the clients’

week.

Cub Scout Pack 20: The Young Heroes

As if Greenwich hadn’t already outdone itself, Cub Scout Pack 20 swooped in like kindness superheroes. Not only did they come to Meals-on-Wheels on Veterans Day, they rolled up their sleeves, got to work, and packed the meals into delivery bags for the Meals-on-Wheels volunteer drivers - while also crafting more thoughtful cards for clients. These kids didn’t just help. They transformed the meal-packing room into a high-energy, smiles-everywhere, card-making extravaganza.

The Result?

One spectacular,

unexpected, joy-filled gift bag that is sure to have the clients grinning from ear to ear. One bag... packed by Scouts, filled by Piper Brothers, decorated by Brunswick artists, delivered by Meals-on-Wheels... and powered entirely by the generous spirit of Greenwich.

The Real Gift

Meals-on-Wheels says it often, but it never gets old: when this community comes together, magic happens. Meals-on-Wheels clients felt seen, loved, and remembered this week - and that is a gift no deck of cards could ever rival.

To learn more or get started, visit mealsonwheelsofgreenwich.org or call (203) 869-1312.

Varsity Girls Soccer Team Wins First State Championship

By DAVID FIERRO

The goals came early and often for Greenwich High School's varsity soccer team during its CIAC Class LL Tournament final against Amity Regional High School and by the time the first half concluded, it was quite apparent the Cardinals were well on their way to ending their memorable season in truly historic fashion.

The second-seeded Cardinals played an impeccable game against fourth-seeded Amity Regional in the championship matchup of the Class LL Tournament on Nov. 15th at Trinity Health Stadium in Hartford, exhibiting all the strengths they utilized throughout the season to earn a win the soccer program has waited decades for.

Senior forward Harriet Franks scored two goals, while junior midfielder Kenna Harlow and junior defender Shay Sippel added one goal apiece to help propel No. 2 Greenwich past No. 4 Amity, 4-0, on a cold, blustery day that had the Cardinals feeling warm inside afterward. The decisive victory gave Greenwich its first ever state championship and capped a sensational, storybook 18-2-2 season.

"It's incredible, I couldn't be happier," said Franks, who was named the state championship game's MVP for her outstanding efforts on the field. "To be a senior on this team, we've come so far. I can't thank my coaches enough, they've put in so much effort."

Indeed, Greenwich has steadily climbed the ladder of success throughout the eight seasons head coach Simon Rumbold has guided the squad. When he first took over the varsity program, the Cardinals were seeking to find their way in the competitive FCIAC, hoping to finish above .500 and earn a berth in the state tournament.

The past few seasons saw the Cardinals qualify for the postseason tournaments and

finally this year, the 2025 season they won't forget, was definitely Greenwich's year.

"Simon has poured his whole heart in this for eight years and it finally paid off," Franks said.

Greenwich posted a record of 4-0 in the CIAC Class LL Tournament and did not allow a single goal. After receiving a first round bye, the Cardinals defeated three consecutive FCIAC rivals in the second round, quarterfinals and semifinals, registering victories over Darien, Fairfield Warde and Ridgefield, respectively. For the Class LL tourney, Greenwich outscored its opponents, 9-0.

"It's incredible, really from the outset, the quality they played with and the character they showed, the togetherness, it culminates in this moment," Rumbold said. "A lot of hard work went into this over the years – it's hard to describe."

Greenwich won the coin toss prior to the game and elected to have the wind at its back in the opening half and it took full advantage of that aspect.

"I think we were able to start strong in the first half, because the wind was behind us, so the ball traveled a lot further," said Greenwich senior midfielder/captain Anna Lenschow, who turned in another superb effort for the state champions. We were able to capitalize on a lot of early opportunities. I think that propelled us through the game."

As the wind picked up and mounted, so did the Cardinals' pressure on Amity, which advanced to the Class LL final by beating New Canaan, 4-0, in the semifinal-round. Amity only yielded one goal through its first three games in the tournament, yet the Cards solved the Spartans' defense in this championship match.

"Shay's free kick was just incredible," Franks said. "I didn't even know she could shoot that far,



Members of the GHS varsity girls soccer team celebrate winning the state title. Photo by David Fierro.

it was a great kick."

Moving the ball near along the right sideline, freshman forward Siena Ettinger sent a cross to Franks, who perfectly angled her shot inside the right post, putting Greenwich on top, 2-0, in the 15th minute.

"I tried to get wide on one player and then another player and another player and just kept going," Ettinger said of setting up Greenwich's second goal. "Harriet was in the perfect place and scored a great goal."

The Cards put the Spartans in a three-goal hole with 10:22 remaining in the first half. Shortly after a corner kick, Harlow received the ball in open space and delivered a shot that settled into the back of the net making it 3-0 in favor of the Cardinals.

"It just came out on the edge of the box and people told me to shoot it, so I shot it and it deflected off a girl and went in," Harlow said. "Just calming down and playing through the middle helped us a lot. It feels amazing to win the title, we worked so hard all season and it paid off."

Amity had the wind in the second half and threatened to score

several times. Yet it was another clean sheet for the Cardinals due to their strong defensive effort and impressive goaltending by sophomore Taylor DeVries.

DeVries made a sparkling save off an Amity corner kick in the 49th minute and stopped a shot from close in during the 55th minute. She finished the game with six saves in earning the shutout win.

"That was one of the best games I've seen her play," Rumbold said of DeVries in goal. "The fact she saved it was amazing, the fact she held it was amazing."

With 21:57 left in the second half, Franks gave GHS a commanding 4-0 advantage, tallying off a shot deep inside the box. Her second goal of the state title game was assisted by junior midfielder Monchi Thompson.

"Today was incredible, we started off strong, scored early and we were connecting passes," Thompson noted. "It was an awesome 4-0 win."

Senior captain Ella Whitridge, Sippel and junior Ashley Morris were among some of the athletes that solidified Greenwich's defense in the title game and throughout

the season. Prior to competing in the Class LL state tournament, Greenwich produced a dominant regular season, posting a 12-1-2 record, its lone loss coming against St. Joseph.

In the FCIAC Tournament, the Cards reached the final for the first time in recent memory and were edged by St. Joseph, 1-0, in a game that was decided in penalty kicks. Following that narrow defeat, Greenwich came out especially fired up and ready to compete in the state tourney.

"We are the No. 1 team in the FCIAC for a reason," Franks noted. "I think we're the best team in the FCIAC and we showed that in the final and the state."

While they compiled the wins as the season progressed, the Cards had an inkling something special could be on the horizon.

"This year we knew it was our year," Franks said. "We had two new freshmen come in and we had experience. We had everything we needed to win a state title and we proved it."

As for being named the championship game's MVP? "It's a great feeling," Franks

said. "I could not ask for a better ending to my high school career. I'm so glad to end it off like this."

Greenwich's closest call in the state tournament occurred when it pulled out a 1-0 win over Ridgefield in the Class LL semifinals on Nov. 12th at Weston High School. Sippel delivered one of her signature free kicks into the box and Ettinger headed it home, giving GHS a 1-0 semifinal-round win over the Tigers.

"Ridgefield is always tough to score against, tough to beat," Rumbold noted following the semifinals. "You have to have good chances to create scoring opportunities. Siena was able to get a header on a cross. We were able to send a bunch of people in the box and Shay's delivery was top class. Siena was able to not only read it, but the redirect it as skillfully as she did at the moment. She is a great player and great players come up big in big moments."

"It's incredible when you think of how far the program has come the past seven years it is something to be proud of," Rumbold continued. "It's something that has never been done in our school's history."

Franks, Gustafsson, Lenschow, Maria Levchenko Leda Lindsay, Caitlin McConnell, Kayla Townsend, Madi Utzinger, Whitridge and Maddie Young were the Cardinals 2025 seniors.

"It's amazing, it's my last time playing soccer, so winning the state championship is awesome," Gustafsson said. "I didn't think we would ever be able to do it. I remember freshman year it was hard to even get into the state tournament and now winning it – it's insane."

"We started in the middle of August, the preseason practicing," Lenschow noted. "Six days a week, practicing. We worked so hard to come to this game and then we were finally able to win it. It felt so good, compared to losing FCIACs, to winning states."

Boys Soccer Topped By Rival Staples in CIAC Class LL Final

By DAVID FIERRO

Greenwich High School's varsity boys soccer team's successful 2025 season included 20 victories, two appearances in championship games and only two losses.

Unfortunately for the Cardinals, those two losses came in the championship game of the FCIAC and Class LL tournaments to one team – arch rival Staples High School.

Determined capture its second state title in four seasons, second-seeded Greenwich was defeated by fourth-seeded Staples, 3-0, in the CIAC Class LL Tournament Soccer Final before a large, enthusiastic crowd at Trinity Health Stadium in Hartford on Nov. 16th. Though disappointed with the defeat, the Cardinals left the field knowing they had another outstanding season, one they could be highly proud of.

"We had a fantastic season," Cardinals coach Kurt Putnam said. "We lost two games to one team in two finals. You get to two finals and they are the only two games you are going to lose – it's a great

season."

While Greenwich concluded its 2025 campaign with a record of 20-2, Staples finished its season at 22-2, including 17 consecutive victories to cap its championship season. The Wreckers edged Greenwich, 3-2, in the FCIAC Tournament's championship game on Oct. 27th, then went 5-0 in the CIAC Class LL tourney, beating Trumbull, Darien, Ridgefield and Hall prior to their rivalry showdown versus the Cardinals in the title tilt.

Scoring off two set pieces, Staples held a 2-0 halftime lead on Greenwich at halftime of the Class LL final at windy, blustery Trinity Health Stadium. The first goal of the championship game occurred in the 16th minute. Senior Gabe Hellman booted his corner kick into the box, which included plenty of traffic.

Senior Gabe Duque had a fantastic finish on Hellman's corner kick. Angling his body perfectly, he was able to get his left foot on the ball and direct it into the goal, giving the Wreckers a 1-0 edge.

"The left-footed corner kick is the best I've seen in 25 years," Putnam noted.

Dylan Shackelford, a senior, who was named the state championship game's MVP, gave Staples a two-goal advantage in the 30th minute. Senior Adriano Carpi took a corner kick from 40 yards out, which settled deep into the box. Shackelford rose up for a header and the ball deflected off the hands of Greenwich junior goalie Oliver Almeida's hands and inside the left post, making it 2-0 in favor of the Wreckers.

"Give them credit, at the end of the day, they are very, very good at set pieces," Putnam said. "If you don't match them then they are going to hurt you. Clearly, it's something they've worked on."

Greenwich tried its best to rally. Seniors Francisco Luzuriaga, Alexander Amato, Manny Bonilla and Matheus Bongolo hustled up front to create scoring chances.

Staples junior goalie Jack D'Amore made a nifty save off a Cardinals corner kick in the 26th minute, punching the ball away, before it was cleared by a defender, keeping GHS off the scoreboard.

Greenwich's defenders Henry Davis (senior), David Boside (senior), Jason O'Brien (senior)

and Nicholas Martschenko, also a senior, were effective throughout against the Wreckers, who outscored their opponents, 11-2, during their five wins in the Class LL tourney. It was the set pieces that ultimately did in the Cards.

"We couldn't deal with the way they were attacking, which is those long balls and free kicks and corners," said Luzuriaga, one of the Cardinals' captains. "I thought we got a little unlucky as well, but I'm proud of the boys for all the work they put into this game."

"The team that won it deserved to win it, we were knocking the ball around and trying to do things textbook, but it's about scoring goals," Putnam said. "He has them scoring goals in a way that suits his team. I can't take anything away from them."

The game-sealing goal was scored with 18:36 minutes left in the second half, a tally that was disputed by the Cardinals.

Junior Noah Rossoni sent a through ball to junior Adrian Rodriguez, who found himself 1-on-1 with Almeida after getting behind the defense, putting Staples ahead, 3-0. Rodriguez appeared to

be offside on the play and video replays show that he was offside, but the goal stood and Staples seized a three-goal lead.

Though the season ended with a loss to their rival in the state championship matchup, the Cardinals accomplished plenty this fall and should be proud of its achievements.

Greenwich went undefeated during the regular season, registering a record of 15-0, winning the FCIAC West Division and earning the No. 1 seed in the FCIAC Tournament.

During their spectacular 15-0 regular season, the Cardinals posted eight shutouts and outscored their foes, 58-10. Included in their perfect regular season was a 4-3 comeback win over Staples in a game they trailed, 3-1.

In the FCIAC Tournament, the Cardinals notched triumphs over Fairfield Warde (a 1-0 victory) and Ridgefield (3-0 win) in the quarterfinals and semifinals, respectively, before being edged by Staples, 3-2 in the final.

After receiving an opening-round bye in the Class LL

Tournament, the Cardinals cruised past 15th-seeded Platt, 9-1, in the second round, seventh-seeded Notre Dame-West Haven, 6-1, in the quarterfinals and sixth-seeded South Windsor, 4-1, in the semifinals.

"It was a great season, we had a lot of early success, we just couldn't finish the job," Martschenko said. "I love these boys and I couldn't have asked for a better season with these boys."

"Staples is a good team, they're challenging and they bring a lot of energy," Martschenko continued. "We knew it could go either way, but if we played our game and played our best, we could win. Obviously, we were hoping for a better result. But they're a good team and they did a good job."

"It was a great season," Luzuriaga added. "We showed that we care each day and worked very hard."

The All-FCIAC Boys Soccer Team was recently announced and Greenwich was well represented on the team.



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Greenwich Powers Past Fairfield for Return to State Final

BY DAVID FIERRO

With Hector Lopez running around, away and through Fairfield Prep's defense, Phil Tarantino completing numerous key passes and the defensive unit swarming to the ball, while providing hard hits throughout, there was no doubt that Greenwich's football team was going to earn a return trip to the destination it's had its sights set on reaching all season.

That destination, of course, is the CIAC Class LL Tournament final, which the Cardinals once again, reached tonight, in absolutely dominant fashion.

Lopez, a senior running/back captain, ran for 152 yards and two touchdowns on 28 carries and Tarantino passed for 75 yards with one touchdown, while running for 104 more to help power the third-seeded Greenwich to a decisive 31-10 victory over second-seeded host Fairfield Prep in the CIAC Class LL semifinals.

Greenwich, which captured the Class LL state title one season ago, with a 14-0 win over West Haven in the championship matchup, will seek to repeat as champions when it plays fourth-seeded Southington in Saturday's final at a site and time yet to be determined. Southington punch a ticket to the Class LL final by routing NFA, 42-7, in tonight's other state semifinal.

The Cardinals, who opened their 2025 campaign with a 31-17 home win over the Jesuits, led

Prep, 7-3, after the first quarter and brought a 17-3 advantage into halftime. Excelling on both sides of the ball, the Cards held a commanding 31-3 into the fourth quarter.

"We've been playing so great," said Lopez, who has made a habit of producing 100-plus yard rushing games for GHS. "The whole team has come together. Every single day we work so hard in practice, we're just ready for another state championship."

Greenwich outgained Fairfield Prep, 340-199 in this semifinal showdown, while impressively controlling the clock. The Cardinals also held a 30:44-17:16 time of possession edge on the Jesuits.

"It's a cold, wintery night, you got to seize the momentum right out of the gate," said Greenwich coach Anthony Morello, whose squad improved its record to 10-2. "The plan was to come out, score first and put the pressure on. We were a little tight early on, their defense is exceptional. But we run so many formations in practice, we work on so many things and we just executed earlier."

The Cardinals took the lead for good on their second possession, driving 65 yards in 11 plays. Running the Wildcat, senior captain Jack Kelly ran right, eluded a pair of Prep defenders and reached the end zone. Sophomore Michael Galano kicked the first of his four extra points and Greenwich was in front to stay at



7-0, with 3:29 remaining in the first quarter.

Fairfield Prep closed to within 73 when Benjamin Conelius kicked a 41-yard field goal with 47 seconds left in the opening quarter. A long pass play from senior quarterback Robert Manning to Colin Delaney set up the Jesuits' field goal. It was all Greenwich from there, however.

Taking over at the Jesuits' 30-yard line after junior Justin Carroll partially blocked a punt, Greenwich needed just one play to gain its second score. Tarantino connected with senior wide receiver Hudson Squires for a 30-yard touchdown, putting GHS ahead, 14-3, with 4:28 to go in the second quarter.

"We hit a hitch earlier in the

game for 10 yards and the coaches, they saw that their players were biting down really hard, so they called a hitch-and-go," Squires said. "Phil threw a perfect ball, it hit me right in the bread basket. We couldn't have done it without the line, they blocked perfectly."

Said Tarantino of his scoring strike to Squires: "We saw the safety coming down, so we did a little hitch-and-go and I put it where he (Squires) could get it and he did a great job of running under it and making a play."

Galano split the uprights for a 23-yard field goal, stretching Greenwich's cushion to 17-3 going into halftime. Once the second half began, Prep continued to have

difficulty sustaining drives against Greenwich's staunch defense.

Carroll and senior Michael Golden each sacked Manning from their linebacker and defensive end positions, respectively, while senior linebacker/captain Sebastian Parra recorded five tackles and junior defensive end Andy Stedem had two tackles resulting in lost yardage.

"I think we thrive when we bring pressure, so pressure is a big part of our defense," Carroll noted. "They have two good playmakers on their team, so we definitely tried to shut them down and we did a good job today."

Lopez added touchdown runs of 4 and 23 yards in the third

quarter, putting Prep in a 31-3 hole. Greenwich rolled up 265 rushing yards, with Tarantino complementing Lopez on the ground with 104 rushing yards.

"I feel like our offense has really found its rhythm since the Thanksgiving game against Staples," Tarantino said. "We've been motivated ever since the Wilton loss and we've been so locked in at practice working on everything. The line has been doing a great job giving me time to do my job and doing a great job giving Hector room to run."

Indeed, the Cardinals head into the Class LL state final playing an impressive brand of football, with its offensive and defensive line controlling the line of scrimmage, especially the past three games.

"We succeeded in all three facets of the game and that's how you win a game like this," Morello noted. "I think we're as multiple now as we have been all season on offense and that's keeping defenses off balance. Our guys were tuned up and ready to go and we played with passion, we played with heart and we played as a team."

"It feels amazing to make it to the state finals again," Parra said. "Ever since our first summer workout, we've been wanting to do this. Obviously, it's not done yet. Our goal isn't to make it, it's to win it and that's what we're going to do on Saturday."

Girls Swimming Captures Title at State Championships

BY DAVID FIERRO

From winning the team championship, to earning All-American Consideration performances, to breaking school/individual records, Greenwich High School's varsity swimming/diving team had plenty to be thrilled about at the 2025 CIAC State Open Championships before a large crowd at the legendary Kiphuth Exhibition Pool at Yale University on Nov. 16th.

Of course, the most thrilling aspect for the Cardinals during another sensational State Open meet was garnering another CIAC Championship plaque.

Greenwich, which placed second in the team standings one season ago, was second to none this year, capturing the team title at the State Open Championships, amassing an astounding 721 team points at the ultra-competitive 56-team meet. Ridgefield was the runner-up with a team score of 611.5 points, Cheshire placed third (322 points), Wilton was fourth (242.5) and Norwalk/McMahon finished fifth (229 points) in the team standings.

"We dominated, we had a couple of school records and a bunch of All-American times," said Greenwich coach Brendan Heller, who has guided the Cardinals to the Triple Crown in three of his five seasons at the helm.

For Greenwich, the Triple Crown is winning the State Open, Class LL and FCIAC team championships, which they did so once again this fall in highly impressive fashion. The Cardinals entered the meet in prime position to excel at the State Open due to achieving outstanding efforts at the CIAC Class LL Championships, held at Cornerstone Aquatics Center in West Hartford on Nov. 12th.

The Class LL Championships,

which also served as a qualifier for the State Open Championships, saw Greenwich win the team title with a squad score of 1,038.5 points and qualify numerous athletes for the State Open.

The State Open Championships has featured an exciting race for first place between Greenwich and rival Ridgefield since the 2021 season. The Cards claimed the State Open title in 2021, 2023 and this past Sunday, while the Tigers finished as the runner-up. Ridgefield won the State Open in 2022 and 2024, with GHS placing second in the team standings. However, this was the year of the Cardinals, who followed an undefeated regular season and victories at the FCIAC and Class LL Championships with a tremendous triumph at the 2025 State Open.

Ridgefield won the State Open Championships' first event – the 200-yard medley relay – with a time of 1:47:27. Mairead Luhman, Dalia Katra, Zsofia Milak and Ellen Griffin swam the Tigers to the gold medal in the race. Greenwich's quartet of junior Julia Kozma, freshman Alden Charette, senior captain Melissa Geiger and senior Lily Norton combined for a close second-place time of 1:48.08 in the 200-yard freestyle.

From there, the State Open competition turned in Greenwich's favor. Greenwich senior captain Wesley Wales won the first-place medal in the 200-yard freestyle in a time of 1:50.75. Ridgefield freshman Mary Kelly finished second in 1:52.07 and Tigers teammate Ava Ward, a senior, took third (1:53.16). Freshman Elsa Wang earned a fifth-place finish for the Cardinals in the 200-yard freestyle (1:54.00), while teammates Olivia DeVries (a sophomore, 1:55.51) and senior captain Ainsley Sahrbeck (1:55.96) were ninth and 10th, respectively.

Wales also captured the State Open 100-yard freestyle title,



Contributed photo: Members of the Greenwich High School varsity girls swimming team gather with coach Brendan Heller after winning the team title at the 2025 State Open Championships at Yale University.

touching the wall in 51.34 seconds. Junior Annabelle Superchi from Cheshire was the event's runner-up, in 51.87 Ward of Ridgefield (52.06). Also sparking Greenwich in the 100 freestyle with key team points were Wang (11th, 54.51 seconds) and junior Isadora Nassa (54.92).

As was the case at the Class LL Championships on Nov. 12th, the Cardinals compiled a pool full of points in the 500-yard freestyle at the State Open. Cardinals junior Ellison Charette won the 500 freestyle with an all-American consideration time of 4:57.57, giving GHS 30 more points in the team standings. Ridgefield's Mary Kelly was second in the 500 (4:58.77). The victory marked Ellison Charette's first gold medal in the 500 freestyle, after previously finishing second and fourth in this event.

Greenwich's Geiger, who has committed to attend Boston College, where she will swim, posted a third-place finish in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:05.60, followed by sophomore teammate Olivia DeVries (fourth

place, 5:06.47). Sahrbeck was seventh (5:10.79) in the 500 freestyle for the Cardinals, who scored 103 points in the event at the State Open.

Ellison Charette had the Cardinals' best showing in the 200-yard individual medley at the State Open Championships, earning the fifth-place medal with a time of 2:09.55. Senior captain Isabel Guzman finished ninth for GHS (2:12.05), while teammates Sara Jee, a sophomore (2:12.89) and Nassa (2:13.05) were 11th and 12th, respectively in the race. Superchi of Cheshire took home the 200 IM title (2:06.27) and Fairfield Ludlowe senior Ella Gussen finished second in 2:06.96.

Junior Kensington Worden achieved an All-American consideration time and established a GHS school record in finishing second at the State Open in the 50-yard freestyle. Worden touched the wall in 23.40 seconds, which broke the GHS school record previously set by the great Meghan Lynch in 2020. Lynch earned a time of 23.79.

Manchester High School senior Riley Anderson was the State

Open 50-yard freestyle champion, posting a State Open record time of 22.39 seconds. Sophomore Analie Whitridge was 23rd in the race (25.42) for the Cards.

Another school record was set by the Cardinals in the 200-yard freestyle. Ellison Charette, Kozma, Wales and Worden combined for a State Open championship/All-American consideration time of 1:35.53. The foursome came just 0.5 seconds from also setting a state record.

Greenwich entered the State Open Championships with a healthy amount of points in the team standings thanks to its divers. Greenwich also won the diving event, which was held November 13th at Middletown high school. Alden Charette won the State Open 1-meter diving title with an 11-round score of 517.85 points.

New Canaan senior Emma Kelly placed second on the 1-meter diving board with a score of 505.90 points. Alden's score established a new school diving record for GHS. Greenwich was the only team in the State Open with three divers. Senior captain Olivia

DeVito finished 15th (371.35 points) and sophomore Clemmie Whittle placed 23rd in her first State Open competition (343.50 points).

Kozma and Geiger made it to the podium in the 100-yard butterfly at the Open. Kozma finished fifth in the 100 butterfly (57.82), while Geiger took sixth in 57.87. Anderson of Manchester claimed the State Open title in the 100 butterfly, clocking in at 53.45. Sophomore Norah Eldredge placed 15th (1:00.85) and teammate Meredith McDermott (a freshman, 1:01.92) was 24th in the butterfly for the Cards.

Worden had a fifth-place finish in the 100 breaststroke, posting a personal-record time of 1:06.35. Jee was seventh in the breaststroke, which saw Cheshire sophomore Mackenzie Hearrin claim the State Open gold medal in 1:04.89. Guzman was 20th in the race for the Cards, clocking in at 1:09.76.

Alden Charette swam a time of 59.12 seconds in the 100-yard backstroke, good for eighth place at the Open in the event. Kozma was a blink of an eye behind her in ninth place (59.16) and Whitridge placed 17th (1:00.68). Norwalk/McMahon senior Katharine Fedor is the State Open champion in the 100 backstroke (56.45).

The Cardinals ended the State Open in splendid style, finishing second in the 400-yard freestyle race with a time of 3:28.66. Ridgefield won the 400 freestyle relay title (3:27.56, All-American consideration). Greenwich's quartet of Worden, Ellison Charette, Geiger and Wales established an All-American consideration time in the 400 freestyle relay.

Greenwich now has an unprecedented 24 team championships at the State Open and another Triple Crown, concluding a perfect, storybook season.

Girls Volleyball Captures Championship

BY DAVID FIERRO

One of the characteristics of a championship team is how it responds to adverse situations, well Greenwich High School's varsity girls volleyball team faced adversity when it lost the first set to Glastonbury in the championship game of the CIAC Class LL Tournament, so how did the Cardinals respond?

Like the championship team they are, of course.

Losing the first game made Greenwich come back stronger and Glastonbury certainly felt the Cardinals power.

Top-seeded Greenwich, which recently won the FCIAC Tournament title, earned the title as 'state champions,' capturing the CIAC Class LL Tournament championship with a decisive 3-1 win over fourth-seeded Glastonbury in the finals at East Haven High School before a large, enthusiastic bipartisan crowd on Nov. 15th. The victory put the finishing touch on a memorable season that saw the Cardinals register an incredible record of 25-1 on their way to winning the program's third state volleyball championship.

Cardinals junior outside hitter Heidi Zieme was named the MVP of the championship match. Zieme recorded an eye-opening 20 kills, 15 digs and two aces for the 2025 champion Cardinals.

"From our first practice, our coach wrote down what our goal was on the board and it was wins states and win FCIACs,"

Zieme said. "Throughout our whole season, our whole team put in everything they had and really wanted it. From the very beginning, we came in knowing we could do it."

As for being named MVP?

"It feels really exciting, I came in here wanting to put everything I had on the court, so to get MVP really means a lot," Zieme said.

Junior middle hitter Kayah Armstrong tallied 12 kills, five digs and five blocks, while senior outside hitter/captain Aleena Jacobsen notched 15 digs, 22 kills and three aces for Greenwich, which won the match, 24-26, 25-20, 25-9, 25-20.

Jacobsen, who helped ignite Greenwich offensively and defensively, recalled when the team discussed their expectations at the beginning of the season.

"Last winter, we had meetings with our coach and she was like 'what's your goal for the season? I walked in and said, 'my goal is to be FCIAC and state champions.' Being here on the other side of it, knowing how hard we worked in and out of practice – I'm just so proud of everyone."

Junior setter Victoria Sullivan helped facilitate the offense as she has all season, posting 44 assists. Sullivan added five digs, three kills and served three aces in the winning effort.

How does the title champion Cardinals sound, Sullivan was asked?

"It sounds amazing, it's super exciting. 2021 was the last time

we were able to win this banner," Sullivan said. "We really just turned it on in the second match."

Greenwich's other CIAC Class LL state tournament titles were won in 2021 and 2010.

"This is the first time I've ever won states and FCIACs in my playing and coaching career, so it's a very different feeling to be on the other end of that," said Greenwich head coach Marianna Linnehan, who was assisted by coaches Chrys Hernandez, George Kalas and Alexyss Conley.

During the regular season, the Cardinals swept to 3-0 victories in most of their matches. Their most daunting challenges came in the postseason. They edged Trumbull, 3-2, in the Class LL Tournament's quarterfinals and in this title matchup, they came back from a 1-0 deficit to top Glastonbury.

"I've always known we were good, but I don't think we were in challenging games at the beginning of the season," Linnehan noted. "Our challenging games came up at the end, where it made us get into that five game situation, it made us get into that pressure situation. Just doing that and pushing them more to do what they need to do to win and forcing them to be better players helped them."

Sophomore libero Bailee Dayon kept the Cards on track defensively, finishing the final with 30 digs, five assists and two aces.

"I think it was very good defense that was one of the keys," Dayon said. "Going for every single ball, covering for each other and

just being there for our teammate."

The Guardians held a 15-12 lead in the opening set, yet the Cardinals rallied to take an 18-15 advantage, winning six straight points. Junior Sammie Tommasino posted a pair of kills, Armstrong had a kill and Sullivan served an ace, making it 18-15 in favor of the Cards.

Greenwich extended its edge to 20-16 following an Armstrong kill and Jacobsen ace. However, Glastonbury rallied to take the opening set in hard-fought fashion, 26-24. Senior captains Reese Henderson and McKenna Reynolds helped spark the Guardians first-set comeback, as Greenwich new it had to regroup.

"During the season, we've gone to four set or five set games, so we knew how to respond," Jacobsen said of the team's mindset following the first set. "We knew what we needed to do to come back. We knew we needed to get a pass to our setter. It was mostly in our heads, so we had that time in between the sets, we talked, we took some deep breaths and we came out fired up."

Greenwich was behind 17-16 in the second game, then won seven consecutive points to take control of the game at 23-17. Sophomore Essa Walsh provided stellar serving during the Cardinals' pivotal run, which included kills from Jacobsen, Armstrong and a block from Sullivan.

"We knew we couldn't get complacent, even though we had a high lead," Walsh said, referring to Greenwich's performance in third

and four sets. "So, we knew we had to push and keep fighting."

Armstrong closed out the second set with a booming kill, giving Greenwich a 25-20 and evening the match at 1-1.

"During the first set, we just had to get more into the game," Zieme noted. "We were anxious, we were worried and a little bit in our heads. During the second, third and fourth set, we were relaxed. We know how to play volleyball. Everything worked out very well."

The third set saw the Cards seize leads of 3-0, 8-2, 12-3 and 16-6, while effectively executing their offense and not letting the ball touch the ground.

Dayon's ace and several kills by Armstrong put Greenwich up 23-9 and on the verge of winning the third set, 25-9.

"I think having high energy the whole time and staying consistent with that helped us," Tommasino noted.

Well-placed, powerful kills by Zieme enabled Greenwich to play from in front in the fourth and final set. Immediately after the Cardinals won the 25th point of the fourth set, it was celebration time.

"In practice we worked really hard, we also made sure that we scouted the teams and knew exactly what they were going to do," Greenwich senior middle hitter Tea Saidi said of the team's success. "But I think the main things we focused on every single game was consistency. We worked really hard to get where we were and I think it all paid off in the end.

I'm really proud of everyone, we all worked really hard to get here and we all deserved it."

Indeed, after the first set, the Cardinals just couldn't be stopped and cruised their way to the state championship.

"Our energy was 10 times higher, our passes were really good, we were able to move around our offense," Sullivan said. "That helped us move around the block better. I just throwing ball to Heidi and she really proved herself this game. We have so much energy on and off the court. We work together super well and I think that really showed in today's game. We worked together to bring it home."

Following the championship win, Jocelyn Jefferson, a senior captain recalled the time, effort and determination that went into earning an outstanding, championship season.

"It feels amazing, we worked so hard for this and we've been waiting to show what Greenwich volleyball is really about," Jefferson said. "We worked hard from the beginning of the season to the end. Even through the ups and downs, we were still able to come out and fight and come out with the championship."

"I think we have one of the biggest families in the FCIAC when it comes to being a team and playing together," Jefferson continued. "I'm incredibly proud of our coaches, who put in an incredible amount of hard work and dedication and believed in everyone on this team to get to this point."

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NEW LISTINGS

TIMOTHY AGRO, GREENWICH STREETS TEAM, 203.461.5964

Address	List Price	Price/SqFt	SqFt	AC	BR	FB	Area
105 Hamilton Avenue 9	\$1,299,000	\$527	2,466	0	2	2	South of Post Road
50 Church Street 5	\$1,600,000	\$825	1,940	0	3	2	South Parkway
151 Hamilton Avenue	\$1,675,000	\$430	3,892	0.29	4	3	South of Post Road
33 E Lyon Farm Drive 33	\$1,850,000	\$637	2,904	0	3	3	South Parkway
12 Sawmill Terrace	\$2,149,000	\$861	2,496	1.07	2	2	South Parkway
200 Davis Avenue	\$2,285,000	\$1,088	2,100	0.11	3	2	South of Post Road
4 Banksville Road	\$2,995,000	\$574	5,216	0.71	5	5	North Parkway
111 Byram Shore Road	\$10,350,000	\$1,259	8,223	1.5	5	4	Byram
5 & 7 John Street	\$24,000,000	\$1,517	15,820	14.94	10	12	North Parkway

NEW SALES

TIMOTHY AGRO, GREENWICH STREETS TEAM, 203.461.5964

Address	Original List	List Price	Sold Price	DOM	BR	FB	Acres	SqFt
4 Putnam Hill Road 2E	\$550,000	\$550,000	\$560,000	102	2	1	0	1,022
2 Putnam Hill 1F	\$599,000	\$599,000	\$599,000	18	2	1	0	0
51 Forest Avenue 82	\$745,000	\$745,000	\$875,000	6	1	2	0	1,015
15 River Road 210	\$849,000	\$849,000	\$870,000	6	2	2	0	1,104
1000 North Street	\$999,000	\$999,000	\$1,080,000	30	4	1	0.52	1,840
98 Prospect Street	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000	\$1,138,500	14	3	2	0.17	1,672
10 Carissa Lane	\$2,650,000	\$2,650,000	\$2,642,500	14	4	4	1.05	3,948
7 Perryridge Road	\$3,275,000	\$3,275,000	\$3,500,000	4	5	3	0.22	3,019
49 Sumner Road	\$3,495,000	\$3,495,000	\$3,495,000	31	5	4	4	4,670
50 Sound View Drive 4N	\$3,795,000	\$3,795,000	\$4,200,000	16	4	5	0.21	4,033
52 Round Hill Road	\$4,500,000	\$3,995,000	\$4,030,000	70	4	3	2.15	4,810
57 Lockwood Avenue	\$4,895,000	\$4,300,000	\$4,361,000	73	5	5	0.55	5,400
34 Edgewood Drive	\$4,995,000	\$4,995,000	\$4,600,000	127	4	4	1.27	5,244
203 Riverside Avenue	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	65	6	3	0.93	5,021
209 Shore Road	\$5,360,000	\$5,360,000	\$4,725,000	91	4	2	0.68	4,261
477 Lake Avenue	\$5,595,000	\$5,595,000	\$5,200,000	104	5	3	2.83	3,231
20 Sherwood Farm Lane	\$5,795,000	\$5,100,000	\$4,600,000	358	6	6	1	7,930
15 Andrews Farm Road	\$6,500,000	\$6,500,000	\$6,500,000	25	5	5	4	6,837
151 Old Church Road	\$11,400,000	\$11,400,000	\$11,000,000	142	8	7	3.98	10,935
52 Carriglea Drive	\$14,250,000	\$13,750,000	\$12,900,000	217	6	6	1.13	9,418
21 Keofferram Road	\$4,800,000	\$4,475,000	\$3,770,000	58	4	3	0.39	3,361
60 Meadow Road	\$5,995,000	\$5,995,000	\$6,409,000	14	4	2	1.01	4,188
21 Binney Lane	\$7,995,000	\$7,995,000	\$8,150,000	29	6	6	0.48	8,102
14 Meadow Drive	\$9,750,000	\$8,250,000	\$7,700,000	432	10	6	3.2	9,483
50 Hidden Brook Road	\$8,490,000	\$8,490,000	\$8,400,000	29	7	8	0.5	6,972
183 Shore Road	\$9,900,000	\$9,900,000	\$9,373,000	42	5	4	0.37	4,758
579 Indian Field Road	\$43,000,000	\$43,000,000	\$40,000,000	131	6	8	2.72	11,500

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Our 2025 Real Estate Records

 **By MARK PRUNER**
he Biggest, the Smallest and the Longest DOM

So far in 2025, we have had 490 single family home sales which is well below our 10-year pre-Covid average of 621 sales, but by the end of the year, we will likely have more than the 510 sales that we had last year. As of the end of November, our sales were 3% above last year and we should finish strong, but we are not likely to beat last year's total sale by double digits. Given how little inventory we had all year, it is actually surprising that we did this well.

I. Lowest Inventory ever

We had the tightest market ever with only 86 listings at the beginning of 2025. By the second week of February, we were down to an all-time low of only 80 single family homes on the market. Then our spring market kicked in and by the end of May we were up to 151 listings. That's almost a doubling of that all-time low, but high for the year was an all-time low for that week of the year. From May to August inventory drifted down. We then had a little bump up in inventory after Labor Day for our fall market. Then we continued our fall.

As of the second week in December, we have set a new all-time low with only 74 listings on the market. This compares to last year when we had 113 listings on the market, so we are down 34% from those lows. To show you just how bad this is, if you go back to the second week of December 2019, we had 505 house listings, i.e. we are down 85.3% from our pre-Covid inventory levels. Despite this, as I noted above, our 2025 sales are likely to beat our 2024.

II. Highest Sale

- A. By Neighborhoods over \$10 Million.
- 1. Mid-country- 214 Clapboard Ridge Rd - \$43,500,000
 - 2. South of Post Road - 579 Indian Field Rd - \$40,000,000

- 3. Backcountry - 24 Conyers Farm Drive - \$23,000,000
- 4. Old Greenwich - 198 Shore Rd - \$21,000,000
- 5. Riverside - 88 Cedar Cliff Rd - \$13,250,000

No market has changed more year to year than our over \$10 million market. We have had 37 sales over \$10 million this year. We only had 17 sales over \$10 million in 2024 and only 12 sales over \$10 million in 2023. The ultra-high-end will more than double our previous record of over \$10 million sales set in 2007, when we had 19 sales over \$10 million. (Of course, back in 2007, \$10 million was a lot more money in real terms. It also shows you just how big the bubble was right before the Great Recession.)

This year, our highest priced sale of the year was in mid-country, and the sale was really remarkable. That house was a new build with 26,837 s.f. on 8 acres in the 2-acreone. The land had been purchased in 2019 for \$5.1 million. It takes a lot of guts to build a house that big and list it for that much in hopes you'll find a buyer, but the market demand was there as the house went to contract in 42 days and the buyer was from Greenwich.

When the stock market does well, the Greenwich high-end market does well. The stock markets are also volatile and taking some money off the table and putting it into Greenwich real estate can be prudent estate planning.

III. Lowest Sales Price

- A. By Neighborhood
- 1. Chickahominy - 123 Hamilton Avenue - \$650,000
 - 2. Glenville- 58 Riverdale - \$695,000
 - 3. Byram - 43 High St. - \$700,000
 - 4. Pemberwick - 23 Pemberwick - \$755,000

Our lowest priced sale was in Chickahominy, while our second lowest priced sale was in Glenville, an area that has seen significant appreciation. Both houses had 2 bedrooms and were just over 1,100 s.f.

The median house sales price in the State of Connecticut is around \$450,000. Nothing in Greenwich gets close to the state median price. This

year, like the past several years, we had no sales under \$500,000 and we only had these two sales under \$700K.

None of our lowest priced houses are in move-in condition, so these sales prices do not reflect the buyer's total first year costs. If you are looking for a bargain in Greenwich, they are all gone, so if you are looking for a house under \$1,000,000 be prepared to move quickly. Right now, in mid-December 2025, you have a choice of two houses under \$1 million and that second lowest price house is priced at \$999,000.

IV. Biggest House

Our biggest house sold this year was also the highest priced at 214 Clapboard Ridge Rd at 26,837 s.f. Our second biggest house was at 11 Langhorne Lane at 26,45 s.f. and went for \$17,370,000 or \$963/sf less than the \$1,621/sf that 214 Clapboard Ridge Road sold for.

V. Smallest House

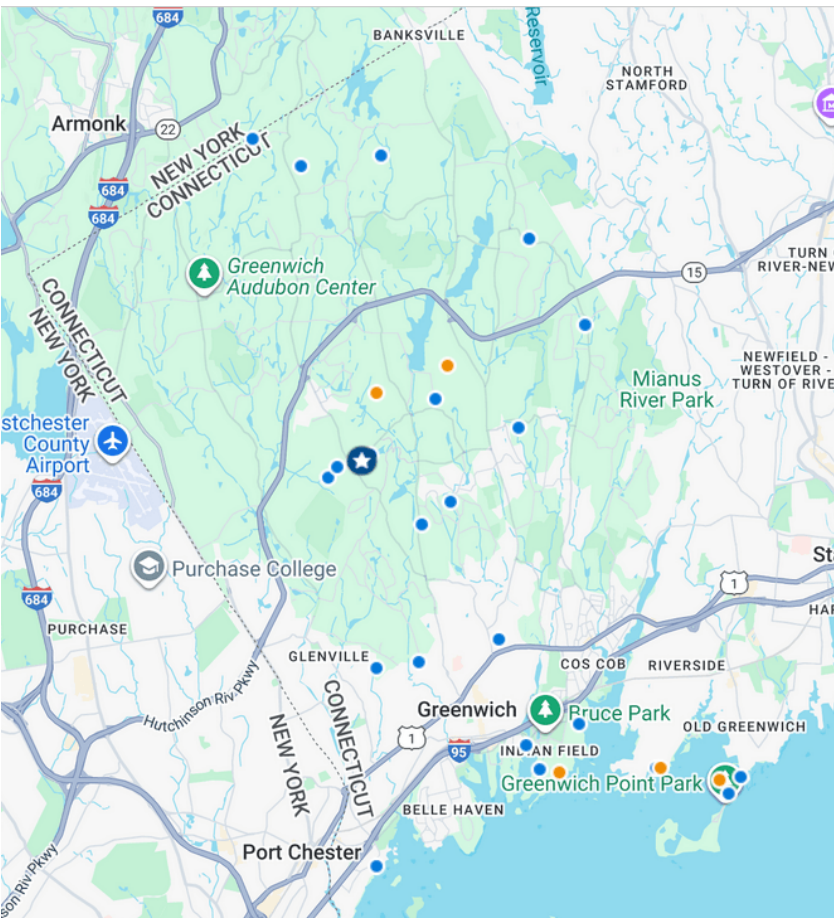
Our smallest house was only 804 s.f. and sold for \$2,730,000 or \$3,395/s.f. Even for Greenwich, which is a remarkable price, and the fact it is Old Greenwich south of the village makes it only slightly less remarkable. What really happened was that this was a dual lot at 17 Keoffram Road and the 804 s.f. house was the carriage house to the main house. That's still a lot of money for a 0.33 acre lot.

For a real house, that's smallest, it's also in Old Greenwich at 20 Old Wagon Road. This 2-bedroom, 1 bath, and 1 fireplace house had 1,066 s.f. It sold for \$1,529,000 along with its 0.31 acre lot.

VI. Days on Market

For all sales so far this year, our median days on market is only 23 days from listing to contract. This compares to 145 days on the market in 2019.

When you are in a tight market, one thing that happens is that houses that have been sitting for a long time find buyers. This year 88 Cedar Cliff held the record for cumulative days on the market at 1,162 CDOM. This number takes in a couple of quirks. If you take a house on the GMLS off the market for more than 90 days it resets the number of days on market, so 88 Cedar Cliff was on essentially on continuously for a little over 3 years. (Other listing may



Our 37 sales and 9 contracts this year are spread throughout town.

have been on and off for more than that, there is no easy way to tell.) Also, if the listing agents change, the LADOM resets to zero, but the CDOM keeps chugging along. You have to check whether you are talking about, DOM, CDOM or LADOM.

The GMLS lists 22 sales that were on for 0 days on market, which seems pretty remarkable, but these were actually private sales that were put on the GMLS for "Reporting Purposes Only". There is no way of knowing how long they were marketed privately, before getting to contract.

Where this becomes an issue is that 22 zeroes are enough to bring down both our average and median days on market. If you exclude our 22 reporting purposes only sales with zero DOM our average DOM goes up from 67 days on market to 72 days on market. Anytime you see a number for days on market, it's worth looking at the details.

VII. Acres

Our largest lot size sold this year was Creamer Hill Road with 81.5 acres

right on our northern border with New York. It sold for \$19,500,000 and included a 14,296 s.f. house. At the other end of the lot size, our smallest lot sale was 58 Riverdale, on 0.04 acres, which was our second lowest priced house at \$695,000. Another way to look at it is the 264 smaller lot sales would have fit in those 81.5 acres.

VIII. OLP vs SP

Our most over list price sale was last month at 17 Meadow Drive. It went for 44% over list price. It listed for \$799,000 and sold for \$1,152,000 in only 7 days on market.

Of our 490 sales so far this year, 270 went for full list price or over list price. At the other end, our largest land sale on Creamer Hill Road went for 56% of its original list price.

All in all, an interesting year. It would be nice if 2026 is a little more normal.

Mark Pruner is a founder of the Greenwich Streets Team at Compass. He can be reached at 203-817-2871 or mark.pruner@compass.com.

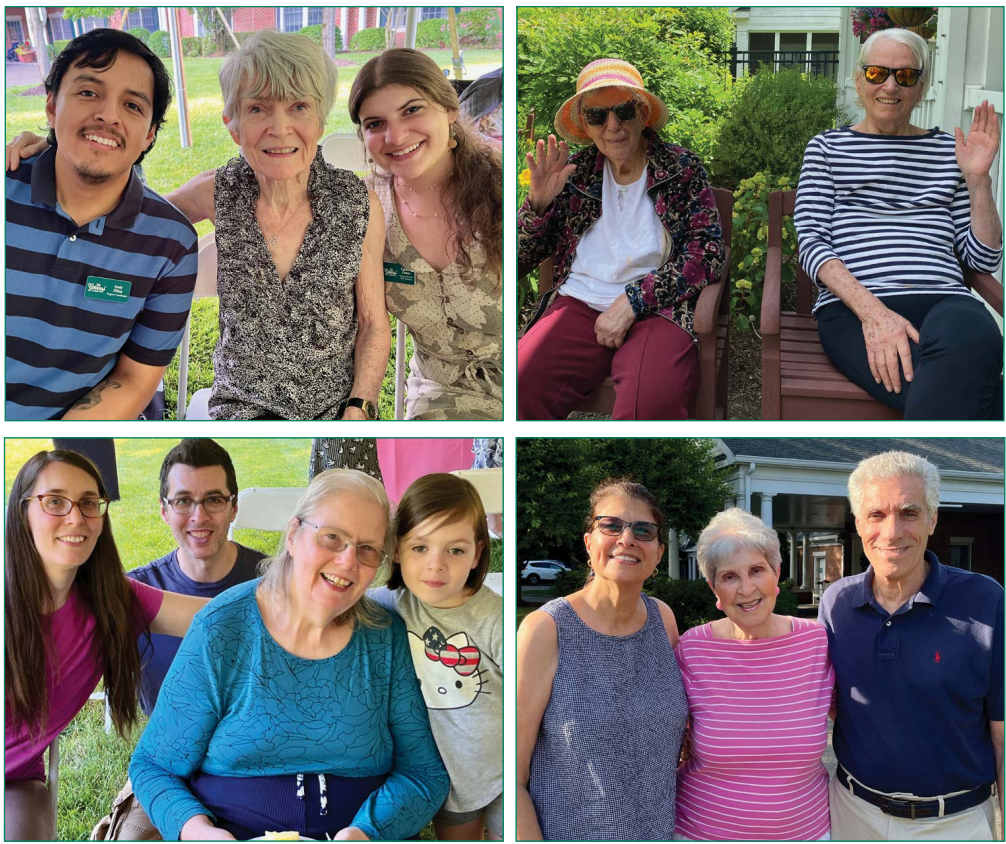
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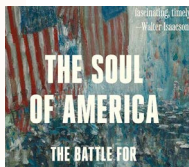
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JON MEACHAM SPEAKS
TO HIS BOOK "THE
SOUL OF AMERICA-
THE BATTLE FOR OUR
BETTER ANGELS"



HOW ONE
FAMILY FOUND
LIGHT IN
DEMENTIA



GREENWICH
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THE FESTIVAL OF NINE
LESSONS & CAROLS

Unveiling the Growth of the British Artist J.M.W. Turner via the English-Speaking Union



J. M. W. Turner's "Lake Avernus: Aeneas and the Cumaean Sibyl," between 1814 and 1815, oil on canvas, Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection.

BY ANNE W. SEMMES

The Greenwich Branch of The English-Speaking Union or ESU was once again the deliverer of impressive art education, at its last meeting two weeks ago Thursday featuring Britain's great land and seascape artist, Joseph Mallord William Turner, on his 250th anniversary. There to address Turner as "the founder of modern art" was British native Lucinda Lax, Interim Head and Curator of Paintings and Sculpture of the Yale Center of British Art (YCBA) in New Haven.

With the YCBA known to have the "greatest collection of British art outside of Britain," Lax had organized earlier this year "J. M. W. Turner: Romance and Reality," the first Turner exhibition at the Center since 1993. Lax had displayed Turner's work to show his extraordinary evolving over six decades to becoming that pioneering modern artist. There were some 3000 Turner works to select from spanning his career, all collected by Paul Mellon, the founder of the Center, Lax cited as "one of the greatest collectors and philanthropists of the

20th century."

In the 1950's when Mellon began his collecting, said Lax, "British art was relatively cheap to buy" [she highly recommended reading Mellon's autobiography, "Reflections in a Silver Spoon - A Memoir"] with his ending up with "iconic masterpieces in the canon of British art." Mellon would accumulate the largest collection of Turner oils, watercolors and prints "in North America outside of the Tate in Britain."

Enrolled in London's Royal Academy of Arts at age 14, Turner had learned by age 18 "the accurate representation of architectural details and a highly systematic approach to rendering, form and color," told Lax. "All these traits are readily in evidence in the earliest examples of his finished watercolors in the YCBA's collection." A favorite early watercolor of hers is of "St. Augustine's Gate "in "the ancient cathedral city of Canterbury, painted in 1793... He was born in 1775...so we're talking about somebody just emerging out of his late teens who had just finished his artistic training and was

"He was at once an artistic rebel and a fervent upholder of tradition and its institutions, the pioneer of a new painterly style." Lucinda Lax



J. M. W. Turner, "Mer de Glace, in the Valley of Chamonix," ca. 1815 (formerly dated ca. 1803), watercolor, Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection.



Lucinda Lax, Interim Head and Curator of Paintings and Sculpture of the Yale Center of British Art, is pointing to J. M. W. Turner's "Staffa, Fingal's Cave," oil on canvas, from the Center's Paul Mellon Collection.

already at the level of skill and capability that he could create these really subtle renditions.... He's already starting to think about how to romanticize the elements."

Influence of Claude Lorrain

But it was the paintings of 17th century French landscape artist Claude Lorrain "that made the deepest impression on Turner," told Lax, "one in particular, 'Seaport with the Embarkation of the Queen of Sheba,' that reportedly brought Turner to tears when he saw it and he lamented that he would never be able to paint anything like it... And Claude remained a touchstone for the rest of Turner's life," so

illustrated in Turner's painting of "Lake Avernus Aeneas - 1814-1815." "This piece has gone to the Tate [on exhibit] and is a seminal work for showing how important Claude was in Turner's life and his development as an artist."

"Importantly," Lax added, it was "that effect of seemingly infinite recession that Turner so skillfully achieves which is heightened by his choice of a similarly warm color palette... It's informing the way that he's building a landscape on canvas."

Also, formative was Turner's "willingness to brave the dangers and deprivations of continental travel in an age before planes, trains, and automobiles" - travel made

possible post the French Revolution. "And the goal of Turner's expedition through France and Switzerland was the dramatic landscapes of the Alps."

Lax showed "the spectacular watercolor of the great alpine 'Mer de Glace in the Valley of Chamonix,' 1815, completed some 10 years after he actually saw the subject. It took pride of place in the exhibition. Partly because of this amazing perspective that Turner creates on paper the way you look down...it's a really precipitous view.." Plus, "notice the snake in these terrifying details that he adds to make us feel as though we are there... It's a true tour de force of paint." And, "fashionable

for artists in that early 19th century, was to be working in watercolor on these large-scale pieces they would then exhibit in public exhibitions."

Impressive landscape prints

Add Turner's "sustained and unusually direct involvement in the field of printmaking...a reproductive medium offering the artist the potential to build both his wider reputation and to increase his income." Thus, his Liber Studiorum, containing some 70 individual prints dating from 1806-1824 that Turner "would supervise and publish himself," shared Lax. "It ranks among his most ambitious project." Per example, an image

please turn to Page 4

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Jon Meacham Speaks to His Book “The Soul of America-The Battle for Our Better Angels”

By ANNE W. SEMMES

Historian and presidential biographer Jon Meacham is credited with the line, “History, which will surely be our judge, can also be our guide.” Before 400 gathered in Christ Church Greenwich last Wednesday week evening Meacham spelled out that thoughtful line, often with humor, with his addressing his 2018 book “The Soul of America.” His talk is one of an ongoing “Courage & Faith” speaker series, hosted by Christ Church and St. Barnabas Church. Meacham was introduced by Christ Church Rev’d Marek Zabriskie, as “one of the most respected presidential historians of our time, a Pulitzer Prize winning author,” who’d arrived “at a moment when our country and our world feel deeply unsettled. Jon helps us to remember the deeper truths that have carried us through storms before helping us move forward with hope.”

Meacham was described as “a person of deep and personal faith” and “a dedicated Episcopalian.” And of Meacham’s presidential biographies one was of George Herbert Walker Bush told Zabriskie, “Who grew up here in Christ Church.” “He was born in Milton, Massachusetts,” noted Meacham, “but he got here quick.” But it had taken Meacham 17 years to complete his biography. “It was supposed to be posthumous,” he quipped. “But the son of a ... wouldn’t die.”

Jumping into his book, “The Soul of America,” he told of it being “a genuine labor of love... Everything I’ve ever thought is in this book... but things are kind of crazy in the country... it is a deeply unsettling and tumultuous time.... I’m not entirely sure the constitutional order survives. It is up to us, the people, Lincoln said, all people act on incentive. The people who are in power, their unit of commerce is vote, and if we voted a different way, they would do different things.”

Meacham believed, “We’re facing a moral crisis... and the choice we have to make is do we believe that the democratic lowercase D covenant is worth deferring our own gratification from instant gratification to a sense where we give and we take because that’s what makes a democracy work. You pay taxes up here so that I get a bridge in Tennessee and you’ll never drive over it, but I’m paying taxes so you have better vermouth up here...”

“If we don’t choose to see each other as neighbors, as best opponents,” he continued, “if we take that category and make it enemies, then autocracy is what naturally follows. Because the oldest truth in human history is that the strong rule the weak, the second oldest truth is that the weak can become the strong and the point of the United States of America, the point of the Western liberal tradition was that the rule of law and a constitutional order would take us above the state of nature ... to govern not by the force of our fists, but the force of our ideas.”

“The remarkable thing about the United States of America,” he told, “is that for about 240 years, we had a different answer, and just enough of us decided to take part in that covenant that politics should not be total war every single day, a, fight over identity and power and money.” Meacham would describe himself as, “I am not a Republican, I’m not a Democrat. I have voted for candidates of both parties.”

Meacham takes daughter to Capitol He told of a visit with his teenaged daughter to the Capitol on an “Ash Wednesday in 2021.” And “There’s National Guard troops, not because of a foreign foe, but because of people who chose to believe a lie about an election.” And “The President has provided a running narrative, a reality show that just happens to now be our reality, which I believe is part of the tragedy of the era, but we won’t be able to address what’s wrong without understanding the appeal of the phenomenon.”

“The appeal is that every single day there is a drama being staged for people... sometimes there are Venezuelans in the water and sometimes they’re lawmakers from New York, sometimes they’re

lawmakers from Michigan.... It’s a casting enterprise and it is a consuming, enveloping, incredibly appealing drama for millions upon millions of people.”

“We have to tell a different story of lessons learned over decades in our history,” he said. “The greatest American leaders have managed to articulate a hopeful vision that has for just enough of the time managed to overshadow fear. But there is no permanent victory in American politics short of the coming of the kingdom. I talk about the soul of the country because I believe in Hebrew and in Greek, soul means breath or life... it’s the essence of who we are. But to me, a soul is not entirely good or bad. It’s an arena of contention in which our worst instincts do battle with our better angels. And you just hope that the better angels win enough of the time. And I think our history affirms that again and again.”

“If we can check two boxes, the covenant of modern democracies is we’ll do what it takes. Candor matters in this - and empathy.” And the most empathetic man he “ever knew, not just politician but man” was George Herbert Walker Bush. “President Bush always tried to think about the other guy - and George Bush was not a perfect person...He would do almost anything for a vote, but he’d be the first person to call 911.”

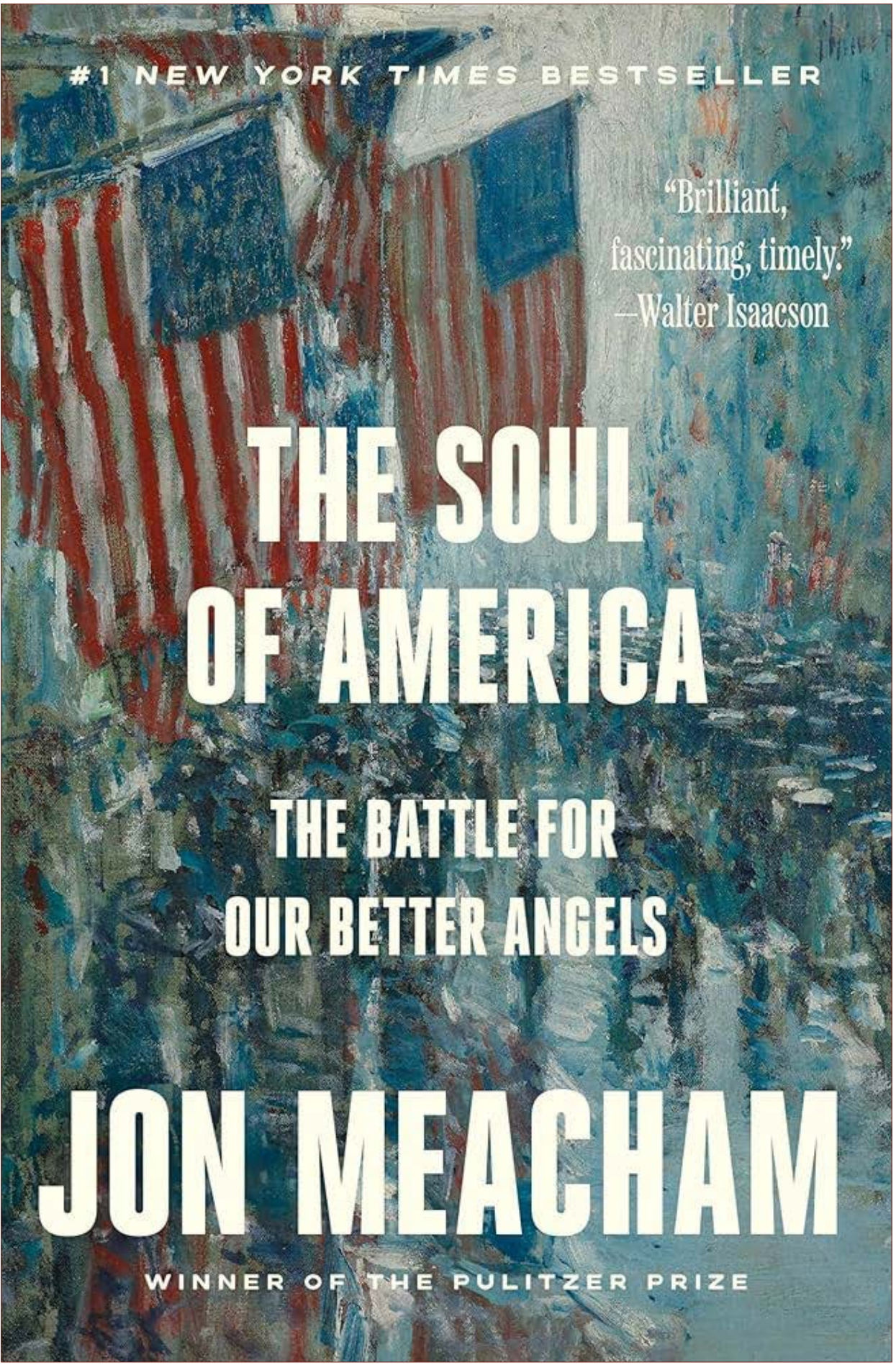
Bush and Gorbachev “This is a man who at the age of 18, drove from Andover to Boston to be sworn into the Navy, was shot down out of the sky at age 20... He was thinking about Mikhail Gorbachev, who had a hardcore right wing in Russia that did not want to see Soviet greatness go away... The wall was coming down, freedom was winning. Bush was thinking how it would work or not work for Gorbachev. It was one of the vital moments in the peaceful conclusion to the Cold War. The Soviet Union is going to collapse without a single American troop being in an unusual forward position. But it happened, not least because George Bush gave Gorbachev room to have his dignity.”

“That case was never made to me by President Bush,” told Meacham. “It was made to me by Gorbachev who said that the moment that Bush decided to be quiet and dignified and restrained because of empathy was one of the critical moments in leading to the peaceful dissolution of the Soviet Union. If George Bush can do it, can’t we?”

Meacham ended with another memorable Bush moment. “We’re in this church where in October of 1953, the Bushes buried their daughter, Robin Pauline Robinson Bush... The Bushes had lost her to leukemia.” Pulling a note out of his pocket, he said, “I want to share with you part of a letter that President Bush in the 1950s wrote his mother, also your fellow parishioner, Dorothy Walker Bush, who kept it in her bedside table on Grove Lane until she died in 1992.

“It’s a unique document in presidential literature.” He began, “There is about our house a need. The running, pulsating restlessness of the boys as they struggle to learn and grow needs a counterpart...We need some soft blonde hair to offset those crew cuts. We need a dollhouse to stand firm against our forts and rackets and a thousand baseball cards. We need a legitimate Christmas angel, one who doesn’t have cuffs beneath the dress... We need a little one who can kiss without leaving egg or jam or gum.... She was patient... Her peace made me feel strong...”

And it was during the 17 years with Meacham working on Bush’s biography that he would ask Bush to read that letter out loud to him. “Long before he finished,” told Meacham, “He broke down with an extraordinary level of physical sobbing.” “Why did you want President Bush to read that?” interrupted Bush’s Chief of Staff entering the room. “Well,” Meacham responded, “If you want to know someone’s heart... The President jumped in saying,” ‘You have to know what breaks it. That’s who we should be.”



“The greatest American leaders have managed to articulate a hopeful vision that has for just enough of the time managed to overshadow fear.”



Jon Meacham, Courage & Faith speaker and presidential historian addressing the audience at Christ Church Greenwich. Photo by Bobbi Eggers.

Editor’s Note: Winter’s First Notes

Winter’s earliest days arrive with a clarity all their own. The light turns crisp, the air feels finely drawn, and familiar streets seem to take on a gentle resonance. It’s a season that heightens perception—not by narrowing the world, but by sharpening its contours. Sounds stand out more distinctly: the cadence of footsteps, the bright strike of a distant bell, the clean echo of a voice carrying farther than expected. These first notes of winter don’t just signal a change in weather; they signal a change in how we listen.

That shift in attention creates an ideal landscape for live music. When we step into a performance space after spending time in the bright, reflective quiet of the season, our senses arrive already alert. The transition amplifies even the smallest musical details: a choir taking its first collective breath, a violinist testing a phrase under the bow, the low, anticipatory hum of an audience preparing to settle in. Winter enhances these sounds not through contrast but through attunement. We’re simply more receptive.

Local performances thrive under these conditions. Throughout the season, choral ensembles, orchestras, chamber groups, and student musicians fill the calendar with programs that seem perfectly matched to the moment. It’s not just tradition that places so much music here; it’s the way winter naturally supports close, concentrated listening. The season offers a kind of built-in acoustics—an external stillness

Choral music, in particular, meets winter with remarkable compatibility. When a group begins with a single pure pitch, the room aligns around it. Listeners can follow the way harmonies take shape, how voices interact, how a phrase expands and settles. These textures feel especially vivid now, when our hearing seems primed for detail. Winter doesn’t embellish the music; it allows it to land exactly as it is.

and internal focus that make nuance easier to perceive.

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Instrumental performances illuminate another facet of this sensory shift. A string section tuning can feel almost sculptural, establishing form before melody even begins. Winds cut through the air with clean definition; brass feels steady and luminous; percussion outlines the space with confident precision. The season doesn’t transform the sound—it reveals it.

Audiences, too, reflect winter’s influence. People arrive with an attentiveness that’s particular to this time of year. There’s a quiet

cohesion that forms before the first note, not out of ritual but out of readiness. The shared intention to listen—really listen—becomes part of the performance’s texture.

Year after year, these early weeks of winter remind us that the season isn’t just a setting for the arts; it’s an active partner. It heightens focus, deepens perception, and gives live music a distinctive resonance. As concerts unfold across town in the coming weeks, it’s worth recognizing the role winter plays in shaping them. Step from the crisp air into a room alive with sound, and the connection is unmistakable: the season doesn’t simply accompany the music. It amplifies our capacity to hear it.

EDITORS

Arts@GreenwichSentinel.com
Section Editor Emma Barhydt
Curated with Anne W. Semmes

& CONTRIBUTORS

Emma Barhydt, Elizabeth Barhydt, Bob Capazzo,
Liz Leamy, Laura McCormick, Caroll Melgar,
Anne W. Semmes, Cordelia Webb

ARTS & THEATER CALENDAR

FRIDAY, DEC. 12

10 a.m.
Toddler Storytime. Cos Cob Library Community Room. 203-622-6883.

1 & 3 p.m.
Holiday Tea with the Holleys. Greenwich Historical Society. 203-869-6899. greenwichhistory.org/ghs-events

7 p.m.
Friends Friday Films: “Jane Austen Wrecked My Life.” Berkley Theater. cgibbs@greenwichlibrary.org

SATURDAY, DEC. 13

9 a.m.
Meet for Coffee at the Bruce: Done and Done, Authors of Love Your Home Again. Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. Free. RSVP. brucemuseum.org

10:30 a.m.
Jerry’s Movies: “The Three Faces of Eve starring Joanne Woodward.” Byram Shubert Library Community Room. 203-531-0426.

1 p.m.
Art Adventures: Snowflakes (Ages 4 & up). Bruce Museum. Free with admission. No reservations required. Also held Sunday, Dec. 14. brucemuseum.org

1 - 3 p.m.
Winterfest Cos Cob – arts & crafts, live music and more. Cos Cob Library Front Lawn. 203-622-6883.

2 p.m.
Jerry’s Movies: “The Sound of Music.” Byram Shubert Library Community Room. 203-531-0426.

2 & 5 p.m.
Greenwich A Cappella Winter Showcase. School of the Holy Child, 2225 Westchester Ave., Rye, NY. eventbrite.com/e/1955168735319

2 p.m.
Bruce Experiences: Ursula von Rydingsvard: Into Her Own, Documentary. Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. bruce-museum.org

4 - 7 p.m.
Holiday Festival – A Night at the Museum. Greenwich Historical Society. \$20, \$25, \$30, \$35. 203-869-6899. greenwich-history.org/ghs-events

SUNDAY, DEC. 14

2 p.m.
Bruce Presents: Moses Ros, Artist in Residence Lecture. Bruce Museum. bruce-museum.org

4 - 7 p.m.
Holiday Festival – A Night at the Museum. Greenwich Historical Society. \$20, \$25, \$30, \$35. 203-869-6899. greenwich-history.org/ghs-events

MONDAY, DEC. 15

1 p.m.
Holiday Movie Matinee: “Christmas in Connecticut.” Byram Shubert Library Community Room. 203-531-0426.

5 p.m.
CMS Chamber Orchestra Holiday Concert. Cos Cob Library Community Room. 203-622-6883.

TUESDAY, DEC. 16

10 & 11 a.m.
Bruce Beginnings: The Ants Go Marching (Ages 2 1/2-5). Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. Free with admission. No reservations required. Also held Wednesday, Dec. 17. brucemuseum.org

1 p.m.
Knit-Flicks: “Holiday Inn” (Holiday Movie Matinee). Cos Cob Library Community Room. 203-622-6883.

3:45 p.m.
Pen to Paper – creative writing workshop for 6th-8th graders. Cos Cob Library Rotunda. 203-622-6883.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17

10 a.m.
Bruce Beginnings Junior: The Ants Go Marching (ages: 12 Months-30 Months). Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. Free with admission. First come, first served. brucemuseum.org

11 a.m.
Retired Men’s Association of Greenwich: Bill Harvey, Executive Director, The Human Effectiveness Institute, “The Theory of Everything.” Christ Church Greenwich, 254 East Putnam Ave. Free & open to all. greenwichrma.org

1 p.m.
Holiday Movie Matinee: “It Happened on Fifth Avenue.” Cos Cob Library Community Room. 203-622-6883.

4 p.m.
Gingerbread Houses for Preschoolers. Marx Family Black Box Theater. 203-622-7940. children@greenwichlibrary.org

5:30 p.m.
Gingerbread Houses for School age. Marx Family Black Box Theater. 203-622-7940. children@greenwichlibrary.org

7 - 9 p.m.
Astronomical Society of Greenwich: Bowman Observatory Public Nights. Bowman Observatory, on the grounds of the Julian Curtiss School. Free. GreenwichStars@Gmail.com. astrogreenwich.org

7 p.m.
Movies That Build Community: “Love Actually.” The Avon, 272 Bedford Street, Stamford. Free screening. RSVP. avont-

heatre.org/special-events-2

7:30 p.m.
Greenwich High School Music Department 2nd Annual Candlelight Concert. GHS Performing Arts Center. Free. Tickets required at: ghsmusic.ludus.com

THURSDAY, DEC. 18

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

1 p.m.
Holiday Movie Matinee: “The Man Who Came to Dinner.” Cos Cob Library Community Room. 203-622-6883.

2 p.m.
Lifetime of Looking: Sculpture – a public program for adults experiencing cognitive decline, and their family members/caregivers. Bruce Museum. Free with admission. Advanced registration required. 203-413-6743. srice@bruce-museum.org

7 p.m.
Holiday Songs with Keltic Kick & the Lynn Academy of Irish Dance. Byram Shubert Library Community Room. 203-531-0426.

7:30 p.m.
Greenwich High School Music Department 2nd Annual Candlelight Concert. GHS Performing Arts Center. Free. Tickets required at: ghsmusic.ludus.com

FRIDAY, DEC. 19

1 p.m.
Holiday Movie Matinee: “We’re No Angels.” Cos Cob Library Community Room. 203-622-6883.

7 p.m.
Friends Friday Films: “A Tree Grows in Brooklyn.” Berkley Theater. cgibbs@greenwichlibrary.org.

SATURDAY, DEC. 20

10:30 a.m.
Music with Tom Weber. Marx Family Black Box Theater. 203-622-7940. children@greenwichlibrary.org

1 p.m.
Scavenger Hunt Saturday. Children’s Constellation Room. 203-622-7940. children@greenwichlibrary.org

1 p.m.
Science Solvers: Snow (Ages 4 & up). Bruce Museum. Free with admission. No reservations required. Also held Sunday, Dec. 21. brucemuseum.org

2 p.m.
Chess for all with Ian. Byram Shubert Library Community Room. 203-531-0426.

2 p.m.
Bruce Creates: Calm Crochet (for ad-

vanced beginners who know the crochet basics). Bruce Museum. Materials provided (feel free to bring your own). \$16-member, \$20 non-member. bruce-museum.org

8 p.m.
The Rob Mathes Holiday Concert. The Performing Arts Center-Purchase College, NY. artscenter.org/events/the-rob-mathes-holiday-concert-2

SUNDAY, DEC. 21

3 p.m.
The Rob Mathes Holiday Concert. The Performing Arts Center-Purchase College, NY. artscenter.org/events/the-rob-mathes-holiday-concert-2

ONGOING

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAYS AND SUNDAYS

12 - 4 p.m.
Greenwich Historical Society Guided Exhibition Tours – docents will be leading visitors through the Permanent Collections Gallery and Special Exhibitions Gallery. 47 Strickland Rd. 203-869-6899. greenwichhistory.org/event/guided-exhibition-tours-4

THROUGH JANUARY 4, 2026
Isamu Noguchi: Metal the Mirror. Bruce Museum. brucemuseum.org/exhibitions

Moses Ros – HUMAN/NATURE. Bruce Museum. brucemuseum.org/exhibitions

THROUGH JANUARY 6, 2026
“Precisely.” Flinn Gallery, 101 West Putnam Avenue. 203-622-7947. flinngallery.org

THROUGH JANUARY 8, 2026
Closely Observed 18 - Art Exhibition. Greenwich Botanical Center, 130 Bible Street. 203-869-9242. greenwichbotanicalcenter.org

“Finding Beauty – Boatscapes.” Les Beaux Arts Gallery, 395 Round Hill Road, Greenwich. Gallery hours: Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm; Sun, 11am-12pm; closed Sat. 203-869-1091.

THROUGH MARCH 8, 2026
”The Holley Boarding House: Inspiring American Impressionism” exhibition. Greenwich Historical Society, 47 Strickland Rd. 203-869-6899. greenwichhistory.org/holley-house-impressionism

THROUGH MAY 10, 2026
Leonardo Drew: Alchemy. Bruce Museum. brucemuseum.org/exhibitions

THROUGH MAY 17, 2026
Ants: Tiny Creatures, Big Lives. Bruce Museum. brucemuseum.org/exhibitions

ESU PRESENTS TURNER
From Page 1

showed of “The Evening Gun” of the River Wye in the UK. “It has this beautiful quality of light that he manages to render in black and white in two tone – it’s pretty phenomenal. It really speaks to his skill.”

“And once again this endeavor manifests his admiration for and rivalry with Claude Lorrain,” noted Lax. “And the result was some of the most expressive landscape prints ever made. So, Turner’s fascination with modern technology continued for the rest of his life, but in very different and increasingly complex contexts.”

Lax next introduced Turner’s magical painting of “Staffa - Fingal’s Cave,” as “one of YCBA’s most celebrated pictures, which has to be one of the most iconic Turner works produced in the second half of his career.” The painting shows the Hebridean island of Staffa off the west coast of Scotland...Turner had journeyed there in terrible weather conditions in 1832. And it’s this personal experience that he dramatized so convincingly in this canvas. The painting contains all the ingredients that make Turner work seem so fresh and different from that of all of his contemporaries... the broad impressionistic brushstrokes that punctuate the canvas takes Turner’s handling of forms towards the realm of abstraction.”

“Turner is almost working in an abstract expressionist way,” Lax noted, then ended her talk with a last watercolor image, “Stormy Sea Breaking on a Shore,”1840-1845. “Turner depicts a paddle steamer caught in the midst of a storm... Turner uses rapid gestural brush strokes and a limited color palette to convey the dizzying intensity of the sea and wind crashing waves. The overwhelming power of nature becomes an



J. M. W. Turner, “Mer de Glace, in the Valley of Chamonix,” ca. 1815 (formerly dated ca. 1803), watercolor, Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection.

increasingly strong theme in Turner’s works from the 1840s.”

The Turner exhibition had revealed, concluded Lax, “with exceptional clarity how the stereotype of Turner as the first truly modern artist obscures a much more complex reality... He was

at once an artistic rebel and a fervent upholder of tradition and its institutions, the pioneer of a new painterly style... An idealist who was also a shrewd businessman... a profound pessimist and a patriot who extolled Britain’s growing imperial and industrial power while remaining convinced

of the ultimate futility of all worldly hopes.” All “amply captured in the exhibition’s title ‘J.M.W. Turner Romance and Reality’ which made clear these priorities in Turner’s life and work while uncovering the reality behind the romanticized image of the artist.”

The Festival of Nine
Lessons & Carols

On Sunday, December 21 at 5:00 p.m., the combined choirs of Christ Church Greenwich will present Carols by Candlelight, the parish’s annual interpretation of the Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols. The service follows a simple, defined sequence: nine scriptural readings tracing the Christian narrative of the Incarnation, each paired with a carol selected to match the text. Its endurance comes from its structure, which has remained largely unchanged for more than a century.

The origins of the service are clear. In 1918, Eric Milner-White returned from serving as a British Army chaplain during World War I and assumed the role of Dean of King’s College, Cambridge. He believed the moment required a more direct and focused form of worship. Drawing on an 1880 liturgy assembled by Bishop Edward White Benson of Truro, he created the version now widely recognized. King’s College first used it on Christmas Eve 1918. The BBC began broadcasting it in 1928, and over time it became a familiar seasonal service internationally.

King’s College first used it on Christmas Eve 1918. The BBC began broadcasting it in 1928, and over time it became a familiar seasonal service internationally.

Its design is spare: the readings move from Genesis to the opening of the Gospel of John, forming a continuous narrative without interpretation added between lessons. The carols function as responses rather than commentary. The absence of additional framing is part of what defines the service and allows it to be repeated reliably across different communities.

Christ Church Greenwich follows that established pattern. The combined choirs – children, youth, and adults – take on the musical component together. Their work reflects the steady rehearsal process that underpins ensemble singing. While the setting differs from Cambridge, the format remains recognizably aligned with the original.

This year, the parish has encouraged attendees to bring someone who may appreciate the experience. The suggestion mirrors the service’s history: it spread not through large-scale promotion, but through individuals introducing it to others until it became part of seasonal practice in many places.

Holding the service late in Advent allows the readings and music to stand without added emphasis. There is no theatrical staging or narrative expansion. The structure is consistent from year to year, and that consistency is central to its character.

Greenwich provides a straightforward home for the tradition. The church’s choral program, combined with the acoustics and scale of the building, supports the form without requiring adjustment. What originated at King’s College in the aftermath of a global conflict now appears in towns and cities around the world in similarly steady formats.

Carols by Candlelight at Christ Church Greenwich begins at 5:00 p.m. on December 21. The service presents the same sequence that has been used for generations, not as a reenactment but as a format that continues to function effectively on its own terms. It offers a focused hour in which the readings and music proceed without interruption, much as they have since 1918.

Greenwich High School’s Candlelight
Concert Returns for a Second Year

The Greenwich High School Music Department will present its 2nd Annual Candlelight Concert on Wednesday, December 17, and Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 7:30 PM in the Greenwich High School Performing Arts Center. The department describes the event as a holiday program that “highlights the exceptional talent of GHS student musicians in an enchanting evening of seasonal music,” and the structure of the concert makes clear how much of the focus is on the students themselves.

Scheduled across two nights, the program brings together the school’s bands, choirs, and orchestras in a mix of classical and contemporary works. This year’s selections include “Somewhere in My Memory” from Home Alone, the “Hallelujah Chorus” from Handel’s Messiah, and “Silent Night.” Each piece contributes to a program that moves through different styles and eras while keeping the emphasis on student performance.

The Music Department notes that the concert will again take place in an “intimate candlelight setting,” a choice carried over from last year’s inaugural event. That first year drew capacity audiences on both nights, prompting the department to expand the 2025 production with new arrangements and increased student participation. The scale of that response appears to have shaped this year’s planning, with attention placed on accommodating more performers and giving them a wider musical range to work with.

A returning element will likely resonate strongly with those who attended last year: GHS Chorus alumni are invited to join the stage for the Hallelujah Chorus. The Music Department identifies this as a “meaningful tradition,” one intended to keep former students connected to the program while giving current students a sense of continuity within the chorus.

Tickets are required for entry. Free tickets will be available to the public beginning December 8, 2025, at ghsmusic.ludus.com, and the school encourages attendees to reserve seats early due to anticipated high demand. The Performing Arts Center, located at 10 Hillside Road in Greenwich, offers free on-site parking.

For those who attend, the evenings offer a chance to see the music program’s work gathered in one place. For the students, it’s an opportunity to perform with purpose, in front of a town that continues to make space for them.



This beloved holiday tradition highlights the exceptional talent of GHS student musicians in an enchanting evening of seasonal music.

An Evening of La Nativité du
Seigneur and For the Time Being: A
Christmas Oratorio

On Tuesday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m., listeners will have the rare chance to hear Olivier Messiaen’s La Nativité du Seigneur alongside readings from W. H. Auden’s For the Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio. The combination offers a measured, thoughtful exploration of the Nativity story—one through sound, the other through language.

Messiaen composed La Nativité du Seigneur in 1935. The nine movements, each reflecting on a different aspect of the Nativity, rely on traits that defined his early style: modes of limited transposition, rhythmic structures rooted in Greek and Indian traditions, and patterns informed by his study of birdsong. These techniques are not ornamental; they create a clear musical architecture.

The first movement, understated but purposeful, sets a calm foundation for the cycle. In “Le Verbe,” Messiaen expands into dense, resonant harmonies that convey the gravity of

the Incarnation without leaning on dramatics. Each meditation stands independently, yet they form a sequence that feels unified and steady in its intent.

Auden’s For the Time Being, written during 1941–42 and published in 1944, examines the same story through a modern lens. Rather than treating the Nativity as distant history, Auden places it within the tensions of ordinary life. His characters speak with directness—sometimes doubtful, sometimes weary, always recognizably human. The poem acknowledges that belief, duty, and clarity rarely arrive without internal conflict.

The later sections, when Auden describes the quiet return to routine after Christmas, are especially striking. He underscores that the end of celebration does not dissolve the demands of daily life; it only makes them more apparent.

Presented together, Messiaen and Auden offer two distinct modes of reflection. The Harrison & Harrison

organ brings out the dimension and precision of Messiaen’s writing—the long lines, the shaped dissonances, the way each chord seems to settle into place. Auden’s text, delivered between movements, adds a layer of frank observation that sharpens the listener’s sense of the themes at hand.

For anyone looking to experience the Nativity story without decoration or sentiment, this program provides a clear path. Messiaen invites listeners into a contemplative musical space, while Auden offers a steady, questioning voice that refuses easy conclusions.

The result is an evening that relies on restraint rather than embellishment. It asks for attention and rewards it with insight. Bringing Messiaen’s meditations into conversation with Auden’s oratorio creates room for a quieter but more substantial engagement—one grounded in careful listening and a willingness to consider familiar material from a new angle.

Rob Mathes

Holiday Concert

Magic



December 20-21
The Purchase PAC
ArtsCenter.org/events



How One Family Found Light in Dementia— And Turned It Into a Musical Story

By Emma W. Barhydt

When Sheryl Berk talks about Big Man, she begins with place and family. Her father-in-law, Alan, “raised his family in Greenwich. They lived there forever... and he was the vice president and the treasurer at the Bruce Museum, and very involved in Greenwich.” Years later, after moves to Rye Brook and Stamford, the family moved him “into Edgehill’s Memory Care. So it’s been a journey. It’s been quite a journey.”

Though Berk spent years writing about theater, she had never imagined she would write a musical herself. “I’ve always loved theater. I’ve always been a theater journalist,” but one afternoon at the Edgehill Grill changed everything.

Her father-in-law, “was a little out of sorts that day... confused... sad and tired,” she recalled. Hoping to lift his spirits, she showed him photos from a Sinatra exhibit. “I said, have you ever seen him in concert?” What happened stunned her. “His face lit up like the Vegas strip... He just started telling me these stories... ‘I saw Frankie in concert. I shook his hand, and then I had a drink with him.’” When she asked what Sinatra drank, he replied instantly, “Jack Daniels double on the rocks.”

Across the table, her mother-in-law quietly indicated the stories weren’t real. But something unmistakable had been awakened. “As if we had planted a seed,” Berk said. Before dementia, Alan had never shown particular interest in the Rat Pack, “In the 25 years I’d known him... I never heard him mention the Rat Pack once.” Now, “this era of life and of music symbolized something to him that was an escape from the life he was living.”

The family followed him into that world. “We learned to lean into it,” she said. Soon he was saying, “The man is coming for me today,” arriving “in a private jet,” or announcing he was headed to “Vegas... maybe Paris this week.” Once, “he put on a jacket over his pajamas... held his old briefcase,” and waited in the driveway for the imagined helicopter.

Because these stories lifted him, the family embraced them. “For the first time, it wasn’t trying to ground him into reality... If this makes him happy, then let’s go with it.” Her husband hung a Rat Pack canvas in his room; her brother-in-law made a playlist. Edgehill’s staff joined in. “Everyone started using Sinatra’s music to motivate him,” she said. With a song like High Hopes or My Way, “he’d start to sing.” The effect was unmistakable, “It became such a bridge for us.”

At the same time, Berk was watching her mother-in-law carry the daily strain. “It was such a weight, but she handled it with grace and grit,” she said. “He never forgot who she was. And he asked for her every single day.” She became aware of how rarely caregivers are acknowledged. “We’re always asking, how’s the patient... but we never really ask the caregiver, how are you doing?”

When Berk played her a song from an early draft, her mother-in-law told her, “You truly get it.” Berk held onto that. “I want every caregiver who sees this to just go, wow, I feel seen. I feel heard.”

This conviction shaped the musical. “People say, what’s it about? And I always say it’s about memory, it’s about imagination, but it’s also really about the people who care for us when we can no longer care for ourselves.”

She created two adult children based on “very common caregiving types.” The son is “very hands-on,

overwhelmed, part of the sandwich generation caring for both his father and his children.” The daughter, “keeps her distance, overwhelmed by fear and guilt,” and holds onto, “a narrative she’s built around who her father is, which isn’t necessarily the correct narrative.” Together they reflect, “the complete spectrum of caregiving reactions from really deep involvement to avoidance.”

Meanwhile, their father’s interior world is vibrant. “His fantasy world of Vegas is like Vegas on steroids,” Berk said. “He doesn’t just see neon, he sees technicolor neon. He sees acrobatics.” His late wife appears young and alive, and, “He’s earned that right to be in it.”

The title character—the “big man”—comes from the energy that transformed Alan at the lunch table. “If you took Sammy Davis and Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra... that’s the big man,” she said. The music is entirely original, “Let’s take rat pack music and put it in a blender... What would 2026 Vegas sound like?”

For Berk, the story resonates far beyond her family. “Millions of families around the world really are living with caregiving,” she said. “You’re trying to navigate a loved one’s dementia while managing your own world, and your grief.” The statistics she cites are unignorable, “Over 60 million Americans are family caregivers. It’s basically unpaid labor, and one in four caregivers reports that they feel invisible.”

She believes theater can shift that reality. “Theater has the power to empower,” Berk said, “with theater, you’re sitting inside another person. You are watching this story unfold, but you’re part of it at the same time, and that is the power of theater beyond any other kind of storytelling.”

Berk traces the musical’s origin back to one table at Edgehill. “This was born at Edge Hill,” she said. “I literally was sitting here having lunch, and I thought, I’ve got to write this.” Team Edgehill—a group of residents—raised over \$100,000 for the Alzheimer’s campaign on the night the songs were performed. Afterward, Berk went table to table. “People would tell me stories about my father-in-law,” she said. “It was really amazing.”

Fittingly, the musical’s first test came at Edgehill, where Berk presented six or seven songs. “They sold out the tickets, they actually had a room for overflow,” she said. When the cast performed “Wander,” the room changed. “We looked around, everyone was crying,” she said. Afterward, one man told her, “My wife passed away in May of Alzheimer’s, I feel like you gave her a voice.”

That kind of response has grounded her. “I stumbled through being a caregiver,” Berk said. “We stumbled through every day, so that’s what I’m kind of doing with this. I’m stumbling forward.” Families often ask her how to do it. “There is no easy answer,” she said. “You do it as a family and you do it with love. There’s no magic formula, it’s just leading with love.”

What she wants most now is to extend that feeling. “If I can translate that kind of feeling of community into an audience and do it for each show,” she said, “I will be the happiest person ever.” As for what’s next, Berk noted “a 29 hour equity reading,” a 2026 benefit concert, and, “a concept album with Broadway talent,” with proceeds directed toward Alzheimer’s-related causes.

Through it all, she returns to Alan—whose stories, real or imagined, sparked everything. “People say, where’d you come up with this story idea?” Berk said. “And I’m say, I didn’t come up with it. My father-in-law lived it.”



You are watching this story unfold, but you're part of it at the same time, and that is the power of theater beyond any other kind of storytelling.



Sheryl Berk with early artwork for Big Man. “It was born at Edgehill,” she said of the musical’s beginnings.



Cast members gather after performing songs from Big Man for an audience of Edgehill residents, families, and caregivers — the musical’s very first audience.

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

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Evan • Mark
Brenda • Ron
Emily • Kaitlyn • Kevin
Maryann • Maureen • Anya
June • Judy • Amy • Tina
Will • Lisa • Ryan • Maria B.
Anthony C. • Alexa • Steven M. • Pam
Paulette • Julio • Damiano • Jack
Jamie • Mike • Karina • Nick A.
Emma • Miranda • Steven V. • Jose
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WHAT TO DO: COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CALENDAR



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Wildly Successful: The African Penguin



BY JIM KNOX

We wound our way downward through the scrubby vegetation. With the cries of gulls overhead, we followed the boardwalk toward the beckoning sound of the surf. A glance at the immense Granite boulders protecting the beach from the unpredictable South Atlantic revealed the aptly named coastline. Boulders Beach in Simonstown, South Africa is a stunning spot. Sheltered inlets of crystal water fade to turquoise, marking the transition to the deeper waters off the Cape Peninsula beyond. Forming part of the Table Mountain National Park Marine Protected Area, the beach is a division of South African National Parks (SANParks) and a national treasure. Though it is a place of unsurpassed natural beauty, we

Hunters of small fish and crustaceans, these hardy little penguins can hold their breath for over 2 minutes and can dive to depths of 400 feet where they forage for sardines, anchovies, crustaceans, and squid.

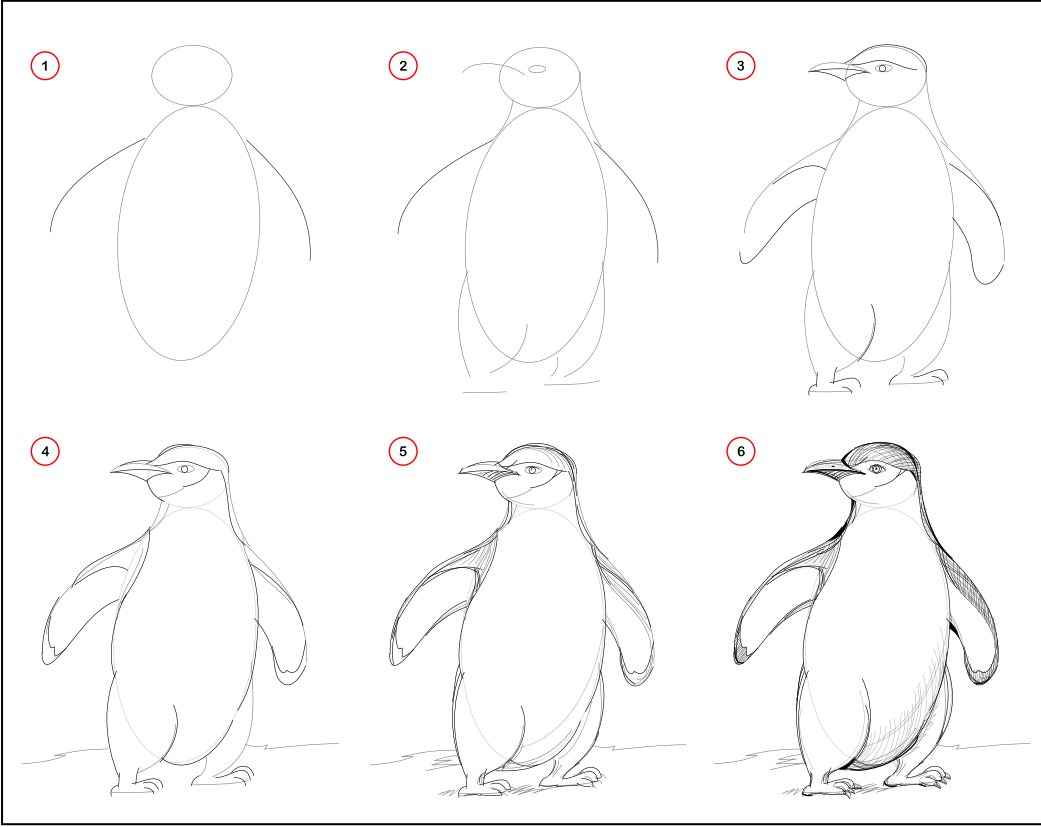
were there for the most famous residents of the beach.

The African Penguin, *Spheniscus demersus* (meaning wedge-shaped plunger) is a creature of seeming contradiction. An exclusively African species representing a family of 18 living species of birds, most of which are found in Antarctic waters, these little guys stand out among their cold-water cousins. They also stand out for their larger-than-life vocalizations. Described as sounding like a braying donkey, the mating calls seem like they could not possibly emanate from the small, elegant seabirds.

Sporting trademark black and white plumage like their cousins, these birds reach lengths of 24-27 inches and attain weights of 4.5 to 11 pounds. Like related species, their feathers are predominantly white on the underside and blackish on the back, with a bold white "ram's horn" sweep

of feathers extending over the bird's eyes, wrapping the sides of its head, and extending down its flanks. With a black chest and flank patch and peppering of black flecks, each bird has similar, yet distinctive individual patterning which provides both protection from predators and identification recognition among members of the colony. Utilizing a form of camouflage known as countershading, the penguin blends in with shades of deep water when seen from above and blends in with diffuse skylight, when seen from below. A sharply pointed beak, black webbed feet and slim tapered wings round out the appearance of these handsome birds.

The combination of hot coastal temperatures and cold ocean waters make for simultaneously challenging environmental extremes. So how do the birds cope with this



temperature swing? While the bird's dense waterproof plumage keeps it warm against the cold South African waters, a unique bare patch of skin above the penguin's eyes enables it to dissipate excess body heat when the mercury soars. The hotter the bird gets, the more blood flows to these exposed patches of skin. There, the blood is cooled by the surrounding air to lower the bird's internal temperature. Due to increased blood flow, the bare patches gain a deeper shade of pink as the bird warms up.

To fuel bodies capable of handling such temperature demands—which must also attain 15 miles per hour (nearly three times the speed of an Olympic swimmer) to avoid Great White sharks and capture speedy fish such as Capelin and Night Smelt, these birds must consume high quantities of protein-rich prey daily. Hunters of small fish and crustaceans, these hardy little penguins can hold their breath for over 2 minutes and can dive to depths of 400 feet where they forage for sardines, anchovies, crustaceans, and squid. Stoking up on such prey, African Penguins

can eat more than one pound of food (14% of their bodyweight) daily!

Yet as well-adapted as these birds are to their environment, they face human-induced challenges. With a naturally restricted range from Namibia to South Africa, their limited habitat is under pressure from coastal development and fisheries overharvesting. With worldwide population estimates of several million birds in the early 20th century, the penguins have suffered a plummeting decline with an estimated 42,000 birds surviving today. Originally detected as a single pair emerging from the surf of Bouders Beach in 1982, the African Penguin colony has grown to an estimated 3,000 birds which represents a critical subpopulation!

Recognizing their significance as a key component to a healthy ocean ecosystem, as well as our ability to aid in their recovery, conservation organizations such as Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo, The San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, and the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of

Coastal Birds (SANCCOB) have worked to protect these endangered seabirds. As a seabird conservation specialist organization, SANCCOB's mission centers on strengthening populations of seabirds affected by oil spills and low fish availability. Additionally, the scientists and response teams of SANCCOB help to rescue, rehabilitate, and release penguins that have been oiled, abandoned, or injured.

In the African Penguin we have a creature which is superbly adapted to function as a key species in the ocean ecosystem, yet an animal which needs our help. Though facing many threats to its survival, it is a resilient bird which responds to conservation efforts and rallies support through its appeal. And when you're black and white, and cute all over—that's some appeal.

Jim Knox serves as the Curator of Education for Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo and as a science adviser for The Bruce Museum. Jim enjoys sharing his passion for wildlife conservation with audiences in Connecticut and beyond.



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Penguins of the World



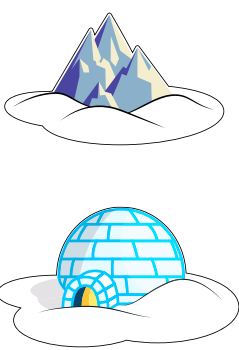
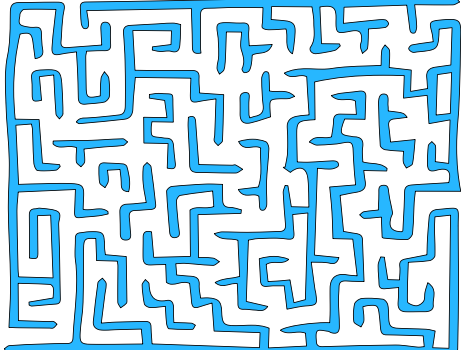
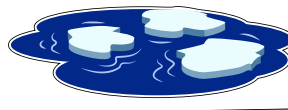

Emperor King Gentoo Yellow-eyed Chinstrap



Magellanic Macaroni Adelie Erect-crested African



Fiordland Humboldt Northern rockhopper Galapagos Little blue White-flipped





Penguin

Penguin

Find the correct shadow



Sudoku for Kids

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

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

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

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

SUDOKU

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

Easy

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

Hard

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

Very Hard

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

Easy

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

Hard

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

Very Hard

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

Sudoku answers

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

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

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

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

Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

FRIDAY, DEC. 12

1 & 3 p.m.
Holiday Tea with the Holleys. Greenwich Historical Society. 203-869-6899. greenwich-history.org/ghs-events

6 - 8:30 p.m.
Kid’s Night Out – Pool Party (Ages 4-14). YMCA of Greenwich. Member: \$35, Non-Member: \$45. Register. greenwichymca.org/events

7 p.m.
SLS Live Music featuring TBD. St. Lawrence Society, 86 Valley Rd., Cos Cob. 203-618-9036. stlawrencesociety.com/events

SATURDAY, DEC. 13

9 a.m.
Meet for Coffee at the Bruce: Done and Done, Authors of Love Your Home Again. Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. Free. RSVP. bruce-museum.org

11 a.m.
The Horseneck Daughters of the American Revolution Annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony. Old Burying Ground on Byram Shore Road. Open to the public. All are welcome. 203-829-4107. horseneckdar.org

11 a.m.
Museum Movers: Yoga for Kids (Ages 3-6). Bruce Museum. Free with admission. bruce-museum.org

11 a.m. & 12 p.m.
Defensive Action Class – for students who are part of the Greenwich School District. YWCA Greenwich, 259 E. Putnam Ave. \$10. Register. ywcagreenwich.org/events/defensive-action-class

1 p.m.
Art Adventures: Snowflakes (Ages 4 & up). Bruce Museum. Free with admission. No reservations required. Also held Sunday, Dec. 14. brucemuseum.org

1 - 3 p.m.
Winterfest Cos Cob. Cos Cob Library Front Lawn. 203-622-6883.

2 & 5 p.m.
Greenwich A Cappella Winter Showcase. School of the Holy Child, 2225 Westchester Ave., Rye, NY. eventbrite.com/e/1955168735319

2 p.m.
Bruce Experiences: Ursula von Rydingsvard: Into Her Own, Documentary. Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. brucemuseum.org

4 - 7 p.m.
Holiday Festival – A Night at the Museum. Greenwich Historical Society. \$20, \$25, \$30, \$35. 203-869-6899. greenwichhistory.org/ghs-events

7 p.m.
A Night Out With the Knights, benefitting the Greenwich Knights of Columbus Color Guard. Knights of Columbus Greenwich Orinoco No. 39, 7 Lafayette Ct. \$20. 203-661-3596. kofcgreenwich39@gmail.com. knight-sofgreenwich.com

SUNDAY, DEC. 14

12 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Greenwich-Stamford Christmas Bird Count. audubon.org/events?view_type=row&location=Greenwich%20Audubon%20Center

10 a.m.
Brunch with Santa. Tony’s at the J House, Address: 1114 E Putnam Ave. 203-698-6999. tonysatthejhouse.com

2 p.m.
Bruce Presents: Moses Ros, Artist in Residence Lecture. Bruce Museum. brucemuseum.org

4 - 7 p.m.
Holiday Festival – A Night at the Museum. Greenwich Historical Society. \$20, \$25, \$30, \$35. 203-869-6899. greenwichhistory.org/ghs-events

TUESDAY, DEC. 16

10 a.m.
Perrot Memorial Library: Perrot Walks at Binney Park. Meet outside the front entrance of the Library. Free. 203-637-1066 x15. perrot-library.org

10 & 11 a.m.
Bruce Beginnings: The Ants Go Marching (Ages 2 1/2-5). Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. Free with admission. No reservations required. Also held Wednesday, Dec. 17. brucemuseum.org

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17

10 a.m.
Bruce Beginnings Junior: The Ants Go Marching (ages: 12 Months-30 Months). Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. Free with admission. First come, first served. brucemuseum.org

11 a.m.
Retired Men’s Association of Greenwich: Bill Harvey, Executive Director, The Human Effectiveness Institute, “The Theory of Everything.” Christ Church Greenwich, 254 East Putnam Ave. Free & open to all. greenwichrma.org

1 p.m.
Greenwich Land Trust: Upland Forest Walk at Converse Brook Preserve. Between 20-51 Cherry Valley Road. Register. gltrust.org/upcoming-events

1 p.m.
Women’s Business Development Council

(WBDC): Realistic Goal Setting for Business Growth. Online. Register. ctwbdc.org/class-listings

7 - 9 p.m.
Astronomical Society of Greenwich: Bowman Observatory Public Nights. Bowman Observatory, on the grounds of the Julian Curtiss School. Free. GreenwichStars@gmail.com. astrogreenwich.org

7 p.m.
Voices Center of Resilience: Navigating the Holiday Season Supporting Mental Health & Wellbeing. Online. Free. Register. voicescenter.org

7 p.m.
Movies That Build Community: “Love Actually.” The Avon, 272 Bedford Street, Stamford. Free screening. RSVP. avonthatre.org/special-events-2

7:30 p.m.
Greenwich High School Music Department 2nd Annual Candlelight Concert. GHS Performing Arts Center. Free. Tickets required at: ghsmusic.ludus.com

THURSDAY, DEC. 18

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

2 p.m.
Lifetime of Looking: Sculpture – a public program for adults experiencing cognitive decline, and their family members/caregivers. Bruce Museum. Free with admission. Advanced registration required. 203-413-6743. srice@brucemuseum.org

7:30 p.m.
Greenwich High School Music Department 2nd Annual Candlelight Concert. GHS Performing Arts Center. Free. Tickets required at: ghsmusic.ludus.com

FRIDAY, DEC. 19

4:30 p.m.
TGIF Fitness Made Fun Dance Class For Individuals with Special Needs. YMCA of Greenwich. Free & open to the community. RSVP. greenwichymca.org/events

6 - 7:30 p.m.
Gingerbread Building Family Fun Night. YMCA of Greenwich. \$15 & \$25. Register. greenwichymca.org/events

SATURDAY, DEC. 20

7:15 a.m.
Greenwich Road Runners Jingle Bell Run. Sound Beach Volunteer Fire Department: 207 Sound Beach Ave. greenwichroadrunners.org/grr-events/jingle-bell-run-2025

8 a.m.
Teddy Bear Story Time with Jenny. Coffee For Good, 48 Maple Avenue. 203-869-9311. jenny@2cc.org

1 p.m.
Science Solvers: Snow (Ages 4 & up). Bruce Museum. Free with admission. No reservations required. Also held Sunday, Dec. 21. brucemuseum.org

2 p.m.
Bruce Creates: Calm Crochet (for advanced beginners who know the crochet basics). Bruce Museum. Materials provided (feel free to bring your own). \$16-member, \$20 non-member. brucemuseum.org

5 p.m.
Holiday Happenings. Bendheim Western Greenwich Civic Center, 449 Pemberwick Road. \$12. greenwichct.gov/2327/Holiday-Happenings-Movie-Night

8 p.m.
The Rob Mathes Holiday Concert. The Performing Arts Center-Purchase College, NY. artscenter.org/events/the-rob-mathes-holiday-concert-2

8 p.m.
The OG Drinks & Dreidels Adult Chanukah Party. Address provided upon registration. Suggested donation: \$100. jewishrog.com/adult

SUNDAY, DEC. 21

3 p.m.
The Rob Mathes Holiday Concert. The Performing Arts Center-Purchase College, NY. artscenter.org/events/the-rob-mathes-holiday-concert-2

4 p.m.
The OG Menorah Lighting & Car Parade. From Old Greenwich Fire Station to Greenwich Avenue. jewishrog.com/parade

THROUGH WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24

17th Annual Greenwich Reindeer Festival & Santa’s Workshop opens. Sam Bridge Nursery & Greenhouses, 437 North St. greenwichreindeerfestival.com

THROUGH JANUARY 8, 2026

Closely Observed 18 - Art Exhibition. Greenwich Botanical Center, 130 Bible Street. 203-869-9242. greenwichbotanicalcenter.org

“Finding Beauty – Boatscapes.” Les Beaux Arts Gallery, 395 Round Hill Road, Greenwich. Gallery hours: Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm; Sun, 11am-12pm; closed Sat. 203-869-1091.

THROUGH SUNDAY, APRIL 12

8 - 11 a.m.
Friends of Greenwich Point: Safe Roads Sundays program at Tod’s Point kicks off. Traffic will be restricted to the main parking lots to allow for walkers, joggers, bicyclists, skaters & all outdoor enthusiasts. friendsofgreenwich-point.org

2nd TUESDAY of the Month

6:30 p.m.
Byram Veterans Association Bingo Nights. Association Hall, 300 Delavan Ave. Must be 18 years and older to play. Hot dogs & Chips for sale, cash bar & free dessert. 203-531-9846.

WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS & SUNDAYS

12 - 4 p.m.
Greenwich Historical Society Guided Exhibition Tours – docents will be leading visitors through the Permanent Collections Gallery and Special Exhibitions Gallery. 47 Strickland Rd. 203-869-6899. greenwichhistory.org/event/guided-exhibition-tours-4

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS

12, 1:30 & 3 p.m.
Behind the Scenes Archival Collections – Docent-led Tour. Greenwich Historical Society. Adults, \$15; Seniors/Students, \$10; Ages 6-18, \$10; Members/children under 5 & Active military/Blue Star, Free. 203-869-6899. greenwich-history.org/book-a-tour

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:
5 - 7 p.m.

Lighthouse, a Program of Kids In Crisis: LGBTQ Youth Group Meeting. On Zoom. Free. Open to all LGBTQ Youth & allies. 203-661-1911. lighthouse@kidsincrisis.org. kidsincrisis.org/get-help/lighthouse

WEDNESDAYS:

12 - 2 p.m.
Waste Free Greenwich’s Food Scrap Recycle Program: Drop off scraps at Round Hill Community Church, 395 Round Hill Rd. roundhillcommunitychurch.org/news/composting-at-rhcc

6 - 7:30 p.m.
Arch Street Teen Center High School Support Group for boys: Stress, Success, and Teenage Setbacks – moderated by Executive Director Kyle Silver. 100 Arch St. Register. Kyle@archstreet.org. archstreet.org

6:30 p.m.
NAMI-CAN (Child and Adolescent Network) Online Support Group - for parents and primary caregivers of children & adolescents, under age 21, with behavioral and emotional issues. Free. namisouthwestct.org/online-support

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

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, Dec. 12
10 a.m.
Toddler Storytime. Cos Cob Library Community Room. 203-622-6883.

11:15 a.m.
Qi Gong: Tapping and Healing Sounds. Online. greenwichlibrary.libcal.com/event/15791028

4 & 5 p.m.
Super Secret Present Craft Club (Registration Required). Children’s Constellation Room. 203-622-7940. children@greenwichlibrary.org

7 p.m.
Friends Friday Films: “Jane Austen Wrecked My Life.” Berkley Theater. cgibbs@greenwichlibrary.org.

Saturday, Dec. 13
10:30 a.m.
Jerry’s Movies: The Three Faces of Eve starring Joanne Woodward. Byram Shubert Library Community Room. 203-531-0426.

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

1 p.m.
Winterfest Cos Cob. Cos Cob Library Front Lawn. 203-622-6883.

1:30 p.m.
Dungeons & Dragons (Grades 8+). Children’s Constellation Room. 203-622-7940. children@greenwichlibrary.org

1 p.m.
Illuminating Art: Circuits Inspired by Gustav Klimt. Innovation Lab. 203-622-7979. innova-

tionlab@greenwichlibrary.org.

2 p.m.
Jerry’s Movies: The Sound of Music. Byram Shubert Library Community Room. 203-531-0426.

Monday, Dec. 15
10 a.m.
Little Learners (Storytime Lottery). Children’s Constellation Room.

11 a.m.
All Together Storytime. Marx Family Black Box Theater.

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

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

1 p.m.
Holiday Movie Matinee: Christmas in Connecticut. Byram Shubert Library Community Room.

2 p.m.
PrintLab: 3D Printing Studio. Innovation Lab.

3:15 p.m.
Battle of the Books Book Club with Ms. Flynn: “How to Steal a Dog.” Byram Shubert Library Conference Room.

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

Tuesday, Dec. 16
10 a.m.
Spanish Storytime. Cos Cob Library Community Room.

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

1 p.m.
Knit-Flicks: Holiday Inn (Holiday Movie Matinee). Cos Cob Library Community Room.

1:15 p.m.
Baby Lapsit. Children’s Constellation Room.

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

5 p.m.
International Book Club (Zoom): The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

7 p.m.
Foreign Affairs Book Group. Community Room #5.

Wednesday, Dec. 17
10 a.m.

Early Walkers. Cos Cob Library Community Room.

10 a.m.
Movers & Shakers (Storytime Lottery). Children’s Constellation Room.

10 a.m. & 1 p.m.
Career Coach - Job Search. Byram Shubert Library Lot.

11 a.m.
Baby Lapsit. Cos Cob Library Community Room.

1 p.m.
Baby Lapsit. Cos Cob Library Community Room.

1 p.m.
Holiday Movie Matinee: It Happened on Fifth Avenue. Cos Cob Library Community Room.

1 p.m.
Laser Lab: Design & Create. Innovation Lab.

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

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

5:30 p.m.
Gingerbread Houses for School age. Marx Family Black Box Theater.

Thursday, Dec. 18

10 a.m.
Japanese Storytime. Cos Cob Library Community Room.

10 a.m.
PLAYdate! Marx Family Black Box Theater.
11 a.m.
Bilingual Birdies (Storytime Lottery). Children’s Constellation Room.

11 a.m.
Tech Help. Learning Lab.

1 p.m.
Holiday Movie Matinee: The Man Who Came to Dinner. Cos Cob Library Community Room.

4 p.m.
Tai Chi Games for Adults with Ken Dolan. Byram Shubert Library Community Room.

6 p.m.
Teen Scene: Cozy Solstice Gathering for Teens. Teen Commons.

7 p.m.
Holiday Songs with Keltic Kick & the Lynn Academy of Irish Dance. Byram Shubert Library Community Room.

CALENDAR CONTINUES ON PAGE 6

Submite new items to <https://www.greenwichsentinel.com/events/community/add/>

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg

ACROSS

- 1 Tremendously
5 Take to court
8 Board, in room and board
13 Stud site
14 Top-ranked
15 “Lord of the Worlds” in the Quran
16 Tex-Mex chain (In this clue’s answer, note the first 2 letters + the last 2)
18 Harsh light
19 Iron deficiency
20 Tender spot to hit in conversation (... first 2 letters + last 2)
22 Shredded
23 Rosalynn Carter, ____
24 One shows you the way
25 Fuming
27 Repeat
30 H.S. support group
32 Civil rights ____
33 “Defying Gravity,” in “Wicked” (... first 4 letters + last 2)
38 ____ out (ventilates)
40 Untruth
41 Cover with asphalt
42 Field for miners? (... first 2 letters + last 3)

- 47 Telluride SUV maker
48 Gossip
49 Galaxy part
50 Sick
51 Boxer Laila
54 Apr. book reviewer
56 Connect them!
58 Fund (... first 2 letters + last 2)
61 Polished, as a paper
64 NASA scientist
65 Easley Country home to the ancient Mayan city Tikal (... first letter + last 3)
67 Fragrance
68 A Shake-speare play has five
69 Hip to
70 Groups of 12-Down
71 Squeeze (by)
72 Minor dent
DOWN
1 Actress Jessica
2 Item of interest to a bank?
3 Small collectible
4 “I love you,” in Spanish
5 “Catch my drift?”
6 Country assigned the .su domain in 1990: Abbr.
7 Actor Hawke
8 Repulsive “X-Men” adversary?

- 9 Palindromic fashion magazine
10 One may go off at 10 a.m.
11 Baby bug
12 Animals that outnumber people in New Zealand
14 Stork’s perch
17 Discharges a T-shirt cannon
21 Sobbed
25 Honeyed quaff
26 Opera solo
28 Colorful Hindu festival
29 Boo-boos
31 Shazam or Snapchat
34 Folder for dispatched emails
35 Lahore native
36 Apt word within “devilish”
37 Not imagined

- 39 Took a load off
43 Private matters
44 Banjo accessory
45 West Point students
46 Crumble away
51 Make mortified
52 Knight’s long weapon
53 Word with “voice” or “peace”
55 Fish tank buildup
57 Lacking courage
59 Ilk
60 What skill really was, per a sore loser
62 North Carolina college
63 “Aw, heck!”
66 Enjoyed jiaozi

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	T	E	M		T	S	K			T	U	F	T	S
P	I	N	E		O	M	I	T		U	S	U	A	L
E	A	R	N		L	O	L	A		N	A	N	N	Y
A	R	O	U	N	D	R	O	B	I	N				
R	A	N		A	Y	E				N	E	S	T	E
			A	M	A	S	S	C	U	L	T	U	R	E
B	A	S	I	E			Y	E	S			U	T	E
E	D	A	M		M	E	R	L	E		P	E	C	K
T	A	T	S		A	R	I			P	O	E	T	S
A	G	A	T	E	C	R	A	S	H	E	R			
S	E	N	O	R	A			H	O	P		P	T	A
			A	W	A	I	T	T	A	B	L	E	S	
R	A	Z	E	S		D	O	I	T		A	I	N	T
I	M	A	G	E		O	N	C	E		J	E	E	R
M	Y	G	O	D			S	K	A		A	S	T	O

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Family Time Crossword
The (K) Clues Are for Kids

Created by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

1. ____ and circumstance
5. (K) Sow or ewe pronoun
8. (K) At the highest point
12. (K) A Great Lake
13. Something a state adds on to a sale
14. (K) Nevada city
15. Scottish loch
16. Chicken ____ king (2 words)
17. Perpendicular building wings
18. (K) Place at the bottom of Earth (2 words)
21. (K) “I spy with my little ____ ...”
22. (K) Late December song
23. Pack down
25. (K) Elderly
27. (K) Part of a pingpong table
29. Do therapy for an injured elbow
32. (K) Wharf

34. (K) Total, in addition
36. Busy person’s list
37. (K) Move away from the group
39. (K) Space between two close mountains
41. (K) Much sooner than later
42. (K) Thing before a front porch
44. Like a controlled lion
46. (K) Maximizing suffix
48. Like The Babylon Bee
52. “‘Tis a pity!”
54. (K) Neverland’s Peter
55. International defense org.
56. Emulate the Titanic
57. (K) Mimic a primate?
58. Blood circulation problem-maker
59. Water aw whirl

60. (K) Very small
61. (K) Some stately trees
DOWN
1. (K) Some farm enclosures
2. (K) Cookie brand
3. Take someone’s words the wrong way
4. A pasta sauce
5. (K) Paper fasteners
6. Angel topper
7. Praise to the skies
8. (K) “Where ____ you?”
9. (K) Thing to answer (2 words)
10. (K) “And it ____ costs a million dollars!”
11. Prepare for a photo
19. (K) A chick’s mom
20. Hammer and anvil location
24. (K) Accomplished, as a goal

25. Co-____ (some apartments)
26. (K) Like an activated candle
28. (K) Yank
30. “Much ____ About Nothing”
31. (K) Wrapped present part
33. (K) Remy from “Ratatouille,” for one
35. Afternoon performance
38. (K) “Uh-huh”
40. Golf score
43. Melonlike tropical fruit
45. Chop into tiny pieces
46. “____ on down the road”
47. (K) Eluded a tag, in a way
49. Scotch strip
50. (K) Powerful little energy source
51. (K) They hold many cars
53. (K) Birds fly in it

Can you find the answer to this riddle within the solved puzzle?

Place for just one pupil?

Look for the answer in next week’s paper.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

W	A	R	P		C	A	R		S	C	H	I	N	O
A	C	E	R		A	L	A		L	O	C	O		
R	H	E	A		N	I	L		A	L	O	T		
D	E	L	I		C	A	T		E	S	S	E	N	
S	O	L			I	M	P							
O	R	I	E		L	E	G	O		C	H			
W	I	N	D		O	W	S	H	O	P	E	D		
N	O	N			G	E	T		T	R	U	S	S	
A	N	A			T	H	E							
H	A	B	E		R	D	A	S	H	E	R			
P	O	N	Y		O	E	R							
O	P	T	S		U	M	P		A	N	N	A		
M	E	S	S		T	I	S		T	E	D	S		

Previous riddle answer:

It works best when tired?
5-A) CAR

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18				19				20		21		
		22					23		24			
25	26			27		28		29		30	31	
32			33		34		35		36			
37				38		39		40		41		
		42			43		44		45			
46	47			48		49				50	51	
52			53		54				55			
56					57				58			
59					60				61			

1/13

Wrap Party by Adrian Johnson

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12
13					14				15				
16					17				18				
19							20		21				
		22						23				24	
25	26			27		28	29		30		31		
32				33				34				35	36
38				39			40				41		
42				43	44				45	46		47	
				48				49				50	
51	52	53		54		55			56		57		
58				59			60		61			62	63
64						65		66					
67						68					69		
70						71					72		

Horoscopes

Cosmic Context

This week highlights a blend of reflection and renewed energy. The Sun remains in Sagittarius, encouraging optimism, expansion, and philosophical outlook – a mood that builds steadily toward the new moon in Sagittarius on December 19, setting the stage for fresh starts.

Weekly Forecast by Sign

Aries (March 21–April 19)

Your aims sharpen now. As Mercury moves through Sagittarius, your mind gravitates toward long-term plans and inspired ideas. Use this week to sketch out big-picture goals – and leave time for quiet reflection before committing.

Taurus (April 20–May 20)

Material stability and comfort matter. You may feel drawn to reassess finances or family resources. Rather than rush major purchases or deals, focus on clarifying values and laying groundwork for future security.

Gemini (May 21–June 20)

Conversations and connections take on significance. Honest dialogue could lead to breakthroughs, whether in relationships or personal endeavors. Be open to new perspectives – but double-check details before signing off on anything.

Cancer (June 21–July 22)

Your home and inner life invite calm and restoration. The week favors balancing external demands with emotional recharge. Small acts of self-care or tending to domestic routines may bring much-needed peace.

Leo (July 23–August 22)

Creative energy stirs. Ideas may flow freely, especially around self-expression, hobbies, or personal projects. Rather than launching big changes now, refine your vision – the new moon offers a more auspicious moment to act.

Virgo (August 23–September 22)

Structures and daily routines call for review. Use the clarity you have this week to clear clutter – material or mental – and recalibrate habits. A simpler, more organized path will serve you well as the year draws to close.

Libra (September 23–October 22)

Relationships and shared values come under quiet focus. Conversations may reveal underlying patterns that need airing. Approach with openness and seek fairness – your diplomacy can smooth difficult talk.

Scorpio (October 23–November 21)

Introspection deepens. You may encounter memories or emotions long buried. Channel that sensitivity into creative or spiritual pursuits rather than impulse. Let this be a time of internal growth rather than external action.

Sagittarius (November 22–December 21)

Your season amplifies hope and potential. The cosmos supports envisioning your future – travel, learning, or renewed goals may call. Be mindful of fatigue; ground your enthusiasm with practical steps before diving in.

Capricorn (December 22–January 19)

Shared resources, intimacy, or financial partnerships may benefit from honest discussion. You’re asked to evaluate commitments carefully and ensure transparency. Thoughtful planning now can prevent misunderstandings later.

Aquarius (January 20–February 18)

Learning, discovery, or expanding your worldview feels inviting. Whether through study, conversation, or travel plans, remain open to growth. Avoid rushing – take time to weigh what aligns with your values.

Pisces (February 19–March 20)

Emotional clarity comes into focus. You may feel drawn to let go of outdated ideas or habits. Use the week to reflect, journal, or seek quiet. What you release now can free space for deeper understanding.

How to Use This Week

December 12–19 brings a mix of reflection and forward momentum. With the Sun in Sagittarius guiding inspiration – and a new moon on the 19th ready to reset intentions – treat this time as an opportunity to envision what you truly want, refine your direction, and prepare for a fresh start.

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES

- 1 one of week’s five, usually (7)
2 sound on a sitcom track (5)
3 all’s diversified partner (6)
4 one poking around (8)
5 part of a ticker-tape parade (8)
6 best-selling author Flynn (7)
7 bent out of shape (9)

SOLUTIONS

WO	NF	SUN	DAY	RUM
UGH	GI	TED	ET	DIS
TO	AN	ER	DRY	LA
MAG	TOR	RK	LLI	CO

Previous Answers: STRESSFUL 2. MOOSE 3. SWEATSUIT
4. HONEYBEES 5. ZIGZAGGING 6. RECESSES 7. LEVEL 8/25

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The answers to this week’s puzzles can be found in the next issue on December 5.

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THE J HOUSE GREENWICH

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!

SHOP & SAVE PACKAGE

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



HOLIDAY ROOM PROMO

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

CHRISTMAS AT TONY'S

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

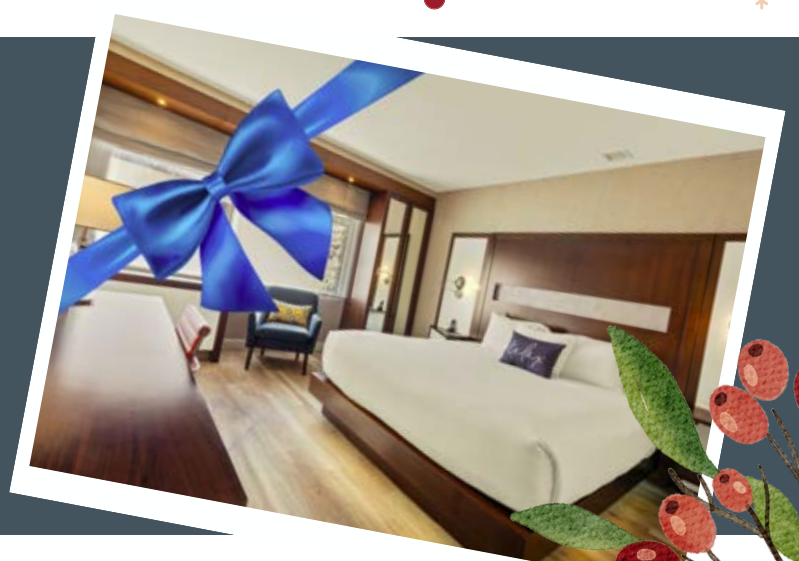


NEW YEAR'S AT TONY'S

Ring in the New Year with a Special Tony's Prix Fixe Menu, DJ & Champagne Toast at Midnight!
Early Seating (5-6:30pm): \$100pp
Late Seating (8:30-10pm): \$150pp
Children: \$35

NYE AT THE J HOUSE

We're saying "Goodbye" to 2025 and "Hello" to 2026 by offering a special "Buy One, get 50% Off" Promo for everyone who stays with us on December 30th & 31st OR December 31st & January 1st!



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



Nationally eminent surgeons caring for you, their neighbors

Oren M. Teppner, MD

Director, Aesthetic Surgery; Director, Craniofacial Surgery, Montefiore Einstein and Professor, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

From cosmetic procedures to craniofacial reconstruction to pediatric craniofacial and plastic surgery, Oren M. Teppner, MD, provides care that balances traditional aesthetic concepts with modern technology and minimally invasive techniques. A pioneer in stem cell therapy and 3D surgical innovation, his advances have revolutionized patient care and earned international recognition.

After graduating among the top of his class at New York University School of Medicine, Dr. Teppner trained at the renowned Institute of Reconstructive

Plastic Surgery, NYU Langone Medical Center, completing his plastic surgery residency as well as fellowships in craniofacial reconstruction and pediatric plastic surgery.

Dr. Teppner lives in Greenwich, provides specialized care from Manhattan to Connecticut and consults worldwide. He is acclaimed for his role in the separation of conjoined twins Jadon and Anias McDonald, performing similar surgeries twice more in Brazil.

