



January 15, 2026

Greenwich's Local Award Winning Newspaper.

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News Briefs

POLICE & FIRE

Community Unites Against Human Trafficking

January 11 was National Human Trafficking Awareness Day and marks Human Trafficking Awareness Month. The Greenwich Police Department is partnering with the National Black Prosecutors Association to increase awareness and strengthen prevention through coordination among law enforcement, prosecutors, and the community. Anyone in immediate danger should call 911; assistance and tips can be reported through the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or the Greenwich Police Department at 203-622-8004, with confidential tips accepted at TIPS@greenwichct.gov or 203-622-3333.

Community Asked To Help Locate Teen

please turn to Page 5

GREEN THOUGHTS

"The amazing fact that in a civilization as complex as ours we are still engaged in Adam's task, the naming of animals."

Diane Ackerman, "Insect Love," The New Yorker, August 17, 1992.

Fazio Sets Fundraising Record as Arora Enters Governor's Race

By ELIZABETH BARHYDT

State Senator Ryan Fazio's campaign for governor reported a brisk fundraising trajectory in its latest finance filing with the State Elections Enforcement Commission, and interviews conducted by the newspaper with senior Greenwich officials and party leaders suggest that the early financial strength is reinforced by long-standing professional confidence. At the same time, former state representative Harry S. Arora has formally entered the contest's early stage by registering an exploratory committee, further defining the Republican field for the 2026 Connecticut gubernatorial election.

Fazio's second quarterly finance report, filed Jan. 12, showed the campaign raised \$114,300 in the final reporting period of 2025, bringing its aggregate total to \$272,069 in qualifying small-dollar contributions in 141 days. That pace cleared the Citizens' Election Program's \$250,000 threshold faster than any other non-incumbent statewide campaign in Connecticut history, allowing the campaign to qualify for public financing before the Jan. 13 inflation adjustment increased qualifying thresholds for subsequent applicants.

The filing followed an earlier quarter in which the campaign raised \$157,233 in qualifying contributions over 49 days, also setting a record for a non-incumbent statewide bid over a comparable period. The consistency of the fundraising, rather than a single surge, has positioned the campaign as operationally prepared well ahead of the traditional primary calendar.

In interviews with the newspaper, Greenwich officials and party leaders emphasized

familiarity with Fazio's work and temperament as central to their support. Greenwich First Selectman Fred Camillo, who has known Fazio since childhood, described his endorsement as rooted in observation rather than enthusiasm alone. "I have watched him grow up, test his ideas, and prepare himself for public service over many years. That history matters to me," Camillo said. "In all my time in public life, I can say without hesitation that Ryan has one of the brightest minds and clearest visions I have encountered. He understands policy at a serious level, but he also understands people and the practical consequences of government decisions."

State Representative Tina Courpas, interviewed separately, said her support reflected Fazio's standing in Hartford. "Ryan is universally respected in Hartford, by both sides of the aisle," Courpas said. "He is both a visionary and practical problem-solver and would be a very effective Governor." Courpas pointed to his ability to work across party lines as a defining attribute in a legislature often shaped by narrow margins.

Michael Hahn, chair of the Greenwich Republican Town Committee, framed his backing in institutional terms during an interview with the newspaper.

"Ryan is one of the rare individuals I have come across in politics that has intelligence, conviction and the ability to articulate his vision to a wide demographic," Hahn said. "He's exactly the standard bearer the Republican Party needs." Hahn emphasized communication and persuasion as assets in a statewide contest.

Joe Kelly, a Republican State Central Committee member

representing the 36th District, focused on governance and temperament. "He possesses a deep understanding of the challenges facing his constituents and the ability to address these issues effectively," Kelly said in an interview. "He is exactly what we need to right the State of Connecticut."

Fazio said the campaign's fundraising success reflects voter priorities. "Connecticut voters are ready for leadership that will finally cut our sky-high electric rates and taxes, support our law enforcement, defend local control, and create opportunity for every family," he said. This statement mirrors themes that have surfaced repeatedly in Fazio's campaigns and his work in Hartford, particularly around energy costs, taxation, and municipal authority.

The evolving race widened this week with formal action by another Greenwich Republican. Harry Arora, who represented the 151st District in the Connecticut House from 2020 to 2023 and was the party's 2022 nominee for state treasurer, filed paperwork with the State Elections Enforcement Commission to form an exploratory committee.

Registered as Arora2026, the filing leaves open the possibility of a gubernatorial bid or a campaign for state senate, a flexibility permitted under state election rules.

In announcing the exploratory committee, Arora said he intends to consult Republican voters, party activists, and leaders across Connecticut before determining whether to enter the race formally.

The Connecticut gubernatorial primary is scheduled for Aug. 11, 2026. The general election will follow on Nov. 3, as incumbent Democratic Governor Ned Lamont seeks a third term.

Resolve To Volunteer

On display each time was an exemplary demonstration of human kindness. People selflessly stepped forward to help others during their time of need, all motivated by the same desire to help.



By STEPHANIE DUNN ASHLEY

As 2025 came to a close, two devastating fires in our area reminded me just how remarkable the human spirit can be when times are tough. Before dawn on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, as most people slept, a team of American Red Cross volunteers from our local chapter mobilized alongside the greater Mount Vernon community to help more than 240 residents displaced by a devastating five-alarm apartment fire. A few weeks later, a fire on Byfield Lane right here in Greenwich led to a groundswell of community support to help a family who had just lost their home.

On display each time was an exemplary demonstration of human kindness. People selflessly stepped forward to help others during their time of need, all motivated by the same desire to help. As we make our resolutions for 2026, let's channel this generous spirit and resolve to give back to our community. There are so many meaningful ways to do so, no matter what your background is or what you enjoy doing.

One powerful way to start the new year is by helping people who rely on donated blood and platelets, including cancer patients and individuals experiencing traumatic injuries. As a blood donor myself, I can attest to how easy and comfortable it is to give right here

in town at the Jill and John Coyle Blood Donor Center. A whole blood donation typically takes less than an hour from check-in to snack time. Platelet donations take a bit longer but make an enormous difference for patients undergoing chemotherapy and others. The center is open six days a week with evening and weekend hours, and appointments can be scheduled at RedCrossBlood.org or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

If you aren't able to donate blood — or want to help more often than the 56-day wait between whole blood donations — we also welcome volunteers to serve as Blood Donor Ambassadors. These volunteers greet donors with a warm smile, assist with check-in and offer heartfelt thanks afterward. If you enjoy connecting with people, this is a wonderful role.

You can also volunteer to help people prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters both big and small. There are roles for every interest and skill set. Disaster Action Team members provide calm, compassionate support to families facing emergencies like home fires. Logistics volunteers can help organize and distribute emergency supplies in affected communities. Casework volunteers can support shelter residents as they plan their next steps and begin their recovery. Every role makes an impact.

No matter who you are or what inspires you, January is a natural moment to consider how we can better ourselves and support our community. Follow your joy — whether with the Red Cross, your local fire department or EMS, at a school, or alongside seniors.

Small gestures of kindness mean so much, whether after a disaster, during an emergency or on an ordinary afternoon.

So, as we begin 2026, let's commit to one meaningful resolution together: let's resolve to

COLUMN

Two Major Issues and One Possible Solution

By MIMI SANTRY

The lack of affordable housing is a concern facing many younger people in the U.S. Construction hasn't kept up with demand, and many municipalities have greatly restricted the development of new inventory through permitting and other regulatory restrictions. According to the National Association of Realtors, the national median single-family home now costs \$426,800, making home ownership unattainable for many first-time purchasers. Home ownership, a key component of the "American Dream" previously happened for 20-30-year-olds and now many families have to wait until they are in their 40's.... if at all.

At the same time, there is a crisis of older Americans who are dealing with loneliness and isolation. Many older people need help with basic chores and would welcome having an able-bodied tenant/roommate to help and with whom to interact.

Could the solution to both challenges be the acceptance and promotion of longer-term intergenerational housing? Utilizing the existing housing stock of 145 million homes more efficiently and providing homeowners/tenants with a roadmap for how to structure this kind of arrangement ----might be a path to consider. By encouraging and allowing house-sharing arrangements, we might be able to mitigate two problems with one solution.

Imagine a system where students/young adults would receive attractive housing in exchange for reduced rent and an obligation to help in the household.

I encourage our community leaders and residents to explore this as a possible solution to two significant issues: loneliness/isolation and the need for affordable housing. This could be a win-win for everyone.

Tasks might be scheduled activities such as driving, grocery shopping or light housework. Tasks could be designed to fit the needs and schedules of both participants. The older homeowner would receive support and companionship, and the younger adult would receive a safe and affordable housing situation.

According to the New York Times "Economists estimate that America needs between four million and eight million more homes...it takes money to buy land, time to secure permits. In the meantime, construction costs have exploded. That's why most new homes tend to be luxury rentals or higher-cost houses, rather than something a person with a middle or lower income can afford. Those lower-cost units, however, are the ones in the shortest supply."

A survey of homeowners across the United States, shows that there is an interest in leasing excess rooms (40% indicated interest) but only few actually do it (2%). The obstacles seem obvious. How would matches work? How do you screen potential tenants? What kind of documentation would be required? How could participants be protected from abuse or fraud? How would payments happen? Would homes

need to be reconfigured for privacy/access? Would state and local regulations allow these arrangements?

Already many states have embraced this initiative and have "home-share" offices that work to facilitate affordable housing arrangements. The National Shared Housing Resource Center (www.nationalsharedhousing.org) is a network of independent non-profit home sharing programs across the U.S. They are working to develop best practices and educate people about the benefits of home sharing. There are companies that also serve to match homeowner and tenants. These include Nesterly.com and Pad Split. Unfortunately, Connecticut does not have a NSHRC office, nor much of a Nesterly or Pad Split footprint.

I encourage our community leaders and residents to explore this as a possible solution to two significant issues: loneliness/isolation and the need for affordable housing. This could be a win-win for everyone.

Mimi Santry is a long-time Greenwich resident and certified senior advisor and owner of Assisted Living Locators. She works with families on issues of care and housing.

WESTCHESTER
500 Westchester Ave.
Port Chester, New York
Tel 914.908.5444



Jen Hatmaker Brings Her Fire and Wit to Greenwich for One Night Only

By ELIZABETH BARHYDT

There's an unmistakable buzz moving through Greenwich: Jen Hatmaker—New York Times bestselling author, speaker, podcast host, and spiritual renegade—is coming to town.

On Wednesday, January 21 at 6:30 PM, Hatmaker will headline the Courage & Faith Speaker Series. The event includes a talk, book signing, post-event reception, and a signed copy of her newest book. With limited seating and high anticipation, it's a "must-attend" event.

Hatmaker doesn't just write books—she lives them. Her path from Texas pastor's wife to one of the country's most sought-after spiritual voices has been anything but quiet.

"I was that child, thankfully," she writes. "When I was two years old, some judgey older woman at church handed my mom a copy of *The Strong Willed Child* in Sunday School. My point is that I came out hot (and have apparently been upsetting Church Ladies™ for some time)."

That defiant streak became a gift. Hatmaker has authored a string of bestsellers, launched the beloved *For the Love* podcast, and built a global community of women drawn to her mix of vulnerability, irreverence, and unflinching honesty. She's raised five children, weathered a public divorce after 26 years of marriage, and documented every glorious, messy step of rebuilding with humor and raw faith.

Her newest memoir and the centerpiece of the evening, chronicles Hatmaker's journey through disruption, resilience, and unexpected renewal.

She's known for telling it like it is—from ordering two Ford Broncos post-divorce ("the first didn't run") to her laundry detergent of choice ("Diva" by Tyler, a \$68.58 indulgence that her best friend says "can be smelled from a block away").

This isn't a book tour. It's a confessional, a comedy set, and a spiritual reboot wrapped into one evening.

The January 21 event is more than a book signing. It's a chance to gather in a room with

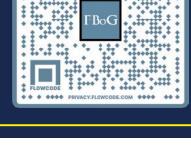
a woman whose very presence says: you can start again.

Tickets include a signed copy of her book and admission to the post-talk reception. For those who want a closer connection, the \$75 Meet & Greet ticket offers early entry at 6:00 PM and access to a private cocktail reception with Hatmaker.

She's funny. She's fearless. She still uses her first AOL email account. And she's exactly what Greenwich needs to start 2026 wide-eyed and wide-hearted.

What: Jen Hatmaker, Talk & Book Signing
When: Wed, Jan 21 | 6:30 PM
Where: Christ Church
Tickets: \$50
Includes: Signed copy of Awake, post-talk reception

This is the night to hear the woman who once stormed out of a Scrabble game in fury and still managed to win the hearts of millions. Hatmaker is unapologetically herself—whether she's quoting scripture, confessing her love of Irish Spring soap, or redefining what it means to be human.



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THE FIRST BANK OF GREENWICH SUPPORTS FINANCIAL LITERACY EDUCATION THROUGH LOCAL SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Greenwich, CT - JANUARY 2026



Greenwich
Country
Day School

As part of its ongoing commitment to community education, The First Bank of Greenwich teamed up with the Greenwich Country Day School at their annual financial literacy series aimed at helping students build foundational money skills they will carry with them into adulthood.

The program is part of the bank's broader Financial Foundations initiative, which focuses on strengthening communities through education, empowerment, and long-term investment in future generations. During the session, members of the bank's team shared age appropriate, real-world lessons on saving, budgeting, and responsible financial decision making.



"Financial literacy is an essential life skill, and we believe education plays a critical role in building confidence and independence," said Frank J. Gaudio, President & CEO of The First Bank of Greenwich. *"We're proud to support programs that help students develop practical knowledge they can use throughout their lives."*

The financial literacy series is held annually and reflects the

bank's continued dedication to supporting local schools and community partners. By engaging directly with students, The First Bank of Greenwich aims to contribute to stronger, more financially confident communities.

This effort is one of many ways the bank invests in education and community engagement across the region.

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WESTCHESTER
500 WESTCHESTER AVE.
PORT CHESTER, NY
914.908.5444

GREENWICH
444 E. PUTNAM AVE.
COS COB, CT.
203.629.8400

STAMFORD
900 SUMMER ST.
STAMFORD, CT
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A Healthier Community for All



BY RUSSELL BARKSDALE, PH.D.

The phrase "to whom much is given, much is expected" is one I often hear from friends and colleagues. Yet the original text is far more profound: "To whom much is given, much is required." That single word—required—carries the weight of obligation.

It reminds us that influence and affluence are not rewards but responsibilities. Privilege carries an expectation—not of perfection, but of participation, compassion, and courage.

Our community stands as a model of success in many ways. We are blessed with one of the finest public school systems in

the region, yet many families still seek private or specialized educational programs elsewhere. We are home to remarkable restaurants and renowned chefs, yet our food pantries face record demand for food insecure families. We are surrounded by wealth and generosity, yet more seniors than ever rely on charity care to assure access to even the most basic healthcare services. These contradictions defy easy explanation and demand more than polite sympathy.

Our population continues to grow as families arrive in search of safety, opportunity, and belonging. At the same time, long-established residents quietly leave, drawn to lower taxes or more affordable retirements elsewhere. These patterns, though not new, challenge the balance and vitality of our community. They remind us that prosperity cannot be

sustained if it is not shared, and that true strength lies not in our income brackets, but in our capacity to care for one another.

A truly healthy community is not measured by property values, economic output, or the glow of prosperity alone. It is one where people thrive physically, mentally, socially, and economically—supported by systems that promote safety, equity, and belonging. It is a place where residents feel connected, valued, and empowered to participate in shaping their collective future. It invests in prevention as much as in treatment, in inclusion as much as in innovation, and in the long-term well-being of generations yet to come.

To achieve this vision, we must move beyond awareness to action. Terms such as "preventive care," "social determinants of health," and "multigenerational

"A healthy community is measured not by wealth, but by how deeply we care for one another."

well-being" are not abstractions—they are the pillars of a compassionate and sustainable society. They remind us that access to nutritious food, preventive care, supportive care, mental health care, and meaningful social connection are not privileges but prerequisites for a thriving population.

We cannot ignore what we know to be true: that domestic violence continues to devastate families; that untreated mental illness isolates and destroys potential; that our children face pressures unimaginable a generation ago; and that too many of our seniors, who once gave so much, now face uncertainty in their later years.

What is visible to us is only the surface of a deeper and broader challenge.

History teaches that early intervention—whether in medicine, education, or community support—offers the best outcomes. Acting early to prevent a crisis is far more humane, effective, and affordable than responding after harm has taken root. Waiting until problems become pervasive is not stewardship; it is abdication of our shared duty.

We have all witnessed the destructive influence of engineered cannabis, fentanyl, and synthetic opioids—substances that have ravaged families and stolen futures. We have seen how the unrelenting forces of social media distort

our children's sense of identity and self-worth, amplifying insecurities and promoting false ideals. While we cannot undo every loss, we can prevent more. Avoiding even one tragedy—one life or one childhood lost—is reason enough to give our best.

We have the tools, the talent, and the compassion to make meaningful change. What remains is the will to act—to look beyond individual success and see our collective health as the truest measure of progress.

Can we recommit ourselves to this higher calling? Are we able to act early, boldly, and act together? For to whom much is given, much is not merely expected—it is, and always has been, required.

COLUMN

In the Shadows of Democracy's Birthplace

BY STUART ADELBERG

Those who read my periodic columns will note that I rarely meander into politics. Like most Americans, I am not lacking for strong opinions, but I choose not to step into the fray for several reasons. I am not an expert on many of the subjects being debated, and I am loathe to enter into a public debate unless I have confidence that I have considered all the facts. Additionally, I have had the good fortune to develop friendships and sincere admiration for people who are politically miles away from me. Because I value these relationships, I try my best to focus on subjects on which we agree, steering away from the parts of their lives that I will never understand. Thoughtful debates are healthy. Arguments? Not so much.

Notwithstanding the above, I am an avid consumer of news and political commentary. I eagerly read and listen to a

variety of news sources from varied perspectives as I believe it gives me a good understanding of what is actually happening.

Intelligent commentators are no less intelligent simply because their points of view differ from my own.

Despite my stated misgivings, today I step gingerly into the world of political commentary. I woke up early Saturday morning to the news that the United States had carried out a military operation in Venezuela ending with the capture of that nation's controversial president. I listened with concern to learn what I could about this event before departing for the airport for a trip to Athens, a place often referred to as the birthplace of democracy. I promised that I was not going to spend my vacation fixating on the politics at home, but, to be honest, the streets of Athens are virtually covered with living reminders of the history of participatory governance, so it is

difficult to think of anything else.

From the moment we arrived in Greece, we were struck by the pride of the people we met. Our taxi driver, upon learning that this was our first visit, proudly pointed out all the noteworthy vestiges of early civilization. This continued throughout our time in Athens. The Greeks, while certainly aware of the less savory periods in their past, honor the role their ancestors played in the introduction of modern ideas and their sophistication in creating civil societies. Their ancient landmarks are revered and protected, and the history seems to be known to all.

I could not help but compare this to the challenges confronting modern America, a society that disagrees on which parts of our history actually occurred,

what should be taught, and argues if anything is worthy of our collective pride. I am neither scholar nor historian, but I wonder why the Greeks



can preserve and celebrate thousands of years of history, despite their challenges, while some Americans now ponder if we will make it past 250.

As I visit the landmarks of ancient democracy, I feel strongly that it is long past time for us to get back to the principals we

were all taught years ago—the idea that it is through political discourse and honest debate that we build consensus and lay a hopeful path forward based on the will of the majority and the collective responsibility to care for our most vulnerable. The history of Greece has examples

of societies that villainized those with whom they disagreed and rigidly asserted that their ways were the only ways. The evidence, throughout Athens, demonstrates that those societies didn't ultimately fare very well. We can and must do better.



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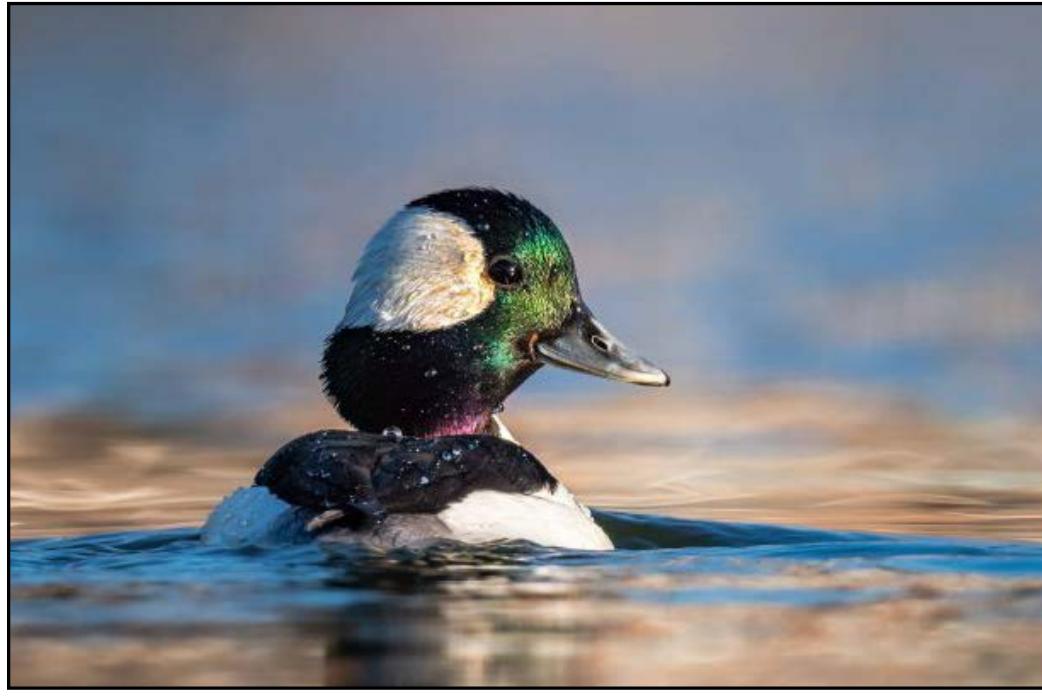
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Connecticut Winter Birds



Bufflehead, Lady Ann Lake, Madison, Alabama. Photo: Christopher Baker/Audubon Photography Awards



Long-eared Owl. Photo: Logan Lalonde/Great Backyard Bird Count



White-breasted Nuthatch, Peace Valley Park, Bucks county, Pennsylvania. Photo: Mary Lynn Heyns/Audubon Photography Awards

BY JOSEY GARDNER

While there are definitely less birds in the Northeast during the winter in comparison with the summer, there are still many birds to be found during the winter months in Connecticut. Some Connecticut birds do not migrate to warmer areas, instead choosing to brave the Northeast winter and stay in Connecticut all year round. The Greenwich Audubon Center is a great place to bird watch during the winter—our trails allow you to explore outside, and our learning center contains a large window next to our

feeders so those more averse to the cold can bird watch from inside our main center building. But there are also many parks across Greenwich that are great for bird watching, such as the Bruce Park and Greenwich Harbor. A few of our favorite birds you might see in Connecticut during the winter months include Buffleheads, Wood Ducks, Long-eared Owls, and White-breasted Nuthatches.

Buffleheads are a crowd favorite among bird watchers. This funny-looking waterfowl is actually only in Connecticut during the winter months, from about November-April.

They spend their time bobbing up and down in the water, so look for them in ponds, lakes, reservoirs, and along the coast. Females are muted grey-brown and white in color; males look white and black from a distance, but upon closer inspection their black feathers reveal a glossy, green and purple iridescent sheen. A great place to spot these fun birds is along the coastline of the Long Island Sound.

Wood Ducks are another colorful waterfowl that stay in Connecticut over the winter. Male Wood Ducks have stunning colors, full of glossy greens, reds, browns, and blacks. Female Wood Ducks are less colorful, but have a white patch around their eyes. Unlike Buffleheads, Wood Ducks aren't often found in open water like coastlines, they are more often found in wooded marshes, ponds, and swamps.

Long-eared Owls are a bird of prey that can be found in Connecticut only in the winter months, as they return to the northern forests of Canada during breeding seasons. Like most owls, they are very secretive and hard to spot, because of their excellent feather camouflage that allows them to blend into trees and their silent movements. They also prefer to hunt and live in dense foliage and trees, making them even harder to spot. If you are lucky enough to spot one, they are identified by their namesake—their unmistakable long ear tufts. Though if you can't see them, you still might be

able to hear them—male Long-eared Owl hoots can be heard up to 1 kilometer (about 0.7 miles) away.

White-breasted Nuthatches are a much easier bird to spot, as they can be bribed to come to your yard with a well placed and well-filled bird feeders. They have a strong appetite for insects and large seeds. They get their name due to their habit of taking large seeds and nuts in their beaks, and whacking them against trees in order to release the nut or seed from its shell. Outside of bird feeders, White-breasted Nuthatches can usually be found in forests of deciduous trees.

These are just a select few of the many bird species that can be found in Connecticut and around Greenwich during the winter months. For those eager to see the common feeder birds during the winter, come to Feeder Watch Fridays at the Greenwich Audubon Center! Every Friday during the winter months, the Greenwich Audubon Center hosts a program to gather around our observation window and watch the winter birds that approach our feeders. Visitors will learn how to identify the various birds that arrive, and leave with an appreciation for the natural landscape and birds of Greenwich. Of course, feel free to visit the Greenwich Audubon Center and walk the trails to do some exploring on your own. Happy winter birding!



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U.S. News
2025

NEWS BRIEFS From Page 1

As of publication on Wednesday night, January 14, Greenwich police are requesting public assistance in locating 15-year-old Yeimi Martinez, last seen on Jan. 11 at about 2:45 p.m., with her last known location near River Street in Bridgeport. She is 5 feet 7 inches tall, weighs about 110 pounds, was wearing a black top, black flowy pants, and a white belt, and anyone with information should contact the Greenwich Police Department Detective Division at 203-622-8054 or submit a confidential tip to 203-622-3333 or TIPS@greenwichct.org

FROM TOWN HALL

Town Highlights Outstanding Employee Service



Greenwich will begin regularly highlighting the work of town employees through its Employee of the Month program. The January honoree is Tom Caruso, Facilities Foreperson at Town Hall, who oversees building setup, maintenance, and weekend access as part of the DPW's Building Construction and Maintenance Division. His recognition includes a certificate and a photo displayed in the Town Hall lobby for the month. Photo credit: First Selectman Camillo's Community Connections

AROUND TOWN

The Greenwich Fellowship of Clergy (GFC)



The Greenwich Fellowship of Clergy (GFC) gathered at Temple Sholom (300 East Putnam Avenue) for the group's annual holiday luncheon. The celebration was attended by 21 clergy from the surrounding area and included a symbolic lighting of Temple Sholom's Chanukiah and the singing of Peter Yarrow's "Light One Candle".

GFC includes more than 40 members and meets throughout the year to collaborate on interfaith programming and community-focused initiatives.

Back Row (Pictured Left to Right): Rev. Dr. Edward Horstmann, Round Hill Community Church, Rev. Terry Elsberry Christ Church Greenwich, Ezra Hurvitz, Second Year Rabbinical Student at Hebrew Union College, Rev. Tim Hamlin, Christ Church Greenwich, Pastor Cedric Johnson, Diamond Hill United Methodist Church, Rabbi Mitchell M. Hurvitz, Temple Sholom, Rev. Marek Zabriskie, Christ Church Greenwich, Rabbi Mark Diamond, Loyola Marymount University, Vanessa Avery, Sharing Sacred Spaces, Rev. Deacon Susie McNiff, Christ Church Greenwich, Pastor Sun Ju Lee, First UMC Greenwich, Rabbi Jennifer Tobenstein, Nathaniel Witherell. Front Row (Pictured Left to Right): Rev. Lillian Steinmayer, Round Hill Community Church, Rev. Dr. Heather Wright, Stanwich Congregational Church, MSGR. Alan Detscher, St. Catherine of Siena, Rabbi Gisel Baler, Temple Sholom, Rabbi Pam Ehrenkranz, UJA-JCC Greenwich, Rev. Leo Curry, First Church, Round Hill, Pastor Jim O'Hanlon, St. Paul's Rye Brook, Rev. Stephanie Johnson, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Rev. Karen Halac, North Greenwich Congregational Church.

Greenwich Marks 50th St. Patrick's Parade



The Greenwich St. Patrick's Day Parade will take place on March 22, marking its 50th year. The parade will begin at Town Hall at 2 p.m., follow Field Point Road to the Post Road, turn onto Greenwich Avenue, and continue down the avenue. Haydn O'Shea, president of the Greenwich Hibernian Association, will serve as grand marshal. Photo credit: Greenwich Hibernian Society

Brookside Drive Closed For Safety Repairs

Brookside Drive in central Greenwich was closed Wednesday afternoon after a utility pole was knocked down, according to Greenwich police. The closure is expected to be extended, and drivers are advised to avoid the area and use alternate routes. Crews are working to resolve the situation and reopen the road.

LOCAL BUSINESSES & NON PROFITS

Greenwich Nonprofits Eligible for Federal Grants

Greenwich is accepting applications from local nonprofits for federal Community Development Block Grant funding provided through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Applicants must comply with HUD regulations and meet at least one national objective, and awards for public services are expected to be capped at \$15,000, with total funding for 2026 estimated at about \$723,939. Applications are due by 3 p.m. Feb. 5 and will be reviewed by the town's Community Development Advisory Committee before final approval.

Summer Registration Opens at Tod's Point Sailing



Registration is open for the 2026 season at Tod's Point Sailing School at Greenwich Point. The program offers summer sailing lessons for children and adults, family courses, private instruction, boat and paddlecraft rentals, and seasonal job opportunities for local youth. More information is available online or by calling 203-637-2022. Photo credit: Tod's Point Sailing School

New Dining Concept Coming Soon

South Bay, a restaurant at 403 Greenwich Ave., has closed as its owners, JS Restaurant Group, prepare to convert the space into a new concept called Blu Olive. The restaurant, which opened in 2019 after the closure of Sundown Saloon, served Mediterranean-inspired dishes made with locally sourced ingredients. South Bay will continue operating its locations in Fairfield and New Haven.

Veterinary Eye Center Opens In Greenwich



The Veterinary Eye Center has opened at 100 Putnam Green, becoming the first practice of its kind in Fairfield County. The opening was marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by town officials and the Greenwich Chamber of Commerce. The clinic is led by Medical Director Dr. Andréa Minella, formerly of the Veterinary Eye Center in New York City. Photo credit: First Selectman Camillo's Community Connections

Greenwich Library Unveils New Strategic Plan

Greenwich Library has adopted a strategic plan for 2026–2028 that outlines steps to expand access, strengthen community partnerships, and adapt services to changing needs. Developed with Plan A Advisors, the plan is based on community interviews, discussions, peer library reviews, and internal planning sessions. It prioritizes accessibility, multilingual services, partnerships, technology upgrades, staff development, and maintaining the library as a community gathering space.

Abilis Hosts Parent Development Workshop

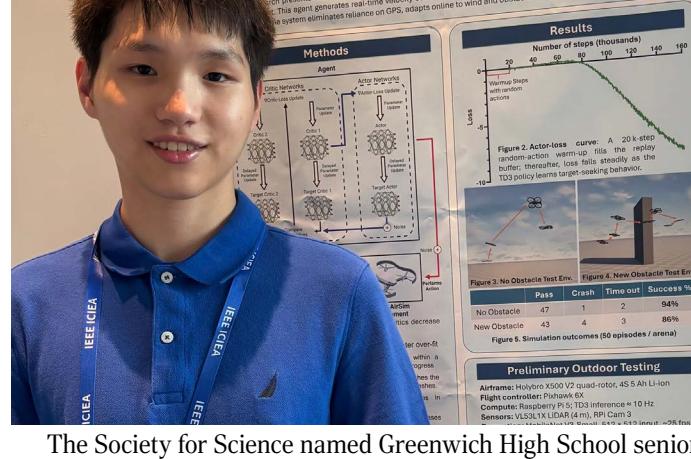
Abilis will hold a free parent workshop, Supporting Your Young Child's Development, on Sunday, January 25, 2026, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Cohen Abilis Advancement Center in Stamford. The program will provide information on early developmental concerns, evaluations, diagnoses, services, transitions from Birth to Three to school-based supports, and strategies for behavior and daily challenges. Advance registration is required at abilis.us/workshop, and on-site babysitting is available for \$25.

Greenwich Town Party Announces 2026 Lineup

The Greenwich Town Party announced the Main Stage lineup for its May 23 event at Roger Sherman Baldwin Park, featuring headliners Dave Matthews and Tim Reynolds, along with John Fogerty, the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, and a children's performance by Sesame Street Live's "Elmo's Got The Moves." The Town Stage will feature local artists, with that lineup to be announced later, and the event will mark the festival's 15th anniversary. Tickets are on sale now, with Sponsor and Neighbor tickets available to all and Community tickets limited to verified Greenwich residents and employees.

PEOPLE IN TOWN

Greenwich Senior Named National Science Scholar



The Society for Science named Greenwich High School senior Henry Jin among the top 300 scholars in the 2026 Regeneron Science Talent Search, awarding him \$2,000 and an additional \$2,000 to Greenwich High School. Jin is the 14th Greenwich High School student recognized since 2021, selected from more than 2,600 applicants for his independent research project on autonomous drone control. Forty scholars will be named finalists on January 21 and will compete for more than \$1.2 million in awards in Washington, D.C., March 5–11. Photo credit: Greenwich Public Schools

GCDS Senior Named Regeneron Scholar



Greenwich Country Day School senior Cooper Taylor was selected as a 2026 Regeneron Science Talent Search Scholar

January 15, 2026 | Greenwich Sentinel | Page 5
from more than 2,600 applicants representing 826 high schools in 46 states and 16 countries. His project, titled "Lightweight Modular Dual-Tilt VTOL UAV: Design, Validation and Long-Endurance Performance," earned him recognition among 300 scholars chosen for demonstrated achievement and potential in STEM. Taylor plans to study mechanical engineering at Harvard University. Photo credit: Greenwich Country Day School

SCHOOLS

Tara Fogel Appointed To New Role

Greenwich Public Schools has appointed Tara Fogel as assistant chief officer of curriculum and leadership, effective immediately, reporting to Chief Officer Marc D'Amico. The newly created role replaces the deputy superintendent position and focuses on curriculum alignment, instructional support, professional learning, and analysis of student performance data. Fogel previously served as curriculum coordinator for science (K-8) and social studies (K-5), and the district will begin a search for a new coordinator.

Community Rallies To Support Student Trip

Greenwich Public Schools is seeking final financial support for its annual eighth-grade trip to Washington, D.C. A fundraising comedy event will take place Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. at the New York Comedy Club in Stamford, with proceeds supporting a scholarship fund to ensure all students can attend regardless of financial need. Tickets, donations, and raffle entries for prizes including a \$500 American Express gift card and a private bowling party at Innis Arden are available.

Greenwich High Earns AP Gold Recognition

Greenwich High School was named to the College Board's 2025 Advanced Placement School Honor Roll with an overall Gold distinction for the second consecutive year. The recognition is based on participation and performance metrics, including the share of seniors who took at least one AP exam, earned qualifying scores, and completed multiple AP exams. The Advanced Placement Program offers college-level coursework and exams that may allow students to earn college credit or advanced placement.

Dr. Jenny Hoffman Named Commencement Speaker

Greenwich Academy announced that Dr. Jenny Hoffman '96, Clowes Professor of Science at Harvard University, will speak at its 199th commencement on Thursday, May 21. Hoffman is a physicist whose research focuses on atomic-scale materials growth and imaging, has published more than 50 peer-reviewed papers, received multiple national science awards, and also holds world-class achievements in endurance running, including a 2023 transcontinental record. She earned her undergraduate degree at Harvard, completed graduate studies at UC Berkeley, and held a postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford.

Remy Appointed Interim Special Education Coordinator



Greenwich Public Schools appointed Kristina Remy as interim Special Education program coordinator, effective immediately, replacing Harry Burg, who left the district at the end of 2025. Remy will support administrators and staff, oversee curriculum access and professional learning, evaluate special education personnel, and report to the chief officer of Special Education and Student Supports. Photo credit: Greenwich Public Schools

Central Middle School Construction Progresses Steadily

Construction of the new Central Middle School is continuing as public school students return to classes, with the building scheduled to open in August. Recent work includes the installation of rooftop mechanical equipment and skylights, and a detailed progress update is available in the January issue of Central Middle School Campus Connections, with additional updates provided at Board of Selectmen meetings. The site remains an active construction area and is not open to the public.

SPORTS

Cardinals Show Grit In Overtime Loss

Greenwich High School's varsity boys ice hockey team lost 3-2 in overtime to Xavier High School on Jan. 5 at Dorothy Hamill Skating Rink. Junior John Meehan scored both goals for Greenwich, including the game-tying goal late in the third period, while junior goalie Will Salib made several key saves to keep the game close. Xavier scored the decisive goal 7:17 into overtime to secure the non-conference win.

Cardinals Top Ludlowe In Opener

Playing without injured captain Madi Utzinger, Greenwich High's varsity girls basketball team defeated Fairfield Ludlowe 46-39 in its FCIAC opener on Jan. 6, improving to 5-1. Sophomore center Zuri Faison led all scorers with 27 points as Greenwich held narrow leads at the end of the first quarter and halftime. The Cardinals relied on steady defense and balanced contributions to secure the home win.

Brunswick Hockey Dominates In Home Opener

Brunswick School's varsity hockey team earned a 7-1 home win over Albany Academy on Jan. 9 at Hartong Rink, improving its record to 10-4. Seven different players scored, with junior Keegan Kazan posting one goal and three assists, as Brunswick outshot Albany 38-14. The Bruins led 2-0 after one period, 4-1 after two, and controlled play throughout the game.

Greenwich Girls Roll Past St. Joseph

Greenwich High School's varsity girls basketball team defeated St. Joseph, 60-34, on Jan. 9 to extend its winning streak to six games and improve to 6-1 overall and 2-0 in FCIAC play. Sophomores Zuri Faison (20 points) and Elsa Xhekaj (17) and senior Madi Utzinger (13) led the scoring, while Greenwich held St. Joseph to 34 points with consistent man-to-man defense. The Cardinals led 27-14 at halftime and maintained control throughout the second half.

OUR NEIGHBORS

Insomnia Cookies Opens Stamford Location

Insomnia Cookies will open its first Stamford location at 1 Atlantic Street in downtown Stamford, near the UConn Stamford and Sacred Heart University campuses. The store will offer in-store service, pickup, and delivery, operate late-night hours, and hold a grand opening promotion on Saturday, Jan. 17, including a free cookie for new rewards members and a limited-time free delivery offer. This will be the company's fourth Connecticut store and 344th location nationwide.

Greenwich Sentinel

PUBLISHER
Beth@GreenwichSentinel.com

Elizabeth Barhydt

EDITORS & COPY EDITORS

Editor@GreenwichSentinel.com

Emma Barhydt, Peter Barhydt, Liz Leamy,
Cordelia Webb, Stapley Russell, Anne W. Semmes

Do We Deserve a Stage?

There is, in the heart of Greenwich, a district that is less a location than a statement. It is the civic core: a cluster of buildings and monuments arrayed along Greenwich Avenue, designated a National Historic District and developed between 1893 and 1938. Here are situated the obelisk memorializing the town's World War I dead, the statue of Col. Raynal Bolling, and, soon by all accounts, a likeness of President George H.W. Bush, Greenwich native and forty-first president.

Amid this architecture of memory stands the Havemeyer Building, erected in the 1890s and once a school. It is now used by the Board of Education as administrative office space. This is regrettable, not because administrative work lacks dignity, but because the building—donated for public benefit—is being used in a manner both inefficient and indifferent to its potential.

It is falling apart while housing filing cabinets.

The public understands this. Feedback on Anne Semmes's recent article has been vigorous and one-sided. In meetings, letters, conversations in grocery store lines and coffee shops, the sentiment is consistent: this building was a gift to the people, and it ought to serve a public purpose of higher civic value than administrative use and record storage.

For decades now, a trio of civic-minded preservationists—Peter Malkin, Bea Crumbine, and Chuck Royce—have advocated a more fitting use. They propose transforming the Havemeyer Building into a performing arts center. The design is detailed. The financing, partially pledged. The impact, potentially enormous.

The architect Peter Gisolfi once examined the space and noted that each classroom—thick-walled and well-proportioned—would serve splendidly as a music rehearsal room. The main theater could hold 250 to 300 seats. Crumbine, in consultation with theater designers, proposed rotating the theater to maximize sound and sightlines, citing the human eye's limit of 74 feet for facial recognition onstage. The plan included rehearsal space, a smaller performance wing, and even facilities for schools of pottery, ballet, and music.

There is precedent. Royce's black box theater at the Ocean House in Rhode Island accommodates lectures, performances, and fashion shows with seating that comes and goes depending on the event. The same design, nearly to the foot, could work in the right wing of Havemeyer.

To objections about parking, Crumbine answered pragmatically: performances would be held at night, when Town Hall's parking lot is empty. A shuttle, she said, would suffice.

To the question of where the current Board of Education staff would go, John Fareri offered 20 years of free office space elsewhere in town. The response? Rejected. The site was not permanent enough nor close enough to Greenwich Avenue. Really?

That objection, in particular, hints at the problem. Inertia.

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil," Edmund Burke warned, "is for good men to do nothing." The problem in Greenwich is not evil. It is entrenchment. The good people involved have done a great deal: plans drafted, money pledged, letters sent, patience exercised. But the space remains misused.

Fareri even proposed residential construction atop underground parking—an idea that would fund the arts wing while adding 185 parking spaces and 50 more at street level. The boutique hotel concept was dismissed, even derided. One hotelier said the idea was "insane." Greenwich, after all, is not starved for beds. It is starved for culture and a real nightlife downtown.

The dream is not a fantasy. It is a plan. It is engineered. It is drawn up. It is ready. What remains is for the Town to act—finally—to relocate the Board of Education staff and permit the structure to be used in accordance with its location, its architecture, and its legacy.

A downtown should not merely exist. It should hum. It should invite and involve. It should enrich.

Let the Havemeyer Building become a place where that happens.

Editorial Page

From the Old Greenwich Postmaster: a holiday season thank you

To the Editor Greenwich Sentinel,

As we turn the page on the holidays, I want to thank our customers in Old Greenwich for the kindness and support you showed our local Postal Service team during the busiest mailing and shipping season of the year.

Our carriers, clerks, and plant teams worked hard to keep mail and packages moving for families, small businesses, and neighbors who rely on us. Behind every delivery is a local employee who lives here, shops here, and cares about getting it right.

Now that the holiday rush is behind us, our focus is simple: steady, dependable service every day – along with continued improvements that help

As we turn the page on the holidays, I want to thank our customers in Old Greenwich for the kindness and support you showed our local Postal Service team during the busiest mailing and shipping season of the year.

us handle today's mix of letters and packages more efficiently.

If you had a great experience with your local Post Office this season, I hope you'll share it with

our team. And if we missed the mark, please let us know so we can keep improving at usps.com.

Sincerely, Lisa Dixon
Postmaster, Old Greenwich Post Office

Proposed Havemeyer Performing Arts Center

Havemeyer Performing Arts Center vs. Board of Education -- no brainer!

Fred Camillo needs to tell the B of E that they have no choice but to move. The offer of free rent on West Putnam Ave is a very good offer. If they can find a better deal, great, but THEY HAVE TO MOVE! Our Town should not be held hostage by a

recalcitrant B of E. The idea of another hotel doesn't make sense, and a Performing Arts Center fits well with the interests of our residents

Readers, please let Fred know your thoughts!
Richard Schulze

Thank You to Anne Semmes

To the Editor:

Anne Semmes has done Greenwich a public service with her careful and compelling reporting on the vision for the Havemeyer Building. Her story doesn't just recount a proposal—it lifts a community conversation into the light, where it belongs.

The idea of transforming the Havemeyer into an arts center is not new. But as Ms. Semmes makes clear, it is enduring. It is rooted in the passion and foresight of individuals like Peter Malkin, Bea Crumbine, and Chuck Royce—each of whom has given decades to preserving what's best about Greenwich while investing in its cultural future. Her



Third Spaces: Building Belonging Beyond Home and Work

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

Thursday, January 22, 2026
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

YWCA Greenwich
259 East Putnam Ave.
Greenwich

Event is FREE and
open to the public
To register, please go to
www.ywcagrn.org/KING2026
or scan below



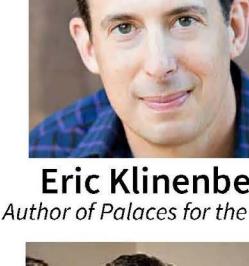
eliminating racism
empowering women
YWCA
greenwich

For more information, contact Simone
Quarley at 203-869-6501 x. 104
or s.quarley@ywcagreenwich.org

EVENT DESCRIPTION:

In a comprehensive discussion with leading sociologist, Eric Klinenberg, and state and municipal officials, we will convene an extensive conversation rooted in Klinenberg's best-selling book *Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequity, Polarization and the Decline of Civic Life*. The event will spotlight how third spaces are crucial to our communities and the ways in which we are working to expand and operate these spaces beyond work and home, connecting us all.

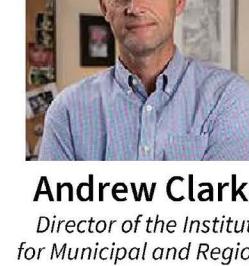
Featured Speakers



Eric Klinenberg
Author of Palaces for the People



Seila
Mosquera-Bruno
*Commissioner of Housing
State of Connecticut*



Andrew Clarke
*Director of the Institute
for Municipal and Regional
Policy (IMRP)
University of Connecticut*



Carmen Hughes
*Director of Diversity,
Equity, and Inclusion
City of Stamford*



Denise Savageau
*Environmental Activist
and Thought Leader*



The Dumbing Down of American Politics Let's Resist It in CT in 2026



By TINA COURPAS

climate. The issues are often nuanced; one might support parts, but not all of a bill; one might support the purpose of a program wholeheartedly, but the state cannot afford it. Legislators must often balance competing priorities.

The problem with today's politics, even in Connecticut, is that sometimes the substance of these complex policies is distilled down to a one-dimensional cudgel that either party uses to hit the other over the head.

Even hot-button words in the title of a bill can become political grenades. If a bill title contains the words "Reproductive Rights" and a legislator votes against it, I have seen it used as "proof" that this legislator is not pro-choice, regardless of what the underlying bill says. If a legislator supports a bill with "Gun Control," that alone can be used as "proof" that such a person opposes the Second Amendment. The title words "Trust Act," "Transgender," "Women's Sports," "Voting

And yet, we are not immune.

Taking votes on the CT

House floor is not easy,

even in the best political

Policy involves tradeoffs, and one-liners don't explain those.

Equity," "Voting Security," even "Freedom" can all carry political risk—regardless of what the underlying bill says.

This sounds like an exaggeration, but sadly, it is not. I heard one House member say to another on the House floor this year: "I can't vote 'no' on this bill. The title says 'Elderly.' If I vote no, next election my opponent will say on a campaign mailer that I hate the elderly."

At the Special Session in November, I voted against establishing a temporary \$500 million "side-fund" created for the Governor to use largely at his discretion. The fund was originally intended to make up for shortfalls in SNAP and other important funding due to

the federal government shutdown which had begun on October 1. The "side-fund" would last only until February 4, 2026, until the legislature reconvened and could appropriate funds in the normal budget process. I supported that proposal.

However, by the time the bill went to a vote, the shutdown emergency for which the bill was originally created was over. Yet, the bill proceeded. At the time of the vote, the bill's proponents could not demonstrate any specific monetary deficit, any program terminating, any quantifiable decrease in SNAP benefits before February 4, which would justify a "side-fund," a departure from our standard

budgeting practices. The "side-fund" was also, in my view, a clear violation of the fiscal guardrails which I had promised to uphold. I voted no, along with other legislators. I recently read a partisan shorthand attack which obfuscated the issues underlying this vote, calling it simply a vote "against SNAP benefits."

The problems with this dynamic are obvious. Policy involves tradeoffs, and one-liners don't explain those. Knee-jerk reactivity gets in the way of simply asking questions, getting the facts and understanding the issues. Finally, the dumbing down dynamic is a race to the bottom – who can be angrier, who can make the content of a bill seem more extreme, and who can make the "other side" look worse.

So, what is the solution to this "dumbing down" of our state democracy? I welcome your input.

I believe that part of the solution is to resist the trend.

I am committed to doing that. As a State Representative, I believe this means asking questions, casting votes on the substance, providing full information to the people I serve, and trusting them to digest it. It is a privilege in all respects to represent the 149th District, including the fact that its citizens care, read, engage, and generally digest the issues at a very high level. Thank you for the privilege of serving you. We should cultivate this ability to look deeper than the latest partisan attack, both in our community and in any and every district in our state, thereby resisting the race to the bottom. If the alternative is the continued "dumbing down" of our democracy, we have no choice but to resist.

Tina is a State Representative for CT's 149th District (Greenwich and Stamford). She may be reached at tina.courpas@housegop.ct.gov.

New Era for the BET

By JULIA BARCELLO

NOTE: this article has been updated from last week to reflect corrections in some of the committee appointments.

On January 7, the Town of Greenwich officially swore in new members of the Board of Estimate and Taxation (BET). The meeting began with nominations for each position followed by brief remarks from the new members. All members were unanimously voted into their position.

The new Chair of the BET, David Weisbrod has substantial experience.

In his remarks, Weisbrod expressed his gratitude for the position. "I first would like to say that I'm truly honored to be elected as your chair. I would also say that I'd like to thank our previous Chair, Mr. [Harry] Fisher, for leading us in difficult times, and I look forward to working with you and all of us on this, on this BET."

Matt DesChamps was nominated as Vice Chair of the BET. DesChamps has been a member of the BET since 2023, previously the BET liaison for the Greenwich Energy Management Advisory Committee. He currently chairs the [Dorothy] Hamill Rink Task Force. With over 30 years of experience in finance and investment he is currently a

Founding Partner of Kepos Capital L.P. and an adjunct professor of Finance at Fordham University's Gabelli School of Business.

In the position of town clerk is Doug Fenton. He holds 20 years of experience in finance and is a new member to the BET. Fenton is a member of the RTM's Budget Overview Committee where he gained town leadership experience. Joan Lynch has received the position as controller of the town. The BET appointed Lauren Elliot as town assessor. These positions are each held for two years.

In regards to the standing committees: First, Audit, Matt DesChamps, Steven Selbst, Leslie Tarkington, Josh Brown. The Chair for the Budget Committee is Laura Erickson. Members include Doug Fenton, Harry Fisher and Joe Kelly.

The Human Resources Committee Chair is Elliot Alchek, with members Doug Fenton, Leslie Tarkington and Josh Brown.

Elliot Alchek is chair of the Investment Advisory OPEB Committee. Members include, Steven Selbst, Joe Pellegrino and Sally Bednar.

The Law Committee Chair is Stephen Selbst, with member Leslie Tarkington. The policy and procedure committee includes chair, Laura Erickson and member Josh Brown.

Moving to liaisons for the

assessor, Elliot Alchek and Leslie Tarkington. For the Community Development Block Grant, Matt DesChamp and Joe Pellegrino. For controller finance, David Weisbrod, Joe Pellegrino. For the Department of Public Works, Doug Fenton, Leslie Tarkington. For the Board of Education, Laura Erickson, and Joe Pellegrino. For the Information Technology Department, Matt Deshaun and Harry Fisher.

For Nathaniel Witherell, Steven Selbst and Harry Fisher. For the Parks and Recreation Department, Matt DesChamps and Sally Bednar. For the Public Safety Department, David Weisbrod and Harry Fisher. For the Retirement Board, OPEB, Elliot Alchek and Sally Bednar. For the Energy Management Advisory Committee, Matt DesChamp.

For the special project teams, the debt and fund balance Policy Committee, Chair Elliot Alchek, members, Steven Selbst, Joe Pellegrino and Sally Bednar. For the Labor Contract, Stephen Selbst and Josh Brown.

The Greenwich High School Vestibule Committee is David Weisbrod. For the Central Middle School Building Committee, Joe Kelly. For the Old Greenwich School Building Committee, Steven Selbst. For the Julian Curtis Building Committee, Harry Fisher. For the Riverside School Building Committee, Matt DesChamp.

charted on Billboard, and his Dry Bar special has earned over a million views. Heard daily on SiriusXM, Tony is celebrated for writing some of the "tightest jokes in the business."

Keith Alberstadt – Known for his clever wit, Southern charm, and warm, relatable humor, Keith is a regular on late-night TV with appearances on The Late Show with David Letterman, Late Night with Seth Meyers, The Late Show with Stephen Colbert, and Last Comic Standing. He has written for Saturday Night Live and Late Night with Jimmy Fallon, and his four comedy albums—featured on SiriusXM and Pandora—highlight his smart, PG-13 style that delights audiences nationwide.

Tickets and additional information are available at christchurchgreenwich.org.

We all need some laughter right now! It's the 4th Annual Comedy Night, an evening of big laughs, great food, and community fun. This year's event features a Build-Your-Own Taco Bar, Mighty Margaritas, and a sweet assortment of desserts—making it one of the most fun nights of the winter. Tickets are \$60 per person, and all are welcome.

This year's Comedy Night brings two nationally acclaimed stand-up comedians:

Tony Deyo – A master of sharp, clean comedy and impeccable timing, Tony has appeared on CONAN, The Late Show, Gotham Comedy Live, and Comics Unleashed. His album Comedy Road Trip debuted at #1 on iTunes and

Comedy Night Starring Tony Deyo & Keith Alberstadt with a Build-Your-

Own Taco Bar and Mighty Margaritas

Comedy Night!

FRIDAY, JAN. 23, 6:30 PM

Seated Dinner with a Build-Your-Own Taco Bar, Mighty Margaritas, Dessert, & Lotsa Laughs!

COMEDIANS
KEITH ALBERSTADT & TONY DEYO

Tickets
\$60

CHRISTCHURCHGREENWICH.ORG
254 East Putnam Ave., Greenwich, CT

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Tony Deyo – A master of sharp, clean comedy and impeccable timing, Tony has appeared on CONAN, The Late Show, Gotham Comedy Live, and Comics Unleashed. His album Comedy Road Trip debuted at #1 on iTunes and

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By MAREK ZABRISKIE

Elton Trueblood was a Quaker author and theologian, who served as the chaplain to both Harvard and Stanford universities. He wrote: "The greatest problems of our time are not technological, for these we handle fairly well. They are not even political or economic, because the difficulties in these areas, glaring as they may be, are largely derivative."

Trueblood said, "The greatest problems are moral and spiritual, and unless we can make some progress in these realms, we may not even survive. This is how advanced cultures have declined in the past."

Trueblood died in 1994, but his words sound like they could have been written yesterday. How do we equip people to address moral and spiritual problems and guide our society?

One of the most important ways is by establishing spiritual

practices. These are concrete ways that we can spiritually exercise each day in ways that enliven our soul, strengthen our conscience, call forth our spiritual gifts, and increase our faith, hope and love.

Richard Foster wrote the best book that I know on the topic of spiritual practices. It's called "The Celebration of Discipline," which has been enormously helpful to me and to countless others.

Foster writes, "Superficiality is the curse of our age. The doctrine of instant satisfaction is a primary spiritual problem. The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people."

In other words, there's a dearth of people with substance, an ability to reflect upon themselves and others, to contemplate with God questions such as, "What I am supposed to do? Who am I supposed to be?" and with a developed moral understanding.

The Quaker spiritual writer John Woolman adds, "It is good for thee to dwell deep, that thou mayest feel and understand the spirits of people." And the

psalmist writes, "Deep calls to deep..." (Ps. 42:7).

Thus, there is a spiritual center deep within each one of us that longs to connect with the deep divine being that we call God, who is the "deep of all depth." So, our depth connects with God's depth – "deep calls to deep."

Just as an athlete must train to reach his or her potential and play a sport well, so those who want to make spiritual progress must take on spiritual practices or disciplines. These help us to know God better and follow God more closely.

Inward spiritual practices include disciplines like meditation, prayer, fasting, and study. Outward spiritual practices include disciplines like simplicity, solitude, submission, and service. Corporate spiritual practices include disciplines like confession, worship, guidance, and celebration.

Until I read Foster's book, I never even thought of "celebration" as a spiritual practice, but indeed celebration is a significant way of strengthening our spirituality. The spiritual practices help

to form us as spiritual people. When we fail to exercise any spiritual practice, we can succumb to fear or swell with pride.

Lack of any spiritual discipline can help form a monstrous person like Vladimir Putin, who appears to have no spiritual practices and no reflective capacity, and we can see what results.

Our world is hungry for genuinely changed people. Leo Tolstoy observed, "Everybody thinks of changing humanity and nobody thinks of changing himself."

Spiritual practices are about doing the hard work of changing ourselves – of inner transformation to create a better person – a more godly and spiritually alive human being – so that we may be a better spouse, parent, grandparent, friend, neighbor, Christian,

member of society and citizen of the world.

To achieve this, we need time to commune with God – which we call prayer or meditation. We also need to create time and space for silence and solitude in our lives, where God can have our full attention and get a word in edgewise.

Regular worship can be a great spiritual practice and foundation, but if it is the only spiritual practice that we depend upon then we are likely to become spiritually stagnant over time.

Acts of service is a key spiritual practice like feeding the homeless, tutoring students, reading to the blind, volunteering at Neighbor to Neighbor, and helping the elderly.

Creating a simpler life for ourselves is a wonderful spiritual practice. We can live with far less and consume less

as well. Fasting can be part of this by learning to live with less, including less food.

Now, many Christians go to church every Sunday, but they are not changed. Many sing with gusto during worship and pledge to support the church and volunteer, but they are not changed. Many actually succumb to fear and anxieties and lack an inner peace.

Why? Because they have never taken up a spiritual practice such as daily Bible reading, meditation, prayer, reading spiritual devotionals, fasting, doing acts of service, creating silence and solitude so that God can reach out to us. Make 2026 the year that you take on a new spiritual practice.

The Rev. Marek Zabriskie is the Rector of Christ Church Greenwich and an avid reader of the Bible and Christian devotional works.

Spiritual Practices

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Worship Services

Assemblies of God

Harvest Time Church
1338 King St., 203-531-7778
www.hetchurch.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. **Creative Team Open Call: Sunday, January 18, 1:30pm. Ladies Gathering: Saturday, January 24, 9am.**

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. Youth Ministry meeting (grade 9-12): Saturday, January 17, 5:30pm.**

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.localive.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. Winter Women's Bible Study: Thursdays, through March 26, 10-11:30am. CONVOCO Vocal Ensemble presents 'A Mother's Grace': Sunday, January 18, 2:30pm, free (donations appreciated), music. director@stc-sta.org.

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. **Feast of the Epiphany: Sunday, January 11.**

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.

St. Timothy Chapel

1034 North St.; 203-869-5421

Mass: Saturday Vigil Mass, 4pm. Sunday Mass, 11am.

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 Guild Meeting: Wednesday, January 21, 1pm, in the Parish Center - All women of the Parish are invited, New members are always welcome.**

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.

Christian Science

First Church of Christ, Scientist
11 Park Pl; 203-869-1555

christianscience.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. **January 18: Life. January 25: Truth. February 1: Love. February 8: Spirit.**

Community

First Church of Round Hill

464 Round Hill Rd; 203-629-3876

www.firstchurchofroundhill.com

In-person worship: Sundays, 10am. **January 18: 10am worship service: MLK celebration and dedication of altar cloth in loving memory of the Rev. Avery Manchester.**

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.**

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. **Talk on the History of Old Greenwich – A Powerpoint talk by Pat Larrabee, church historian: Saturday, January 17, 3-4:30pm.**

North Greenwich Congregational

606 Riverside Rd; 203-869-7763

[@Instagram photos and videos @north_greenwich_church](http://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! **Vacation Bible School: Monday, January 19, 9-11:30am. Moms' Group: Thursday, January 29, 7pm. Teddy Bear Story Time at Coffee Good: Saturday, January 31, 8am.**

Episcopal

Anglican Church of the Advent
606 Riverside 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. **Wintersemester: A Sacred Journey: Tuesdays, Jan. 20 to Feb. 10, 7:30pm. Courage & Faith presents Jen Hatmaker: Wednesday, Jan. 21, 6:30pm. Comedy Night: Friday, Jan. 23, 6:30pm. Joyful Noise Casual Worship Service with Rob Mathes: Sunday, Jan. 25, 5pm.**

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church



Obituaries

Our hope is that generations from now, the words in these obituaries will be found as clippings in scrapbooks or online in ancestral research. These stories will continue to connect the future and the past in meaningful and beautiful ways. The Sentinel does not charge for obituaries. They may be submitted to Carroll@greenwicksentinel.com.



LOUIS CURCIO JR.

Louis Joseph Curcio Jr., 87, of Westport, CT, passed away peacefully at home on January 11, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family.

Born on June 10, 1938, in Greenwich, CT, Louis was the beloved son of the late Louis and Carmelina Curcio. He grew up in Cos Cob, later settled in Norwalk, where he raised his family, and spent his later years in Westport, a place he was proud to call home.

Louis was, above all, a devoted father and family man. He lived his life with quiet strength, kindness, and an unwavering work ethic. He proudly served in the Connecticut National Guard and spent many years as a truck driver, a job that suited his dependable nature and dedication to providing for those he loved.

Music was a lifelong passion for Louis. He found joy in playing the guitar and performing in a band, a constant source of happiness throughout his life. He also loved golfing with friends, volunteering as an usher at Assumption Church, and simply being with people. Louis had a gift for conversation; he loved to share stories, laugh, and connect, and he made everyone feel welcome. He never met a stranger.

Those who knew Louis will remember his warmth, generosity, and genuine love for others. His greatest pride and joy was his family, whom he cherished deeply.

Louis is survived by his son, Richard Curcio, and his wife, Madeleine, and his beloved granddaughter, Isabella, of Yonkers, NY; and his daughter, Gina Curcio, of Westport, CT. He is also survived by Nancy Curcio, the mother of his children, who remained an important and valued part of his life. He is further survived by his siblings Jacqueline Raffa, Rick Curcio, Marilyn Curcio White, and Sandra Curcio Rattray, along with many loving nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his beloved son, Louis Curcio, and his brother, Robert Curcio.

Family and friends are invited to call on Friday, January 16, 2026, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Collins Funeral Home, 92 East Ave., Norwalk, CT.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, January 17, at 11:00 a.m. at Assumption Church, 98 Riverside Ave., followed by interment at Assumption Cemetery on Greens Farms Road.

Louis will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered for his kindness, devotion, humor, and the way he made people feel simply by being himself.



FREDA MARGILOFF

Freida Lou Wood Margiloff, beloved mother, grandmother, and friend, passed away peacefully at home on January 11, 2026, surrounded by family. She was 93. Born in 1932 in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, to Everett and Muriel Wood, Freida's spirited nature was evident early-at age two she won Sears Roebuck's Baby of the Year. She graduated from Okmulgee High School, attended Grinnell College, and earned a degree in Interior Design from the University of Oklahoma in 1954, where she played golf.

joined Alpha Chi Omega, and once dated James "Bum" Garner.

Freida's talents extended far beyond design. She carried a toolbox in her trunk, could tile floors, fix mufflers, and cook gourmet meals. Professionally, she contributed to the design of thirteen Marriott hotels and later thrived at Baker Furniture, championing mid-century modern style. She loved golf, skiing, horseback riding, and was a fixture at the Greenwich Polo Club.

She raised three children in Armonk, NY, where their home brimmed with pets and laughter. Later, she dedicated herself to mission work in Tanzania, founding the Tengeru Chicken Project and earning the name "Mama Kuku."

She is survived by her children Richard, Anne (Keith), and Will (Colleen), and seven grandchildren. Freida's family celebrates her extraordinary life and invites friends to share memories of her indomitable spirit.

A service was held Wednesday, January 14 at Christ Church Greenwich, CT. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Autism Speaks in memory of Freida Lou Wood Margiloff.



ALICE CHIAPPETTA

Alice Chiappetta, passed away at Waveny Care Center after a long battle with Alzheimer's on January 10, 2026, at age 86. She was surrounded by her loving family.

Alice was born on October 31, 1939, to Jules and Alice Warga. She was predeceased by her beloved sister, Christine Chimblo. Alice volunteered her time for many years at Greenwich Hospital. A talented seamstress, she also loved gardening and is remembered as a fabulous cook. Above all, she was dedicated to her family and held them at the center of her life. Alice was the devoted wife of James Chiappetta for 66 years.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her cherished children, Elaine Chiappetta (Mark Williams), James Chiappetta Jr (Diane) and Kristine Vitola (Paul), and loving grandchildren, Nicole Cunningham (Patrick), James Chiappetta III, Lauren Vitola and Carly Vitola and many much loved nieces and nephews.

A wake was held Thursday, January 15, at Coxe & Graziano Funeral Home, Greenwich. Memorial Mass will be held Friday, January 16, at 10 a.m. at St. Catherine of Siena followed by inurnment at St. Mary's Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Riverhouse Adult Day Center or a charity of your choice.



ELLA SCHMIDEL

Ella Rose Schmidel, a lifelong resident of Greenwich, CT passed away on January 10, 2026, at the age of 95. She was cared for at home during a period of convalescence by her loving son Bill and passed away quietly at a local nursing home with her daughter Debbie by her side.

Ella was born in Stamford, CT on October 22, 1930, to Salvatore and Marie Altomaro. The family moved to Riverside, CT when she was three and Ella attended Greenwich public schools, graduating from Greenwich High School in 1949.

Ella met the love of her life William (Willie) at 18 when he was painting the home next door and she offered him a glass of lemonade. Ella and Willie were married in 1949 and bought a home in Riverside where they raised their three children, Debbie (Deborah), Bill (William), and Heidi.

Ella worked part-time at Bloomingdale's for 25 years, but her real passion was to keep a home for her family and to cook and entertain her friends and family at every holiday and birthday (or any other opportunity).

Ella was known for her cooking prowess, particularly her potato salad and pound cake, among other delectables; recipes that have been and will be cherished by future generations. She always kept the refrigerator well-stocked, and no one was ever permitted to be hungry at her home (to the delight of her future son-in-law).

Ella was also a lifelong Yankees fan, which brought her much happiness (and misery) throughout her life. When her husband passed away over 30 years ago, Ella continued caring for her family by helping to raise one of her grandchildren. She then worked at Old Greenwich School for many years as a lunchroom aide where she loved being with the children every day (and they with her) and found great happiness in helping them. Ella had a sharp wit and sense of humor, which she kept until her last days.

Ella is survived by her three children, son-in-law (Paul), grandchildren, Lindsay (Clare), Peter (Ruth), Amy, and Jill (Zach) and two great-grandchildren, who will all miss her very much.

There will be no calling hours, and burial services will be private.



IRIS CHERNOSKY

Iris Donna Chernosky, 75, of Hamden, passed away on January 7, 2026, after a short illness. She was born in Brooklyn, NY on April 1, 1950 to the late Isadore and Joyce Fertel Wexler. Iris grew up in Queens before moving to Greenwich with her husband of 53 years, Noel Chernosky. For the last 43 years, Hamden had been home and where they raised their daughter.

Iris was a free spirit who left college to travel Europe. She later earned a degree in interior design before starting her jewelry company, Out of the Ordinary. Iris loved to entertain and took pride in her cooking, often trying new and interesting recipes for her family. A true New Yorker living in Hamden, her style was something to envy and her adoring sociable nature put all those around her at ease.

Besides her adoring husband, Iris will be lovingly remembered by her daughter and son-in-law, Lauren and Bradley Johnson; her grandchildren and pride and joy, Emma and Dylan; and her sister, Lisa (David) Maass.

Friends are invited to visit with her family on Friday, January 16 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Beecher & Bennett Funeral Home, 2300 Whitney Ave., Hamden. A Memorial Service will continue in the funeral home at 12 noon. Burial will be private.

WILLIAM STUDWELL

William Richard Studwell, born on January 9, 1948, passed away peacefully on January 7, 2026, surrounded by family.

Born in Port Chester, NY, Bill was the beloved son of Veronica and Arthur Studwell. After graduating high school in June of 1966, he proudly served his country in the United States Army. Following his military service, he built a life defined by hard work, integrity, and devotion to those he loved.

Bill worked as an electrician with Local 501, where he was known for his skill, reliability, and strong work ethic. He later continued his commitment to public service as an Electrical Inspector / Building Official for the Town of Greenwich, a role he held for 30 years before his retirement, earning the respect of colleagues and residents alike.

Bill shared 58 loving years of marriage with his wife, Barbara, and together they built a family that was the center of his world. He was a proud father to his two sons, Brian and Scott (Kristen), and a devoted grandfather to his four grandchildren, Cole, Allie, Reese, and Vlad, who brought him immense joy and pride.

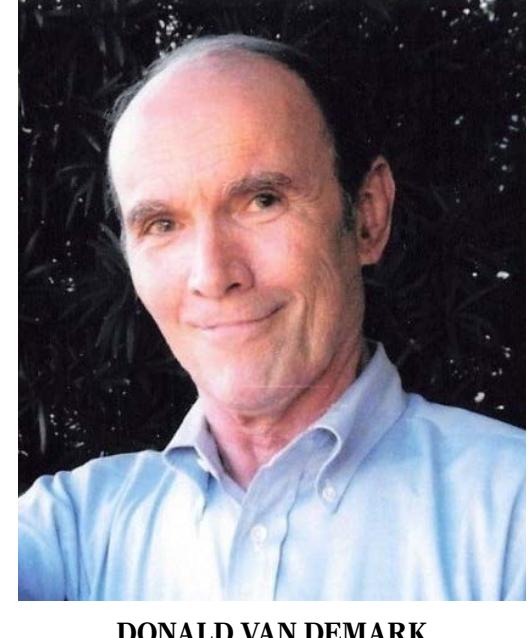
He was predeceased by his siblings, Arthur and Lucky, and will be remembered for his steady presence, his dedication to his work and country, and his deep love for his family. Bill's legacy lives on through the lives

he touched and the family he cherished so deeply.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Sung Lee, Dr. DelVecchio, and the compassionate staff of the Greenwich Hospital ICU and Intermediate Care Unit for their hard work, dedication, and gentle care during Bill's final days.

Calling hours will take place on Friday, January 16, from 4 PM to 8 PM at Leo P. Gallagher & Son Funeral Home. A Mass will be held on Saturday, January 17, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Catherine of Siena Church.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Wounded Warrior Project or a charity of your choice.



DONALD VAN DEMARK

Donald David Van Demark, 81, of Riverside, CT passed away on December 30, 2025.

He was born December 28, 1944 in Brooklyn, NY, son of Charles Joseph and Edna (Carren) Van Demark of Spotswood, NJ.

Don was the beloved husband of Barbara for almost 50 years, devoted stepfather of Matthew Dieter, cherished grandfather of Kaelie and Luke, all of St. Petersburg, FL, and loving brother of the late Charles T. Van Demark and family of Myrtle Beach, SC.

He graduated from Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School in 1962, where he served as yearbook editor and excelled in track. Don graduated from Manhattan College in 1965 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He earned his MBA from the University of Pittsburgh in 1967. Don was nearing completion of his PhD. in Business Law from CCNY when his employer, Caltex Petroleum, transferred him to Bangkok, Thailand in 1969.

Don spent over 35 years as an oil executive for a variety of firms including Caltex and Coastal Petroleum working in a variety of locations including Thailand, the Philippines, Dubai, Dallas, Taiwan, and Kuwait.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to the dedicated doctors, nurses and staff at Greenwich Hospital and the staff of Visiting Angels Home Care for their compassionate care and support during the 10 years of Don's illness.

He is reposing at Leo P. Gallagher & Son Funeral Home, 31 Arch Street, Greenwich, CT 06830. A viewing will be held there on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026 from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. A church service will be held immediately afterward at St. Catherine of Siena Church, located at 4 Riverside Avenue, Riverside, CT, at 10:30 a.m.

Don will be entombed at The Cemetery of the Holy Rood in Westbury, Long Island.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Don's name to the American Lung Association at https://action.lung.org/site/Donation2?df_id=31272&mfcc_pref=T&31272.donation=form1&array=new



CATHERINE MARTIN

Catherine (Cassi) Dean Martin was received by the Lord on December 29, 2025. She was born in Greenwich, CT October 27, 1944 to Edward Sylvester and Elizabeth Gemmill Dean.

She is survived by her loving husband Michael (Captain USN (Ret.)), her sister Laura Sorgenfrei, her two stepchildren,

please turn to Page II

The Radical Fund: How a Band of Visionaries and a Million Dollars Upended America

By KENNETH IRVINE

At its January 7th meeting the Greenwich Retired Men's Association heard a story of radical generosity and institutional upheaval, unfolded through the words of John Fabian Witt, a professor at Yale Law School. Introduced by host Bob Rimmer, Witt—a legal historian and Pulitzer Prize finalist—presented a narrative that felt strikingly modern despite being rooted a century in the past. His presentation, centered on his book "The Radical Fund," detailed how a single inheritance became the seed money for the American civil rights and labor movements.

The story began in 1922 with Charles Garland, a Harvard dropout and the grandson of a prominent investment banker associated with the early Citigroup empire. In an act that stunned the nation's socialites, the young idealist rejected a million-dollar inheritance, citing his readings of Tolstoy and the New Testament as reasons to despise accumulated wealth during a time of shocking inequality. Witt explained that the media of the time was obsessed with the photogenic young man on his Cape Cod farm who refused to be rich.

The rejected fortune might have vanished into legal limbo if not for Upton Sinclair, the famed muckraking author of "The Jungle." Sinclair reached out to Garland, convincing him that while rejecting the money was a great "stunt," it would be far more effective to accept it and give it to radical causes. To manage this, Sinclair enlisted Roger Baldwin, the founder of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Together, they established the American Fund for Public Service, more commonly known as the Garland Fund, to "free people's minds from the bonds of old institutions."

Witt emphasized that the fund's board was a "who's who" of 20th-century progressivism. It included James Weldon Johnson, the first Black executive secretary of the NAACP and a leading light of the Harlem Renaissance, who directed the fund's grants toward civil rights. There was also Sidney Hillman, the leader of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, who argued that labor unions needed to be as massive as the corporations they bargained with.

Through the 1920s, the fund acted as a quiet engine for major legal and social battles. It financed Clarence Darrow, the legendary defense attorney, in the Scopes Monkey Trial and the defense of Ossian Sweet, a Black doctor prosecuted for defending his home against a white mob in Detroit. It also provided the initial capital for a litigation campaign led by Charles Hamilton Houston and Thurgood Marshall, the future Supreme Court justice. This specific "tiny slice" of the fund's budget, as Witt described it on a pie chart, eventually flowered into the landmark Brown v.

Board of Education decision in 1954.

Beyond the courts, Witt noted that nearly half of the fund's outlays went toward "workers' education," primarily through the Brookwood Labor College in Katonah, New York. Led by pacifist A.J. Muste, Brookwood trained a new generation of organizers, including the future United Auto Workers president Walter Reuther, who would lead the massive strikes of the 1930s.

Witt's presentation suggested that the turmoil of the 1920s—marked by the "normalcy" of Warren G. Harding, rising nativism, and the propaganda of the Committee on Public Information—closely mirrors the democratic crises of today. He posited that the Garland Fund succeeded because it was willing to invest in visionary, outsider ideas long before they became mass movements. Witt concluded by reflecting on Baldwin's own ambivalence about using "tainted" capital to fix a broken democracy, a tension that remains central to modern American philanthropy.

The RMA's next presentation, "The Roberts Court's Remaking of Religious Freedom" by Nelson Tebbe, is scheduled for 11 AM on Wednesday, January 21, 2026. RMA presentations are held at Christ Church Greenwich, Parish Hall, 254 E. Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830.

Over the last few years, the Supreme Court has remade the law surrounding religious freedom, strengthening the right to free exercise and weakening the Establishment Clause. Nelson Tebbe, the Jane M.G. Foster Professor of Law at Cornell Law School, will describe the changes that the court has made since about 2020. He will focus on three cases that were decided this summer: concerning parents' right to absent their children from aspects of the public school curriculum that offend their religious values, concerning the ability of religious groups to form charter schools, and concerning the rights of religious employers to be exempt from paying unemployment taxes. In these cases, the Roberts Court has extended the pattern of ruling in favor of religious actors.

Professor Tebbe works on freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and general constitutional law. In the spring of 2025, he was the Kluge Chair in American Law and Governance at the Library of Congress. His articles have appeared in leading legal periodicals including Columbia Law Review, University of Chicago Law Review, and Harvard Law Review, and his books have been published by Harvard and Oxford University Presses. As a media commentator, he has published opinion pieces in media outlets such as The Atlantic, The New York Times, and the Washington Post. A graduate of Yale Law School and Brown University, Professor Tebbe also holds a Ph.D. with distinction in the anthropology and sociology of



John Fabian Witt described how Charles Garland's rejected 1922 inheritance was used to fuel some of the most successful American progressive movements of the 20th century.

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religion from the University of Chicago.

To stream the presentation by Nelson Tebbe at 11 AM on Wednesday, January 21, click on <https://bit.ly/30IBj21>. 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.

RMA speaker presentations are presented as a community service at no cost to in-person or Zoom

attendees, regardless of gender. Any member of the public who would like to receive a weekly email announcement of future speakers should send a request to members@greenwichrma.org. The RMA urges all eligible individuals to consider becoming a member of our great organization, and thereby enjoy all the available fellowship, volunteer, and community service opportunities which the RMA offers to its members. For further information, go to <https://greenwichrma.org/>, or contact info@greenwichrma.org.



GREENWICH SYMPHONY

Stuart Malina, Music Director

Saturday, January 24, 7:30 pm
Sunday, January 25, 3:00 pm

Miklós Rózsa
Theme, Variations & Finale

Victor Herbert
Cello Concerto No. 2

Ludwig van Beethoven
Symphony No. 5

Adults \$55 Students \$20

Performing Arts Center
Greenwich High School
Hillside Road, Greenwich, CT

greenwichsymphony.org



Julian Schwarz
Cello

sisters Amy Vogt and Sarah White and their families. She was preceded in death by her brother Edward Dean, Jr. Cassi also leaves behind five wonderful nieces; Carol Catalano, Laura Jean Persau, Diane Mulligan, Tiffani Williamson, and Michele Myers and their families.

Cassi graduated from Port Chester, NY High School in 1962, then attended Berkeley Secretarial School and started her professional life with IBM in 1963. Her assignments were in NYC, Armonk NY, Albuquerque NM, and San Diego CA. After 15 years with IBM, she joined General Dynamics for 9 1/2 years.

She met Michael while living in San Diego and he was assigned to Hawaii. They were married on April 18, 1987 in the Pearl Harbor Chapel. From there she lived in Hawaii, Newport, RI and Alexandria, VA. In 1993, Cassi started her own consulting firm supporting Capitol Hill customers for 15 years. She and Michael retired to Aiken, SC in 2005.

During her retirement years, Cassi was very active hosting her large community's Cedar Creek Ladies Club events and raising funds for local charities. She will be remembered for her energy, generosity, optimism and, most importantly her love for the Lord. She will be interred with Michael in the US Naval Academy Columbarium in Annapolis at a later date. A Memorial Service is also intended.



CHARLES GRAVES JR.

Mr. Charles Paulson Graves Jr. passed away peacefully on December 28, 2025, in Riverside, CT, at the age of 88. A lifelong resident of Greenwich and a beloved figure in his community, Chuck leaves behind a legacy of devotion to family, civic engagement, and joyful living.

Born on February 11, 1937, in Greenwich, CT, Chuck was raised in Old Greenwich—a true townie through and through. As a boy, he could be found down at Todd's Point with a bucket and shovel in hand, digging for clams and periwinkles to use as bait for fishing. These early days by the water sparked a lifelong love for Long Island Sound and the simple pleasures of nature.

Chuck attended Greenwich Public Schools before continuing his education at Mount Hermon School in Massachusetts. He was an avid athlete who enjoyed playing a few different sports, his favorite being football. He went on to attend Hamilton College, laying the foundation for a successful career that spanned four decades in the sales promotion field. Over the years, he worked with Westpoint Pepperell, Chase Packaging Company, and Union Camp Corporation. After retiring from corporate life, Chuck continued to serve his hometown by working as a parking ticket appeals officer for the Town of Greenwich and later as assistant to First Selectman Tom Ragland for three years. Prior to settling into Riverside life, Charlie served in the United States Army Corps. He was stationed in Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Chuck's commitment to public service extended far beyond his professional roles. For 25 years he was an active member of the Greenwich Representative Town Meeting (RTM), where he chaired the Parks and Recreation Committee for a decade. His leadership helped shape many aspects of community life in Greenwich. He was also a long-standing member of several local organizations including the Riverside Yacht Club, Griff Harris Men's Club (where he enjoyed many rounds of golf), the Horseneck Club, and the Harpoon Club.

A man who believed deeply in making a difference where one could—rather than worrying about what was out of one's control—Chuck lived by this philosophy every day. Whether it was through civic involvement or cultivating his legendary

tomato garden, he brought care and intention to everything he did.

Chuck adored his wife Mary Ann—his partner in life for 65 years since their marriage in 1960. Together they built a stable and loving home where they raised three children. His family includes eldest son Charles P. Graves III (Chad) and his wife Melissa (Howe), and their three children Sarah, Katie and Chris; second son Stephen Hilliard Graves and his wife Caroline (Franco) and their three children Madeline, Michael, and Charlie; daughter Cameron Healy Graves and her partner Gerald Kelly and two children Sydney and Max. His sister Lynn (Graves) Mitchell resides in Palo Alto, California.

He was predeceased by his parents Charles Paulson Graves and Geraldine H. Graves, as well as his sister Ann Clare Graves.

Chuck had an infectious sense of humor that lit up every room he entered. He was the master of the well-thought-out joke gift, and he always appreciated them in return. Though philosophical by nature, he always appreciated a good laugh.

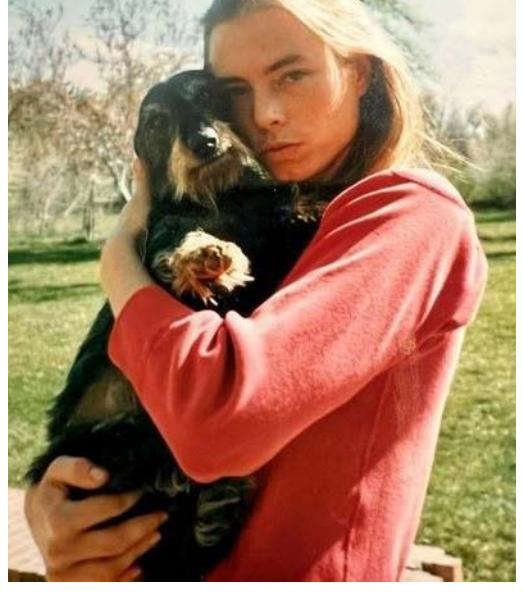
In addition to fishing trips on Long Island Sound and rounds of golf with friends old and new, Chuck cherished winters spent on Boca Grande Island in Florida with Mary Ann—a place that brought them both peace and sunshine during their later years.

His grounding presence will be deeply missed by all who knew him—from family members who relied on his wisdom to neighbors who admired his tomatoes or shared laughs over cocktails.

A memorial service celebrating Chuck's life will be held at St. Catherine of Sienna Church on Saturday, March 7, 10:00 a.m.

May his memory bring comfort to those who knew him—and may we all strive to live with such humor, heart, and purpose as Charlie did every day of his remarkable life.

In lieu of flowers, a donation in memory of Charles can be made to either The Children's Wish Foundation or your charity of choice.



CATHERINE KIRBY

Lover of animals

Catherine Jacobsen Kirby, 66 years old, died on Christmas at home with her husband Tim Bégué by her side, after a six month struggle with brain cancer. She was born November 28, 1959 in Salt Lake City, Utah to Ruth Jacobsen Kirby and Gordon William Ivins Kirby.

During her youth she competed in ski racing, horseback riding and swimming. The family moved to Boise, Idaho, Greenwich, Connecticut where she attended Whitby Montessori School. Following that they moved to Saint Jorioz, France. She worked on a horse farm in upstate New York where she was in charge of the care for a stable of dressage horses. Catherine attended the Culinary Institute of America and worked as a personal chef for the farm. She attended both Utah State University and the University of Utah. In Salt Lake City Catherine and Tim grew organic garlic which they sold at the downtown farmer's market. In 2011 she and Tim established a nonprofit organization called Noble Horse Sanctuary for mistreated and abused horses.

Catherine was proceeded in death by her parents. She is survived by her husband Tim Bégué, sisters Susan J. Kirby, Jane K. Wallace (Andy), numerous cousins, the herd of horses and the cats at Noble Horse Sanctuary.

The family would like to thank Tim and Catherine's wonderful neighbors. Immense gratitude to Kim Loyola, CNS Hospice, Mary, Danielle and Blanca and the volunteers at Noble Horse Sanctuary.

In lieu of flowers donations to www.noblehorsesanctuary.org are appreciated.



PETER GUSTAFSON

Peter F. Gustafson, aged 86, passed away on December 15, 2025, in Saddle River, NJ. Born on September 30, 1939, Peter was known for his intelligence, generosity, and good sense of humor. He loved to swim from a young age and was head lifeguard from 10th-12th grade at Island Beach in Greenwich, CT, where he grew up.

Peter graduated from Greenwich High School in 1957 and furthered his education at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the University of Chicago, Booth School of Business. His professional life was marked by significant achievements in database management software development. He began his career at Ford Motor Credit in Dearborn, MI, where he created a groundbreaking software program. He later sold the program to General Data Systems (GDS), and Peter continued to refine his software through subsequent corporate transitions to Electronic Data Systems and finally Hewlett Packard, where he retired in 2007.

Outside of his professional endeavors, Peter had a passion for roller coasters, the beach, and swimming, and, from a young age, was enthralled by Grayhound buses. He also had a passion for coding long before it became popular, which was evident in his hobby when he created an electronic Scrabble-like game that included the entire Scrabble dictionary.

Peter was a beloved family man, survived by his wife, Beverly Gustafson (nee Tolchinsky); sons, Ron Bickart (Judy), Jeff Bickart (Laurie), and Aaron Bickart (Heidi); sister, Karen Stewart (David); and grandchildren, Samantha, Skylar (Aaron), Reese, Katie, Aidan, and Jaxon Bickart. He was preceded in death by his parents, Clifford and Evelyn Gustafson (nee Moylan).

In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Peter can be made to the Alzheimer's Association of Philadelphia at 399 Market St. #250, Philadelphia, PA 19106, or by calling (800)-272-3900.

ALAN CURTIS

June 5, 1949 - December 9, 2025

Alan James Curtis, beloved husband, father, brother, and friend, passed away on December 9, 2025 after a full and creative life.

Alan was a poet, guitarist, and actor, and later was most proud of his work with Greenwich Adult and Continuing Education in Greenwich, Connecticut, where he taught and later served as the program's director from 1994 to 2016.

He spent his retirement years writing poetry, walking in Sandy Creek Nature Center with his sweet dog, Ella, and watching good Brit detective shows in the evenings with his wife, Lisa.

A native of Okehampton in Devon, England, he moved to London as a young man to pursue acting and music. He was the guitarist in a few bands, and most notably, his band, the Spartans, opened for the WHO. His music took him to venues in Germany where he played and enjoyed the company of talented musicians. Later, he went into writing and theatre, where he met his good friend, Phil Bretherton, fellow actor and roommate, and had a lifelong friendship. He worked for the BBC. He met an incredible Irishman and fellow poet, Vincent Byrne, who also was a friend for life. They both eventually moved to New York, where he met his wife and mother of his only child, Chris.

He spent his years as a father of young Chris, in Rye Brook, New York and worked as a teacher and adult education director with the Greenwich Board of Education.

Above all, family was everything to Alan. He loved his son, Chris and was so proud of him for pursuing his dreams. A few things that they bonded over were Roman history,

January 15, 2026 | Greenwich Sentinel | Page 11
humorous stories, and long walks and talks. And to his wife of six years, Lisa, he brought a gentle peace and a giving nature to their marriage. He was a caretaker and loved exploring new recipes and cooking for her, and most days had a beautiful dinner and a vase of flowers waiting for her at the end of her workday.

Alan loved life with Lisa, and her children, Matthew LoParco (Wallace), Max LoParco, and Sophia LoParco, enjoyed their visits and some great trips together to celebrate their graduations and achievements. He and stepson Max had a lovely shared passion for writing and humor.

Alan's absence will be felt deeply, but we'll carry our wonderful memories of him in the days ahead every time we eat a delicious meal, see a flower, walk in nature, hear good music and read a poem.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Maud Mary, his sister, Hilda, and brother, Tom. He is survived by his wife, Lisa; his son, Christopher Curtis; his stepsons Matthew LoParco (Wallace) and Max LoParco; his stepdaughter Sophia LoParco; and his brothers Derek and Tony and their families.

Alan will be cherished always and celebrated by his family together in a small memorial luncheon and gathering at his home on January 17, 2026.

A Note About Obituaries: Each week we print as many obituaries as we receive or know about. We believe devoting this space to obituaries is important and worth doing. We do not charge for obituaries. It is a free service that we offer for good reason.

Obituaries are more than announcements. They are tributes that celebrate and preserve the stories of those who have shaped our community. At the Greenwich Sentinel, we believe in the power of these narratives to honor the memory of loved ones, connect families with the community, and ensure legacies endure for future generations. As poet Thomas Campbell wrote, "To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die."

The history of obituaries in newspapers is as old as the medium itself. In ancient Rome, public notices of significant deaths were inscribed for citizens to read. By the 17th century, newspapers began dedicating space to the lives of the recently deceased, initially focusing on prominent figures. Over time, obituaries evolved into an art form, chronicling both the extraordinary and everyday contributions of individuals. These tributes became a cornerstone of journalism, offering glimpses into the lives of those who shaped their communities.

Some obituaries have achieved renown for their ability to distill a life into a few poignant lines. The New York Times obituary for Abraham Lincoln began, "Washington, Wednesday, April 19 – Abraham Lincoln, sixteenth President of the United States, a man whose life has been a light and inspiration to a free people, died at 7:22 a.m., April 15, 1865, succumbing to the wounds inflicted upon him by an assassin." More recently, the New York Times honored Maya Angelou with the opening, "Maya Angelou, the memoirist and poet whose landmark book 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings' was among the first to openly discuss the racism and personal trauma experienced by Black women, died on Wednesday."

We encourage readers and community members to share the stories and lives of their loved ones within our pages. Obituaries can include personal anecdotes, family photographs, and longer tributes that reflect the uniqueness of each individual.

Obituaries are, at their heart, about connection. They remind us, teach us, inform our past and future, give us perspective, and often offer grace. As a newspaper, we are honored to carry forward this tradition, ensuring that the lives of our community members are celebrated and remembered.

Our hope is that generations from now, the words in these obituaries will be found as clippings in scrapbooks or online in ancestral research. These stories will continue to connect the future and the past in meaningful and beautiful ways.

At the Sentinel, we are grateful to the contributors of the Sentinel Foundation, whose generosity ensures that we can publish obituaries without charging families. This commitment allows us to honor every member of our community, regardless of financial circumstances, and underscores the importance of accessible remembrance, particularly in print. While many publications have moved to paid obituaries, we remain dedicated to providing this service as a way to strengthen the bonds of community and to celebrate lives without burdening grieving families.

REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD

FEATURED OPEN HOUSES

ROB PULITANO 203-561-8092

Address	Area	Price	Day/Time	Broker
552 River Road	Cos Cob	\$2,750,000	Sun 1-3 PM	BHHS New England
3 Putnam Hill #4F	Greenwich	\$425,000	Sun 11-1 PM	Compass
1 Driftway	Greenwich	\$1,850,000	Sun 12-2 PM	Houlihan Lawrence
4 Miami Court	Cos Cob	\$1,879,000	Sun 1-4 PM	Houlihan Lawrence
9 River Road #411	Cos Cob	\$5,500	Sun 2-4 PM	William Raveis

NEW LISTINGS

TIMOTHY AGRO, GREENWICH STREETS TEAM, 203.461.5964

Address	List Price	Price/SqFt	SqFt	AC	BR	FB	Area
3 Putnam Hill 4F	\$425,000	\$425	1,000	0	1	1	South of Post
453 E Putnam Avenue 4H	\$849,500	\$580	1,464	0	2	2	Cos Cob
15 River Road 210	\$860,000	\$779	1,104	0	2	2	Cos Cob
4 Putnam Hill 4G	\$995,000	\$629	1,581	0	2	2	South of Post
3 Bolling Place	\$1,295,000	\$978	1,324	0.06	3	1	South Parkway
94 Porchuck Road	\$7,500,000	\$610	12,297	5.59	6	7	North Parkway
537 North Street	\$12,495,000	\$1,199	10,421	2.97	6	8	South Parkway

NEW SALES

TIMOTHY AGRO, GREENWICH STREETS TEAM, 203.461.5964

Address	Original List	List Price	Sold Price	DOM	BR	FB	Acres	SqFt
7 River Road Boat Slip	\$136,500	\$136,500	\$115,000	272	0	0	0	0
4 Putnam Hill 1D	\$385,000	\$385,000	\$382,500	86	1	1	10	866
65 Putnam Park 65	\$567,000	\$567,000	\$567,000	81	2	1	0	963
4 Putnam Hill 1C	\$679,000	\$679,000	\$729,000	14	2	2	0	1,300
141 Putnam Park 141	\$895,000	\$895,000	\$935,000	39	2	2	0	1,218
5 Midbrook Lane	\$2,407,000	\$2,407,000	\$2,407,000	0	4	2	0.33	2,074
6 Fox Hollow Lane	\$2,800,000	\$2,800,000	\$2,670,000	31	5	3	0.4	3,623
1 Sound View Terrace	\$3,295,000	\$3,295,000	\$2,825,000	60	5	3	0.17	3,424
145 Shore Road	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000	\$3,831,000	9	5	3	0.28	3,859
348 Sound Beach Ave	\$4,495,000	\$4,495,000	\$4,500,000	32	6	5	0.28	4,114
22 Carleton Street	\$4,795,000	\$4,688,000	\$4,487,500	75	5	6	0.41	5,005
8 Quintard Avenue	\$5,795,000	\$5,795,000	\$5,400,000	30	5	5	0.48	3,571
230 Taconic Road	\$9,150,000	\$7,395,000	\$6,890,000	1087	6	7	4.69	10,796
10 Copper Beech Road	\$11,750,000	\$11,750,000	\$11,375,000	50	7	7	1.82	9,992
99 Birch Lane	\$12,500,000	\$12,500,000	\$12,500,000	0	8	8	1.01	7,337

2025 Set Records In Every Neighborhood



BY MARK PRUNER

When you look at the total 2025 sales in Greenwich, it looks similar to 2024 with 519 versus 500 sales. However, when you look at the town by neighborhood, you see some big differences. In 2025, every neighborhood saw higher sales prices and lower inventory as demand exceeded inventory by a wide margin. Every neighborhood saw an increase in the average sales price in 2025. Some neighborhoods saw average prices jump by more than \$1 million. The Parkway school district (think back country and mid-country just below the Merritt Parkway) saw the average price increase by \$2.44 million.

(First, however, the standard disclaimer. I'm using the school district boundaries, because they are more useful than Greenwich's 12 voting districts or 11 GMLS districts. The main reason is that a third of all the sales reported on our MLS are in the South Parkway section. This section runs from the Merritt Parkway to the Post Road and from the Stamford border in the east to the New York state line in the west. The school districts divide this huge area into three school districts, Parkway, North Street and Glenville, which means better neighborhood analysis. When discussing these districts, I'm dropping the "school" since I'm only interested in the borders rather than the elementary school that gives each district its name.)

Most sales

The North Street district in central mid-country continues to be the district with the most sales. It had 98 sales this year, but this was down from last year's 105 sales. Parkway also saw 94 sales, which was up one sale from 2024. In other words, backcountry and mid-country led sales in both 2024 and 2025. People want land again and with the stock market setting record highs, they had the money to pay for it.

The district with the biggest increase in sales was the Cos Cob district. In 2024, Cos Cob had 31 sales. In 2025, Cos Cob saw an increase of 20 sales to 51 sales. We had more inventory come on this year in Cos Cob and more inventory means more sales in this hot market.

The reverse is also true. In the North Street district lower inventory led to lower sales. It's actually remarkable that it did as well as it did given the drop in inventory.

Demand was strong, while supply dropped resulting in the median sales price townwide going up almost 10%. Two years ago in 2024, the average sales price in the North Street district was up to \$4.21 million, an increase of \$594,336 over 2023's average sales price or 16.4% in one year. In 2025, the North Street school average sales price was \$4.89 million or a further increase of 16%. NB: These

average price increases are somewhat distorted by the big increase in sales over \$5 million.

Coming in second for sales was the aforementioned Parkway district. When you look at the Parkway district, you might say of course there would be a lot of sales there. the Parkway district is our largest district. It has over a third of our land mass. It is, however, our lowest density zone as houses sit on 4 acres and 2 acres.

One factor driving Parkway sales is that it has the highest number of listings with 17 houses on the market at year end. The next highest district is Julian Curtiss with 12 listings. After that every district is in single digits for inventory.

The Parkway district is arguably less pro-seller than other areas as it has our lowest sales price to original list price ratio. The average house in the Parkway district sells for only 94.8% of its original list price.

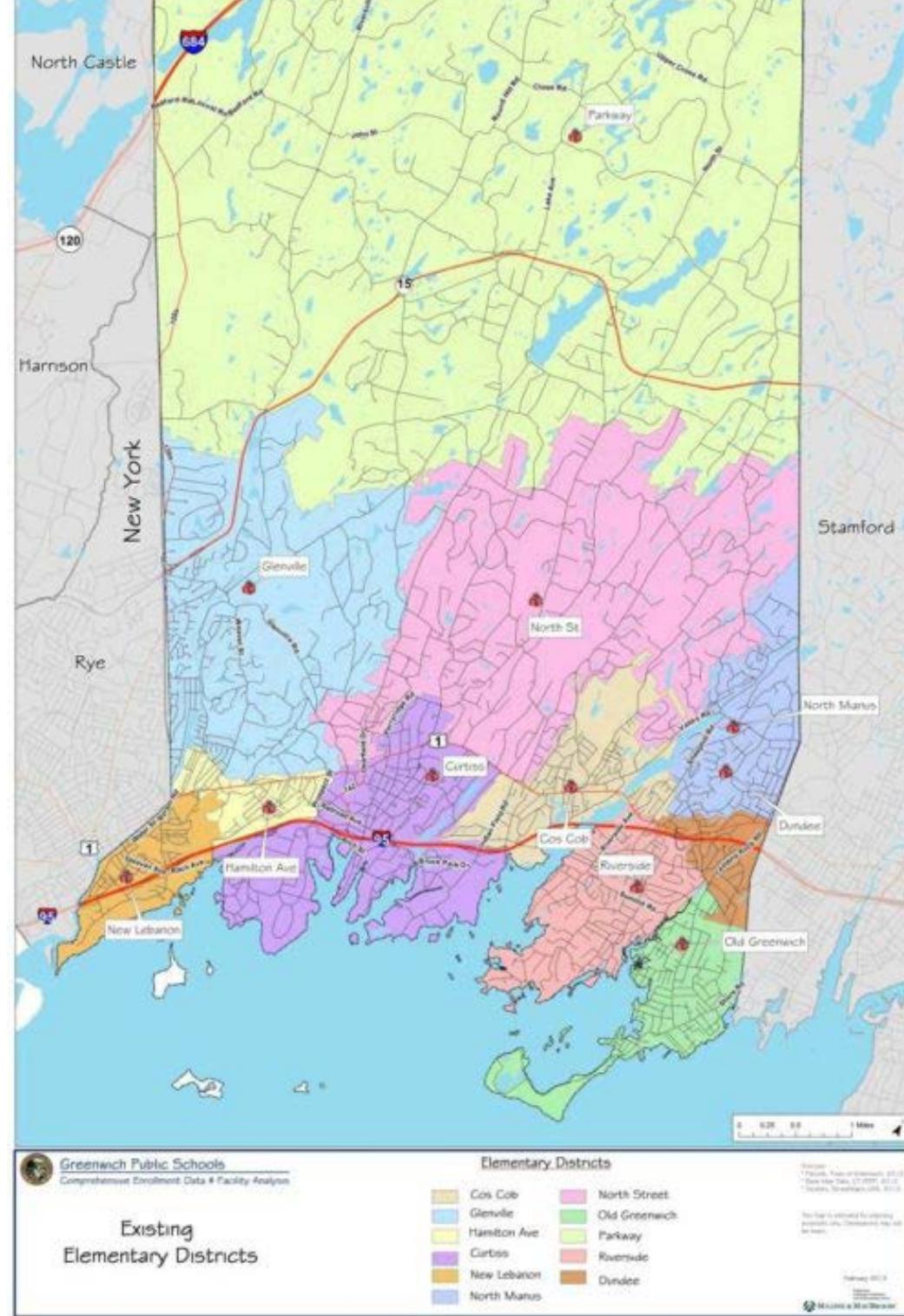
Highest Price/s.f.

You might think that the Parkway district with the highest average price for house would also have the highest price/s.f. Alternatively, Julian Curtiss might have the highest average price/sf with all those high-end waterfront houses. People love waterfront houses and are willing to pay a premium for them to the tune of \$1,149/s.f. However, it turns out that Old Greenwich again this year has the highest price/s.f. at \$1,227/s.f. In OG, you get a fair amount of waterfront, but you also get the village of Old Greenwich and two great parks in Greenwich Point and Binney Park.

It was a great place for Russ and me to grow up and it is arguably the hottest place on the east coast for successful young families. In Old Greenwich, the average sales price to original list price is 102%, but that is only the second highest in Greenwich.

The highest sales price to original list price percentage was in Cos Cob with 102.6% above original list price.

This is impressive and is a result of the biggest jump in sales of any district, but every district, but two had an OLP/SP of over 100%. Those two districts were the ones with the average sales price, Parkway and Julian Curtiss. It's not unusual for these high-end houses to list at an aspirational price at the request of their very successful



Our school districts best represent the neighborhoods in Greenwich

owners.

Most affordable houses

So where can you find the most affordable houses? The short answer is not anywhere in Greenwich.

Right now, we have no single-family homes listed for less than \$1 million. Last year we had 19 sales under \$1 million, but this was out of 519 sales or only 3.7% of our sales. All but 1 of those 19 sales were in the New Lebanon, Hamilton Avenue and Glenville districts. Our most affordable houses are in the southwest corner in the New

Lebanon and Hamilton districts, but in reality, it is only the New Lebanon district, where we find our most affordable houses.

It's great that we are seeing house prices rise for our long-term homeowners. Lots of people have lots of equity in their houses. Even people who only bought in the last 5 years have seen major appreciation.

In 2019, our median sales price was \$1.87 million; by 2025, the median price had risen to \$3.15 million. This is a 68.5% increase in 6 years. This won't

continue for many more years, but it makes for an interesting/challenging market with very little inventory.

Stay tuned our inventory is up 13% already this year from 54 listing on January 1 to 61 listing on January 14th. It's going to be an interesting year.

Mark Pruner, along with his brother, Russ Pruner, and Dena Zarra are the founders of the Greenwich Streets Team at Compass Real Estate. He can be reached at 203-817-2871 or mark.pruner@compass.com.

2025 vs 2024	Pro-Seller		CDOM	Max of Sold Price	Avg. of Sold Price	Avg. of Sold Price/SqFt	Avg. of SP/ASMT	Avg. of SP/OLP
	Solds	Sum of Sold Price						
ES District								
Cos Cob	20	\$ 43,211,651	(16)	\$ 1,680,000	\$ 220,846	\$ 45	0.04	1.35%
Dundee	1	\$ 5,929,528	(11)	\$ 405,000	\$ 300,675	\$ 133	0.39	1.87%
Glenville	1	\$ 9,907,131	(21)	\$ 2,201,000	\$ 122,229	\$ 84	0.10	1.35%
Hamilton Avenue	1	\$ 1,520,000	38	\$ 140,000	\$ 149,750	\$ 65	0.24	-6.35%
Julian Curtiss	-11	\$ (9,477,638)	3	\$ 8,500,000	\$ 1,237,879	\$ 127	0.18	-1.25%
New Lebanon	0	\$ 13,238,500	(5)	\$ 4,380,000	\$ 778,735	\$ 81	0.10	-1.12%
North Mianus	10	\$ 37,153,449	2	\$ 740,000	\$ 408,219	\$ 82	0.07	1.42%
North Street	-7	\$ 36,537,862	(6)	\$ 6,250,000	\$ 673,877	\$ 93	0.04	-0.37%
Old Greenwich	-1	\$ 24,326,703	4	\$ 11,350,000	\$ 624,820	\$ 186	0.37	-1.

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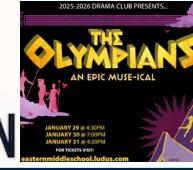
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Thursday, January 15, 2026

SENTINEL
FOUNDATIONEASTERN MIDDLE
SCHOOL DRAMA
CLUB PRESENTS "THE
OLYMPIANS", JANUARY
29-31.MARGARET
ESMÉ SIMON'S
ART WORKS
ON EXHIBIT
IN COS COBMARK SHAW:
INTIMACY, HISTORY,
AND THE CAMERA'S
QUIET WITNESS AT
TRIMPER GALLERYIN THE DEPTH OF
WINTER, COLOR
BLOOMS: TOBY SUE
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BENDHEIM GALLERY

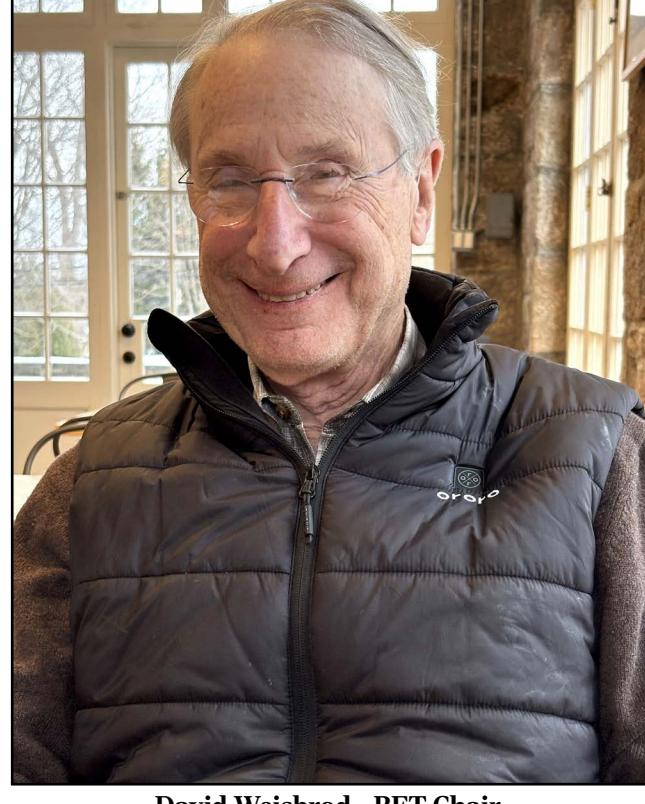
ARTS & THEATER SPOTLIGHT

in partnership with the Royce Family Fund, Inc. ...with focus on the Arts and community.

Part 2: The Powers of the Town Weigh in on the Historic Havemeyer Building: Hotel or Arts Center?



Fred Camillo - First Selectman



David Weisbrod - BET Chair



Michael Joseph Mercanti-Anthony - BOE Chair

BY ANNE W. SEMMES

*See Part 1 of this story from last week's Arts Section at GreenwichSentinel.com***Fred Camillo - First Selectman**

First Selectman Fred Camillo has a challenge on his desk. To relocate the hundred or so Board of Education (BOE) members from the historic Havemeyer Building on Greenwich Avenue. "It doesn't make sense to rehabilitate it and spend tens of millions to put the Board of Ed back in there when they only need 19,000 square feet for their offices and it's 53,000 square feet."

"And it's one of the most expensive pieces of property in town in the business district," told Camillo, "And it's falling apart and it's underused and it's a government entity." But a particular feature he is especially drawn to in the building. "I would love to see the auditorium rebuilt. They've butchered the old auditorium, which is a sin. So, whatever goes in there, I want to see a public access component to it."

With that BOE relocation Camillo is dealing with finding a new BOE location. And he has support coming from the new chair of BOE, Michael Joseph Mercanti-Anthony. "They all know the building is falling apart. They are a bit more open-minded."

And an idea has arisen from that RFP Committee that was formed to solicit competitive proposals – with seven at-present-not-accepted proposals. "I learned from Andy Duus [who headed the RFP Committee]," said Camillo, "that we could build an addition to the Town Hall and have the BOE behind in a building that has some parking. I think that's a fantastic idea. So, that's what I'm working on...We explored building on top of the Town Hall parking lot, but we don't know if it's structurally sound enough to take the load."

Addressing that 1980 transformation of the Town Hall from the Greenwich High School, he told, "They

had taken off the back building where there was a gym, which was crazy because it would have solved all our issues. So, we could build a freestanding building on the lower parking lot, which may work better and have a bridge going over to Town Hall, and it doesn't impede anybody's views. And it may be cheaper to do it that way." He has shared this proposal by various government entities with, "What do you think?" "Everybody loved the idea."

So, at present Camillo is looking towards a possible public/private partnership to realize a repurposing of the Havemeyer building along with providing a new and nearby BOE location. And what might that cost be? "We've heard anywhere from \$20 million to \$74 million." Yes, the Eagle/Peebles proposal includes a 70-room hotel redo, with rooftop restaurant, while the John Ferari/Chuck Royce proposal offered its performing arts black box theater, with 18 condos built atop the Havemeyer parking lot - both hotel rooms and condos not receiving public appeal.

"We have some ideas about who could donate here," told Camillo. "At the end of the day, I'm going back to Eagle/Peebles and say, 'The task force liked your idea the best. However, we would like to see you do A, B, and C.' And they may say, 'No deal.'"

Camillo noted that the arts councils want to be involved in the repurposing. "Maybe we could do something on the ground floor because the maintenance shed for the BOE doesn't have to be on the Avenue. That's ridiculous."

"So, if it's a public/private partnership, we're going to have to get lots of approvals," added Camillo, "The new chairman of the BET, David Weisbrod, a Democrat, supports the idea. The Board of Selectmen will be involved, and the Planning and Zoning... And if there's a gift involved the RTM has to accept it."

"We want to see a public-powered partnership with that auditorium and a good mix so the public can

"We want to see a public-powered partnership with that auditorium and a good mix so the public can access it... That little strip of Greenwich Avenue is going to come alive..." First Selectman Fred Camillo.



The Havemeyer Building on Greenwich Avenue. Photo by Anne W. Semmes.

access it... That little strip of Greenwich Avenue is going to come alive and at four o'clock it'll still be alive. We want things going on there. So, I think we can do it. We're farther along than we've ever been, and we still have a long way to go, but we're working on it."

David Weisbrod - BET Chair

David Weisbrod is a 40-years-plus resident of Greenwich, newly chairing the Board of Estimate and Taxation (BET), now in his fifth term, having earlier chaired the Town's Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals. Weisbrod also recently served on First Selectman Fred Camillo's RFP committee to consider ideas for the repurposing of the Havemeyer Building.

"We had a very large outpouring of people that came to the hearing of those proposals," shared Weisbrod. "There's a tremendous amount of interest." But seven proposals for the Havemeyer Building were turned down, including Chuck Royce's Performing Arts Center idea.

"We want to see a public-powered partnership with that auditorium and a good mix so the public can

Weisbrod cited the Havemeyer Building as "a prominent site in the heart of Greenwich Avenue, which naturally attracts the attention of all sorts of people in the community, and obviously because of where it's located, it's historical significance, the potential uses we can have there attracts a great deal of attention as it should."

"It's really up to Fred at this point," Weisbrod noted, "how he wants to adapt based on what he's heard from the community." And "Of course the BET gets called on to determine financial matters as it relates to whatever the proposal is. If the First Selectman proceeds with a project that needs appropriation, then we mobilize. Right now, there's been no request, so the matter is for the moment at least dormant until the next iteration unfolds."

"You have to find a solution for the Board of Ed," he continued, "Where will they go? And then there's the finances. If you do something that's commercial, it makes the financial part a little easier. If you do something

that's completely non-commercial, it puts a higher bar on how it's going to get funded. The Boys and Girls Club is a good example of where philanthropically minded people or the Bruce Museum have invested large amounts of money to wonderful purposes. And so, perhaps that same sort of thing can come to the fore for the Havemeyer. We'll see how it plays out."

So, is it a pipe dream to combine perhaps hotel rooms with a performing arts center? He responded, "This town has a lot of creative people, a lot of resources from people who have been supporting the arts and will continue to support the arts. So, I don't think we should look at any of this as a pipe dream. I think if the community has the will, we have a way to achieve wonderful things. These are all challenges that require leadership, and I think we have leadership with the First Selectman's initiative, and others that are showing an interest and harnessing that and getting it forward."

Michael Joseph Mercanti-Anthony - BOE Chair

Michael Joseph Mercanti-Anthony was elected chairman of the Board of Education last November. Having served on the BOE board since 2021, Mercanti-Anthony, a longtime educator, is well aware of the conditions of the BOE headquarters in the Havemeyer Building. He's unabashed about its condition – "It's a dump."

"There have been decades of deferred maintenance in the building," he continued, "as we've rightly prioritized other projects around town to the point now, unfortunately, where it's not a place that anybody on the staff side wants to work in... The superintendent is eager to relocate her entire staff somewhere else. Should the right opportunity present itself, they're ready to move... There are certainly better ventilation systems out there and better plumbing, heating and electrical... Everything is pretty shoddy."

Do his seven BOE board members agree with him?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

SUBMISSION LINK – EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE ARTS SECTION

Schools, theaters, individuals, everyone who loves art! To share upcoming exhibitions, performances, readings, or community arts events for coverage consideration,

please submit details (date, time, location, description, and contact information) through our Arts Section Submission Link:

<https://www.greenwicksentinel.com/artsand-theater-section/>

Margaret Esmé Simon's art works on exhibit in Cos Cob Library's New Community Space

BY ANNE W. SEMMES

Last Saturday the showing of art returned to the Cos Cob Library's new exhibit space.

The room was filled with light and art devotees including a number of Greenwich Pen Women members as the featured artist, Margaret Esmé Simon, is a Pen Women member. Her paintings on display were a mix of still life's and portraits exhibiting expertise gathered over 18 years of learning and practice.

But from the age of five Simon shared she began studying art in her New York City schools, graduating from Cornell University where she met her husband-to-be David Weisbrod, the new chair of Greenwich's BET. Simon would study architecture with a master's in architecture from Columbia University, then serve as an architect for years. But In 2008 she left her architecture career behind to work full time with her art.

During Covid she spoke of having Zoom classes from New York's Art Student League, with one resulting pastel painting present, "Portrait of Sheba." "Faces fascinate me," she told, "so I do focus on them. I hope to convey something of the person



Margaret Esmé Simon's Pewter Pitcher and Pears.
Photo by Anne W. Semmes.

in the image I paint."

Other works - still life's featuring silver pitchers and copper tea kettles had especial glows about them. She noted, "My art is primarily realistic with occasional abstract infusion. I love geometry; thus, squares and diamond shapes sometimes appear."



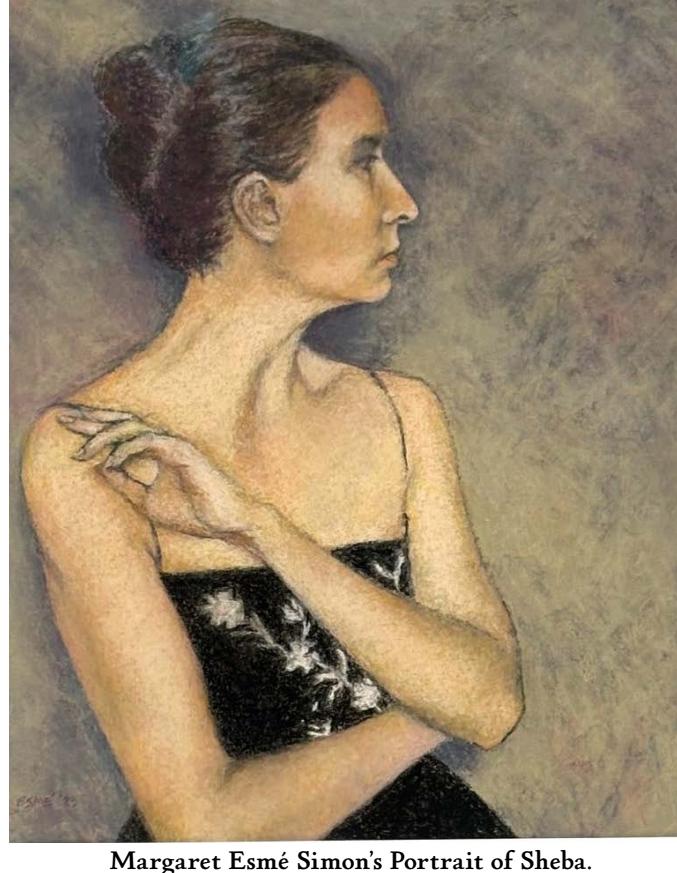
Margaret Esmé Simon's Binney Park Bridge. Photo by Anne W. Semmes.

"My art is primarily realistic with occasional abstract infusion."

She was happy with the Cos Cob Library's new frontal exhibit space. "The previous room was in the back of the building," she told, "and this new room is a beautiful space."

One of Simon's still life paintings featured a "Italian Canister on French Wine Boxes."

It brought to mind her shared recent travel to Florence with her husband. So, how had that Italian art resonated with her? "I would love to have been a fly on the wall during the Renaissance." And a takeaway she shared. "A key thing I learned in Italy was to slow down. To appreciate 'un bel quadro' (a beautiful painting), to spend at least five minutes looking at it. Enjoy it."



Margaret Esmé Simon's Portrait of Sheba.
Photo by Anne W. Semmes.



Margaret Esmé Simon stands by her painting of Italian Canister on French Wine Boxes. Photo by Anne W. Semmes.



Margaret Esmé Simon's Antique Copper Teapot.
Photo by Anne W. Semmes.

Greenwich Art Society Launches Flash Art Trip Series With Atlanta Excursion

The Greenwich Art Society has announced the first in its new series of "Flash Art Trips," a cultural travel program aimed at offering immersive experiences in prominent American art destinations. The inaugural trip is scheduled for the weekend of January 30, 2026, with Atlanta, Georgia as the featured city.

Organized in collaboration with Devon Vander Voort Art Advisory, the three-day event will introduce participants to Atlanta's vibrant and evolving art scene through a curated

itinerary of museum visits, private collections, artist studios, and cultural gatherings.

The art trip opens on Friday evening with a private welcome cocktail hosted by a leading figure in the Atlanta art community. Saturday's schedule includes guided visits to major museums, tours of collectors' homes, and stops at working artist studios. The day will also feature lunch at a well-known Atlanta restaurant. The weekend concludes on Sunday morning with a farewell coffee hosted

by a prominent member of the Atlanta museum world.

The Greenwich Art Society will be providing access to discounted hotel accommodations, with additional travel details expected to be released shortly. RSVP ticket reservations are currently available through the Society.

The initiative is spearheaded in partnership with Devon Vander Voort, a New York-based private art dealer, art advisor, and artist coach. Vander Voort works with private collectors to build, manage, and refine their art

portfolios, providing expert guidance on acquisitions and deaccessions with a focus on sustainability and long-term value. Her advisory practice spans international art fairs and maintains close ties to the museum sector.

Vander Voort holds a Master's in Museum Studies from Syracuse University and a Bachelor's in Art History from the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD). She sits on the boards of the Syracuse University Art Museum, the Museum Association of New York (MANY), the Greenwich Art

Society, and the Visual and Performing Arts Young Alumni Council at Syracuse University. She is also an active member of the New Art Dealers Alliance (NADA).

"Art is not static," said a spokesperson for the Society. "It moves, it lives in community—and these trips are designed to help our members experience that energy firsthand."

The Greenwich Art Society is located at 299 Greenwich Avenue, 3rd Floor, and may be reached at 203-629-1533 for additional information.

Editorial Note: An Argument for Boredom

Boredom deserves a better reputation than it has been given. We often prioritize speed, novelty, and constant engagement, yet boredom is often treated as a personal failing – a sign that something isn't working, that attention has slipped, that time is being wasted. We rush to correct it. We fill it. We swipe it away. But boredom, properly understood, is not a breakdown in attention. It is often the doorway to it.

For most of human history, boredom was not an emergency; it was an element of having time. Long stretches of waiting, repetition, and quiet were simply part of daily life. Out of those stretches came serious cultural habits: reading slowly, listening carefully, practicing patiently, watching something unfold without knowing exactly where it would lead. Art, music, literature, and theater all assumed that attention was something that deepened with time – not something that needed to be captured in the first ten seconds.

That assumption still holds, even if we've grown rusty at honoring it.

Boredom is not empty time. It is transitional time – the moment when the mind moves from surface-level stimulation into something more spacious. It's the pause before concentration settles, before curiosity reasserts itself, before meaning begins to form. Anyone who has sat through the early chapters of a challenging novel, the first rehearsal of a complex play, or the opening minutes of a long piece of music knows this feeling well. At first, there is restlessness. Then, if one stays, something shifts.

Neuroscience now gives language to what artists and thinkers have always sensed. According to research summarized by Neuroscience News, boredom plays an important regulatory role in the brain. When external stimulation drops, the brain transitions away from task-focused activity and engages the default mode network – a system associated with reflection, memory integration, and creative thought. This is not mental shutdown. It is mental recalibration.

Researchers often describe boredom with a surprisingly generous metaphor: boredom is to the brain what sleep is to the

This is a hopeful idea. It means that we are not at the mercy of shortened attention spans or accelerating culture.

body. Just as sleep restores physical systems and consolidates learning, boredom allows the brain to reset its attentional balance. It reduces the strain of constant input and makes room for internal processing. In a world of perpetual alerts and endless content, that reset is not a luxury – it is essential.

This may help explain why boredom so often precedes creativity. Studies cited by ScienceAlert have found that people who experience mild boredom before engaging in creative tasks frequently perform better than those who remain continuously stimulated. When novelty is removed, the brain begins to generate its own. Imagination doesn't always arrive with fireworks; sometimes it arrives quietly, once the noise subsides.

Cultural life has always depended on this patience. Serious art asks us to stay. To sit through moments that do not immediately reward us. To trust that attention, once given time, will find its footing. This is true whether we are watching a rehearsal slowly take shape, walking through a gallery without rushing, or allowing students the full experience of a complete play rather than a condensed excerpt. Depth cannot be rushed, and boredom is often part of the entry fee.

Seen this way, boredom is not a problem to be solved but a skill to be cultivated. It teaches endurance. It trains us to remain present without constant payoff. It reminds us that attention is not passive – it is something we bring, something we practice,

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

something that strengthens with use.

This is a hopeful idea. It means that we are not at the mercy of shortened attention spans or accelerating culture. We can choose to stay longer. We can choose to listen more carefully. We can choose not to abandon an experience simply because it hasn't yet revealed itself. In doing so, we honor a long tradition of cultural seriousness – one that values patience, curiosity, and trust.

So the next time boredom arrives, resist the instinct to flee. Stay with it. Let it do its work. According to neuroscience, according to centuries of cultural practice, and according to anyone who has ever waited long enough for a piece of art to reveal itself, boredom is not the enemy of engagement. It is often its beginning.

HAVEYMEYER ARTS CENTER From Page 1

"As chair, I can tell you the board does not have an official position and there is a variety of opinions among the eight board members." And with four of those as newly elected members, Mercanti-Anthony is "not sure if they are fully up to speed on the situation."

"There is a diversity of opinion on the board, including probably a few board members that do not want to give up Havemeyer and would want us to stay there.

Other board members, including myself see the cost of maintaining that building as a non-starter."

Mercanti-Anthony is wishing to move the BOE staff elsewhere "in a modern building so that that piece of land, where Havemeyer is, can be reimagined as a community center, as a center point for the whole community. It's such a misuse of space as it currently is."

Had Mercanti-Anthony heard of a possible plan for a building to be built for BOE behind Town Hall? Yes, he had but, "I don't want to speak for them," he said of his board. He's aware of one member's concern "about the

school district giving away that Havemeyer asset." Further concerns include, "There's been talk of us paying rent someplace, and that in any deal we get 10 years of rent... You don't want the school administration some place temporarily where after a given amount of time, they're on the hook for rent and that hits the school budget. There'd be a lot of concern from all of us on the board about a situation that's less than permanent."

He spoke again of his wish that the Havemeyer be reimagined as a community center. He told of having a Greenwich friend, opera star and entrepreneur Marcelo Guzzo

of Greenwich Opera who'd submitted a letter of recommendation to Camillo's RFP committee, having spoken to committee members expressing support "for a thoughtful outcome that serves the town long term." "It certainly gives an example of the kind of people that would be looking for this space to have concerts."

"There's just so many organizations of music and dance," he said. "Think of the Ridgefield Playhouse - that was once an education building. They have things all year round. Paul Newman helped subsidize that back in the day."

ARTS & THEATER CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JAN. 16

12, 1:30 & 3 p.m.

Behind the Scenes Archival Collections: Historic Photographs – Docent-led Tour. Greenwich Historical Society. greenwichhistory.org/book-a-tour

7 p.m.

Friends Friday Films: "Eleanor The Great." Berkley Theater at Greenwich Library.

cgbibs@greenwichlibrary.org.

SATURDAY, JAN. 17

11 a.m.

Connecticut State Chess Association: Connecticut Girls Championship. Greenwich Academy, 200 North Maple Ave. events4chess.com/events/?event_ID=2489&cat=1

1 p.m.

Science Solvers: Imagination Playground (Ages 4 & up). Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. Free with admission. No reservations required. Also held Sunday, Jan. 18. brucemuseum.org

2 p.m.

The Holley House and Beyond: Cos Cob's Artistic Community. Greenwich Historical Society. Register. greenwichhistory.org/ghs-events

2 p.m.

Flinn Gallery Artist Talk: Performative Stories. Flinn Gallery – Greenwich Library, 2nd floor. 203-622-7947. flinngallery.org

2 p.m.

Jerry's Movie: "A Letter to Three Wives." Byram Shubert Library Community Room.

203-531-0426.

3 p.m.

History of Old Greenwich. First Congregational Church of Greenwich – Meetinghouse, 108 Sound Beach Avenue. 203-637-4023.

patlarrabee@hotmail.com

SUNDAY, JAN. 18

2 p.m.

Americana: A Patchwork of Musical Diversity. St Paul's Episcopal Church, 200 Riverside Ave. Free Admission. 203-637-2447. stpaulsriver-side.org

2 p.m.

Cinema at the Bruce and the Avon Theatre Present: Loving Vincent. Bruce Museum. Non-Member, \$10; Member, Free. brucemuseum.org

2:30 p.m.

CONVOCO Vocal Ensemble presents 'A Mother's Grace'. St. Catherine of Siena Church, 4 Riverside Ave. Free, donations appreciated. music.director@stc-sta.org

MONDAY, JAN. 19

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

MLK Day: Community Heroes. Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. All ages. brucemuseum.org

1 - 3 p.m.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Community Building Activity. YMCA of Greenwich. Free, all are welcome. RSVP. greenwichymca.org/events

TUESDAY, JAN. 20

10 & 11 a.m.

Bruce Beginnings: Snowflakes and Ice (Ages 2

1/2-5). Bruce Museum. Free with admission. No reservations required. Also held Wednesday, Jan. 21. brucemuseum.org

10 a.m.

Spanish Storytime. Cos Cob Library Community Room.

11 a.m.

Petite Concert. Greenwich Library – Marx Family Black Box Theater.

11 a.m.

Storytime with Patty (Birth - Pre-K). Byram Shubert Library Community Room.

4 p.m.

Debate Club (Ages 9-13). Perrot Memorial Library, 90 Sound Beach Ave. Free. Register. perrotlibrary.org

5 p.m.

Byram Shubert Library with Alliance Française of Greenwich: International Book Club (Zoom): Mona's Eyes by Thomas Schlesier.

6 p.m.

Bruce Socials: Trivia. Bruce Museum. \$10, includes pizza & a drink. brucemuseum.org

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21

10 a.m.

Bruce Beginnings Junior: A Little Snow (ages: 12 Months-30 Months). Bruce Museum.

Free with admission. First come, first served. brucemuseum.org

11 a.m.

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich: Nelson Tebbe "The Roberts Court's Remaking of Religious Freedom." Christ Church Greenwich, 254 East Putnam Ave. & on Zoom. Free & open to all. greenwichrma.org

3 p.m.

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

5 p.m.

Bookworms Book Club (Grades 2-3). Greenwich Library – Children's Constellation Room.

5 p.m.

Alliance Française of Greenwich: French Cinémathèque - lively discussions on French films. Via Zoom. afgreenwich.org

6:30 p.m.

Book and Reception: "Awake" by Jen Hatmaker. Christ Church Greenwich, 254 East Putnam Ave. \$50-\$75. eventbrite.com/e/1977721515291

7 - 9 p.m.

Astronomical Society of Greenwich: Bowman Observatory Public Nights. Bowman Observatory, on the grounds of the Julian Curtiss School. Free. GreenwichStars@gmail.com. astrogreenwich.org

THURSDAY, JAN. 22

10 a.m.

Japanese Storytime. Cos Cob Library Community Room.

10 a.m.

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

7 p.m.

Ashforth Family Concert: "A Night in Moscow: Music of Tchaikovsky and other Russian

Composers" with Darwin and Friends. Byram Shubert Library Community Room.

7 p.m.

"Third Spaces: Building Belonging Beyond Home and Work" – Annual Coretta Scott & Martin Luther King, Jr Conversation. YWCA Greenwich, 259 East Putnam Ave. Free & open to the public. 203-869-6501. ywcagreenwich.org

7 - 8:30 p.m.

Paint N Sip (TEA) with Greenwich Connects (Young Adults – 16-25). YMCA of Greenwich. Register. greenwichymca.org/events

FRIDAY, JAN. 23

12, 1:30 & 3 p.m.

Behind the Scenes Archival Collections: Historic Photographs – Docent-led Tour. Greenwich Historical Society. greenwichhistory.org/book-a-tour

1 p.m.

Greenwich Art Society: Creative Arts for 6-8 Year Olds (6 Fridays). In Studio, 299 Greenwich Ave. Register. greenwichartsociety.org

3:15 p.m.

Greenwich Art Society: Creative Arts for 9-12 Year Olds (6 Fridays). In Studio, 299 Greenwich Ave. Register. greenwichartsociety.org

3:45 p.m.

Greenwich Historical Society: Family Floral Fun Series: Winter Forest Hike & Sustainable Art Experience with the Greenwich Botanical Center. GBC, 130 Bible St. greenwichhistory.org/ghs-events

4 p.m.

Creative Ventures: Wax Seal Magnets and Stickers (Ages 7-13). Perrot Memorial Library, 90 Sound Beach Ave. Free. Register. perrotlibrary.org

5 p.m.

Night at the Museum: The Big Backyard. Bruce Museum. Come dressed in your pajamas. brucemuseum.org

6:30 p.m.

Comedy Night with Keith Alberstadt and Tony Deyo. Christ Church Greenwich. \$60. 203-869-6600. eventbrite.com/e/1977680638026

7 p.m.

Friends Friday Films: "Folktales." Greenwich Library – Berkley Theater. cgbibs@greenwichlibrary.org

SATURDAY, JAN. 24



Jackie Kennedy with Child, Hyannis Port; Pigment print on Hahnemühle photo rag paper; Photographed 1959

Mark Shaw: Intimacy, History, and the Camera's Quiet Witness Now at Trimper Gallery

BY EMMA BARHYDT

Mark Shaw did not set out to make history look intimate. That distinction came later, assigned by time, circumstance, and a body of work that now feels almost uncannily close to its subjects. Born Mark Schlossman in the early 1920s—most records list June 25, 1921, though some say 1922—Shaw came of age as photography itself was learning to loosen its posture. By the time of his death in 1969, at just 47, he had quietly reshaped how Americans came to see power, elegance, and celebrity—not as distant symbols, but as lived experiences.

Shaw's career unfolded alongside the postwar transformation of media. In the late 1940s and 1950s, he rose through the world of fashion and editorial photography, working with major publications, most notably LIFE magazine. This was an era when magazines still believed in the authority of the image—when a photograph could introduce a mood, define a decade, or shape a collective memory. Shaw fit naturally into that tradition, but with a twist. His

photographs didn't feel arranged; they felt inhabited. Clothes were worn, not displayed. Rooms were occupied, not staged. His subjects seemed caught mid-thought, mid-motion, mid-life.

That sensibility made him a natural fit for LIFE, where he became a mainstay from 1952 to 1968, contributing more than 100 stories and reportedly shooting 27 covers. Yet the numbers don't explain why his work endures. Shaw had a particular gift for presence without intrusion. He knew how to stay long enough for the real moment to surface—and then to recognize it when it did.

Nowhere is that more evident than in the photographs for which he is best known: his images of John F. Kennedy and Jacqueline Kennedy. Beginning in 1959, LIFE tapped Shaw to photograph Jacqueline Kennedy during her husband's presidential campaign. What followed was something rare even by the standards of mid-century access journalism. Shaw became the Kennedys' trusted, semi-official photographer, with extraordinary freedom to document their lives at the

White House and in Hyannis Port.

The resulting photographs collapse the distance between public and private without erasing either. A president reads the paper. Children play on the floor. Jacqueline Kennedy sits, thoughtful and composed, but never frozen into iconography. These images helped construct the visual memory of "Camelot," but they also complicate it. They show not just myth, but domestic rhythm—the texture of a family living under historical pressure.

After Kennedy's assassination, Shaw published *The John F. Kennedys: A Family Album* in 1964, a book that became a bestseller and remains one of the most influential photographic records of American political life. It is often described as tender, but that tenderness is earned. Shaw's intimacy was not sentimental. It was observational, grounded in trust and time.

At the same moment he was documenting American power, Shaw was also chronicling European elegance. His Paris couture photographs, particularly from 1952 to

1962, have experienced a significant revival in recent years, most notably through the volume *Dior Glamour: 1952–1962*. These images are striking not because they present fashion as spectacle, but because they capture it as process. Models wait. Designers adjust hems. Fabric moves. Shaw was among the earlier photographers to embrace confident color in couture coverage, at a time when black-and-white still dominated the field. The result is a sense of motion and atmosphere that feels surprisingly modern.

His celebrity portraits—Audrey Hepburn around the filming of *Sabrina*, Coco Chanel during her later-life return to the fashion world—share the same quality. Shaw's camera does not idolize so much as accompany. Hepburn appears relaxed, luminous, but never distant. Chanel is formidable, yes, but also human, caught between gesture and thought.

In the mid-1960s, Shaw began expanding into film and advertising, consulting on and directing television commercials. It was a natural

extension of a career built on visual storytelling, though one cut short by his early death. For years afterward, much of his archive remained boxed away, its full scope largely unseen.

That changed through the efforts of the Mark Shaw Photographic Archive, founded by his son David Shaw and Juliet Cuming. Like many 20th-century photography estates, Shaw's work has enjoyed a second life—carefully preserved, recontextualized, and reintroduced to contemporary audiences.

Mark Shaw's work is currently on view and available for purchase at the Trimper Gallery in Greenwich, offering the rare opportunity to encounter these photographs not as reproductions or historical footnotes, but as physical objects—prints meant to be lived with. In bringing Shaw's images into the present tense, the gallery places Greenwich viewers in direct conversation with one of the most quietly influential photographers of the 20th century, and invites the community to take part in the ongoing life of his work.



Grace Kelly, Head Resting in Hands; Pigment print on Hahnemühle photo rag paper 1954



Vanity Fair Butterfly Robe, Arm Out; Pigment print on Hahnemühle photo rag paper 1955

Eastern Middle School Drama Club Presents "The Olympians" January 29-31.



The Eastern Middle School 2025-2026 Drama Club will perform *The Olympians* in the school's Lee Book Auditorium on January 29th (at 4:30 pm), 30th (at 7:00 pm), and 31st (at 4:30 pm). Thursday's tickets are \$10, and Friday and Saturday's tickets are \$20. Assigned seat tickets can be purchased online at easternmiddleschool.ludus.com.

The Olympians is a fast-paced, heartfelt jukebox comedy

The Olympians is produced by Eastern Middle School (EMS) teachers Jennifer Badillo and Julia Fama, is directed by Fama, and features choreography by Scott Sisbarro of St. Saviour's School of Dance. All students in grades 6 through 8 were invited to participate, and approximately 90 responded to form the cast and crew.

The Olympians is a fast-paced, heartfelt jukebox comedy that brings Greek mythology to life with a pop soundtrack and a modern sense of humor!

The story follows Sophia, a curious and determined mortal who finds herself pulled into an epic mythological quest alongside Zoe, Lexi, and Xander. With the help (and occasional interference) of gods and goddesses like Artemis, Athena, Aphrodite, Apollo, and even Zeus himself, the group navigates wild trials, cryptic riddles, and plenty of glitter as they search for what it truly means to be a hero. Set to hit songs like "You Make My Dreams Come True," "One Way or Another," "Walking On Sunshine," and "The Climb," the show is packed with humor, heart, and big ensemble moments.

Producer and director (and 7th-grade English teacher) Julia Fama says, "The Olympians reimagines classic Greek legends with humor and pop music. We're thrilled for you to see our students perform as these characters."

Producer (and 7th-grade social studies teacher) Jennifer Badillo says, "This production really showcases our students' talents, all set to songs we know and love. Rehearsing this show with them has been such a joy. We're so excited to share this brand-new musical with our community."

OLYMPIANS CAST:
APHRODITE: Blair Harriss
APOLLO: Roberto Monterosso
ARTEMIS: Keeva Watson
ATHENA: Ansophi Otto
KING OF SPARTA: Tate Farnum
LEXI: Camille Lunt
ORPHEUS: Blake Siler
SOPHIA: Mabel Shin
THALIA: Sadie Reynolds
XANDER: William Kampf
ZOE: Zoey Hunter
DANCE CAPTAIN: Cora Ramakrishnan
DREAMERS: Avery Huang-Lopez, Maya Stubbs, Lila Donnelly, Ayana Behl, Jeanette Berlin, Josie Fierro-Wolf, Sofia Flugel, Maddy Gaulin, Emma Hill, Nina Hirsch, Lauren Huang, Kate Levine, Peggy Potter, Harper Rao, Michelle Sheng,

Abbie Stubbs, Rhea Vuppala
MORTALS: Elise Panchal, Ryker Austin, Veera Singh, Alia Hoffman, Aanya Amaresh, Laxmi Anthony, Isabella Castillo, Oliver Correa, Sawyer Hutchinson, Mackenzie Kitzelman, Veronica Leonova, Izzy Medeiros, Sienna Mucci, Ryan Narciso, Catherine O'Donnell, Zoe Puma, Milli Richards, Matthew Stedman, Lyra Tsatsonis
WARRIORS: Tyler Imbrogno, Ava Merenski, Nolan Diana, Willow Wies, Doina Harris, Colin Chin, Dylan Chin, Ella Ellams, Virginia Fix, Eshaan Gadi, Amiya Garcia, Oliver Hunter, Paulina Kasprzak, Ellie Klocinski, Maddie Klocinski, Kellan O'Connor, Saylor Palmer, Maria Rodrigues, Rania Tiwana, Sofia Yelyashkevich

OLYMPIANS PRODUCTION STAFF:
PRODUCERS: Jennifer Badillo, Julia Fama
DIRECTOR: Julia Fama
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: Jennifer Badillo
CHOREOGRAPHER: Scott Sisbarro
STAGE MANAGER: Jennifer Badillo
STUDENT STAGE MANAGERS: Caroline Mancz, Nolan Shah
COSTUME COORDINATOR: Jennie Miklautsch
PROP MASTERS: Jennifer Badillo, Julia Fama, Scott Sisbarro
SET COORDINATOR: Kevin Gillespie
SOUND DESIGN & TECHNICIAN: Shah, Ethan Shatz, Miles Shore

Jim Durkin, InPhase Audio
PLAYBILL: Jennifer Badillo
LIGHTING DESIGN: Jennifer Badillo
SPOTLIGHT COORDINATOR: Joanna Savino
TICKET SALES MANAGER: Lori Lattarulo
HOUSE MANAGERS: Jillian Harriman, Theo Gittens
REHEARSAL ASSISTANT: Kristin Schmid
POSTER DESIGN: Jennifer Badillo
PUBLICITY: Ann Stedman
LOBBY DÉCOR: Theo Gittens
STUDENT CREW: Alice Ahn, Alexander Bergner, Gary Bisbee, Elena Bonilla, Rayla Jiang, Sawyer Lew, Ian Marten, Kate Murai, Wallace Potter, Tim Savino, Nolan Shah, Ethan Shatz, Miles Shore

THE OLYMPIANS
When: Jan. 29 (at 4:30pm), Jan 30 (at 7:00pm), and Jan 31 (at 4:30pm)
Where: Eastern Middle School
51 Hendrie Avenue, Riverside, CT
FIND TICKETS
Price: \$10 or \$20
Producers: Jennifer Badillo and Julia Fama
Rating: G
Run time: Approximately 2 hours 10 minutes, including one 15-minute intermission
Lobby opens 45 minutes before show time and features a concession stand.

In the Quiet of Winter Woods, Families Find Art, Attention, and Belonging

On a January afternoon, when the woods fall into their most contemplative mood, the Greenwich Botanical Center invites families to step into winter rather than wait it out. Family Floral Fun Series: Part 2 – Winter Hike & Sustainable Art Experience, presented in partnership with the Greenwich Historical Society, takes place Friday, January 23, from 3:45 to 5:15 p.m. in Cos Cob, offering a seasonal pause that feels grounded, and quietly restorative.

The program begins outdoors, where children and their adults will explore the forest paths surrounding the Botanical Center. Winter, often mistaken for emptiness, reveals itself here as a season of adaptation. Participants will learn to spot the small but telling signs of how animals endure the cold months—tracks pressed into frozen soil, seed pods left behind, feathers caught in branches. It's an education rooted in observation rather than instruction, shaped by walking and noticing together.

Along the way, families will gently gather fallen natural

materials—acorns, leaves, pods—that will later serve a second purpose. Back inside, these elements become the building blocks for nature mandalas: simple, temporary compositions that emphasize balance, pattern, and care. The process is unhurried and intentionally fleeting. Finished pieces are photographed, then dismantled, with all materials returned to the forest where they belong.

There's a quiet thoughtfulness to the structure of the afternoon. Children are encouraged to create without owning, to make something meaningful without making it permanent. In a world that often rushes young people toward results, this kind of experience values process, attention, and restraint.

Recommended for children ages three and up, with all children accompanied by an adult, the program is limited in size and requires advance registration. Families should dress warmly and be prepared to spend time outdoors.



Temporary mandalas from the Greenwich Botanical Center

Sometimes the most meaningful art begins not with materials you buy, but with what the season offers—and the willingness to slow down and notice.



Temporary mandalas from the Greenwich Botanical Center



In the Depth of Winter, Color Blooms: Toby Sue Gordon at the Bendheim Gallery

By EMMA BARYDT

There is art where color feels less like something you see and more like a state of being; a moment in time. That is the promise of *Floral Conversations*, opening January 15 at the Bendheim Gallery, where the Greenwich Arts Council presents new paintings by local artist Toby Sue Gordon. From the moment you step inside, the work shifts the atmosphere — not dramatically, not theatrically, but unmistakably. The room brightens. Your pace slows. Looking becomes a pleasure again.

Gordon's paintings place flowers front and center, yet they avoid the conventions we often associate with floral imagery. These are not formal arrangements or delicate studies meant to decorate a space. They are immersive, energetic, and confidently scaled, cropped close so that petals, stems, and bursts of color fill the canvas. The effect is immediate and generous. The paintings don't wait to be decoded; they welcome you in.

What makes *Floral Conversations* especially engaging is its balance between accessibility and depth. At first glance, the works offer pure visual delight — saturated hues, dynamic compositions, surfaces built with thick, expressive oil paint. But stay a little longer and the experience deepens. Gordon is interested in fragments rather than wholes: the curve of a petal caught mid-motion, the intersection of colors where structure quietly emerges, the subtle geometry that reveals itself through attention. These are paintings that reward both casual viewing and sustained looking.

The exhibition is thoughtfully conceived as an experience rather than a sequence of individual statements. As you move through the Bendheim Gallery, the works begin to relate to one another. Warm tones glow across the room, balanced by cooler passages that offer moments of calm. Reds press forward; greens ground them. Yellows seem to hold light within their layers. There is a sense of rhythm here — a visual conversation unfolding across the walls — that makes the gallery feel cohesive and alive.

Gordon's sensitivity to color is the result of a lifetime immersed in visual language. A graduate of Syracuse University's School of Visual and Performing Arts, she began her career as an art director in the fashion industry, where composition, impact, and clarity are essential. Later, working alongside her father in the

textile business, she developed a deep understanding of pattern, surface, and how color behaves materially — how it absorbs light, reflects it, and changes depending on context. That experience quietly underpins the confidence of these paintings. Nothing here feels accidental.

Now living and working in Riverside, Gordon brings this body of work back to a community she knows well. Seeing her paintings fill the Bendheim Gallery carries a particular resonance. It underscores one of the enduring strengths of the Greenwich Arts Council: its commitment to making serious, joyful art part of everyday civic life. You don't need to travel far or prepare yourself intellectually to encounter work of substance. It's right here, upstairs on Greenwich Avenue, open to anyone willing to step inside.

There is something deeply satisfying about that accessibility. *Floral Conversations* does not demand expertise. It asks only for attention — and gives generously in return. You can spend five minutes letting color wash over you, or linger longer and notice how the paintings begin to shift as you move through the space. The experience adapts to the viewer, which is part of its quiet strength.

The opening reception on Thursday, January 15, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., offers an opportunity to gather and mark the beginning of a new exhibition and a new year. These moments matter more than we sometimes realize. Showing up — to a gallery, to an opening, to an evening shaped by shared looking — is how local culture is sustained. Art thrives not only because it is made, but because it is witnessed.

Ultimately, *Floral Conversations* offers a sense of ease. It reminds us that beauty does not need explanation and that joy can be found in close attention. Gordon's paintings hold space for that experience — warm, confident, and quietly uplifting. Whether you arrive with intention or happen upon the exhibition by chance, you are likely to leave with something subtle but lasting: a lightness, a renewed openness, a reminder of how much vitality lives in color.

Floral Conversations, works by Toby Sue Gordon, is on view at the Bendheim Gallery, 299 Greenwich Avenue, second floor, from January 15 through February 26. The opening reception takes place Thursday, January 15, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.



The figures, images, and forms appear to have paused mid-gesture, leaving what comes before and after deliberately open.





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CROSSWORD
PUZZLES



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FOR NEXT 2
WEEKS



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COMMUNITY
CALENDAR

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HOW MANY LEFT & RIGHT?

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HOW MANY TO THE LEFT, HOW MANY TO THE RIGHT?



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Then color the picture of the answer.**

**FIND 10 OBJECTS
IN THE PICTURE**

find the correct shadow



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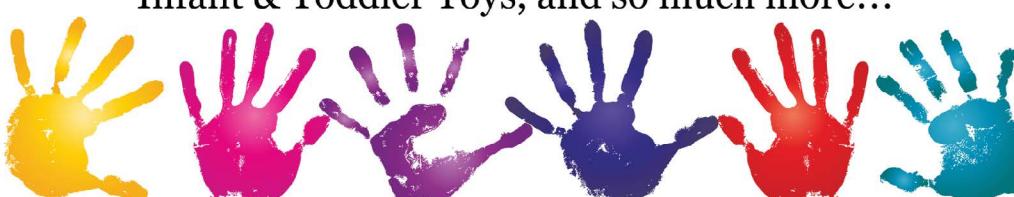
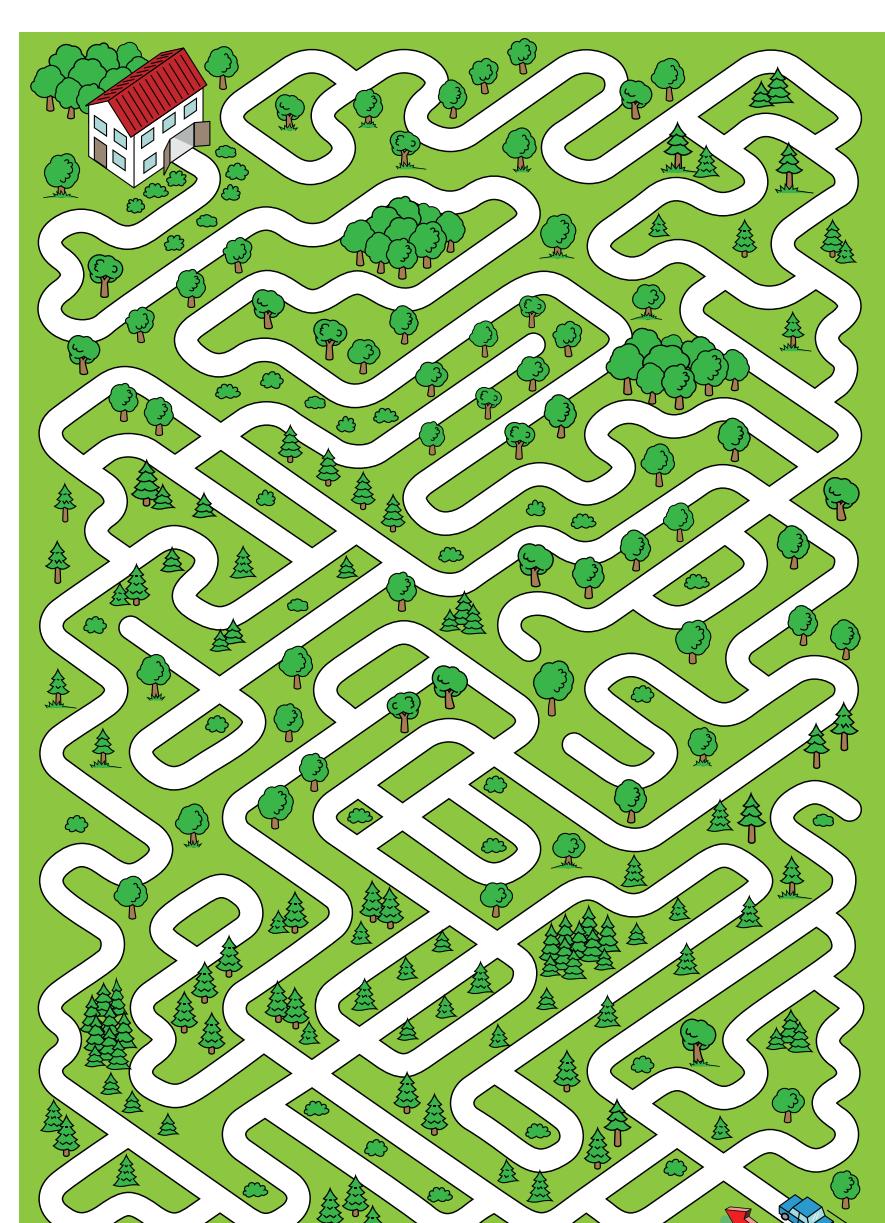
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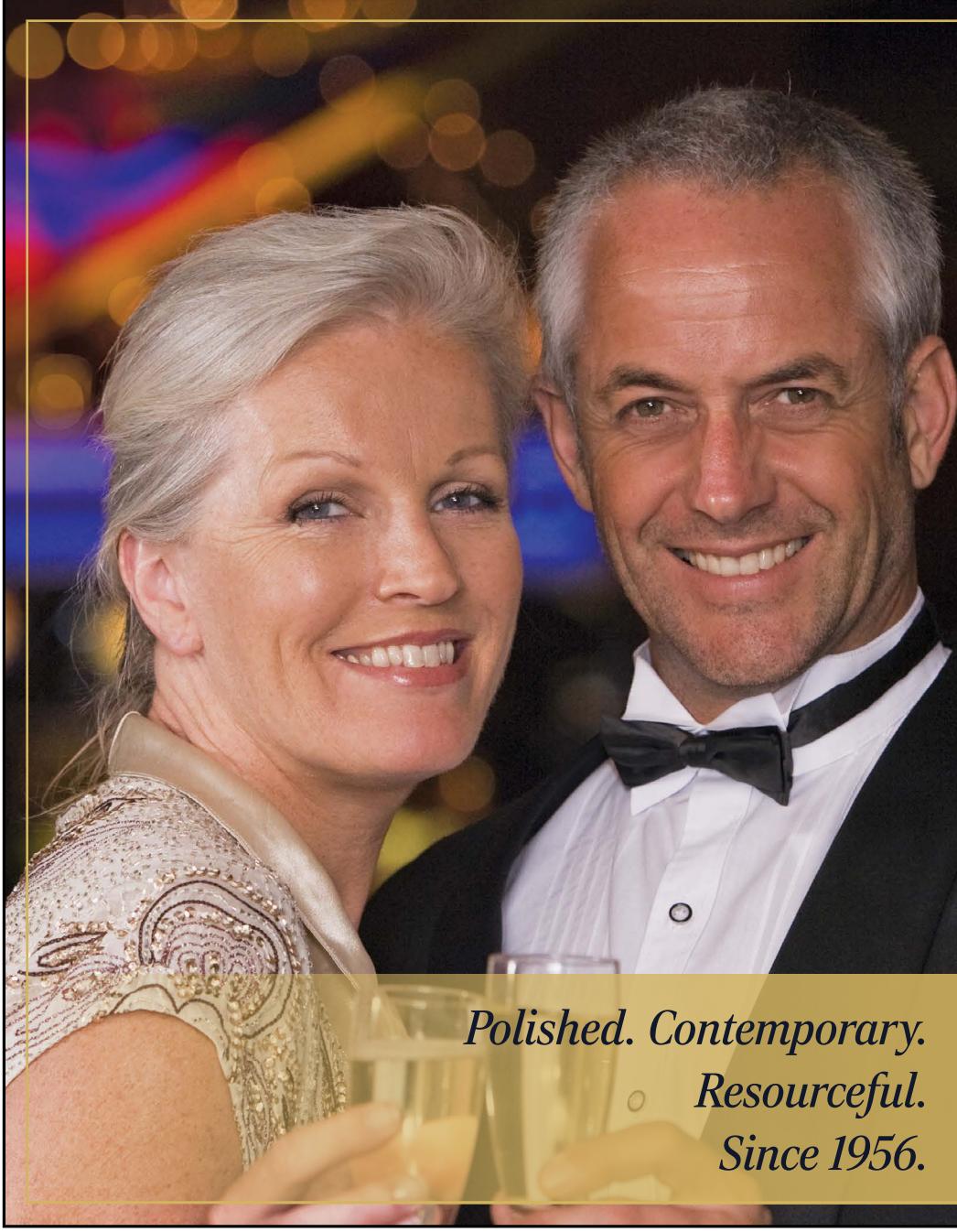
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Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

**FRIDAY, JAN. 16**

12, 1:30 & 3 p.m.
Behind the Scenes Archival Collections: Historic Photographs – Docent-led Tour. Greenwich Historical Society. greenwich-history.org/book-a-tour
3 p.m.
FeederWatch Fridays. Greenwich Audubon Center. All Ages. Free. Register. audubon.org/events?view_type=row&location=Greenwich%20Audubon%20Center
6 - 8:30 p.m.
Kid's Night Out – Game Party (Ages 4-14). YMCA of Greenwich. Member: \$35, Non-Member: \$45. Register. greenwichymca.org/events

SATURDAY, JAN. 17

11 a.m.
Connecticut State Chess Association: Connecticut Girls Championship. Greenwich Academy, 200 North Maple Ave. [events?event_ID=2489&cat=1](http://events4chess.com/events?event_ID=2489&cat=1)
1 p.m.
Science Solvers: Imagination Playground (Ages 4 & up). Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. Free with admission. No reservations required. Also held Sunday, Jan. 18. brucemuseum.org
2 p.m.
The Holley House and Beyond: Cos Cob's Artistic Community. Greenwich Historical Society. Register. greenwichhistory.org/ghs-events
2 p.m.
Flinn Gallery Artist Talk: Performative Stories. Flinn Gallery – Greenwich Library, 2nd floor. 203-622-7947. flinngallery.org
3 p.m.
History of Old Greenwich. First Congregational Church of Greenwich – Meetinghouse, 108 Sound Beach Avenue. 203-637-4023. patlarrabee@hotmail.com

SUNDAY, JAN. 18

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Teen Conservation Crew. Greenwich Audubon Center. Free. Register. audubon.org/events?view_type=row&location=Greenwich%20Audubon%20Center
2 p.m.
Americana: A Patchwork of Musical Diversity. St Paul's Episcopal Church, 200 Riverside Ave. Free Admission. 203-637-2447. stpaulsriverside.org
2 p.m.
Cinema at the Bruce and the Avon Theatre Present: Loving Vincent. Bruce Museum. Non-Member, \$10; Member, Free. brucemuseum.org

2:30 p.m.

CONVOCO Vocal Ensemble presents 'A Mother's Grace'. St. Catherine of Siena Church, 4 Riverside Ave. Free, donations appreciated. music.director@stc-si.org

MONDAY, JAN. 19

9 - 11:30 a.m.
"Experiments in Faith" Vacation Bible School – Pre-K-5th Grade. Second Congregational Church of Greenwich, 139 E. Putnam Ave. \$25 p/child (scholarships available). 2cc.org
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
MLK Day: Community Heroes. Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. All ages. brucemuseum.org
1 - 3 p.m.
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Community Building Activity. YMCA of Greenwich. Free, all are welcome. RSVP. greenwichymca.org/events

TUESDAY, JAN. 20

9:30 a.m.
Perrot Memorial Library: Tod's Point. Meet at the second concession stand. Free. 203-637-1066 x15. judys@perrotlibrary.org
10 & 11 a.m.
Bruce Beginnings: Snowflakes and Ice (Ages 2 1/2-5). Bruce Museum. Free with admission. No reservations required. Also held Wednesday, Jan. 21. brucemuseum.org
4 p.m.
Debate Club (Ages 9-13). Perrot Memorial Library, 90 Sound Beach Ave. Free. Register. perrotlibrary.org
6 p.m.
Bruce Socials: Trivia. Bruce Museum. \$10, includes pizza & a drink. brucemuseum.org
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21
10 a.m.
Bruce Beginnings Junior: A Little Snow (ages: 12 Months-30 Months). Bruce Museum. Free with admission. First come, first served. brucemuseum.org
11 a.m.
Retired Men's Association of Greenwich: Nelson Tebbe "The Roberts Court's Remaking of Religious Freedom." Christ Church Greenwich, 254 East Putnam Ave. & on Zoom. Free & open to all. greenwichrma.org
1 p.m.
Greenwich Land Trust: Winter Walk: Identifying Trees without Leaves. Converse Brook Preserve. Register. gltrust.org/upcoming-events
5 p.m.
Alliance Française of Greenwich: French Cinémathèque - lively discussions on French films. Via Zoom. afgreenwich.org
6 p.m.
Pollinator Potluck: Let's Talk Turkey with Master Wildlife Conservator Ginny Apple. Greenwich Audubon Center. Free (suggested donation). Register. audubon.org/events?view_type=row&location=Greenwich%20Audubon%20Center
6:30 p.m.
Book and Reception: "Awake" by Jen Hatmaker. Christ Church Greenwich, 254 East Putnam Ave. \$50-\$75. eventbrite.com/e/1977721515291
7 p.m.
Self Defense Class with Greenwich Police Department. YMCA of Greenwich. Free & open to the community. Registration is required. greenwichymca.org/events
7 p.m.
The Greenwich Public Schools' 8th Grade DC Trip Scholarship Fund fundraiser. New York Comedy Club, 230 Tresser Blvd., Stamford. \$50. stamford.newyorkcomedyclub.com/calendar
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
THURSDAY, JAN. 22
10 a.m.
Open Knitting Drop-In Program. Perrot Memorial Library, 90 Sound Beach Ave. Free. perrotlibrary.org
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Walk-In Houseplant Clinic. Greenwich Botanical Center, 130 Bible St. greenwichbotanicalcenter.org
1 p.m.
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concert featuring cellist Julian Schwarz. Performing Arts Center at Greenwich High School. 203-869-2664. greenwichsymphony.org

SUNDAY, JAN. 25

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Abilis presents "Supporting Your Young Child's Development: A Parent Workshop." The Cohen Abilis Advancement Center, 78 Harvard Ave., Stamford. Free. Registration required. abilis.us/workshop
2 p.m.
Experiences at the Bruce: Documentary film, Always Looking. Bruce Museum. \$10. Registration is required. brucemuseum.org

7 p.m.

"Third Spaces: Building Belonging Beyond Home and Work" – Annual Coretta Scott & Martin Luther King, Jr Conversation. YWCA Greenwich, 259 East Putnam Ave. Free & open to the public. 203-869-6501. ywca-greenwich.org

7 - 8:30 p.m.

Paint N Sip (TEA) with Greenwich Connects (Young Adults - 16-25). YMCA of Greenwich. Register. greenwichymca.org/events

7:30 p.m.

Paint N Sip (TEA) with Greenwich Connects (Young Adults - 16-25). YMCA of Greenwich. Register. greenwichymca.org/events

FRIDAY, JAN. 23

12, 1:30 & 3 p.m.
Behind the Scenes Archival Collections: Historic Photographs – Docent-led Tour. Greenwich Historical Society. greenwich-history.org/book-a-tour

1 p.m.

Greenwich Art Society: Creative Arts for 6-8 Year Olds (6 Fridays). In Studio, 299 Greenwich Ave. Register. greenwichartsociety.org

3 p.m.

FeederWatch Fridays. Greenwich Audubon Center. All Ages. Free. Register. audubon.org/events?view_type=row&location=Greenwich%20Audubon%20Center

3:15 p.m.

Greenwich Art Society: Creative Arts for 9-12 Year Olds (6 Fridays). In Studio, 299 Greenwich Ave. Register. greenwichartsociety.org

3:45 p.m.

Greenwich Historical Society: Family Floral Fun Series: Winter Forest Hike & Sustainable Art Experience with the Greenwich Botanical Center. GBC, 130 Bible St. greenwichhistory.org/ghs-events

4 p.m.

Creative Ventures: Wax Seal Magnets and Stickers (Ages 7-13). Perrot Memorial Library, 90 Sound Beach Ave. Free. Register. perrotlibrary.org

5 p.m.

Night at the Museum: The Big Backyard. Bruce Museum. Come dressed in your pajamas. brucemuseum.org

6:30 p.m.

Comedy Night with Keith Alberstadt and Tony Deyo. Christ Church Greenwich. \$60. 203-869-6600. eventbrite.com/e/197768038026

SATURDAY, JAN. 24

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Junior League of Greenwich Winter Open House. JLG Headquarters, 231 E. Putnam Ave. 203-869-1979. greenwichjl.org/join-us

6 - 9 p.m.

Burns Supper. First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich, 1 West Putnam Ave. \$35. FPCG members; \$65, nonmembers (\$45 & \$75 after Jan. 17). 203-869-8686. fpcg.org/burns

7:30 p.m.

Greenwich Symphony Orchestra

Art Exhibit. Gertrude G. White Gallery – YWCA Greenwich, 259 East Putnam Ave. 203-869-6501. ywca-greenwich.org/events/january-and-february-artist-in-residence-2

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](http://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.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B5

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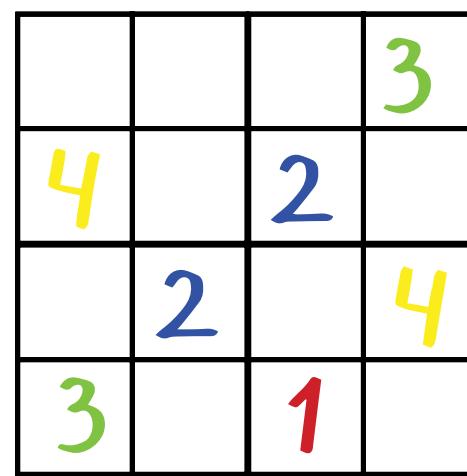
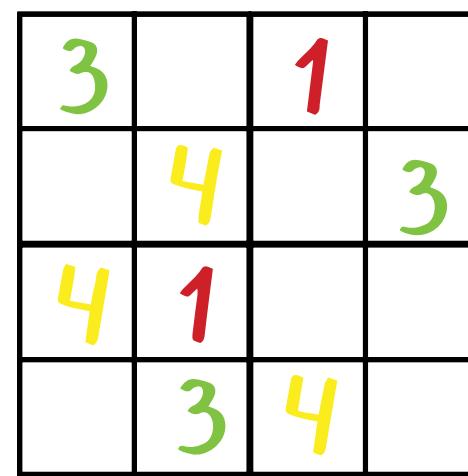
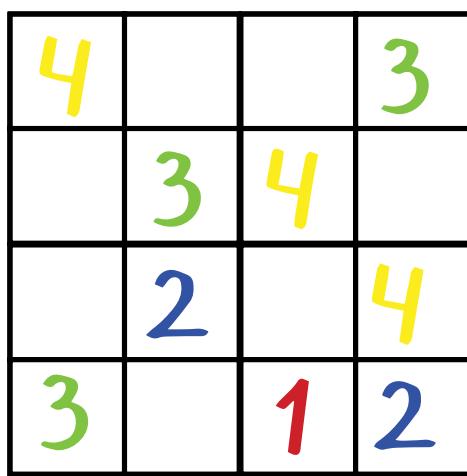
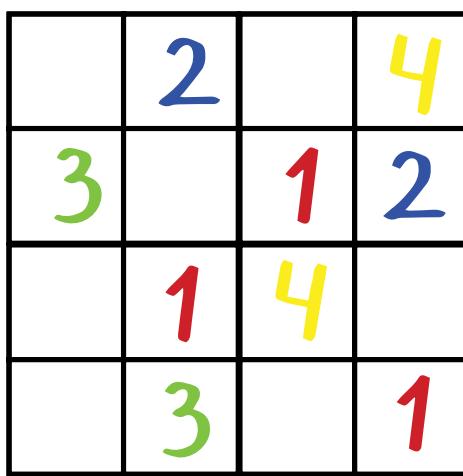
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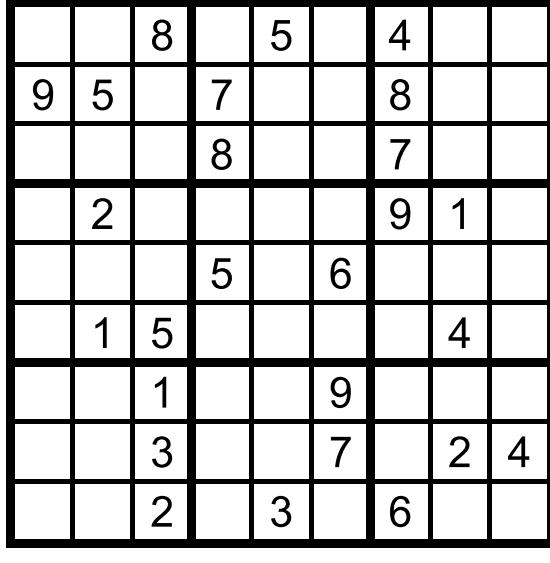
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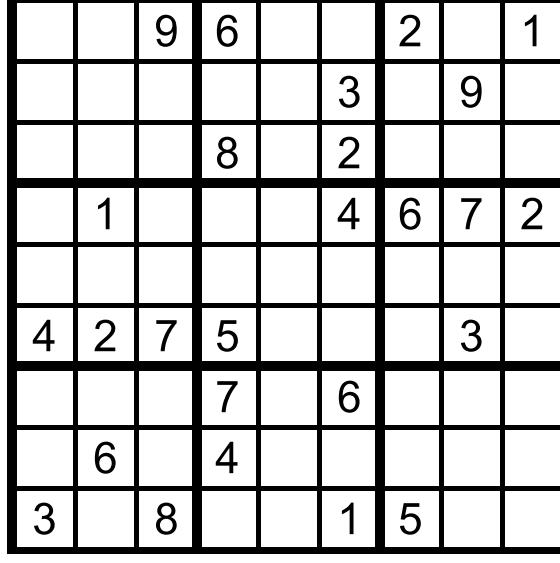
Sudoku

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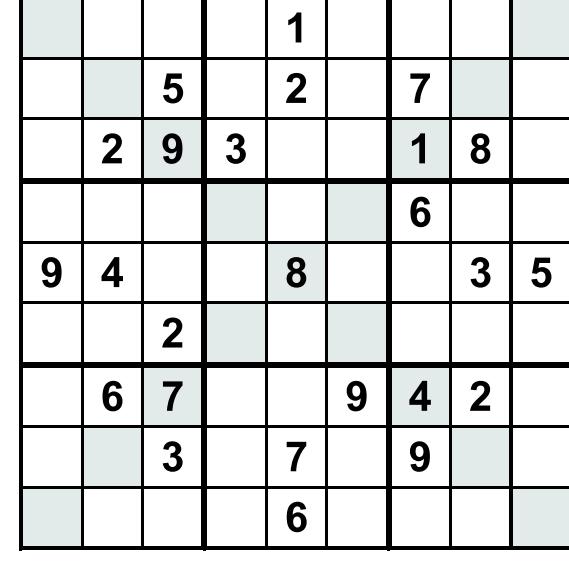
Easy



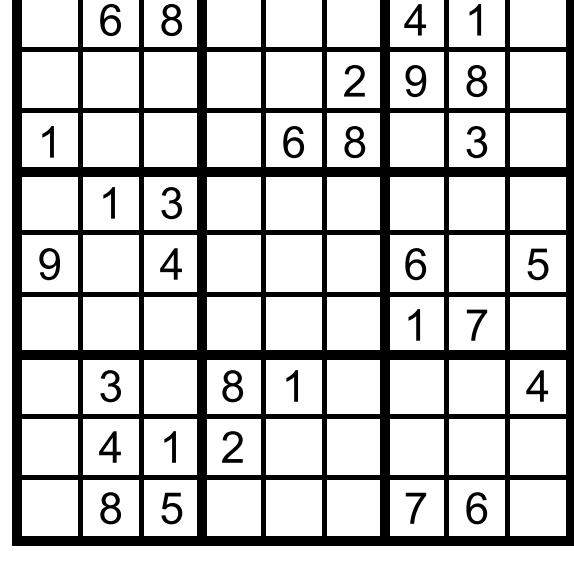
Hard



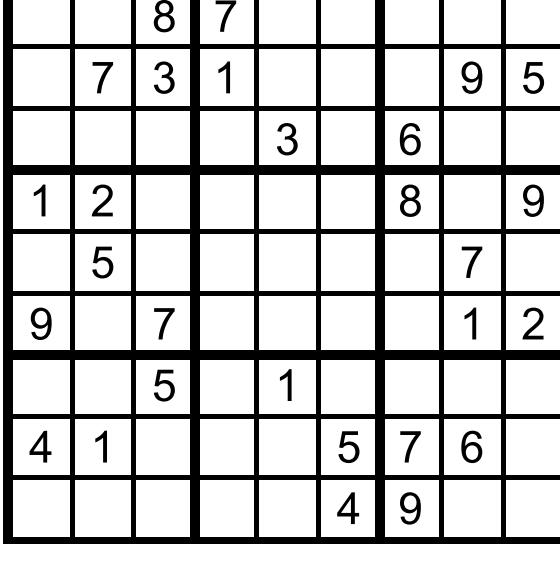
Very Hard



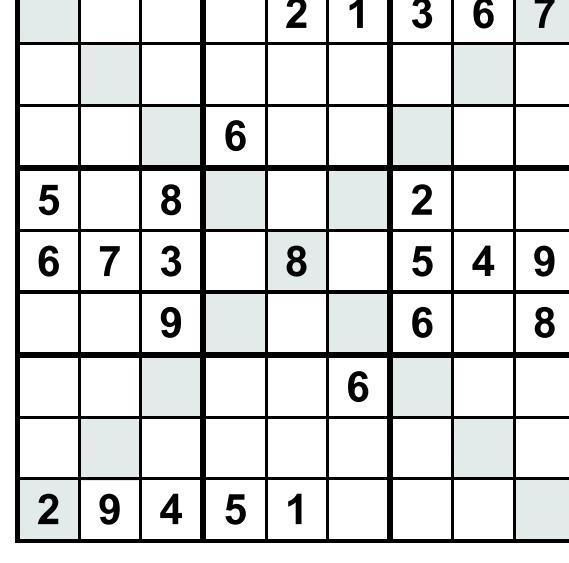
Easy



Hard



Very Hard

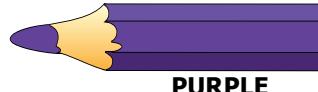


Coloring Challenge

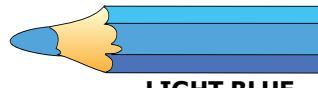


Sudoku answers

Top row - Easy	Top row - Hard	Top row - Very Hard	Bottom row - Easy	Bottom row - Hard	Bottom row - Very Hard
1 7 8 2 5 3 4 6 9	7 3 9 6 1 4 5 2 8	7 8 4 9 1 6 3 5 2	3 6 8 7 5 9 4 1 2	4 5 7 8 2 4 3 6 1	4 9 1 2 7 5 4 3 8
2 3 6 7 1 5 4 8 9	1 4 5 6 2 7 3 4 9	6 2 9 3 5 4 2 8 7	1 9 2 4 8 5 3 7 6	5 7 8 2 4 3 6 1 9	2 5 3 1 7 4 9 6 8
6 2 7 3 4 8 9 4 5	9 1 5 6 4 3 2 5 7	3 1 6 5 3 9 2 8 6	5 9 8 7 6 3 5 9 4	1 2 6 5 3 9 8 4 9	7 6 5 1 3 8 2 5 4
2 5 3 6 8 1 7 5 1	8 4 9 5 1 6 2 7 8	7 3 2 6 5 8 4 9 1	9 1 6 8 2 1 3 4 5	5 1 3 6 2 7 8 4 9	3 5 7 4 1 3 2 9 6
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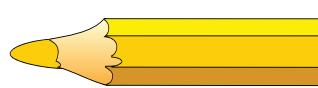
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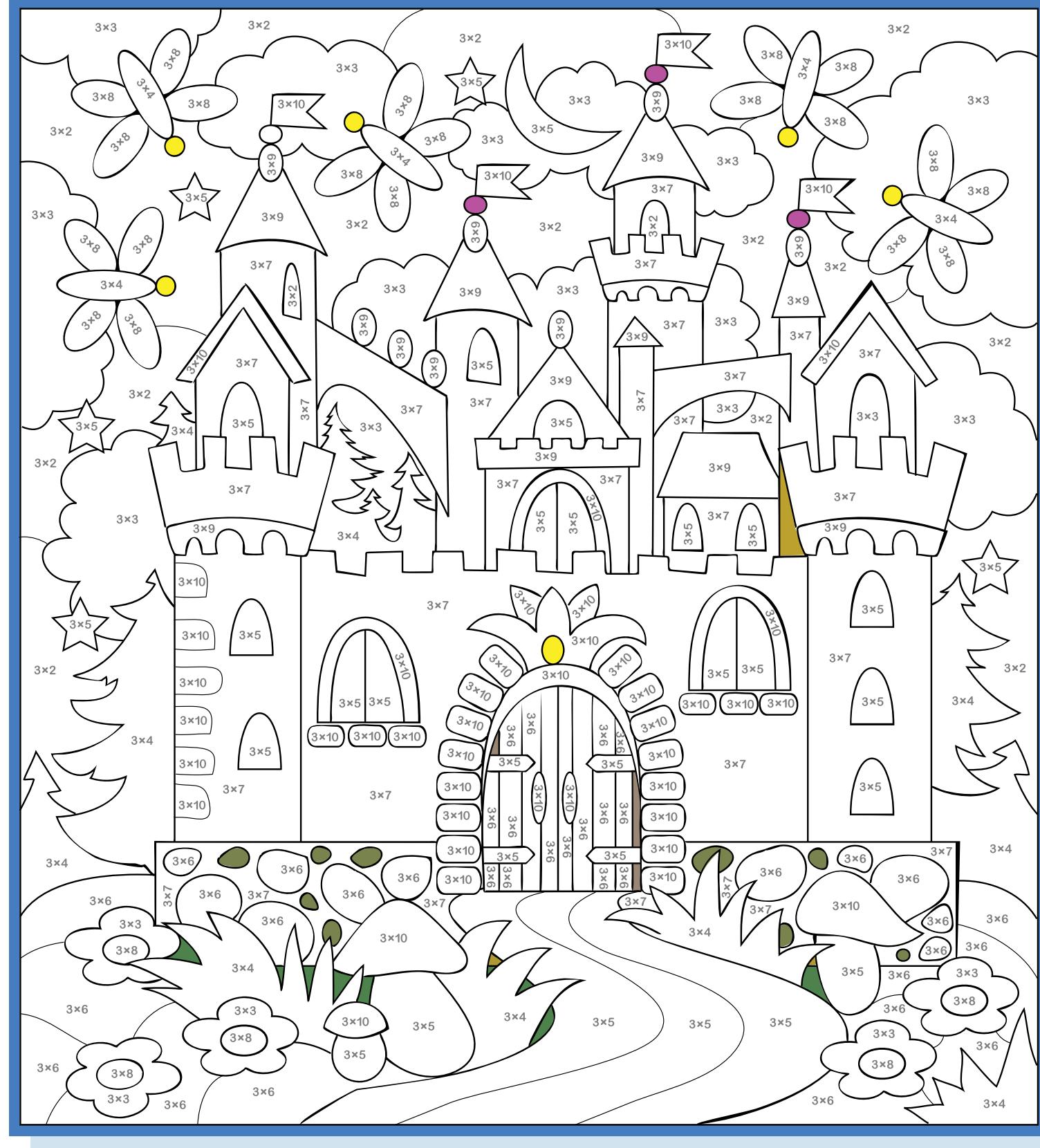
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NAMI-CAN (Child and Adolescent Network) Online Support Group - for parents and primary caregivers of children & adolescents, under age 21, with behavioral and emotional issues. Free. namisouthwestct.org/online-support

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. experienceataichi.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. kidsincrisis.org /get-help/light-house

EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY:

8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Book Exchange - choose from a huge selection of books. Holly Hill Recycling Center. Free, or, donate books. (Open every Fri & Sat. books4everyone.org

GREENWICH LIBRARIES:

greenwichlibrary.org

Friday, Jan. 16

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/15791241

7 p.m.

Friends Friday Films: "Eleanor The Great." Berkley Theater. cgbibs@greenwichlibrary.org

Saturday, Jan. 17

11 a.m.

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

1 p.m.

PrintLab: 3D Printing Studio. Innovation Lab. 203-622-7979. innovationlab@greenwichlibrary.org

2 p.m.

Flinn Gallery Artist Talk: Performative Stories. Flinn Gallery. 203-622-7947.

2 p.m.

Jerry's Movie: "A Letter to Three Wives." Byram Shubert Library Community Room. 203-531-0426.

Monday, Jan. 19

All Libraries Closed.

Tuesday, Jan. 20

All Day

Adult Winter Reading Challenge Continues.

10 a.m.

Spanish Storytime. Cos Cob Library Community Room.

11 a.m.

Petite Concert. Marx Family Black Box Theater.

11 a.m.

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

1 p.m.

PrintLab: 3D Printing Studio. Innovation Lab. 203-622-7979.

5 p.m.

Storytime with Patty (Birth - Pre-K). Byram Shubert Library Community Room.

International Book Club (Zoom): Mona's Eyes by Thomas Schlesser.

7 p.m.

Foreign Affairs Book Group.

Community Room #5.

Wednesday, Jan. 21

10 a.m.

Early Walkers. Cos Cob Library Community Room.

10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Career Coach - Tips for Resumes. Byram Shubert Library Lot.

11 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Baby Lapsit. Cos Cob Library Community Room.

12 p.m.

Brown Bag Book Club. Online.

1 p.m.

LaserLab: Design & Create.

Innovation Lab.

3 p.m.

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

5 p.m.

Bookworms Book Club (Grades 2-3). Children's Constellation Room.

7 p.m.

Growing Your Business with High-Impact Media & Marketing Strategies. Marx Family Black Box Theater.

Thursday, Jan. 22

10 a.m.

Japanese Storytime. Cos Cob Library Community Room.

11 a.m.

Tech Help. Learning Lab.

1 p.m.

QuickBooks Made Easy for Your Small Business. Online.

4 p.m.

Tai Chi for Adults with Ken Dolan. Byram Shubert Library Community Room.

4:30 p.m.

Barbara's House Book Club.

Community Room #5.

5 p.m.

Jr. Book Club. Children's Constellation Room.

7 p.m.

Ashforth Family Concert: "A Night in Moscow: Music of Tchaikovsky and other Russian Composers" with Darwin and Friends. Byram Shubert Library Community Room.

Friday, Jan. 23

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/15791244

7 p.m.

Friends Friday Films: "Folktales." Berkley Theater. cgbibs@greenwichlibrary.org

Saturday, Jan. 24

10:30 a.m.

Music with Tom Weber. Marx Family Black Box Theater.

10:30 a.m.

Saturday Craft with Nicole.

Byram Shubert Library Community Room. 203-531-0426.

11 a.m.

Technology Help. Learning Lab.

203-625-6560. csherman@greenwichlibrary.org

1 p.m.

PrintLab: 3D Printing Studio.

Innovation Lab. 203-622-7979.

5 p.m.

Storytime with Patty (Birth - Pre-K). Byram Shubert Library Community Room.

6

innovationlab@greenwichlibrary.org.

Sunday, Jan. 25

2 p.m.

Speed Jigsaw Puzzle Competition & Puzzle Swap. Marx Family Black Box Theater. sschugmann@greenwichlibrary.org

GREENWICH HOSPITAL:

greenwichhospital.org/events

888-305-9253

Wednesday, Jan. 21

5:30 p.m.

Webinar: Eating Well on Weight Loss Medications.

Friday, Jan. 23

6 p.m.

CPR Friends & Family (Infant/ Child). 38 Volunteer Ln. \$70.

For discount information call 888-305-9253.

Saturday, Jan. 24

9 a.m.

CPR Friends & Family (Infant/ Child). 38 Volunteer Ln. \$70.

For discount information call 888-305-9253.

9:30 a.m.

AARP-Safe Driving Course.

Greenwich Hospital, 5 Perriyridge Rd. \$20.

NEIGHBOR-TO-NEIGHBOR:

ntngreenwich.org

Everyday, all day

• 24/7 Food Drive Collection site

at North Greenwich Congregational Church, 606 Riverside Road.

The weatherproof bin is

located outside of the Parish Hall.

• Greenwich Reform Synagogue,

92 Orchard St., Cos Cob.

Tuesdays, 9 - 11 a.m.

Food Drive (drive-thru) at St.

Catherine of Siena's parking

area across the street from the

rectory entrance, 4 Riverside

Ave. (Non-perishable foods,

personal care products, large sized

diapers (5 & 6) and pull-ups,

and knit hats (hand knit or store

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COLUMN | WILDLY SUCCESSFUL: THE ROCK HYRAX

An Utterly Unique Mammal



By JIM KNOX

If it wasn't for the movement, I would have missed them. With my eyes trained out toward the deep blue of the South Atlantic from more than 3,500 feet up, I hadn't scanned the rock shelf and boulders just a dozen feet below. If I had seen them in Connecticut, my brain would have quickly assigned them as Woodchucks, with their plump brown bodies and rodent-like faces. Yet, the animals below me were far from New England and were extremely distant cousins to their rodent look-alikes. They foraged in the sun for seeds and leaves among the bushes atop Table Mountain National Park in Cape Town, South Africa.

It was the first of many African mammals I'd hoped to see, and I was ecstatic. The Rock Hyrax, *Procavia capensis*, is known by many names in many lands. Regionally known as Dassies, Rock Rabbits, Pimbi, Cliff Badger or Coneys, they range throughout most of Africa, through the Arabian Peninsula, to the Middle East.

Reaching up to 23 inches in length, 12 inches in height and just 13 pounds in weight, it's easy to see why they are compared to rabbits or even badgers, but a closer look at these adorable little mammals reveals a creature worthy of study. For starters, their closest cousins are neither members of the rabbit nor weasel families.

An examination of the Rock Hyrax's teeth provides a dual clue. Sporting downward curving tusks, a similar skull structure, large molars and toes to their closest cousins, the answer is hard to miss. Though also hard to believe, the hyrax's closest ancestral cousins are African Elephants!

Even by the measure of wildlife biologists,



Ultra-keen eyesight, which can spot a Cape Leopard or a Verreaux's Eagle up to a kilometer away, protects these creatures from ambush.

hyraxes are often termed, "intriguing," "contradictory" and "illuminating" creatures. Though largely herbivorous, hyraxes will mix protein into their diet with a quick meal of a basking lizard or a few bird eggs. This prompts many to ponder, "Just what is the hyrax, exactly?" That is an excellent question and not one which is easily answered.

The Rock Hyrax's physical adaptations are quite unique. Possessing a compact body for squeezing into tight burrows, a hyrax is built for life beneath the boulders. With extra-long guard hairs projecting well beyond their short brown coat, hyraxes can feel their way into crevices within their sheltered boulder habitat for a quick escape from predators. Cushioned, suction cup-like foot pads provide the hyrax with both protection and gripping power within its rocky domain. A dorsal scent gland on its back enables the hyrax to communicate with other members of its

colony of up to 80 animals. A hyper-efficient digestive system enables the hyrax to extract most of the water it requires from the food it eats, thereby rarely making a trip to a water source necessary. Ultra-keen eyesight, which can spot a Cape Leopard or a Verreaux's Eagle up to a kilometer away, protects these creatures from ambush. In

order to safeguard this animal superpower, the hyrax comes equipped with a nictitating membrane (remarkably rare in mammals) to protect its eyes from dust and a bulge in each iris to act as a built-in sun visor.

While the hyrax's physical traits are impressive, it is its behavioral adaptations that enable it to thrive in more than three dozen countries. Though known to humans since biblical times, it is only in the 21st century that we are truly beginning to understand these creatures and what makes them so successful. Perhaps foremost, their social

structure is paramount in ensuring safety. These vigilant creatures feed in groups, facing outward with eyes to the sky, ears to the ground and noses to the wind. Dominant males issue an alarm call at the detection of danger—sending the others scurrying

far apart. In order to conserve energy, hyraxes spend a mere 5% of their time in activity modes such as eating, grooming or playing. Speaking of play, young hyraxes, known as pups, are born precocial—with eyes and ears open—and are even able to stand and run within hours of birth!

These very traits are what make the Rock Hyrax the subject of scientific attention. With their fine-tuned mechanisms of heat regulation, energy conservation, and muscle tone retention, hyraxes are increasingly looked to as a model for scientists studying the physiological demands of extended space travel on humans!

In the Rock Hyrax, we have a creature which offers us new knowledge with each facet of its biology. An utterly unique mammal, the hyrax is just now revealing its secrets to us and hinting at elephant-sized potential in rabbit-sized guise.

Colony living confers a tremendous survival advantage to its members. Whether foraging together, sleeping in close groups, sunbathing for thermoregulation in the mornings, or huddling together on rainy days, the colony members are never

for safety. If cornered, a hyrax will back itself into a crevice, wedging itself tight and biting savagely with its sharp tusks.

Jim Knox serves as the Curator of Education for Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo and as a Science Adviser for The Bruce Museum. His passions include studying our planet's rarest creatures and sharing his work with others who love the natural world.



The Beginning Again

The charm and wit of these early comics continue to delight us, new fans and old alike, reminding us of the joy and simplicity found in the world of a young boy and his tiger companion.

"Calvin and Hobbes," the brilliant creation of Bill Watterson, made its debut in newspapers on November 18, 1985. This inaugural strip introduced readers to Calvin and his tiger, Hobbes. The scene is set with Calvin gleefully explaining his tiger trap to his father, only to reveal Hobbes, who had been lured in by a tuna fish sandwich. This memorable first encounter between Calvin and Hobbes laid the foundation for a comic strip that would captivate audiences for over a decade.

Justin Scuiletti, a digital video producer at PBS NewsHour, said, "Who can blame Hobbes for falling into Calvin's tiger trap — we all were captured too."

We agree. We are happily ensnared as well.