



January 29, 2026

Greenwich's Local Award Winning Newspaper

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## News Briefs

### POLICE & FIRE

### FIREFIGHTERS

### CLEAR HYDRANTS

### AFTER SNOWSTORM



Greenwich firefighters are clearing snow from fire hydrants after a storm to keep them accessible. Crews will be working all week, and fire engines may be parked on roads during the work. Clear nearby hydrants if snow is blocking access. Photo credit: Greenwich Firefighters

### FROM TOWN HALL

### GREENWICH HONORS

### NATIONAL GUARD

### SERVICE DAY

A letter from the Connecticut Military Department thanked Greenwich First Selectman Fred Camillo for proclaiming December 13, 2025, as "National Guard Day." It noted that Greenwich held a flag-raising and proclamation ceremony at Town Hall to mark the National Guard's 389th anniversary. The letter expressed appreciation for the town's public recognition of National Guard service.

### GREENWICH OFFICIALS PRESENT PROPOSED FY27 BUDGETS

Greenwich officials presented proposed FY27 budgets to the Board of Estimate and Taxation, including a \$543.5 million town budget with a 12.765 mill rate and a \$207 million school operating budget. The town plan funds multiple capital projects such as Island Beach Ferry repairs, a new Hamill Rink, improvements to Roger Sherman Baldwin Park, and final Greenwich High School soil remediation work. The school budget includes cost increases for salaries and transportation, capital funding for maintenance and major projects, and reductions in staffing and several programs.

### AROUND TOWN

### FRIENDS HOST HOT CHOCOLATE PARK EVENT

Friends of Byram Park

*please turn to Page II*

### GREEN THOUGHTS

"At this rate, the only Baltimore

Orioles kids will see in the

next century will be baseball

players." John Turner, Director

of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

in Paul Ehrlich's book, "Birds in

Jeopardy," March 1, 1992.

# Bitter Cold Here to Stay; Another Winter Storm Unlikely This Weekend



Johnny, Henry and Lucien spend their snow day making some pocket change and helping out their neighbors.

BY EMMA BARHYDT

Greenwich is settling into deep cold, snow piled along curbs and sidewalks, and the sense that the season is not finished making itself known.

After the major storm that swept through the Northeast earlier this month, the region has moved into an extended pattern of locked-in cold air. As meteorologists have been emphasizing, storms do not need perfect conditions to produce snow when the atmosphere is already primed. The ground is cold, the air is cold, and any system that rides up the coast has a ready-made environment for winter weather.

In his latest analysis,

weather forecaster Ryan Hall, whose forecasts are remarkably accurate, pointed to a growing signal for another East Coast storm developing as the calendar turns toward February. The broader setup is familiar: reinforcing cold pressing south from Canada, energy sliding out of the Great Lakes, and moisture gathering along the Gulf and Atlantic. When those pieces align, the result can be a classic coastal storm — a nor'easter-type system that may intensify quickly offshore.

Hall stressed that the details are still shifting, and that no one model run should be taken as final at this stage. But the consistency of the signal itself is what has forecasters

paying attention. Guidance now suggests a storm organizing along the coast late this weekend will now result in snowfall in Greenwich.

Hall noted that even if the low center stays out to sea, the snowfall footprint can still expand inland depending on how much moisture gets pulled northward and how strong the wind field grows. That distinction is critical for Fairfield County, where small shifts in storm track often determine whether the impact is minor or more disruptive.

Locally Friday is expected to be brutally cold, with highs near 15 degrees and overnight lows close to 5, and wind chills dipping below zero.

Saturday remains bitter, with temperatures struggling to reach the upper teens. By Sunday, attention turns to the chance of snow, with early projections suggesting a light accumulation in the one-to-three-inch range, though Greenwich has already seen how quickly totals can rise when a storm overperforms.

Hall's discussion of model blends suggests the potential for several inches along parts of the coastal Northeast if the storm's precipitation shield grows. That keeps the focus on the weekend into early next week, when even a moderate snowfall would be layered onto existing snowbanks and very cold pavement, creating difficult travel and persistent icy conditions.

What is not in question is the cold. Arctic air is pressing south, keeping temperatures well below seasonal averages into early February.

The larger takeaway for is not a specific inch count several days out, but the pattern itself: winter has tightened its grip here, and the atmosphere remains active. With cold air entrenched and another coastal storm signal strengthening, residents should expect the next week to bring continued winter disruption potential — likely from a series of smaller events layered onto an already harsh season.

## May the Day Be with You



BY ELIZABETH BARHYDT

There's an Irish phrase that came over the radio Sunday morning, just as we were pouring coffee and watching the snowfall build: go raibh an lá leat — *may the day be with you*.

It was said by a woman hosting WFUV's "A Thousand Welcomes," right between a fiddle reel and a ballad about leaving Ireland to come to America. We had the volume low, the windows were bright, and the world outside was

disappearing by the hour.

The storm came exactly as expected. We'd had plenty of warning. The fridge was full. The woodpile stacked. The roads were closed. There was nowhere to be but here.

Our four-month-old black lab—who's still trying to figure out stairs—was curled on the couch, deeply asleep. One paw over her face. The fire in the fireplace had been going since before breakfast. Outside, snow flakes fell in the millions every minute, erasing the shape of the woods. Inside, we watched.

The feeders by the window were crowded with birds—cardinals, bluebirds, little flashes of red and blue moving fast between branches. They seemed methodical and certain. They knew what they needed,

and they didn't waste time getting it.

The soup was already going in the kitchen, simmering under a fogged lid in the slow cooker. The kind that makes the whole house smell like something good is coming.

And then my daughter walked into the room with a cookbook and said, "I think we have what we need to make sticky buns." Her brother offered to help. They pulled ingredients from the pantry—some planned, some improvised—and worked the way you do when the day is yours. No rush. Lots of messiness and laughter.

That's the thing about snow days.

They don't ask you to do much. They just give you time. And if you're lucky, they give you each other.

The whole family was home.

No errands. No appointments.

Just room to move around

each other, to talk, to read, to

stay in the kitchen longer than

necessary. It reminded me what

snow days really give children—

not just a break from school,

though they're grateful for that—

but something really important

to them: the joy of choosing how

the day unfolds, with the people

they love.

Read? Bake? Play with the dog? Color in the *Sentinel*? Make a snowman? Sled down the back hill?

*please turn to Page 3*



## Let There Be Peace on Earth

The Greenwich Fellowship of Clergy held an interfaith candlelight vigil Wednesday evening at Christ Church, bringing residents together for prayer, song, silence, and communal reflection. *Above* Marek Zabriskie is at the center of the group of over 200 people singing as part of the Interfaith Vigil.

The "Interfaith Candlelight Vigil of Peace and Lament" took place Jan. 28. According to the Fellowship, the gathering was organized "in response to recent events that have left many in our nation feeling unsettled and afraid."

Participants joined in prayer, music, and moments of silence in what organizers described as a respectful and welcoming environment. The service concluded with attendees singing "Let There Be Peace on Earth" during a candlelit procession. The Fellowship stated that the procession symbolized "our shared faith in God, symbolizing hope, remembrance, and the light we seek to carry into the world."

Organizers asked attendees to leave politics at the door. The vigil was framed as a peaceful, nonpartisan gathering focused on spiritual support, mutual care, and community connection.

The Greenwich Fellowship of Clergy is an interfaith group representing multiple faith communities in the town. The vigil was open to all members of the public, regardless of religious affiliation.

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From: David Schreff: Photos from our home during Sunday's snow storm here in Cos Cob (near Mianus River Park)



From: Karine Yantorno: Elida Yantorno, 9, walking the sidewalks of Cos Cob



From Arnold and Francesca Gordon: Snow cone-heads and snow bundt cake on a patio in Indian Harbor District.



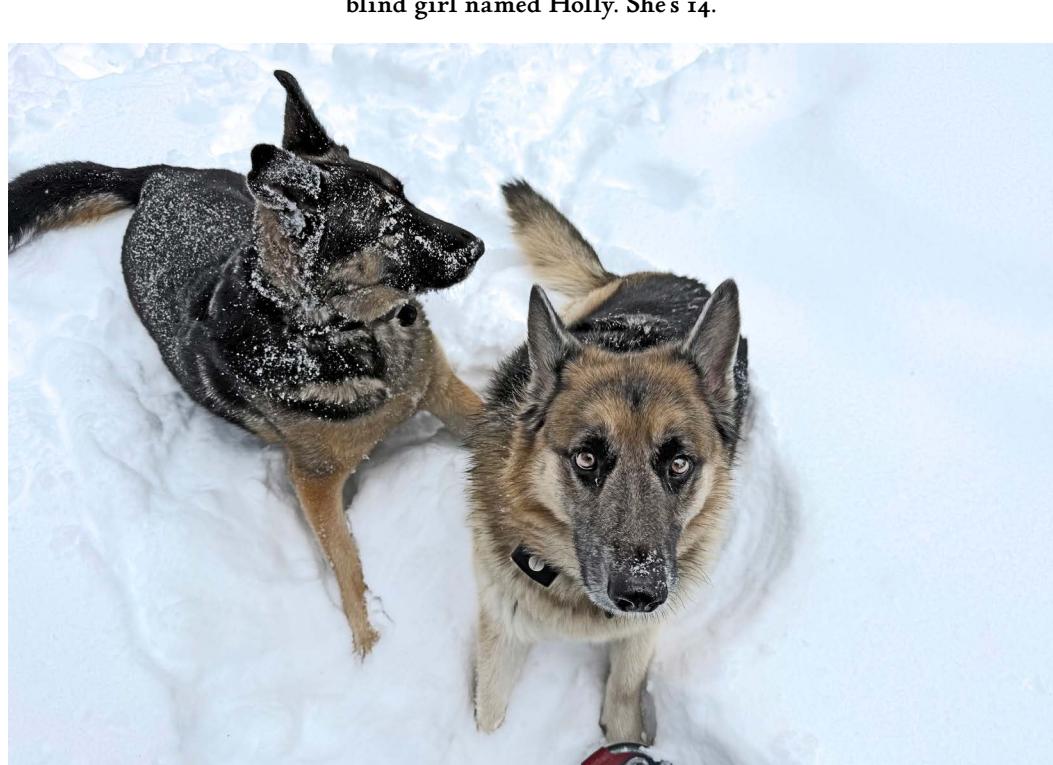
Our pets enjoying the snow from inside and out. This is Bella. Sara Herbert.



From Sara Herbert: Our pets enjoying the snow. Golden retriever is a blind girl named Holly. She's 14.



Our pets enjoying the snow from inside and out. The gray cat is Miu. Sara Herbert.



From Lily Downing and David Yudain: Here are few images of Nicholas and Kate in North Stamford, during and after the snow: About 17 inches here.

## ELIZABETH BARHYDT COLUMN CONTINUED From Page 1

It's not about avoiding school. It's about belonging to the day.

And maybe that's what we forget in our normal pace—how much joy lives in the unscheduled, the slow, the simple. Sometimes it's a snowball or a mixing bowl or a leash in a child's hand.

Sometimes it's sitting by the fire while Irish music plays and the puppy sighs in her sleep.

There's something rare about hearing everyone's voice at once, in the same room, without the push of a clock. And there's something even rarer about not needing to fill the silence. Just letting it hold.

Don't get me wrong—we believe in showing up. Parent meetings, volunteer shifts, planning committees, church suppers, field days, town votes—we've done them all, and we'll keep doing them. There is something vital in being part of

the daily rhythm of a place: stepping in, helping out, being counted. It's how we stay connected to our neighbors, how we pass along what we know, and how our children learn that belonging isn't just a feeling—it's a responsibility.

But every now and then, it helps to pause. To remember that being involved doesn't always mean being in motion. Community is built in busy seasons, yes—but it's also deepened in quiet ones. Around a kitchen table. During a walk with a friend. While reading the same newspaper as your neighbor across town. Sometimes presence

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is the most generous form of participation we have. And on days like this—when the snow keeps us close—it's good.

Outside, the plow passed again. We knew exactly what it was. Church bells chimed faintly in the distance. No one moved to check the time.

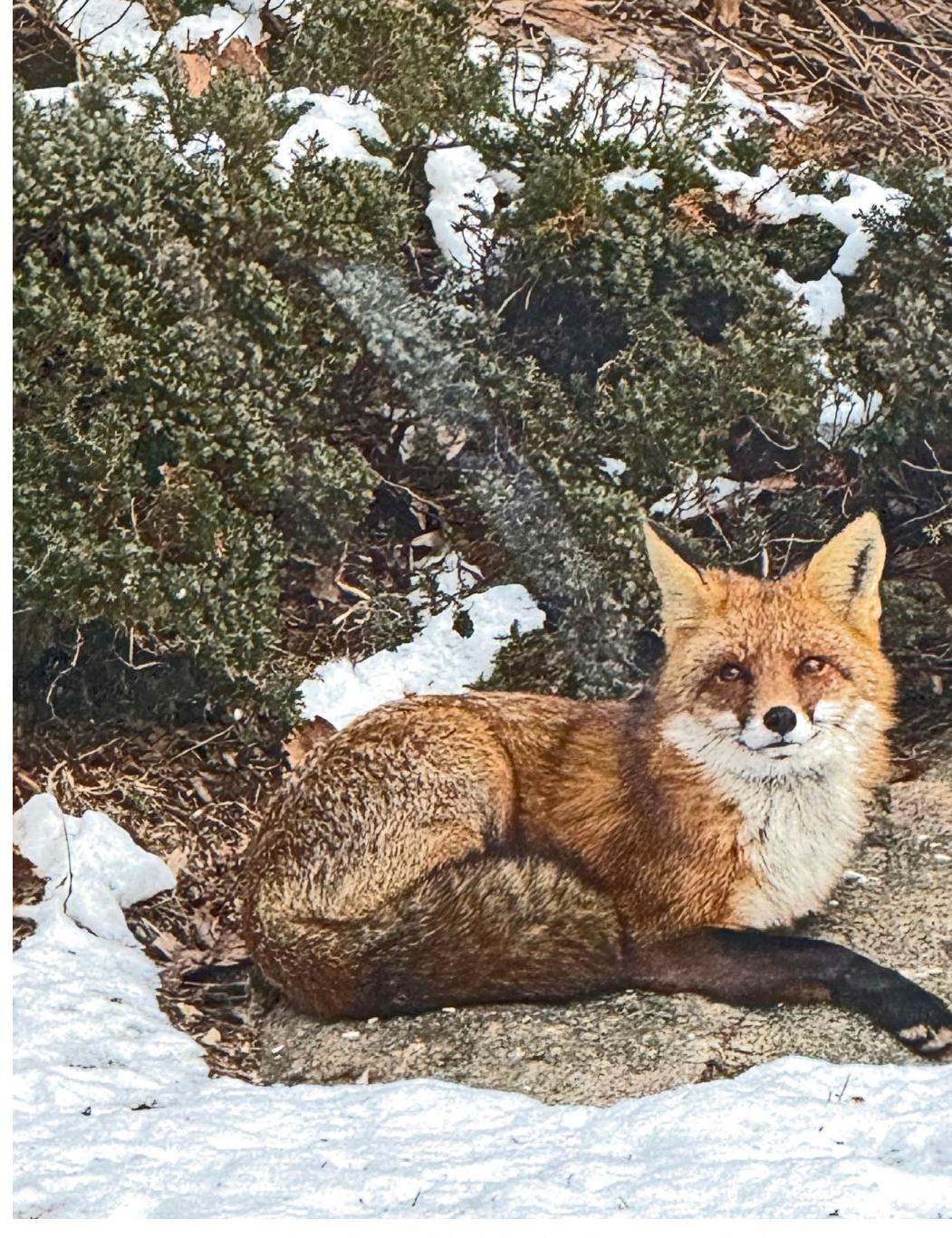
We stayed in.

Snow fell, soup simmered, sticky buns rose, and we were together.

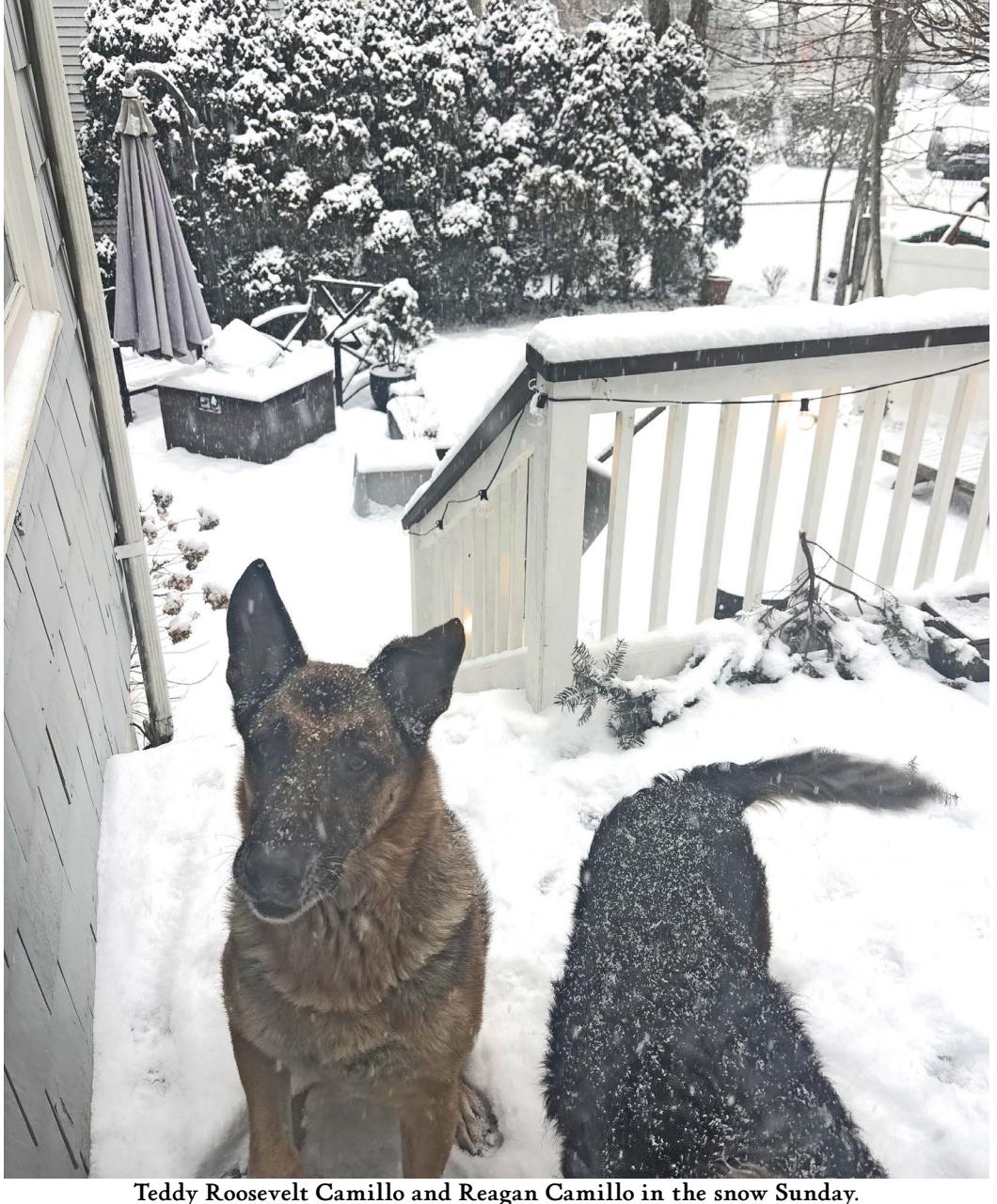
The day never asked us to do more than that.

Go raibh an lá leat.

*May the day be with you.*



Suzie and Andy Veitch had this handsome visitor both Saturday and Sunday during our snowy weekend.



Teddy Roosevelt Camillo and Reagan Camillo in the snow Sunday.



"Long May She Wave" – I captured this moment on a snow shoe on the golf course at Round Hill with my husband, Michael Keigher....a stunningly beautiful moment with our flag flapping in the cold, brisk wind!



Playground fun: Tate and Jonny Ellingson



Bergen and Tate Ellingson in a Snowy fort



Snow Day at Waveny Park

# Championing Veterans' Lives

BY DEBRA McLAUGHLIN

At The Nathaniel Witherell, patriotism is honored year-round through meaningful action. That commitment is made possible in large part by Friends of Nathaniel Witherell, whose mission is to improve the daily lives - and mental well-being - of the seniors and veterans who call The Nathaniel Witherell home.

One such resident is Henry, a lifelong Greenwich native whose story reflects service, resilience, and community - qualities Friends works to recognize and celebrate. Born and raised in Greenwich, Henry graduated from Greenwich High School, where he served as Senior Class President and met his future wife, Joan.

After graduation, Henry enlisted in the United States Navy. Following boot camp, he returned home briefly to marry Joan before being deployed aboard the Navy destroyer SS Ross. During the Korean War, Henry served as a Gunner's Mate, loading powerful shells into cannons capable of firing more than 20 miles.

After 24 months at sea, Henry returned home to Greenwich, raised three children, and attended night school at Fairfield University, building a career as a Mechanical Engineer focused on reducing air pollution and factory toxins.

Today, Henry is one of many seniors and veterans whose lives are enhanced through the work of Friends



Henry, a lifelong Greenwich native and veteran

**By honoring stories like Henry's, Friends of Nathaniel Witherell ensures that service and sacrifice are remembered—and that those who gave so much continue to feel valued and connected.**

of Nathaniel Witherell. and overall well-being in aging adults. and connected.

By honoring stories like Henry's, Friends of Nathaniel Witherell ensures that service and sacrifice are remembered—and that those who gave so much continue to feel valued

and connected. For more information or to support their work, visit [friendsofnathanielwitherell.org](http://friendsofnathanielwitherell.org) or follow @friendsofnathanielwitherell on Instagram

## Transformative \$25,000 Grant

BY DEBRA McLAUGHLIN

Meals-on-Wheels, Inc. of Greenwich is proud to extend its deepest gratitude to the Greenwich Association of Realtors Community Foundation for an extraordinary and truly transformative gift. The Foundation selected Meals-on-Wheels of Greenwich as the 2025 recipient of its \$25,000 Grand Prize Grant - the first-ever organization to receive this top honor.

This remarkable investment is far more than a financial contribution. It is a powerful statement of trust, partnership, and shared commitment to caring for our neighbors. Chosen from a highly competitive pool of applicants, Meals-on-Wheels of Greenwich stood out for its clear mission, proven impact, and unwavering dedication to reducing food insecurity and isolation among seniors and homebound people in our community.

Each day, Meals-on-Wheels of Greenwich delivers nutritious meals along with friendly smiles and meaningful human connection. For many recipients, these daily visits are a vital lifeline, supporting not only physical nourishment but also emotional well-being and the ability to remain at home with dignity. The Realtors Community Foundation's generous grant will allow the organization to expand its reach, strengthen services, and meet growing needs.

"We are incredibly honored and grateful to the

**Meals-on-Wheels of Greenwich extends heartfelt thanks to every member of the Greenwich Realtor community whose generosity made this landmark grant possible.**

Greenwich Association of Realtors Community Foundation for this historic recognition," said Willow Buscemi, Program Director at Meals-on-Wheels of Greenwich. "This grant will have a lasting impact on the people we serve, helping ensure that no neighbor feels forgotten or alone."

Meals-on-Wheels of Greenwich extends heartfelt thanks to every member of the Greenwich Realtor community whose generosity made this landmark grant possible. Your compassion is strengthening lives, uplifting seniors, and helping ensure that Greenwich remains a community where neighbors truly care for one another.

To learn more about Meals-on-Wheels of Greenwich or how to get involved, visit [mealsonwheelsofgreenwich.org](http://mealsonwheelsofgreenwich.org).



Willow Buscemi, Program Director Meals-on-Wheels of Greenwich speaking at the Greenwich Association of Realtors Community Foundation Annual Membership Meeting

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## Peace on Earth

The words were familiar, disarmingly so.

*"Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me."*

They closed the Interfaith Candlelight Vigil of Peace and Lament held Wednesday evening, Jan. 28, at Christ Church. Sung softly by more than 200 residents, the hymn did not attempt to explain the world's fractures or resolve them. It asked something more modest and more demanding: personal responsibility in a moment defined by fear.

The vigil was organized by the Greenwich Fellowship of Clergy, a longstanding interfaith body that exists to sustain relationships across religious traditions, coordinate cooperation, and offer moral leadership when the community feels strained or uncertain. The gathering was convened with two days' notice, and according to the Fellowship it was, "in response to recent events that have left many in our nation feeling unsettled and afraid."

Those events were not enumerated. They did not need to be. Reports of violence, civic unrest, and escalating rhetoric in recent weeks, including widely covered developments in Minnesota, have left many Americans feeling unmoored. The Fellowship did not attempt to adjudicate those events. It recognized their emotional weight.

Attendees were asked to leave politics at the door. The vigil was explicitly nonpartisan. That discipline is important. It preserved the evening's purpose and protected it from becoming another forum for argument or moral sorting.

Participants gathered for prayer, song, and extended silence. Candles were lit and carried in procession. Organizers described the closing ritual as symbolizing "our shared faith in God, symbolizing hope, remembrance, and the light we seek to carry into the world." The tone was careful. Nothing was hurried. Nothing was pressed.

Greenwich is accustomed to deliberation. Boards debate. Budgets are scrutinized. Disagreements are argued in public meetings and editorials. That work is necessary. It is also incomplete. Civic life requires institutions capable of recognizing when argument exhausts rather than clarifies, and when people need space rather than answers.

The Fellowship of Clergy serves that function. Its members represent different faiths and theologies, yet they have chosen cooperation over fragmentation. Over time, they have built trust that allows collective response without demanding uniformity. That is not symbolic work. It is operational.

Interfaith cooperation creates channels that matter in moments of anxiety. It allows leaders to act together without collapsing complexity into slogans. It reinforces the idea that shared commitments to peace and dignity do not require shared doctrine.

The vigil reflected that understanding. Silence was permitted to stand on its own. Song was shared. No demands were made of those who attended. No one was recruited or instructed. Presence was sufficient.

What distinguished the evening was not its scale, though the turnout was notable given the short notice. It was the absence of judgment. In a period when public life increasingly rewards condemnation and certainty, the Fellowship offered something rarer: restraint.

The closing hymn carried that message plainly. Peace was not framed as an abstract aspiration or a distant outcome. It was framed as a choice, repeated daily, beginning with the individual.

The Greenwich Fellowship of Clergy did not promise resolution. It offered steadiness. It reminded the town of what it shares before asking it to move forward.

That reminder arrived when many needed it.

# Editorial Page

## Embracing Our Cultural Future: Transforming the Havemeyer Building into Greenwich's Premier Arts Center

### ***Havemeyer Building has an opportunity to be a magnet -- and enrich our Town!***

As President of the Young Artists Philharmonic, I would also add the voice to the compelling vision of transforming the historic Havemeyer Building into a premier performing arts center for Greenwich. This initiative represents not merely a redevelopment project, but a profound commitment to enriching the cultural fabric of our community and honoring the generous legacy of Henry Osborne Havemeyer, who gifted this landmark to the town in 1892.

For too long, Greenwich has lacked a dedicated venue commensurate with the vibrancy and talent of our local arts scene. Neighboring communities—such as Ridgefield with its acclaimed Playhouse and Westport with its Country Playhouse—benefit from accessible, high-quality performing spaces that serve both residents and visiting artists. Greenwich is home to more than 30 vibrant arts organizations, including the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra, the Chamber Players of the Greenwich Symphony, Greenwich Opera, and our own Young Artists Philharmonic, deserves an equivalent hub. A revitalized Havemeyer Building would provide an ideal platform for local performers to showcase their work while offering residents convenient access to exceptional live performances.

This transformation would foster greater community engagement, nurture emerging talent—particularly our young musicians—and create opportunities for meaningful cultural exchange. Moreover, such a center would elevate Greenwich's profile, attracting world-renowned artists, ensembles, and productions that might otherwise bypass our community.

Residents would gain unparalleled access to symphony orchestras, theatrical productions, ballets, and recitals of the highest caliber, all within walking distance of Greenwich Avenue. This enhanced cultural vitality would enrich our residents and neighbors' cultural experience.

I am heartened by the broad and enthusiastic support this proposal has garnered across our community. Visionary developers John Fareri of Fareri Associates and investor Chuck Royce, a steadfast patron of the arts who has preserved institutions like the Avon Theatre, have advanced thoughtful plans for adaptive reuse centered on performing arts. Opera luminary Marcelo Guzzo, founder of Greenwich Opera, has voiced strong endorsement, as have longstanding advocates such as Peter Malkin and Bea Crumbine, whose 30-year-old vision for a performing arts center has been revived recently by Anne Semmes in her recent article in the *Greenwich Sentinel*.

Town leadership has also demonstrated openness and support in this direction. First Selectman Fred Camillo has advocated for a balanced public-private model that prioritizes meaningful community benefits, including arts integration. Board of Education Chair Michael-Joseph Mercanti-Anthony has emphasized the building's urgent need for redevelopment and relocation of offices, viewing an

arts-focused center as an exemplary community asset.

The chorus of community support has been resounding and broad-based. Prominent voices include former Greenwich government official John Spang, Representative Town Meeting (RTM) member Dan Quigley, and longtime senior center advocate Christine Edwards, all of whom have urged prioritizing nonprofit arts spaces in ongoing town discussions. They are joined by leaders from key local cultural organizations, such as Suzanne Lio, Executive Director of the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra, and Christine Boies, former longtime President of the Chamber Players of the Greenwich Symphony.

The estimated renovation costs, ranging from \$20 million to \$74 million, are substantial yet achievable. This is an investment in our love of the arts, shared heritage and future—one that preserves a historic gift while creating a lasting legacy of artistic excellence.

In closing, I urge Greenwich residents, elected officials, and stakeholders to embrace this opportunity. Let us unite in support of a performing arts center at the Havemeyer Building, ensuring Greenwich remains a beacon of culture, creativity, and community for generations to come.

**Rainer Busch**  
President of the Young Artists  
Philharmonic

### TAX NOTICE

#### CONSOLIDATED REAL ESTATE PROPERTY TAXES

#### TOWN OF GREENWICH

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

The Second Installment of Town Real Property and Sewage System Maintenance Taxes are due January 1, 2026 and must be paid by February 2, 2026. Delinquent taxes are subject to an interest charge of 1.5 % per month (A fraction of a month is defined by statute as a whole month) from the installment due date. Minimum interest charge is \$2.00.

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

### TAX NOTICE

#### SUPPLEMENTAL MOTOR VEHICLES PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES

The Tax Collector of the Town of Greenwich hereby gives notice that any person who registered a Motor Vehicle between October 2, 2024 and July 31, 2025 is liable for the payment of property taxes due January 1, 2026 and must be paid by February 2, 2026 without penalty as per Public Act 76-338 as amended (as enacted by the Connecticut State Legislature). Taxes are delinquent if not paid by February 2, 2026, subject to interest at the rate of 1.5 % per month (A fraction of a month is defined by statute as a whole month) from the due date. Minimum interest charge is \$2.00.

Taxes may be paid by mail or at the Tax Collector Office, Town Hall located at 101 Field Point Road, from 8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Monday through Friday. You may pay online with a credit card or electronic check (ACH/EFT). A convenience fee is charged by the provider of this service.

**Tax Collector**  
Town of Greenwich

# BET Budget Review Begins With Education Spending and \$543.5 Million Town Proposal

The Board of Estimate and Taxation has formally begun Greenwich's annual budget process, a months-long review that determines how the town and its schools will be funded for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Annual budget reports are required from all municipal departments and from divisions operating under the supervision and control of the Board of Education, the Board of Health, and the Board of Human Services. Those submissions are reviewed by the BET Budget Committee, which evaluates requests and prepares a Recommended Budget for consideration by the full board.

On or before April 10, the Board of Estimate and Taxation is required to set the times and locations for public budget hearings based

on the Budget Committee's estimates.

After public hearings conclude, and on or before May 5, the BET must file a detailed Proposed Budget with the Office of the Town Clerk outlining the appropriations it deems necessary for the upcoming fiscal year. The proposed appropriations are then submitted to the Representative Town Meeting to be held on or before May 15.

That process began Tuesday night with the first formal budget presentations to the BET Budget Committee.

School officials presented the Board of Education's proposed budget for the 2026-2027 school year. The education budget is typically the largest single component of the town's overall spending plan and is reviewed

separately from the municipal budget before being combined into a total spending proposal.

The Board of Education presentation marked the first step in what is expected to be weeks of detailed examination by the Budget Committee, which will review assumptions, enrollment figures, staffing levels, and projected costs as part of its deliberations.

First Selectman Fred Camillo also presented his proposed municipal budget for fiscal year 2027. Camillo's plan totals \$543.5 million, representing an increase of approximately \$27 million over the current fiscal year budget of \$516.4 million.

The proposal exceeds the Board of Estimate and Taxation's previously adopted, non-binding budget guidelines

by \$960,106. Those guidelines were established earlier in the budget cycle to frame expectations for spending growth.

Camillo's budget includes a proposed mill rate of 12.765, compared with the BET guideline mill rate of 12.591. The mill rate is used to calculate local property taxes.

According to figures included in Camillo's presentation, a homeowner with a property assessed at \$1 million would see an estimated \$724 increase in annual property taxes if the proposed budget were adopted as presented.

Camillo described the budget as balancing the continuation of town services with long-term planning. According to his presentation, the operating portion of the

budget maintains existing municipal services for residents, while the long-range capital budget focuses on completing projects identified as important to the community. The presentation can be found online here: <https://www.greenwichct.gov/DocumentCenter/View/53751/FY26-27-First-Selectman-Budget-Presentation>.

The municipal budget, like the education budget, will now move into the next phase of review by the BET Budget Committee. Committee members are expected to examine individual departmental requests, capital spending priorities, and revenue assumptions before issuing a Recommended Budget.

Public input is a required

part of the process. Once the BET schedules public hearings, residents will have the opportunity to comment on both the education and municipal spending plans before the board finalizes its Proposed Budget.

The Board of Estimate and Taxation's final proposal, once filed with the Town Clerk, will be subject to approval by the Representative Town Meeting, the town's legislative body. The RTM vote represents the final step before the budget is adopted for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

Tuesday's presentations marked the opening of that review period, setting in motion a process that will shape school operations, municipal services, and property tax levels for the coming year.

## The Roberts Court's Remaking of Religious Freedom

By GEORGE BICHER

It was a homecoming for Nelson Tebbe, though one delayed by the universal equalizer of a common cold. Standing before the Retired Men's Association on January 21, the Jane M.G. Foster Professor of Law at Cornell Law School was introduced by a host who knew him better than most: his father, Horst Tebbe. The younger Tebbe, a graduate of Brown University and Yale Law School with a doctorate from the University of Chicago, began his presentation by describing a legal landscape in the midst of a seismic shift. He spoke not merely as an academic, but as a chronicler of a new era in American constitutional life, one he and his colleagues at the University of Virginia, Micah Schwartzman and Richard Schragger, have termed preferentialism.

Professor Tebbe's presentation focused on how the Roberts Court has fundamentally remade the relationship between church and state. To understand the current moment, he walked his audience through nearly a century of jurisprudence, dividing the history into four distinct eras. He began with the post-war pluralism of 1940 to 1963, a time when the Supreme Court first began to articulate a law of religious freedom that accommodated Protestants, Catholics, and Jews. He noted that Justice Robert Jackson, in the 1943 case *West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette*, famously declared that no official could prescribe what shall be orthodox in matters of faith—a ruling that protected Jehovah's Witness children from a mandatory flag salute they found sinful.

The second era, separationism, stretched from 1963 to 1990 and looms largest in the public imagination. During this time, the court enforced a high wall between church and state, particularly in public schools. Professor Tebbe highlighted the case of *Adell Sherbert*, a Seventh-day Adventist whose victory in *Sherbert v. Verner* established that the government must have a compelling reason to substantially burden an individual's religious exercise. Similarly, he discussed *Jonas Yoder*, who successfully argued in Wisconsin v. *Yoder* that Old Order Amish families should be exempt from compulsory high school attendance to preserve their anti-modern way of life. On the establishment side, Alton Lemon became the namesake of the Lemon test in 1971, which for decades prohibited the government from providing direct financial aid to religious schools.

By 1990, the tide had turned toward deferentialism, an era shaped by the Reagan Revolution's emphasis on judicial restraint. Justice Antonin Scalia, writing for the court in *Employment Division v. Smith*, essentially dismantled the protections established by *Adell Sherbert*. The case involved Al Smith, a Native American man fired for using peyote in a religious ritual. The court ruled that if a law is neutral and applies to everyone, religious practitioners are not entitled to special exemptions.

The current era, which began around 2020, represents a sharp departure which Professor Tebbe described as preferentialism: a combination of a weakened Establishment Clause and a reinvigorated Free Exercise Clause that systematically advantages religious actors. In *Carson v. Makin*, the court shifted from a rule where the government may not fund religious schools to a rule where it must fund them if it provides tuition assistance to secular private schools. He also pointed to *Kennedy v. Bremerton School District*, where the court protected Joseph Kennedy, a football coach who insisted on praying on the fifty-yard line after games.

Professor Tebbe noted that Justice Sonia Sotomayor has emerged as a leading voice of dissent in this new era, often arguing that the court is eroding the boundary between church and state. He highlighted *Mahmoud v. McKnight*, a Maryland case where parents sought an exemption from a public school curriculum that included LGBTQ-inclusive books. To explain this shift, Professor Tebbe cited political polarization and a demographic shift: the rise of the nones, or religiously disaffiliated Americans. These nones now make up nearly 30 percent of the population and skew heavily liberal, while those who remain affiliated with traditional churches skew conservative, making church-state debates increasingly combustible.

The presentation concluded with a look toward the future, where Professor Tebbe predicted a consolidation of this new paradigm, including the possible funding of religious charter schools. When asked about the makeup of the court, he observed that for the first time in history, there are zero mainline Protestants on the bench, a fact that reflects the changing networks of elite legal power. Justice Amy Coney Barrett, for instance, has had to navigate recusals in cases brought by her former colleagues at the Notre Dame Religious Freedom Clinic, highlighting the close-knit world of the conservative legal movement.

The RMA's next presentation, "The Glimmerglass Festival" by Rob Ainsley, is scheduled for 11 AM on Wednesday, February 4, 2026. RMA presentations are held at Christ Church Greenwich, Parish Hall, 254 E. Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830.

Join Artistic and General Director of the Glimmerglass Festival, Rob Ainsley, and some of the country's most exciting young opera stars for a thrilling musical dive into the internationally renowned summer festival's 2026 season.

New York State's second largest opera company and winner of the 2025 International Opera Award for best musical, the Glimmerglass Festival is based in historic Cooperstown, New York. Offering five mainstage productions and a variety of ancillary events every July and August, it makes for a perfect weekend of art, music, and sightseeing. Performing in a custom-built



Professor Nelson Tebbe spoke on the shifting interpretation of religious freedom by John Roberts' Supreme Court.

**Preferentialism: a combination of a weakened Establishment Clause and a reinvigorated Free Exercise Clause that systematically advantages religious actors.**

918-seat theater with excellent acoustics nestled on the banks of Otsego Lake, coined "Glimmerglass" by author James Fenimore Cooper, the Festival draws crowds of some 30,000 enthusiastic visitors each season from around the world. Over its half-century history, the Festival has also fostered the careers of thousands of artists through its Resident Artist, Apprenticeship, and Artist-in-Residence Programs.

Rob Ainsley is an alumnus of the University of Cambridge, Mannes College of Music, and the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program at the Metropolitan Opera. He served for several years as organist of Christ Church, Greenwich, also founding the Greenwich Music Festival with fellow Christ Church alum Ted Huffman. Since then, he has held leadership positions at Portland Opera, Minnesota Opera, the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, and Washington National Opera at the Kennedy Center, accompanying singers such as Renée Fleming in recital and speaking on opera and music history to audiences around the country.

To stream the presentation by Rob Ainsley at 11 AM on Wednesday, February 4, click on <https://bit.ly/30IBj2l>. This presentation will also be available on local public access TV channels, Verizon FIOS channel 24 and Optimum channel 79.

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

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

## RTM Seeks Committee Candidates (RTM Members Only)

### RTM Seeks Candidates for Claims Committee

**(RTM Members Only)**

The Representative Town Meeting Appointments Committee is seeking candidates from active RTM members to serve on the Claims Committee, a special committee of the RTM that reviews claims against the Town of Greenwich.

The Claims Committee meets as needed to consider appropriations for payment, compromise, or settlement of claims upon recommendation of the Town Attorney.

Candidates must be current RTM members. Valuable skill sets include litigation, risk management, negotiation, legal expertise, and insurance experience.

Interested RTM members should contact Frederick Lee, Chairman of the Appointments Committee, at [frederickLee.RTN@gmail.com](mailto:frederickLee.RTN@gmail.com), or submit a CV to Jude Collins, Secretary of the Appointments Committee, at [jude.collins@greenwichct.org](mailto:jude.collins@greenwichct.org) by 12 noon on Friday, February 6, 2026.

### RTM Seeks Candidates for Labor Contracts Committee

### (RTM Members Only)

The Representative Town Meeting Appointments Committee is seeking candidates from active RTM members to serve on the Labor Contracts Committee, a special committee of the RTM that informs and advises the RTM on labor contracts for Town and Board of Education employees.

The Labor Contracts Committee examines and analyzes proposed labor contracts for police, firefighters, teachers, nurses, administrators, and other municipal workers. The committee reviews contracts negotiated by the Town or Board of Education with labor unions and advises the RTM on ratification. It also reviews Town personnel policies, compensation practices, and fringe benefits.

Candidates must be current RTM members. Valuable skill sets include labor relations, human resources, labor negotiations, mediation and conflict resolution, contract analysis, and report writing.

Interested RTM members should contact Frederick Lee, Chairman of the Appointments Committee, at [frederickLee.RTN@gmail.com](mailto:frederickLee.RTN@gmail.com), or submit a CV to Jude Collins, Secretary of the Appointments Committee, at [jude.collins@greenwichct.org](mailto:jude.collins@greenwichct.org) by 12 noon on Friday, February 6, 2026.

### RTM Seeks Candidates for Affordable Housing Trust Fund Advisory Council (RTM Members Only)

The Representative Town Meeting Appointments Committee is seeking candidates from active RTM members to serve on the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Advisory Council.

The Affordable Housing Trust Fund Advisory Council assists the Housing Trust Board in preserving existing and creating new affordable rental and homeownership housing in Greenwich. The 11-member council comprises persons with professional or other expertise in affordable housing and those able to offer valuable perspectives on affordable housing. Two members of the council are appointed by the RTM.

Candidates must be current RTM members. Valuable skill sets include expertise in affordable housing, real estate development, housing policy, finance, and community planning.

Interested RTM members should contact Frederick Lee, Chairman of the Appointments Committee, at [frederickLee.RTN@gmail.com](mailto:frederickLee.RTN@gmail.com), or submit a CV to Jude Collins, Secretary of the Appointments Committee, at [jude.collins@greenwichct.org](mailto:jude.collins@greenwichct.org) by 12 noon on Friday, February 6, 2026.

# The Divine Ledger: Our Individual Book of Life



By RABBI MITCHELL M. HURVITZ

Once upon a time, young Hebrew School students participated in an art project.

Their teacher had asked them to create their own personal siddur and write personal prayers on their pages.

Each child was encouraged to pour their heart and imagination into their project. The students enthusiastically used glitter, stickers, markers, and crayons on their pages as they wrote their own prayers.

Common words appeared amidst the children's prayers:

- Thank you
- Help
- Protect
- Peace

• Love...

The rabbi came to the classroom to observe the prayer project in action.

One young girl came up to the rabbi with her small hands sprinkled with glitter. She asked:

"Rabbi, does God hear us when we pray?"

The rabbi smiled broadly and answered the child confidently:

"Yes, God hears us when we pray."

But the child was not content with the answer. She didn't know the exact source of her problem, but she somehow innately understood something about human nature.

She felt the truth that most of us have an outward, public voice and an inward, private voice.

So the little girl asked the rabbi:

"Does God hear what we say when we are not praying aloud?"

The rabbi, a little less confidently, replied:

"God hears us then, too."

But then she asked a follow-up question that stopped the rabbi in his tracks:

"If God listens when we pray, and also listens the rest of the time, then which does God believe?"

Which voice does God believe? The ultimate test of our spiritual integrity is whether prayer is merely a performance or truly a preparation.

An ancient Midrash teaches that God possesses: "An eye that sees, an ear that hears, and all our deeds inscribed in the Book of Life that God holds."

Often, we imagine that this Divine ledger is kept at a distance, and our final entry will be written only at the end of our days. But Judaism asserts that the Book of our Life is very near, and every word we speak and every deed we perform is "inscribed" into the person we are becoming.

Also, with God, we are never "off the record" when it comes to living a sacred and meaningful life. And, if any of our words or actions are not fit to be witnessed by others or by

God, then they are not fit to be acted upon at all.

With our individual Book of Life, we are always "on the record" and continually shaped and measured by the moral boundaries that guide us.

The primary pillars of our soul's architecture are compassion, humility, and kindness.

God does not expect us to be perfect.

We are human and flawed.

But God does expect us to strive to be better and to move ever closer to the person we can become, because each of us is created in the image of God.

The goal of our Judaism is to serve as a bridge that can help us close the gap between who we are when we pray and who we are the rest of the time.

The prayerful bridge often feels most visible in the synagogue, where we pray. But our prayerful bridge extends everywhere we go, and we take the time to self-examine how we are doing and where we might improve.

God's commandments serve

as a moral compass that guides us on our journey through our limited days. And God's mitzvot are much more than a list of rules to be observed.

Each mitzvah is God's invitation to enter into a meaningful covenantal relationship through our everyday actions, infusing daily life with our sacred intentions and actions.

When we succeed in deepening our prayerful connection with God and embrace our life's obligations, we discover the meaningful engagement with God and others that we most seek.

The best way to travel our life's path is with a posture of ever-present compassion, humility, and kindness.

Ultimately, God cares not only for our thoughts and words, but also for the sacred actions we perform.

Our prayers help us pull out God's compass and be best guided toward our final destination.

We can all pray that along our life's path, we use God's

guidance well and possess the compassion to notice when and where others are in need.

When this occurs, we can then possess the humility to recognize that we are the ones God is calling on to respond with the required lovingkindness to act for the sake of those in need.

Our prayerful utterances can become the signposts by which we can best sanctify our days.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Mitch

Temple Sholom's Senior Rabbi

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

## Worship Services

### Assemblies of God

**Harvest Time Church**  
1338 King St., 203-531-7778  
[www.hctchurch.com](http://www.hctchurch.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. **SENT Youth Conference: Friday, January 30, 6:30pm. First Wednesday: February 4, 7pm. Men's Breakfast: Saturday, February 7, 8:30am.**

### Baptist

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

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

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

Worship: Sun, 11am (in person and online through Facebook & YouTube). Children Sunday School: 9:30am, ages 9-14y. Adult Bible Study: Sun, 9:30am, Fellowship Hall. Prayer Gathering: Wed, 7pm, Pastor's Office or virtual on Google Meets. **All Church Potluck Luncheon: Sunday, Feb. 1 (Every 1st Sunday of the month), following Service, Everyone is welcome.**

### Catholic

**Sacred Heart Church**  
95 Henry St.; 203-531-7370  
[www.sacredheartgreenwich.org](http://www.sacredheartgreenwich.org)

Mass: Mon-Fri, 7am (in the Chapel); Saturday Vigil, 4pm (in Church); Sunday: 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30am. Confessions: Sat, 3:30pm 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. Blessing of Throats: January 31 & February 1, after every Mass. Parish Dinner & Casino Night: Saturday, January 31, 5-11pm. Our Lady of Mount Carmel in White Plains, free admission. Family Mass with Breakfast: Sunday, February 8, 9:30am.**

**St. Catherine of Siena & St. Agnes**  
4 Riverside Ave; 203-637-3661  
[www.stc-sta.org](http://www.stc-sta.org)

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

Masses: Saturday, 3-4pm - Confessions (Specific dates confirmed weekly in bulletin.) Vigil Mass, 5pm. Sunday: 7:30am, 9am (Family Mass), 10:30am (Traditional Mass), 5pm (Teen Mass), all at St. Catherine's Church). Masses in other Languages: French Mass - 2nd Sunday of the month, 11am. Italian Mass - 3rd Sunday of the month, both at St. Catherine's Chapel. Spanish Mass, 6:30pm, St. Catherine's Church. Daily/Weekdays: Mon, Tue, Thu & Friday: 7am - Daily Mass, St. Catherine's Church; 5:15pm - Daily Mass, St. Catherine's Chapel. Tuesdays: Rosary, 6pm, St. Catherine's Chapel. Wednesdays: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 8:30am-4pm, St. Catherine's Church. **Ongoing: Food & Essentials Drive for Neighbor to Neighbor (there will be a car or SUV with an open trunk in the parking lot across from St. Catherine's church on Tuesdays, 9-11am. Join Music Ministries for choir rehearsals - Traditional, Contemporary, Teen, Cherub, Family Mass Choir - contact Music Director, Dr. Liya Petrides at [music.director@stc-sta.org](mailto:music.director@stc-sta.org) with questions. 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](mailto:ParishPartners@stc-sta.org). Walking with Purpose Book Club: Wednesdays, through February 25, 7:15-8:15pm, [MomStCath@gmail.com](mailto:MomStCath@gmail.com).**

### St. Mary Church

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

Public Mass: Sun: 9, 10:30am, 12:15 & 5:15pm. Sat Vigils: 4 & 7pm (Spanish). Daily: Mon-Fri, 12:05pm (Church doors will open from 10am-3pm). Confessions (English): Tue: 7-8pm; Sat: 3-4:45pm. Eucharistic Adoration: 1st Fri of the month: 12:30-5pm. **Malta House Casual Friday Dinner Fundraiser: Friday, February 6, 6:30pm, St. Ann Club in Norwalk.**

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

Mass: Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:15pm. Sunday Masses: 8am, 9:45am, 12pm, 5:15pm. Daily Masses: Mon-Sat, 9am. **Parish Pasta Dinner: Saturday, January 31, 6:15pm.**

**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](http://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.**

**St. Roch Church**

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

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

### Christian Science

**First Church of Christ, Scientist**  
11 Park Pl; 203-869-1555  
[christianscientist.org/greenwich](http://christianscientist.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. **February 1: Love. February 8: Spirit.**

### Community

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

In-person worship: Sundays, 10am.

**Round Hill Community Church**

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

Weekly Sunday Worship services in the Sanctuary at 10am or online at [roundhillcommunitychurch.org](http://roundhillcommunitychurch.org) anytime. Children's Worship (grades K-5) meets during the 10 am service. Please call the Church Office or visit the website for the most up-to-date information, events, and schedules. **Tools for Aging Well, 2nd Wednesday of the Month, 11am-12pm, Sanctuary. Round Hill Art & Craft Studio: Mondays, 1-4pm.**

### Congregational

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

Worship: In-Person & Virtual: Sundays, 10am. Live-streaming on YouTube and Facebook, and broadcast on WGCH (1490 AM). Connect during the week: Friday: Friday Email Blast (sign up by calling the church office); Church school before worship most Sundays, 9am for preschoolers through grade 6. Online programming available via Zoom. A joyful community diverse in spiritual backgrounds and beliefs. **Souper Bowl Soup Sale: Sunday, February 8, 11am-1pm.**

**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](http://www.2cc.org)

Sunday Worship, 8:30 & 10:30am. Livestream available for 10:30am service. Children's Chapel during 10:30am worship. Follow us on Facebook & Instagram: @2CCGreenwich. All are welcome here! **Teddy Bear Story Time at Coffee for Good: Saturday, January 31, 8am.**

### Episcopal

**Anglican Church of the Advent**  
606 Riverside Rd; 203-861-2432  
[facebook.com/greenwichanglican](http://facebook.com/greenwichanglican)

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

### Christ Church Greenwich

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

Holy Eucharist: Sundays, 8am, In-person only, Chapel. Messy Church Eucharist: every Sun, 8:45am, In-person only, Parish Hall. Holy Eucharist: 10am, In-person or livestream, Main Sanctuary, Children's Chapel during the service. Choral Evensong or Sung Compline: In-person or livestream, 5pm. Wednesdays: Preach and Teach Eucharist (new time for this midweek service), 12:15pm, In-person only Chapel. Thursdays: Choral Evensong, 6:30pm, In-person or livestream, Main Sanctuary. **Friday Bible Study with Rev. Tim Hamlin: Fri, 10am. Messy Church Eucharist: Sun, 8:45am. Bagels & Bibles: Sun, 10:05am. Wintermaster: A Sacred Journey: Tuesdays, through Feb, 10, 7:30pm. Candlemas Choral Eucharist: Sunday, Feb. 1, 5pm. Sunday Forum: Christ 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 Caroll@greenwichsentinel.com.*

### ELIZABETH HURWORTH

Elizabeth (Betty) Hurworth passed away peacefully on Friday, January 23, 2026, age of 94 at Nathaniel Witherell. Betty was a longtime resident of Greenwich living on Hunt Terrace. Betty was an active member of the YMCA and an animal activist.

She leaves her cousin Andrew Stalker his wife Angela and their children Michael and Olivia in England. Betty also leaves behind her many friends at Nathaniel Witherell. She will be missed by her dear friends and family.



### LILLIAS CODDINGTON

Lillias Mae Coddington, 84 of McDonough, passed away on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, after a long battle with Alzheimers at Westbury Center of McDonough.

Mrs. Coddington was born on March 19, 1941, in Greenwich, CT to the late Chester Olmstead and the late Beatrice Lippert Olmstead. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Rev. Lauren Coddington; as well as her brother, Philip Olmstead.

Lillias was a loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She loved Jesus with all her heart and faithfully taught her children to do the same. Lillias was active in her church not only as the Pastor's wife but in passionately teaching Sunday School and Children's Church. In the churches her husband pastored in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Pennsylvania she left a lasting impact on countless young lives. Her unwavering faith and gentle spirit will be remembered and cherished by all who knew her.

Those left to cherish Lillias' memory are her 6 children and their spouses, Anita (Jeff) Rohr of Cicero, Indiana, Chester (Joy) Coddington of Elmira, New York, David (Kim) Coddington of Chesapeake, Virginia, Paul (Bonnie) Coddington of Endwell, New York, Stephen (Ruth) Coddington of Toccoa, Georgia, Daniel (Rhonda) Coddington of Bellefontaine, Ohio; 15 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren and one on the way.

A Memorial Service will be held on March 8, 2026, at 2pm at Bentley Creek Wesleyan Church, 13255 Berwick Turnpike, Gillett, Pennsylvania 16925 with burial at Fitzsimmons Cemetery on Maple Avenue in Elmira, New York at the convenience of the family.

Please join the family and friends in honoring the life of Lillias Mae Coddington by attending church and visiting [www.conner-westburyfuneralhome.com](http://www.conner-westburyfuneralhome.com) and posting your tributes and memories.



### EZRA GROSSMAN

Ezra Peter Grossman slipped away at home in Maryland on January 21, 6 days before his 76th birthday, and is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, Jane, daughters Leah (John) and Sydney (Michael).

Ezra was predeceased by his parents Henry and Rosalie and sister Nina. Recently of Hendersonville, NC for 15 years, Ezra had also previously lived 25 years in Greenwich, CT.

Born in NYC and raised in the Bronx, Ezra never forgot his roots and was a stalwart Bronxite and a true-blue New Yorker his entire life. He was a loyal Knicks and Mets fan and cheered on both the men's and women's UConn basketball teams.

He attended Bronx High School of Science, and Columbia University School of Engineering where in the spring of 1970, his senior year, he co-chaired the first Earth Day at Columbia University and led his Engineering class on strike against the Vietnam War. He worked for two years in Mayor Lindsay's policy planning department before heading off to the Harvard Business School where his section mates gave him the nickname "the question man".

After graduation, Ezra worked in various commercial banks, investment firms, and Moody's Rating Agency financing, securing and rating all types of commercial real estate across the country.

Ezra, true to his name, enjoyed helping others however he could whether tutoring young students in math, helping resettle Soviet Jews in the early 90's, or extending his deep rolodex and resume editing to graduating students entering the work force.

Known for his quick wit and sense of humor, he was a good friend to many, and always available as a sounding board. Ezra felt his greatest accomplishment was "living life."

May his memory be a blessing.

Services will be private.

We are grateful to the care that Montgomery and Prince George's Hospice services provided at the end of Ezra's life. Please consider making a donation in his memory. [montgomeryhospice.org](http://montgomeryhospice.org)

### GAIL MOLONEY

Gail Sheppard Moloney, 87, passed away peacefully on January 20, 2026, at her home in Vero Beach, Florida.

Born on October 18, 1938, in New York City, to John and Rose Sheppard; she grew up in Greenwich, CT. She received her early education at Greenwich Academy and then attended Ethel Walker's School, graduating in 1956. She went on to attend Vassar College, studying Political Science; she graduated in 1960—an achievement that reflected her lifelong commitment to learning and intellectual curiosity.

She lived a passionate life. Whether tennis and paddle tennis earlier in life or bridge and sudoku in her later years, Gail was devoted to playing well and with grace. Gail was first married to J. Truman Bidwell, with whom she shared three daughters, and later to Philip Moloney, with whom she shared many adventures, often traveling to new countries to visit vineyards and friends. Her truest love was always her family and friends.

A devoted mother to Hillary Mackay, Kimberley Stubbs, and Elysabeth Ray, Gail found immense pride and purpose in her family. Her legacy continues through her nine grandchildren, each of whom brought her great happiness.

Gail had an innate kindness that touched everyone she met—whether for five minutes or fifty years. Her thoughtfulness was legendary; she never forgot a birthday or significant milestone in the lives of those for whom she cared. Her ability to make others feel seen and valued was one of her most enduring gifts.

Gail's life was a testament to warmth, generosity, and quiet strength. There will be a funeral service at St. Barnabas Church, Greenwich, CT on February 7 at 2 pm with a reception to follow. A memorial service will be held in Vero Beach later in the spring, likely near Easter as Gail always adored "her alleluias." In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Heifer International, a charity of which Gail was a faithful supporter, committed as she was to helping others. To say that she will be missed is an enormous



### JOHANNE GAMBRILL

(January 19, 1938 - January 19, 2026)

Johanne Nielsen Gambrill, mother, math teacher, civil rights activist, craftswoman, photographer, and great admirer of nature's beauty, died on January 19, 2026, in Ayer, Mass. It was her 88th birthday and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

"Walk with purpose" were the words Johanne lived by and the words of wisdom she imparted to her four daughters. From a young age, she was inspired to see the world and contribute to building community, understanding, and friendship across it. Johanne came to understand how one person had the power to foster better understanding between people from different countries, even those who had been enemies in the past. She devoted herself to developing and applying this power herself for the rest of her life.

Johanne loved the Fibonacci sequence and fractals, which could be observed in nature. If you met her, she would tell you how the distribution of seeds in a raspberry reflect the Fibonacci sequence as do the branching patterns in trees and leaves. She would make sure you knew that trees, ferns, snowflakes, and broccoli florets all exhibit a fractal pattern—the complex, infinitely repeating pattern that looks similar at any scale. She also loved pi, celebrating National Pi Day in her classroom every year starting in the 1980s by bringing her students homemade apple pies.

Johanne's love of math and her wonder at the beauty of nature were intertwined. On walks, she would stop to point out the changing colors of leaves in the fall, the Maine ocean, or a vibrant sunset. Johanne instilled in her daughters an appreciation of the everyday beauty they were surrounded by and the importance of taking note of it. Her daughters now do the same with Johanne's grandchildren.

Johanne Elsa Nielsen was born in Wilmington, Delaware, on January 19, 1938, to Mary Elizabeth (Abrams) Nielsen, a nurse, and Max Peter Carl Nielsen, Banquets Manager at the Hotel Dupont. Max Nielsen was recognized as one of two men who made significant contributions to the Banquet Department of the Hotel du Pont in The Hotel du Pont Story 1911-1981 for his long-time service in various roles, as waiter and maître d'hôtel for 20+ years.

Johanne graduated from Mount Pleasant High School in 1956 and Bucknell University in 1960. She was a straight-A math student in high school, a mathematics major in college, and a devoted math teacher.

In high school, Johanne was awarded the only American Field Service (AFS) scholarship in Delaware to be an exchange student in Norway. She developed a lifelong friendship with her Norwegian host sister Irene, and remained friends with Peter, the German AFS student at her high school, throughout his life.

After college in 1961, Johanne served as a volunteer for Operation Crossroads Africa, a precursor to the Peace Corps, which placed her and other like-minded young Americans in a village outside Dakar, Senegal, to help build a school for children there.

During her years at home raising her daughters, Johanne focused on volunteer work for AFS and created AFS programs at her children's various schools in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New Jersey, supporting scores of AFS exchange students from both the United States and around the world, including Vaidehi, a student from Sri Lanka, whom she hosted 1980-81 and corresponded with for many years.

Johanne mastered many handicrafts and created beautiful lasting works that adorned her home. Her lifelong passion was photography. She also learned silversmithing, weaving, crewel embroidery, needlepoint, and quilting. Having grown up making her own clothes, Johanne made all the costumes

for the drama productions at the Elisabeth Morrow School in the early 1980s, including "The Sound of Music" and "Fiddler on the Roof." She created gorgeous, precisely worked mittens and sweaters for her daughters every winter, and her hand-knit Christmas stockings still adorn her daughters' fireplaces.

Johanne enjoyed a long career teaching math. She began at the Calhoun School in New York City and eventually taught nearly every level of math at the Dwight-Englewood School in New Jersey, where all of her daughters graduated. While she taught, Johanne took courses at night at Columbia Teachers College in New York City, earning her master's degree in math education in 2000 at age 62. She finished her teaching career at the Sacred Heart School in Greenwich, CT, retiring in 2008. There, Johanne planned an annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration, relishing the opportunity to share the history of the civil rights movement with the student body.

Throughout her adult life, Johanne spent her summers in Ogunquit, Maine. She loved the beach, body surfing in the ocean, lobster, and walking along the Marginal Way. She also really loved swimming and relaxing at the Tenakill pool.

Johanne Gambrill is survived by her four daughters Sara, Becky, Anne, and Amy, and sons-in-law and thirteen grandchildren, and her sister and brother-in-law Susan and George Morrison and their three children and six grandchildren. She is also survived by many cousins in Denmark. She leaves a wonderful legacy of thousands of math students who believed in themselves because she believed in them.

Interment will take place on March 14, 2026, at Greenlawn Cemetery in Nahant, Mass. Johanne's memorial service will take place in Ogunquit, Maine this summer.



### GEORGE FRICKER

George E. "Chuck" Fricker of Duxbury, age 85, passed away on January 19, 2026. He was the beloved husband of Elizabeth M. (Lynch) Fricker; loving father of Sharon DeCastro of Manomet, Tracy (Carl) MacDonald of Halifax, and Michael F. Fricker of Duxbury; cherished grandfather of Brittany MacDonald and Julie, Lauren and Danielle DeCastro; dear brother of William (Debra) Miller of Sagamore and the late Margaret LeBlanc.

George was born in Milford to the late George Edward and Ethel (Barrier) Fricker. The family resided in Franklin and North Attleboro. George was a 1958 graduate of North Attleboro High School. He joined the United States Air Force at age 17 and learned the HVAC trade that became his lifelong career. He met the love of his life, Elizabeth "Betty" Lynch, at a dance at Stewart Air Force Base and the two married on August 18, 1962 in Port Chester, NY. They built a home in Greenwich, CT where they raised their three children and created a neighborhood "family" that exists today.

George worked hard in the oil industry, first in service, and eventually managing and presiding over several oil companies in CT, NY, and MA. In 1986, the family moved back to Massachusetts and settled in Duxbury. George enjoyed "messing about in boats", fishing with friends, and taking great pride in his lawn. He always loved a good party and was a man who was not afraid to dance. He passed his hard work ethic on to his children, as well as his wit and sarcasm. His grandchildren were a bright light in his life, and he was always there when a need arose. In the last few years, George enjoyed his membership at American Legion Post 223 where he could socialize and share stories. His passing leaves a heavy sadness in his family, friends, and wife Betty who has been by his side through it all for 64 years.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday, January 30, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the Holy Family Parish Church, 601 Tremont St. in Duxbury, followed by burial with Military Honors in the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne. Relatives and friends are then invited back to the American Legion Post 223, 5 West Street in Duxbury, for a reception in his honor.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, by mail to 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or online at: <https://www.stjude.org/>



### GEORGE FRANO

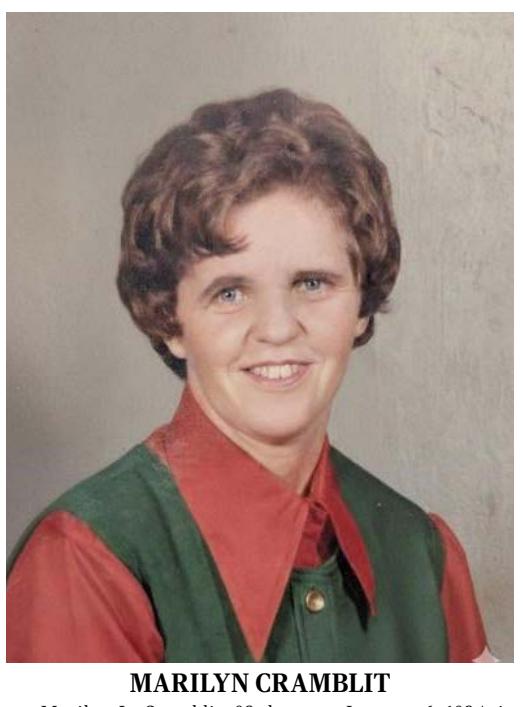
George Frano, a lifelong resident of Cos Cob, passed away on January 18, 2026, in Pennsylvania. He was 83.

George was born on June 21, 1942, in Greenwich, to Andrew and Hannah Frano. For many years, George worked for the Town of Greenwich. He enjoyed staying busy and working in his yard. He had a great love for dogs.

George was predeceased by his beloved wife, Caroline (Pucci) Frano, and his dear son, George Frano. He is survived by his cherished children, Andy Frano (Amy) and Anne-Marie Frano, loving grandson, AJ, and dear siblings, Jack Frano (Nancy) and Andy Frano (Pat).

Family and friends gathered on Thursday, January 29, at Coxe & Graziano Funeral Home, Greenwich. Funeral Service

will be held on Friday, January 30, at 10:45 a.m., at the funeral home followed by interment at St. Mary's Cemetery. Memorial donations can be sent to an animal/pet rescue of your choice.



### MARILYN CRAMBLIT

Marilyn L. Cramblit, 92, born on January 6, 1934, in Greenwich, CT, passed away on January 17, 2026, in Springfield, MA. She led a life marked by independence, hard work, strength, and a spirit of adventure.

Marilyn began her career in the 1950s as a secretary for the Department of Defense at the Pentagon. She dedicated many years to her profession, eventually retiring from Westover Air Force Base. Throughout her life, she was recognized with numerous awards for her academic pursuits and special achievements. Marilyn was proud to have her writings preserved in the Library of Congress and achieved the remarkable feat of mastering computer programming at the age of 40.

Marilyn cherished her love for animals and held wonderful memories of camping with her children in the White Mountains. She also enjoyed extensive travels, exploring places such as Europe, Iceland, and Alaska.

She is survived by her daughter, Patricia L. Hebert, and her husband, Timothy; her son, Barry L. Thomas, and his wife, Kathy; her sister, Betty Deveson; her grandchildren, Ryan Thomas, Zach Thomas, Glycia Senchi, and Athena Senchi; and her devoted caregiver, Maria. Marilyn was predeceased by her parents, William and Mary C. (Tilly) Deveson; her husband, Raymond Cramblit; and her son, Robert J. Thomas. Her legacy will live on in the hearts of those who loved her.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation in Marilyn's memory to: TJO Foundation for Animals 66 Industry Ave, Suite 3 Springfield, MA 01104.

Services will be held privately.



### MARGARET-ANN BAMBERG

Margaret-Ann Howgate Bamberg "Peg," 94, died peacefully at her Simsbury, home on January 17, 2026, surrounded by her loving family.

Peg was the daughter of Dr. Henry Otis Howgate of Greenwich, and Mary Wallace Howgate, of Schenectady, NY. She was born in Greenwich, graduated from Greenwich High School, and went on to receive her Bachelor of Arts from UCONN in 1953, where she was a proud member of the Pi Beta Phi Fraternity. Peg first worked as a caseworker for the Public Welfare Department and never lost her lifelong commitment to social justice issues and public service. She also worked as Secretary to the Director of Medical School Applicants at Yale.

She married Robert W. Bamberg on May 8, 1954 and they had four children. She returned to work outside the home when her youngest entered public school. She then became a bookkeeper for the Church of the Good Shepherd and then for BF & H Builders, both in Orange. Finally, she became the Cash Accounting Manager at Grove Property Services. She retired from Grove in 1997, receiving many expressions of appreciation for her contributions. Peg had a head for numbers and a memory for detail. While her employers certainly appreciated her business acumen, they also celebrated her sense of humor and significant, compassionate people skills.

Peg's attention to detail was also evident in other areas of her life. She was a talented artist, evidenced by her sewing skills, numerous crafts, and the beautiful and intricate garments she knit. She loved color whether in clothing or in the detailed stencil designs she hand-painted. She thoroughly enjoyed entertaining and hosting gracious dinner parties, often with gourmet dishes served. People universally reflect on her warmth, appreciation, and genuine interest in those whose lives intersected her own.

She was a member of the Abigail Phelps Chapter of the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) and proudly leaves as a legacy sixteen archival albums of family genealogy. Peg was very proud of her heritage and family connections to prominent figures in American History. Additionally, she enjoyed reading, researching, and exploring the interests of her children and grandchildren. Her dedication to learning was lifelong and inspirational.

Peg is predeceased by her loving husband of 66 years, Robert W. Bamberg, a sister, Cynthia Ross Howgate Servadio, two sons, Paul and John, and a granddaughter, Lindsay Bamberg Splain. She is survived by two children, the Rev. Dr. Claire W. Bamberg of Randolph Center, VT and her wife, Lynda B. Howells, and a son Robert O. Bamberg of N Muskegon, MI, six grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Arrangements are entrusted to Vincent Funeral Home, Simsbury. Services will be announced at a later date. Donations may be made to: New Jersey Institute of Technology, in memory of Paul Bamberg, and/or the Palliative Care Unit of Hartford Hospital, in memory of John Bamberg.

*please turn to Page 10*



### MARY WEBSTER

Mary Mooney Webster, 93, died peacefully at Stamford Hospital on January 15. She spent her final days surrounded by family. A beloved mother and grandmother, devoted sister, and loyal friend, she brought vibrant energy and a can-do attitude to everything she did.

Mary was born in Dublin, Ireland, to Nora and Michael Heavey. She grew up in Brookline, MA and spent her early twenties working in public relations and special events at Filene's in Boston. She met her husband, Bob Mooney, on a blind date in Vermont and they married in 1956. They spent five years in Reading, PA, before moving to Riverside, CT, where they raised their three children and embraced community life. After Bob's death, she married another kind partner, Bill Webster. He died in 1990. In 2009, she made Edgell in Stamford her home.

Mary was an able organizer and active volunteer throughout her life. She served on the boards of the Perrot Memorial Library and Greenwich Symphony. Mary treasured longtime friendships and readily made new ones. She was an avid reader of the latest novels and the daily New York Times. Playing bridge, tennis, golf, singing at the piano, and traveling were some of her favorite things to do. She liked to start the day with a grapefruit and knew that sometimes situations called for cake or a prosecco toast.

Mary was strong, reliable, and practical. Aging wasn't easy, but she met its challenges with humor and grit. She weathered the sad losses of her husbands, her son, Michael Mooney, in 2019, and her brother, William Heavey, as well as many dear friends.

Mary is survived by her children, Beth Mooney Longcore and her husband, Jeff, of Falmouth, Maine, Kate Mooney Harris and her partner, Doug Howard, of Jamaica, Vermont; as well as her daughter-in-law, Jill Stewart Mooney of Williston, Florida.

Her beloved grandchildren, who called her Mamo, are Sarah Harris and her husband, Joseph Andriano, of Orwell, Vermont, Mary Frances Harris and her husband, Robert Rotzin, of Richmond, Virginia, Emma Mary Murray and her husband, Sam Murray, of Mt. Desert, Maine, and Claire Longcore of Encinitas, California. She was delighted by the recent arrival of a great-granddaughter.

She is also survived by her sister, Patricia Caulfield, of St. Petersburg, Fla.; and brother Bernard Heavey and his wife, Pie, of Brookline, Massachusetts; as well as many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Mary's life will take place on Saturday, February 7, at 10:30am at Edgell, 122 Palmers Hill Road, Stamford, CT. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Greenwich Symphony ([greenwichsymphony.org](http://greenwichsymphony.org)) or Perrot Memorial Library ([perrotlibrary.org](http://perrotlibrary.org))



### ROBERT SAMELWICH

Robert Samelwich, 64, of Brookfield, CT, better known as "Bob" or "Sammy" passed away on January 13, 2026 at Danbury Hospital. He was born in Greenwich, CT on February 4, 1961.

Robert took on the role of primary caregiver for his beloved mother and grandmother, dedicating his entire life to their care. Robert was a passionate fisherman, competing in many tournaments throughout his life, loving nothing more than casting a line on his boat in Candlewood Lake. He found great pride in the meticulous care of his truck, he spent many of his last days polishing and detailing it in his driveway. Robert loved to cook, always firing up his backyard grills. He also had a green thumb for gardening, growing vegetables & herbs all year long.

Robert was known for his craftsmanship and handyman skills. He could repair just about anything and was always inventing some new gadget or device.

Robert also had a great sense of humor, he liked to stir things up and keep people laughing. Robert grew up in New Fairfield and attended New Fairfield Schools, earning his GED. He completed the HVAC and Refrigeration Apprenticeship Program with the Plumbers & Steamfitters Local Union #21 of Westchester and Putnam Counties. He worked as an HVAC Mechanic for most of his life at H.E. Palmer before retiring. Robert had various jobs in his younger years, he made pizzas at Pizza Castle, and manned the pumps at Zerenner's Garage, both in New Fairfield. Robert detailed cars at the Porsche dealership in Greenwich, he also took pride in his skill as a meat cutter in the butcher department at the Food Emporium, also in Greenwich.

He was preceded in death by his father, Robert, and his grandparents, George and Genevieve Ulicky. He is survived by his Mother, Jeannette Samelwich, his sister and her husband Laurie and (Gil) Biasetti, his godson and nephew, Anthony, his wife (Jasmin), his nephews Nicholas and Dominick, and his niece Rachel. Robert will also be missed by his two cats Georgia and Squeaky.

A funeral mass was celebrated on Tuesday, January 27 in Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys Church, Brookfield. Interment took place privately in Saint Mary Cemetery, Greenwich.

### JOHN ADILETTA

John Xavier Adilettta, age 77, of Bernardsville, NJ passed away on January 12, 2026.

Son of the late Joseph George Adilettta and Claire Fischer Adilettta, John was born in Westbury, NY and raised in Greenwich, CT, moving to Thompson, CT during his high school years. The eldest of six children, John valued family above all else. He was industrious, self-reliant and, as his stories often illustrated, unafraid to occasionally break the rules.

A graduate of Clark University, John became a respected business leader and seasoned executive with a long career of shaping and growing companies in the telecommunications, technology, and corporate services sectors. He was widely recognized for his vision, strategic leadership, and his ability to guide organizations through periods of growth and transition. He served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Aquis Communications Group, Inc., a company he co-founded and helped transform into a full-service telecommunications provider. He also served in executive leadership and director roles for a range of companies and was sought after for his sharp intellect, decisive manner, and extensive experience in operations, mergers and acquisitions, and corporate governance.

More than anything else, John was most proud of his two children, Joe and Julie. He never laughed harder or opened his arms wider than when he was with them. As they grew their own families, John delighted in their successes, the funny stories that always followed, and time spent with their partners and children. He loved nothing more than sharing a special meal together or thoughtfully helping them think through a problem.

John will be deeply missed by his son, Joseph (Erin) Adilettta; daughter Julie (Dave) Boyle; and grandchildren Lincoln, Amelia, Casey, Jasper, Damon and Maeve. He also leaves behind his beloved partner of twenty-five years, Barbara Baecht; and siblings, William (Susan) Adilettta, Patricia (Jeffry) Brigman, Joseph (Dawn) Adilettta, Mark (Debra) Adilettta, and Matthew (Karen) Adilettta. He is survived by seventeen nieces and nephews, about whom he enjoyed receiving updates; and his longtime friend and mother of his children, Lynn Szafran.

His family and friends will miss his exuberant hugs, his hearty laugh, and his appreciation for quantitative analysis. He was deeply loved.

Details regarding services and memorial arrangements will be shared family and friends. In lieu of flowers please make a donation to Christmas is for Children/ Holiday Hope at <https://www.holidayhopechildren.org/donations> or to Holiday Hope, P.O. Box 214, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920.



### RICHARD BLAIR, JR.

Richard Mitchell Blair Jr., 65, of Bayside, NY, unexpectedly passed away on January 7, 2026 on the North Fork of Long Island near his home in Cutchogue. His wife of 23 years and their three boys were by his side. Born on March 8, 1960 in Evanston, Illinois to Richard Mitchell Blair Sr. and Marilyn Few Green Blair, he was raised with his three younger siblings in Riverside, CT.

Richard had many great qualities, and has left us too soon. He was naturally artistic and enjoyed drawing and painting. He loved music, theater, comedy, and performing. Sharing good times and big laughs with family and friends, he was quick-witted and engaging with a beautiful voice and lively stories. He was passionate about the environment and enjoyed spirited conversations around politics and current events.

Rich loved the water, nature and adventures. At age sixteen, he was a proud crew member on the tall ship *Regina Maris* during the trans-atlantic race, Operation Sail '76. He participated in NOLS wilderness programs in WY & AK and worked at Disney World as a monorail pilot.

A graduate of Greenwich High School; he studied radio, television and theater at the University of Arizona, and trained at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in NYC. He graduated summa cum laude from NYU's Gallatin School in Film and Television Production and Environmental Conservation Education. He worked researching and writing at the news desks of CNBC, MSNBC, and in the Science Unit at WNET-TV, New York Public Media.

Richard had a deep appreciation for the beauty of French art, culture and traditions. He worked at Le Cirque, NYC then went on to help open the restaurant Provence in SoHo, and ultimately opened and co-owned his own restaurant, Windows on the Mountain in Vermont.

Above all his many experiences and challenges, Richard was a loyal and loving husband and father - so proud of his wife and boys and all their accomplishments.

Richard is survived by his beloved wife, Beverly Kasper Blair, and their three sons:

Richard Mitchell III (Trey), Alfred Charles (Charlie), and Alexander David (Alex). He also leaves behind his brother David (Alicia); sisters Carol (Gordon) and Lynn (Brian), his Aunt Nancy D'Angelo; as well as many dear cousins, nieces and nephews, all of whom he adored.

He was preceded in death by his loving parents, Marilyn and Dick Blair, and is a direct descendant of Colonel William Few, a signer of the United States Constitution. Richard will be remembered for his creativity, intelligence, warmth, humor, and deep love for his family, friends and the natural world.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, January 31, 2026, 10 a.m., at Saint Catherine of Siena Church in Riverside, CT.

### JOHN WATLING, III

John Wright Watling III passed away peacefully on January 2, 2026, at Stamford Hospital, with both of his children at his side. He was born in Ann Arbor, MI, on October 23, 1934, son of the late John W. Watling, Jr. of Santa Barbara, Calif., and

the late Clara L. Gilbert of New Canaan, CT.

John grew up in Grosse Pointe, Michigan and then moved to Washington, D.C., during WWII. He graduated from The Taft School and then Yale University, where he earned a BA in Economics. John then earned an MBA at University of Michigan Ross School of Business before moving to NYC to begin his long and successful career as a financial advisor, spending over 40 years with White, Weld & Co/Merrill Lynch. John met his wife, Beverly, on a blind date in December of 1960 and they married on May 26, 1962. They moved to Greenwich, CT, where they lived until moving to Edgehill in Stamford, CT, in 2017. John enjoyed spending the summers fishing, hiking, and enjoying nature with Beverly and their children, Jennifer and Jonathan, at their beautiful cabin along the southern shore of Lake Superior in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

John was a member of both the Indian Harbor Yacht Club and the Round Hill Club in Greenwich, CT. He served on the Vestry of both Saint Barnabas Church and Christ Church in Greenwich. He also served on the Boards of both the Bruce Museum and The Taft School for 12 years. John was a wonderful husband, a loving and steadfast father, and a dear friend to so many people whose lives he touched. He is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Beverly Wilson Watling; and his two children, Jennifer Wright Watling, of Greenwich, CT, and Jonathan Prescott Watling of Yarmouth, Maine.

John is also survived by his daughter-in-law, Dana L. Peirce; and his grandchildren, Hartley R. Peirce-Watling and Graham P. Peirce-Watling. Additional survivors include his sister, Christine W. Paddock of Naples, Florida; and his two brothers, W. Wright Watling of Santa Barbara, California, and Charles P. Watling of Oakview, California. He was predeceased by three brothers, James F. Watling of Holland, Michigan, Thomas L. Watling of La Jolla, California, and Andrew W. Watling of Marcellus, New York.

A memorial service will be held on January 31, at 11am at Christ Church in Greenwich, followed by a reception at the Round Hill Club.

In lieu of flowers, gifts can be made to the Christ Church Building Fund or The Taft School in Watertown, CT.



### VIRGINIA CAMPBELL

September 13, 1922 – December 23, 2025

Virginia ("Ginny") Pope Campbell passed peacefully at age 103 on December 23, 2025. Ginny was a vibrant soul, interested in all things and a giving person of great faith who loved people and was blessed to have friends of all ages. "G.G." was the beloved matriarch of a scattered but close-knit family including her three children, three stepchildren, thirteen grandchildren, over a dozen great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and their descendants. Ginny's love, humor and constant belief in each member of her family will not be forgotten.

Virginia Pope spent her early years in White Plains, NY then moved to Greensboro NC where her father Russell was a professor at Guilford College. She graduated from Guilford, married and lost her first husband, fighter pilot DeArmas Smith, during WW II. While later attending nursing school at NY Hospital (Cornell Wiell) in New York City, Ginny met and married Douglas Campbell, a WWI flying Ace, in 1947. They moved to Greenwich, CT in 1949, where Ginny lived for the rest of her life. She traveled worldwide with Doug, an airline executive, but home and family were her priority. Ginny and Doug raised their three children while fully embracing and blending his three older children and their descendants into their family.

Ginny supported her children's participation in the Greenwich School system literary, musical and sports programs. She loved the Greenwich beaches, boating on Long Island sound, was an avid gardener and loved landscaping her Cos Cob property. Within the Greenwich community, Ginny volunteered for 50+ years at Greenwich Hospital and in many capacities at the First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich. She loved music, regularly attending the Metropolitan Opera and Greenwich Philharmonic. She was a diehard fan of the New York Mets, who replaced her affinity for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

A devoted member of the First Presbyterian Church for over 70 years, Ginny served as a deacon, helped manage rummage sales, played in the bell choir and until recently participated in preparing weekly meals for the homeless. She also created and ran a quilting group for many years in which volunteers made quilts for newborn babies at Greenwich Hospital. The church and the people within it were central to her active service and fulfillment. Ginny was grateful for the love and assistance she received from the FPCG community throughout her life and especially in her later years.

Ginny is survived immediately by her children Susan Campbell Siciliano (Vince) of Oceanside CA, David Campbell (Mischa) of Hamden CT and Ronald Campbell (Jennifer) of Centreville VA and their descendants. She was predeceased by her husband, by sisters Ethyl Pope and Joyce Pope Cormier, and her husband's children William Renwick Campbell, Douglas Campbell, Jr. (Riverside), and Elisabeth Campbell Morris.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, May 2, 1 PM at First Presbyterian Church, Greenwich, CT. Ginny's ashes will be interred next to her husband in the church columbarium at the conclusion of service, immediately followed by a reception in the church social hall. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to First Presbyterian Church <https://www.fpcg.org/give>. Arrangements made by Fred D. Knapp Funeral Home.



### ROBERT GOODCHILD

Robert Marshall Goodchild, 92, died peacefully on December 21, 2025, from heart disease. Born in New York City to Charles Edward and Minnie "Peg" (Cosgrove) Goodchild, Bob spent his early childhood in Mount Vernon before the family moved to Old Greenwich when he was ten.

Bob graduated from Greenwich High School and Colgate University, then proudly served his country as a Naval Supply Officer aboard the icebreaker USS Glacier during Operation Deep Freeze as part of the International Geophysical Year. After completing active duty, Bob began a long career in banking, working at Bankers Trust and later retiring in 1993 as a Vice President of Deutsche Bank.

In 1970, Bob joined the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ, serving 34 years, 15 as Chairman. Bob also devoted much of his time and energy to the Old Greenwich and Riverside communities. He served as Treasurer and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Treasurer of the College Loan Funds for both the church and Greenwich High School, and as a member of the Board of River House. An avid sailor, Bob was especially proud to serve as Treasurer and later Commodore of the Riverside Yacht Club.

Bob and his wife of 51 years, Judy (McCabe Loutrel) Goodchild, shared a love of sailing their sloop, Child's Play, during the summers and skiing in Wilmington, Vermont. Two years ago, they moved to Edgell in Stamford.

In addition to his wife, Bob is survived by his sons, Chad (Jessica) and Paul (Megan Thomas), his daughter, Elizabeth Dooley (Jonathan), and his grandchildren, Damien Thomas and Harper Dooley.

A Celebration of Life will be held on February 27, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at the First Congregational Church of Greenwich in Old Greenwich. Donations in Bob's memory may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

**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. They are paid for by the Sentinel Foundation.

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.

## NEWS BRIEFS From Page 1

will hold its annual Hot Chocolate in the Park event on Jan. 31 from 10 a.m. to noon. The event will take place in the Byram Park parking lot near the beach entrance, with free hot chocolate available. Attendees can learn about Byram Park amenities and ways to get involved with the Friends group.

### GREENWICH STUDENTS INVITED TO STEM FAIR

The First Selectman's Youth Commission will hold the 6th Annual Greenwich Middle School STEM Fair on May 16 at the Cohen Eastern Greenwich Civic Center in Old Greenwich from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The event is open to Greenwich students in grades 6 through 8 from public and private schools, and online registration is required by April 17. Questions can be sent to [STEMFair@greenwichct.org](mailto:STEMFair@greenwichct.org)

### YMCA LEADERS CLUB EXPANDS YOUTH SERVICE

The YMCA of Greenwich has launched the Leaders Club, a community service and leadership program for students in grades 4-12. Participants will complete monthly service projects with local nonprofits, with older students mentoring younger members, and projects can count toward school volunteer hour requirements. The program begins with projects supporting an animal shelter, Kids In Crisis, Neighbor to Neighbor, and local senior citizens, and is now open for registration.

### INTERFAITH CANDLELIGHT VIGIL BRINGS COMMUNITY TOGETHER



The Greenwich Fellowship of Clergy held an interfaith candlelight vigil on Wednesday, Jan. 28, from 6 to 6:45 p.m. at Christ Church, 254 East Putnam Ave. The event included prayer, song, and moments of silence, ending with "Let There Be Peace on Earth" during a candlelit procession. Organizers said it is a nonpartisan gathering open to all.

### ABILIS PARENT WORKSHOP RESCHEDULED FOR MARCH

Abilis' free parent workshop on supporting young children with developmental disabilities has been postponed from this Sunday to March 8 due to possible heavy snow. It will be held at the Cohen Abilis Advancement Center at 78 Harvard Avenue in Stamford and will cover developmental concerns, new diagnoses, transitions, and parenting topics. The event is free, includes several Abilis and medical professionals as presenters, and offers optional on-site babysitting for \$25.

### TEMPLE SHOLOM VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT COMMUNITY



More than 200 Temple Sholom volunteers participated in the synagogue's annual Mitzvah Day, organized by the Norma Perlstein z'l Social Action Committee. Participants completed service projects including packing food for Neighbor to Neighbor, assembling toiletry kits for the Greenwich High School pantry, and preparing chili jar ingredients for Jewish Family Services. The sixth through eighth grade youth group also cooked a meal for Kids in Crisis. Photo credit: Temple Sholom

## PEOPLE IN TOWN

### GREENWICH TREE CONSERVANCY HONORS LESLIE LEE

The Greenwich Tree Conservancy recognized Leslie Lee at its most recent board meeting for serving as interim president after the death of John Conte, Jr. last year. She received a gold charm with the Conservancy's logo, and Elizabeth Hopley was elected as the new president. Lee has been involved with the organization since 2007 and helped lead fundraising events and the planting of a memorial tree for Conte.

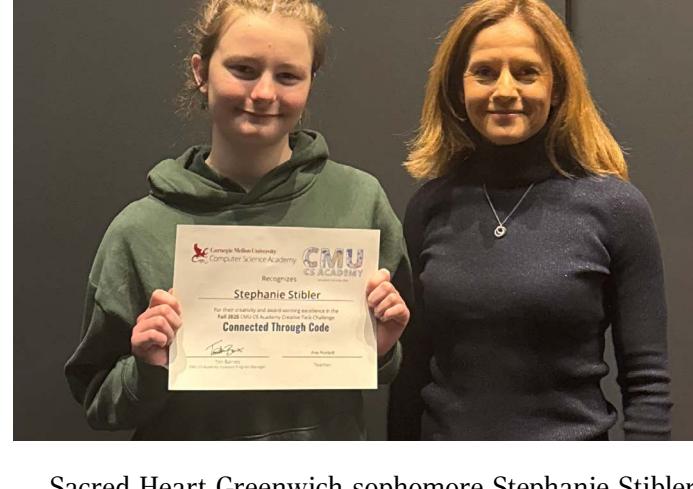
## SCHOOLS

### GCDS STUDENTS EARN TOP PHOTOGRAPHY HONORS

#### HONORS

Three Greenwich Country Day School students received photography awards at the Connecticut Regional Scholastic Art Awards. Cate Auerswald '26 won a Silver Key, Nikhil Raval '27 won a Gold Key, two Silver Keys, and an Honorable Mention, and Weston Picket '30 won a Silver Key, a Gold Key, and Best in Show.

### SACRED HEART STUDENT WINS GLOBAL CODING AWARDS



Sacred Heart Greenwich sophomore Stephanie Stibler received two first-place awards and one third-place award in the Carnegie Mellon University Computer Science Academy's Fall 2025 Creative Task Challenge. The program is an international competition. Sacred Heart Greenwich announced the results. Photo credit: Sacred Heart Greenwich

### GREENWICH STUDENTS HONOR KING THROUGH SERVICE

Greenwich Country Day School students participated in a Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, completing volunteer projects in Connecticut and New York City. At the Wallace Center in Greenwich, students packed toiletry bags and wrote thank-you letters for veterans at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center in the Bronx. Other students helped address food insecurity and volunteered at senior centers, food distribution sites, and literacy programs.

### GREENWICH SENIORS EARN STATEWIDE RECOGNITION



Connecticut General Assembly representatives presented official citations to Greenwich High School seniors Henry Jin and Esther Nabisere for their recent achievements. Jin was named a top 300 scholar in the 2026 Regeneron Science Talent Search and received a \$2,000 award, with an additional \$2,000 awarded to GHS. Nabisere was selected for the United States Senate Youth Program and will receive a \$10,000 undergraduate scholarship funded by The Hearst Foundations. Photo credit: Laura Jean Waters

## SPORTS

### WHITBY WILDCATS EARN STRONG COURT VICTORY



Whitby School's boys 7th and 8th grade team defeated Harvey 37-15. The team maintained consistent effort and coordination throughout the game. The win reflected strong teamwork from start to finish. Photo credit: Whitby School

### EVA WILKERSON REACHES 1,000 CAREER POINTS

Sacred Heart Greenwich senior guard Eva Wilkerson scored her 1,000th career point on Jan. 17 in a 66-52 win over Thayer Academy. She has continued adding to her total in recent games against Choate Rosemary Hall and Worcester Academy, and the team held a ceremony to honor the milestone. Coach Ayo Hart credited her achievement not only to scoring, but also to her rebounding, defense, and overall impact on the court.

### GREENWICH GIRLS BASKETBALL STAYS UNBEATEN IN FCIAC

Greenwich High School's varsity girls basketball team stayed undefeated in FCIAC play with a 55-42 win over previously unbeaten Staples on Jan. 23. Sophomore Zuri Faison scored 24 points and senior Madi Utzinger added 13 as the Cardinals built a double-digit halftime lead and played strong defense throughout. The victory improved Greenwich to 6-0 in the conference and 10-1 overall, extending its winning streak to 10 games.

### GREENWICH ACADEMY, GCDS SETTLE FOR TIE

Greenwich Academy and Greenwich Country Day School played to a physical 3-3 overtime tie in an outdoor FAA varsity ice hockey matchup at Greenwich Skating Club on Jan. 22. Maggie Lyden scored three goals for GA, while Caroline Muzzio netted two for GCDS, and both teams received strong goaltending performances. Despite several chances in overtime, neither rival could find a game-winner.

## ACROSS CT

### IKM RECALL

The FDA announced a nationwide recall of more than 100 metal cookware items distributed by IKM after testing found lead levels that could leach into food during normal use. The recall includes specific aluminum and brass pots and pans. No illnesses have been reported, and consumers are advised to stop using the cookware and return it for a refund. More information is available at <https://www.fda.gov/safety/recalls-market-withdrawals-safety-alerts/ikm-recalls-product-because-possible-health-risk>

### PECORINO ROMANO RECALL

The FDA upgraded a nationwide cheese recall after select Pecorino Romano products from the Ambriola Company tested positive for listeria. The recalled cheeses were distributed in November, with some expiration dates extending into 2026. The products were shipped to retailers in multiple states, including Connecticut and New York. More information is available through the FDA recall notice at <https://www.fda.gov/safety/recalls-market-withdrawals-safety-alerts/ambriola-company-issues-recall-cheese-products-because-listeria-health-risk>

### ARROWROOT BISCUIT SNACKS RECALL

Gerber issued a nationwide recall of its arrowroot biscuit snacks after concerns they may contain plastic. The recall covers 5.5-ounce packages produced between July and September 2025 and sold across the United States. Gerber said the action was initiated by its arrowroot flour supplier, which is no longer working with the company. No injuries or illnesses have been reported, and Gerber said no other products are included in the recall. Customers are advised to return the affected items to the store where they were purchased. More information is available at <https://news.gerber.com/news/gerber-products-company-announces-voluntary-recall-of-limited-batches-of-arrowroot-biscuits-out-of-an-abundance-of-caution-due-to-potential-presence-of-foreign-material-following-supplier-recall>

# Graduate Student Loan Program Cuts—An Ill-Conceived Idea



By PATRICIA CHADWICK

The recent overhaul of the student loan program by the Federal Government made headline news—not surprisingly. As part of the budget bill that was passed in July of last year, massive cutbacks in the graduate school portion of the loan program will go into effect on July 1 of this year, essentially unraveling a more than twenty-year-old initiative designed to support students looking to enhance their careers by studying for and obtaining graduate degrees in their professions. Notably, many of the impacted graduate degrees are in great demand today.

Getting to the specifics, the Government—in a combination of the Executive Branch's soon-to-be-disbanded Education Department and the Legislative branch—has reclassified graduate degrees into two categories: "professional" and "non-professional." Included in the "non-professional" category are graduate studies in nursing, an array of healthcare therapies, education, social work, business, engineering, accounting, and architecture. Graduate study opportunities

in those disciplines will undoubtedly face challenges because of the Government's imposition of a limit on the amount of borrowings it will allow a graduate student to obtain—a maximum of \$20,500 per year. That amounts to a total of \$41,000 for a two-year graduate program, and \$61,000 for a three-year graduate program.

While some graduate programs are available outside of the normal workday, there are others, notably in the nursing arena, that require full-time attendance for two years because the degree requires both clinical hours and didactic education. Lack of adequate Federal financing will certainly result in students' inability to enroll.

There was a time—in the mid-20th century—when an undergraduate degree in education or nursing, as an example, would carry one through a career to retirement and still allow for advancement. However, by the mid-1980s, several states (New York and Massachusetts as examples) required teachers to obtain a master's degree to maintain their certification, and today that requirement has been adopted by more, but by no means, all of the states. The same trend toward graduate degrees in nursing has evolved, not so much to maintain one's nursing certificate, but rather to capitalize on the expanded roles now available to those with an APRN (Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, aka Nurse

Practitioner) or PA (Physician Assistant), each a program that requires two years of graduate study. It is important to note that an APRN's role is distinctly different from that of a nurse and includes the ability to treat independently (i.e., without the oversight of a doctor), to diagnose and to prescribe.

The Government has argued that the graduate student loan program creates a "moral hazard," alluding to forgiveness programs and accommodation of default rates. However, the data show clearly that the default rate on student loans is highest among two-year and for-profit college graduates, averaging 21%, whereas defaults on graduate school loans are less than 2%. That is hardly surprising, as students emerging from graduate school programs face a far more favorable employment environment than students with little to no work experience and only two years of higher education. Those data are

amply available online, and one must assume that both the Department of Education and the Congress were aware of the information.

The Federal government, it appears, is attempting to strong arm universities to reduce their tuition rates for graduate school programs. There is no doubt that the cost of higher education, both undergraduate and graduate, has risen consistently at a rate higher than inflation, although the trend in the last few years has

come down to the inflation rate. Graduate school programs are an integral part of expanding higher education. Competition among universities is steep and necessitates that schools engage highly qualified faculty, provide outstanding facilities and offer a curriculum that will meet the needs of the increasingly high-tech world of business in this country today. The demand for graduate level degrees should grow in the years ahead, but limiting financing could reverse a trend that has been beneficial to growth, productivity and profitability in this country. Every college and university across this country is fully apprised of its own students' loan default rate. So is the Federal Government. In response to the Government's impending cutback, many universities are developing programs that will provide loans to their graduate students—they know full well the financial risk and that it is more than manageable.

One of many industries—one with which I am familiar—that exemplifies the need for highly proficient graduate programs is health care. U.S. Government spending on healthcare—Medicare and Medicaid—today comprises the largest share of the country's budget at around 28% and will be one third of the budget in less than ten years. For reference, in 1970, the U.S. government spent 5% of its budget on healthcare. Improvements in medical technology are extending both

life expectancies and the quality of life. The corollary to that good news is that as people live longer and healthier, or perhaps more medicated, lives, there will be a growing demand for the full panoply of medical carers, from at-home caretakers to nurses, from physician assistants (PAs) to nurse practitioners (NPs), from clinical doctors to surgeons. Meanwhile, fully 25% of practicing physicians in this country today are 65 years old or older. A report by the American Association of Medical Colleges in 2024 predicted that the U.S. will face a shortage of possibly 86,000 doctors by the year 2035. Specifically, it quoted the AAMC president, "...sustained and increased investments in training new physicians are critical to mitigating the projected shortfall of doctors." Even today, the U.S., with 3.6 doctors per one thousand people, falls considerably behind Western Europe where the number ranges generally from 4.4 – 5.8. Today, nurse practitioners and physician assistants account for more than 25% of health care visits in this country, a substantial increase from about 14% as recently as 2013. That trend will continue.

The focus in this column on health care is largely because the data are available to prove the point. That does not minimize the impact on other graduate degrees that are part and parcel of an employee's career enhancement and remuneration. In the world

of finance, an MBA is often essential for advancement, and a CV without one is likely to be discarded or treated as less interesting. Teacher promotions are largely based on continuing education courses that show commitment to the profession. A social worker requires a graduate degree to practice and today's demand for their services far outpaces the capacity. Graduate school education has been an integral part of the business culture in this country. Cutting the loans for qualified students whose risk of defaulting on their debt is close to zero is not only shortsighted but deleterious to the potential economic growth in this country. The right business attitude is to support and embrace the trend towards improved skills in a world where the competition from other countries is fierce.

*Patricia Chadwick is a businesswoman and an author. Her first book (2019): *Little Sister: A Memoir*, tells the story of her growing up in a religious community-turned cult in the 1950s and 1960s. Her most recent memoir (2024), *Breaking Glass*, with the subtitle: *Tales from the Witch of Wall Street*, is a sequel to *Little Sister* and tells of her starting out on the lowest rung of the corporate ladder and succeeding in what was then the all-male bastion called Wall Street. She is working on a third book. [www.patriciachadwick.com](http://www.patriciachadwick.com)*

## Reclaiming Forest: Restoration at Laddin's Rock

By KATE DZIKIEWICZ

Connecticut's natural landscapes are increasingly threatened by invasive species, plants and animals which outcompete native species and degrade healthy habitats. Trees are particularly vulnerable to invasive vines that climb and smother their branches, as well as pests that compromise tree health, such as the nematode responsible for beech leaf disease.

The Greenwich Tree Conservancy works to reduce the impact of invasive species and pests by educating residents on how to protect the trees on their properties. In addition, we actively assist with vine cutting and other invasive removal efforts throughout the community. Recently, our work has expanded into a more ambitious habitat restoration initiative. The Greenwich Tree Conservancy has partnered with the Town of Greenwich on an invasive mitigation and restoration project at Laddin's Rock Sanctuary.

Located along the border of Old Greenwich and Stamford, the 18-acre Laddin's Rock Sanctuary connects directly to Stamford's Rosa Hartman Park and features wooded trails, waterways, and natural forest habitat. In recent years, however, sections of the sanctuary have

been overtaken by invasive Japanese knotweed, a fast-growing plant which can form dense thickets and shade out young trees, shrubs, and other plants.

To address this challenge, the Town of Greenwich and the Greenwich Tree Conservancy launched the first phase of an extensive invasive mitigation and tree-planting effort. Greenwich Parks & Trees staff removed the knotweed and will continue to monitor and maintain the area in the coming months to prevent regrowth. Next, the Greenwich Tree Conservancy planted 70 native trees throughout the cleared area, with additional plantings planned for the spring.

While tree planting is most common during warmer months, many cold-hardy species can be successfully planted in winter, provided the ground is not too frozen to dig. Soil temperatures below the surface are often significantly warmer than air temperatures, and trees are naturally dormant during winter, making them well-suited for transplanting during that time.

For this project, we selected a diverse mix of native tree species commonly found in Connecticut forests, including hornbeam, tulip tree, and several species of oak. Later this year, invasive removal



70 native trees have been added to the site so far, with more to be planted in spring. Photo by Kate Dzikiewicz.

and tree planting efforts will expand to the adjacent riparian corridor along a small brook. This brook flows directly

into the pond at Binney Park and then out into Long Island Sound. Improvements to ecological health along the waterway in Laddin's Rock Sanctuary could have

beneficial impacts on water quality at these downstream sites as well.

Dr. Gregory Kramer, Superintendent of Parks &amp; Trees and Tree Warden, noted,

"Laddin's Rock Sanctuary is a diverse

forest with many native species of plants

and animals. However, a few areas are in

need of invasive plant removal and native plantings. The removal of the invasive plants and the planting of native trees and shrubs will both enhance the visitor experience and benefit wildlife."

Laddin's Rock Sanctuary is cherished by local residents for its natural beauty and tranquil setting. Bordered by Interstate 95, the park serves as a vital green buffer and helps to reduce noise, improve air quality, and provide a peaceful refuge from surrounding development.

Restoring this sanctuary to a more natural state will strengthen local ecosystems and support wildlife. Native trees play a critical role in sustaining birds, butterflies, and countless other species that depend on them for food and habitat.

The Greenwich Tree Conservancy is deeply grateful to its supporters and donors, whose generosity makes this important work possible. Together, we are helping ensure that Greenwich's natural spaces remain healthy, resilient, and thriving for generations to come.

*Kate Dzikiewicz  
Executive Director, Greenwich Tree Conservancy*

*To find out more about the Greenwich Tree Conservancy, visit us at: [www.greenwichtreeconservancy.org](http://www.greenwichtreeconservancy.org)*

## Winter at the Greenwich Audubon Center

By JOSEY GARDNER

Cold temperatures may slow down nature as animals hibernate and plants go dormant, but the staff at the Greenwich Audubon Center are just as busy as ever. Educational nature and bird-focused programs along with community events continue at the Greenwich Audubon Center during the winter, as we learn to appreciate the beauty and natural processes of our colder seasons. If you're feeling the winter blues, missing social events, or craving a dose of nature after winter storms have kept you cooped up inside, then the winter programs at the Greenwich Audubon Center are calling your name. From guided bird-watching, bird tours, and naturalist walks, to potlucks and learning centers, there's always something to do. While many of our events are free, all events require prior registration that can be completed online.

Every Friday afternoon from 3:00-4:00 pm until the end of March, our Senior Education Coordinator Ryan MacLean leads a free, guided bird-watching program in our learning center. This is perfect for those who want a little bit of nature fun, but despite those frigid temperatures—here's an indoor program where you can stay toasty warm. Taking place behind a large window and two conveniently

placed bird feeders, you will learn about the birds that overwinter at the sanctuary and in the greater Greenwich area, as well as how to best help them during the winter. We'll also share how to participate in Project FeederWatch—a winter-long community science survey of the birds that visit feeders in your backyard, parks, offices, and other areas. You and your family can participate by counting the birds you see in your backyard and submitting them to the Project FeederWatch website. We will provide identification guides to backyard birds and information on how you can take part in Project FeederWatch and even submit a checklist of our own at the end of the program. All ages are welcome including children after school and senior citizens. Our building is ADA accessible so wheelchairs and mobility devices can be used. Bring a pair of binoculars or borrow one of ours, and learn about our winter birds.

For those wanting a more involved birding excursion and are willing to brave the wintry outdoors, our 29th annual Great Backyard Bird Count has just what you're looking for. Taking place over two days from February 13th-14th, we'll hit various spots around the Greenwich area to look for birds. Join Audubon Naturalists

as we count waterbirds and land birds in Greenwich Harbor and along Grass Island Park, the Oneida Sanctuary, and embark on an owl prowl at Montgomery Pinetum. Ducks, geese, loons, and gulls are some of the birds that we expect to see as they spend the winter on Long Island Sound, along with owls and various songbirds. You will also get to help submit our findings to the bird count website and learn how you can submit your backyard counts as well. If you're new to birding and want to see what all the fuss is about, we're also holding a brief lecture and discussion at the Cos Cob Library on February 14. This discussion, led by Ryan MacLean, will introduce you to some of the most common winter birds in our area and explain how you can participate in this year's Great Backyard Bird Count. During this discussion, you'll learn how to identify common backyard birds, discover how easy it is to bird watch locally, receive a color chart of common backyard birds, get help setting up a free eBird account to track bird sightings locally and around the world. To wrap up the discussion, Ryan will lead a brief outdoor bird walk at Mill Pond, located just across the street from the library, where participants can practice their new skills.

If birding isn't your cup of tea,

but you're a big fan of other nature and outdoors categories, our iNat with a Naturalist tours are a great fit. Join our naturalist for a guided exploration of our nature preserve using iNaturalist, a community science app that helps you identify and share the plants, animals, fungi, and other organisms you discover. During this program, you'll learn how to use iNaturalist to document your observations and contribute to global biodiversity research, explore trails alongside an experienced naturalist who will share tips on finding and identifying wildlife, and connect your discoveries to larger conservation efforts happening right here at Greenwich Audubon Center and around the world. This program is perfect for all ages and skill levels—whether you're new to iNaturalist or already an avid observer. All you need is curiosity and a smartphone! This program takes place on select Sundays in February and March.

If it's community, socializing, and good food that you crave, then our Pollinator Potlucks are just what you need. On February 26th from 6:00-7:30 pm, our center will be hosting local conservationist Jim Muchmore and Audubon Connecticut Director of Policy, Robert LaFrance as we have an evening full of education, discussion, and potluck food, hors

d'oeuvres, wine, and more. Jim Muchmore will provide highlights from his field research in Ecuador and other parts of South America, where he has studied the region's remarkable bird and herpetofauna and their conservation challenges in tropical ecosystems. Drawing on decades of experience observing rare birds, reptiles, and amphibians in diverse habitats from Andean cloud forests to Choco lowlands, he will provide insights into both the natural history of these animals and ongoing efforts to protect their habitats. Robert LaFrance will present on Audubon's Latin America and Caribbean program in addition to discussing revisions to the Connecticut Wildlife Action Plan.

For those who can't make it in February, don't stress, we've got another Pollinator Potluck planned this season, on March 31st from 6:00-7:30 pm. Our center will be hosting Kevin Webb, the cofounder of and managing director of Superorganism, which is the first VC firm dedicated to biodiversity. Kevin Webb will be joined by Audubon Connecticut Director of Policy and returning speaker, Robert LaFrance. Webb will explore how public and private funding can support nature-based solutions and how individuals and communities can help move

this work forward on both the investment and policy fronts, while LaFrance will share how Audubon is advancing its Flight Plan through nature-based and natural climate solutions. An evening with good food and hopeful climate research and action items is a perfect antidote to those pesky winter blues, and we hope to see you there.

Whether you're a winter-loving enthusiast, or someone who endures the cold until it passes, the Greenwich Audubon Center has a place for you. Conservation isn't just for wild animals and plants—it's for our own human communities as well. Conservation sites and centers such as the Greenwich Audubon Center ensure we have a space to gather, to learn from each other, to connect with each other and our natural surroundings, and so much more. Our events and programming help us come together as a community as we come together for the conservation of something greater than any one individual. While many of our events are free, all events require prior registration. Registration can be done online by visiting our website at <https://www.audubon.org/events> and then selecting Greenwich Audubon Center from the "Chapter, Sanctuary, or Center" drop down menu. We hope to see more of you this winter season.

# REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD

## NEW LISTINGS

**TIMOTHY AGRO, GREENWICH STREETS TEAM, 203.461.5964**

Address	List Price	Price/SqFt	SqFt	AC	BR	FB	Area
15 River Road 222	\$945,000	\$784	1,205	0	2	2	Cos Cob
4 Putnam Hill 3G	\$1,100,000	\$705	1,560	0	3	2	South of Post
11 Lafayette Court 5B	\$1,340,000	\$885	1,514	0	2	2	South Parkway
31 Duncan Drive	\$1,950,000	\$607	3,214	1.07	4	3	Glenville
29 Sound Beach Avenue	\$1,989,000	\$821	2,424	0.14	4	3	South of Post
17 Maple Drive	\$2,195,000	\$934	2,350	0.15	4	3	Old Greenwich
25 Summit Road	\$2,499,000	\$1,004	2,489	0.28	4	3	Riverside
48 Spring Street 14	\$2,500,000	\$1,258	1,987	0	3	2	South of Post Road
10 Wyckham Hill Lane	\$4,200,000	\$683	6,150	4.17	5	5	North Parkway
33 Highland Farm Road	\$7,950,000	\$878	9,051	7.59	6	8	North Parkway
528 Round Hill Road	\$18,999,000	\$1,105	17,197	4	6	10	North Parkway

## NEW SALES

**TIMOTHY AGRO, GREENWICH STREETS TEAM, 203.461.5964**

Address	Original List	List Price	Sold Price	DOM	BR	FB	Acres	SqFt
351 Pemberwick Rd 111	\$445,000	\$445,000	\$445,000	98	1	1	0	673
70 Byram Terrace Drive	\$1,100,000	\$999,000	\$1,100,000	41	2	2	0.24	1,711
626 W Lyon Farm Drive	\$1,650,000	\$1,595,000	\$1,555,000	62	3	3	0	2,233
1 Old Church Road 2	\$2,250,000	\$2,250,000	\$2,250,000	48	3	3	0	2,590
22 Summit Road	\$2,795,000	\$2,795,000	\$3,100,000	6	4	2	0.25	3,022
57 Locust Street A	\$3,995,000	\$3,995,000	\$3,995,000	366	5	6	0.25	4,577
7 Stanwich Road	\$3,995,000	\$3,995,000	\$4,100,000	15	5	3	0.33	4,000
15 Dearfield Lane	\$4,250,000	\$4,250,000	\$4,550,000	4	5	5	0.31	5,080
69 Taconic Road	\$4,495,000	\$4,495,000	\$4,200,000	31	6	6	4.41	6,689
15 Lexington Avenue	\$5,500,000	\$5,500,000	\$5,500,000	8	4	5	0.13	4,400
577 Round Hill Road	\$7,900,000	\$7,900,000	\$7,500,000	136	4	5	6.58	8,188
895 Lake Avenue	\$8,995,000	\$8,995,000	\$8,450,000	56	7	7	4	11,615
32 Pheasant Lane	\$11,900,000	\$11,900,000	\$11,100,000	185	6	7	1.8	9,836

## FEATURED OPEN HOUSES

**ROB PULITANO 203-561-8092**

Address	Area	Price	Day/Time	Broker
4 Putnam Hill #2B	Greenwich	\$699,000	Sun 1-3 PM	BHHS New England
17 Maple Drive	Old Greenwich	\$2,195,000	Sat 12-3 PM	BHHS New England
201 Shore Road	Greenwich	\$2,350,000	Sun 2-4 PM	Coldwell Banker
6 Reynwood Manor	Greenwich	\$4,350,000	Sun 1-3 PM	Houlihan Lawrence

## FEATURED OPEN HOUSES

**ROB PULITANO 203-561-8092**

Address	Area	Price	Day/Time	Broker
14 Concord Street	Greenwich	\$1,050,000	Sat 10-4 PM	William Raveis
177 Railroad Avenue #C	Greenwich	\$2,149,000	Sat 12-3 PM	William Raveis
177 Railroad Avenue #C	Greenwich	\$2,149,000	Sun 12-3 PM	William Raveis

## If 'Dear Abby' Sold Houses



By JOHN ENGEL

Dear Abby's advice column is more than 70 years old and still read by 110 million people in 1,400 newspapers. This week, I'm using that format to answer the most common Google questions about moving to Connecticut.

**Dear John E:**

*I'm paying \$7,000 a month in rent in Manhattan. Everyone says Connecticut is "cheaper," but then I hear about high taxes and expensive towns. Is Connecticut actually less expensive than New York, or is that suburban myth?*

*- Overpaying Renter*

**Dear Overpaying Renter:** Income Tax. If you live in Connecticut and work in New York City, you still pay New York State income tax. What you eliminate by leaving the city is the New York City local income

tax of up to 3.876%. For most NYC commuters, that city tax is the real income tax difference.

**Housing.** \$7,000 a month is \$84,000 a year in rent. Zero equity. In Fairfield County, that same payment can often support ownership of a \$1.3M to \$1.7M home, building your equity instead of your landlord's.

**Property taxes on a \$1.5M home:** New Canaan: about \$17,000-\$18,000

Darien: about \$16,000-\$17,000

Westport: about \$19,000-\$20,000

Wilton: about \$25,000

Westchester County: \$28,000

to \$40,000+ is common on comparably-priced homes.

Nassau County: \$25,000 to

\$38,000+ is common.

**Bottom Line:** Compared to Westchester or Nassau, Fairfield County property taxes are often \$5,000 to \$20,000 per year lower on a comparable \$1.5M home — on top of the elimination of New York City's 3.876% city income tax.

**Dear John E:**

*I'm moving to Connecticut but still need to commute to Manhattan. Which towns actually make sense, and which ones look good on paper but are brutal in real life?*

*- Tired Commuter*

**Dear Tired Commuter:**

**Greenwich:** ~45-50 minutes. Four stations. Express every 20-30 minutes. Parking: 2,700 spaces.

**Stamford:** ~45-55 minutes. Main express hub, every 10-20 minutes. Parking: 2,000 spaces.

**I'm moving to Connecticut but still need to commute to Manhattan.**

**Which towns actually make sense, and which ones look good on paper but are brutal in real life?**

**Darien:** ~55-65 minutes. Two stations. Few expresses. Parking: 1,630 spaces.

**Norwalk:** ~60-70 minutes. Three stations. Few expresses. Parking: 1,000 spaces.

**New Canaan:** Two stations. Add 10-20 minutes for the branch line transfer in Stamford. Typical door-to-door 70-85+ minutes. Parking: 1,300 spaces. You always get a seat in the morning!

**Wilton / Redding / Ridgefield:** Danbury Branch or drive-to-train. Often 75-95+ minutes.

**Weston / Easton / rural towns:** No stations. You are driving to the Westport or South Norwalk train.

**Bottom line:** If you're in Manhattan three to five days a week, Greenwich, Stamford, Darien, and Norwalk are the true commuter towns. Go inland or onto a branch line, and you're trading price and space for 20-40 extra minutes each way.

**Thinking of driving?** Be on I-95 or the Merritt Parkway before 7 a.m., or you'll wish you were on the train. In Fairfield County, rail share is 10% to 15%. In New Canaan, it's roughly double that, and it's higher still in Greenwich and Stamford. Census data shows:

**Train (Metro-North):** 30% to 40% of working residents

Drive (car as primary commute): 45% to 55%

Work from home / hybrid primary: 15% to 25%

**Dear John E:**

*If I'm choosing between top towns, how do Fairfield County's best public schools really compare to the best schools in Westchester, Long Island, and New York City?*

*- Comparing at the Top*

**Dear Comparing at the Top:**

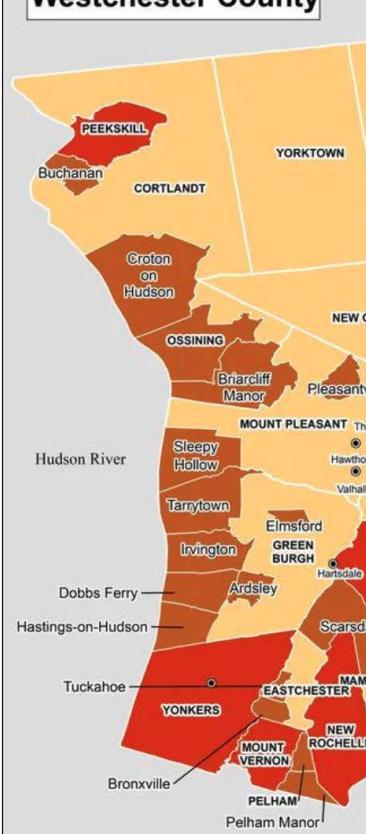
At the very top of the public-school market, all four regions produce elite schools. The difference is not whether great schools exist. It's how many fall into the national top tier and how predictable access is by town.

Using the 2025-2026 U.S. News national rankings of roughly 18,000 public high schools:

Fairfield County has six to seven traditional public high schools that rank within roughly the top 500 nationally (top ~3%). That group includes New Canaan, Staples (Westport), Darien, Greenwich, Wilton, Ridgefield, and Weston, depending on the year and methodology. In addition, Fairfield County has magnet schools that rank even higher, but those are not town-based. Eight of Connecticut's Top 10 public high schools are in Fairfield County, but nationally most fall in the top 300-600 range, not the top 100.

Fairfield County's real advantage is structural: More towns default into very strong public schools without testing or lotteries. For buyers choosing a town, not chasing a single exam school, Fairfield County offers more predictable access to top-tier suburban public schools by address.

*John Engel is a broker on The Engel Team at Douglas Elliman, and he's thinking about the recent snowstorm as a metaphor for the real estate market. After five years of below-average snowfall in New England, we started to think no snow was normal. Boston went 1,427 days without a six-inch storm. Similarly, after 10 years of plentiful listings in Fairfield County, we thought 250 listings and 250 sales per year was normal. COVID has been to real estate what El Niño is to global weather: a big storm, a reset on normal, and a reminder that both snow and real estate now experience inflation.*



## Fairfield County

### Single Family

Key Metrics	December			Year to Date		
2024	2025	% Change	Thru 12-2024	Thru 12-2025	% Change	





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Thursday, January 29, 2026

SENTINEL  
FOUNDATIONARTS  
EDITORIAL:  
YOU NEED A  
NEW HOBBYWILDLIFE  
PHOTOGRAPHER SHARES  
EXTRAORDINARY PATHST. CATHERINE'S  
PLAYERS BRING  
A COMMUNITY-  
SIZED GODSPELL  
TO LIFERADIANT EARTH  
BRINGS LIGHT,  
SCIENCE, SCULPTURE  
INTO DIALOGUE

# ARTS & THEATER SPOTLIGHT

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

## Seeing Things as They Are: Greenwich Academy Artists Earn Scholastic Honors

Juliet Chattaway, *Dark Times*, Gold Key

BY EMMA BARHYDT

In Juliet Chattaway's *Next Stop*, a subway car opens its doors and everything else recedes. A child stands alone at the threshold, briefcase in hand, lit from behind in a wash of amber. The adults around him barely register—faces angled down, bodies absorbed into the familiar choreography of a commute. The moment feels suspended, as if the train has paused not just between stations, but between ways of moving through the world.

It's an image that doesn't explain itself, and that's part of its confidence.

Chattaway, a Greenwich Academy Upper School student, earned a Silver Key from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards for *Next Stop*, along with a Gold Key for her illustrated narrative *Dark Times*. She is one of several GA students whose work was recognized this year by the national program, which each year receives more than 100,000 submissions from students across the United States and Canada.

The awards—Gold Keys, Silver Keys, and Honorable Mentions—span photography, illustration, painting, and mixed media. But taken together, the recognized works share a sensibility that feels less about polish and more about attention. These are images that linger on moments most people pass through quickly: a bus ride, a hallway, a room at night, a stretch of ice under a gray sky.

Audrey Geren's *Bus*, which received a Gold Key,

Liv Litt, *Marine Identity*, Silver Key

***It's an image that doesn't explain itself, and that's part of its confidence.***

captures three students scattered across the seats of a school bus. The lighting—deep pinks and reds flooding the interior—transforms the scene into something quietly theatrical. No one is speaking. No one is performing. Each figure appears sealed inside her own thoughts, the bus itself suspended between departure and arrival. It's a familiar setting rendered strange through patience and framing rather than spectacle.

That restraint shows up again and again. Charlotte Armstrong's *Gulls*, an Honorable Mention photograph, depicts a cluster of birds perched on an iceberg beneath a heavy, overcast sky. The composition is spare, almost stubbornly calm. There's no dramatic gesture, no visual hook beyond the birds' quiet persistence. The image asks the viewer to slow down—to notice texture, spacing, light—and rewards that

Scarlett Li, *Hoarding*, Honorable Mention

attention. In *Entanglement*, which earned a Silver Key, Henry Nash stages a tense hallway scene bathed in green light. A figure lies on the floor amid scattered leaves and papers, while others peer out from doorways. The narrative is implied but unresolved, and that ambiguity gives the image its charge. It feels cinematic without feeling staged, unsettling without being explicit.

Several of the honored

works grapple with identity by playing with distance and distortion. Liv Litt's *Marine Identity* (Silver Key) presents a close-up portrait of a girl wearing a snorkel mask, her eyes enlarged and refracted through plastic and glass. The effect is both playful and disorienting, raising questions about how we see ourselves through layers—of environment, of expectation, of performance.

Lila Nachbar's *Among, Apart*, also a Silver Key

*Continued on page 5*

# Wildlife Photographer Shares Extraordinary Path



A Great Grey Owl mother bringing food to her fledglings atop a snag in a Montana forest. Photo by Melissa Groo.

BY ANNE W. SEMMES

On a recent January afternoon in midtown Manhattan, prize-winning wildlife photographer Melissa Groo addressed some 40 attendees on how she was able to capture that wildlife around the world with help from her Sony cameras. She was invited to do so by Sony at the B&H Superstore on 9th Avenue. Two years ago, she was honored as a Sony ambassador – a “Sony Artisan of Imagery.”

She gave a kind welcome to her mother Anne W. Semmes and daughter Ruby Gelder, then began an “intimate story” of her life and journey into wildlife photography. How she turned professional and evolved into a conservation photographer with a “focus on ethics” that would get her “into some trouble along the way.”

“I was kayaking with my father in Alaska and a humpback whale breached next to the boat then fluked (put its tail up) as it dove down,” she told, and “in that moment, I completely fell in love with humpback whales.” (She is presently on her 7th dive with humpbacks.) It was while she was working in education in Cleveland, Ohio that she would be led to swim alongside humpbacks off the coast of the Dominican Republic, having learned that humpbacks sing songs as discovered by Roger and Katy Payne.

Melissa would wind up swimming with Katy Payne alongside those humpbacks. Katy had serendipitously come to Cleveland’s Museum of Natural History to speak about her most recent finding, that “elephants

partly communicate using infrasound below our level of hearing.” Spellbound, Melissa would leave behind her efforts to help low-income school districts to become Katy Payne’s research assistant, which took her to live in the equatorial rainforest of the Central African Republic, studying the communication of forest elephants.

“We were up on a platform looking down on a clearing in the forest where up to 150 forest elephants would gather every day...We’d see big males jousting... babies playing together... greetings between family members that had been separated. Katy assigned me to the video camera - I was not a photographer then. But Katy saw something in me... that I had an ability to predict behavior when it was about to happen... that I had an eye for framing and storytelling.”

Melissa learned, importantly for her photography, “to go down to the ground to get a better eye level of the elephants.” Melissa and Katy would bring their data back to Ithaca, New York, where they lived. “That’s where the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology is located, where there’s a bioacoustics research program that studies the sound of birds and whales, and elephants.” After five years working for the Elephant Listening Project, Melissa quit to give birth to “this little sprite, Ruby, who’s now in college.”

#### Melissa’s path to photography

Melissa would take up photography as a hobby, attending a community college offering a basic digital photography course. “At first, I was really into macro, investigating textures and colors and shapes.” Splendidly detailed photographs emerged of flowers, of orchid closeups. But a family vacation in Newfoundland brought birds first into focus. “There’s this spectacular seabird colony there called Cape St. Mary’s, with the largest gannet colony in the world, hundreds of thousands of these birds nesting on these cliffs. You see the chicks, how well camouflaged they are against the rocks.”

The year was 2010 when Melissa “just fell in love with wildlife photography.” “This is what I wanted to pursue.” She would get “the best gear for the job, a top-of-the-line DSLR camera, a 500mm f/4 telephoto lens and a carbon fiber tripod which I used for years...” and was “obsessed with getting birds in flight, especially really fast ducks.” To “seize that moment in flight was really satisfying for me... I was also learning how important it was as a photographer to be at the level of the bird or other animal. For me, it dignifies them in a way, but it also technically throws the background out of focus.”

She spent time in Florida, discovering, “The birds are so tame that

**“To have a moment that shows that they have emotions and connection and family, that I could use this image to try to wake people up with the beauty of these animals, the soul of these animals, is very special.”**

**Melissa Groo**

you can get away with a 70-200 or 300mm lens. You don’t have to have a big lens because they are very accommodating.” She also spent time on the New Jersey shore, positioning herself tummy-down on the beach. “This is my favorite position when I’m on the beach, photographing waterbirds, shorebirds, getting as low as you can. I know it’s easier for some of us than others, but I’m using a skimmer pod that allows you to have that low intimate feeling.”

And on those beaches, she encountered a wonder with a Least Tern, her favorite tern species. Spotting a group of them nesting, one stood out with “a grumpy fish face.” She saw the bird had two tiny, newly hatched chicks hidden under its wings. “I’d never seen anything like that.” That photo would go viral, becoming “a really good seller.”

Another capture Melissa made in Florida was coming upon a startlingly white Great Egret, preening in a mangrove on a darkening day. “I exposed for the bird, and everything went dark behind him. It won the Audubon Grand Prize in 2015...It launched a relationship with Audubon that continues to this day. I advise Audubon on ethics and photography content, and travel on assignment for them.”

#### Targeting different species locations

Melissa’s focus would move to target “a particular species in a particular place across the country, usually in a wildlife refuge.” In the Prairie Pothole Region in North Dakota, she found nesting Western Grebes. “With my 600mm lens and teleconverter,” she told,

**Continued on Page 4**



L to R Melissa Groo mother Anne W. Semmes, and Melissa’s daughter Ruby Gelder. Photo by Shoshana Perry.



A Least Tern shorebird sheltering her young. Photo by Melissa Groo.



A bobcat mother being nuzzled by one of her offspring. Photo by Melissa Groo.

# You Need a New Hobby

Heritage Crafts has released its Red List, and it reads like a series of handshakes across time. Chair caning. Block printing. Letterpress. Bookbinding. Straw work. Plasterwork. Skills built by hands, passed along by people who once said, "Let me show you." Each one carries evidence of patience, repetition, and care—knowledge learned slowly and shared generously.

We pulled together our own list alongside it, and we landed on one clear takeaway: we should choose one and learn it.

Learning a craft is an act of attention. It asks us to step into a process that already exists and place ourselves inside it. We follow instructions that have been refined over decades, sometimes centuries. We listen. We watch. We repeat. Over time, our hands begin to recognize what our eyes once had to study carefully. That transition—from unfamiliar to familiar—is one of the great pleasures of learning anything well.

There is a myth that hobbies are meant to be either impressive or productive. That they should lead somewhere definable. But a creative life works best when it leaves room for exploration. We are allowed to follow curiosity. We are allowed to change our minds.

One of the great pleasures of being human is that we can try a million different things in a lifetime and still have a million more waiting. That doesn't dilute the experience. It deepens it. Each thing we learn adds another texture to how we move through the world.

There is a particular satisfaction that comes from learning a process from the inside. When we understand how something works because we have worked through each step ourselves, the knowledge settles differently. We can feel it in our hands. We can see it in the result. Even when that result is a little uneven, a little personal, a little unmistakably handmade. Especially then. That moment when we look at what we've made and think, We did that, lands with surprising force.

Craft excels at offering that feeling.

Craft excels at fostering this feeling. It rewards focus. It responds to repetition. It deepens through familiarity. Each session

*One of the great pleasures of being human is that we can try a million different things in a lifetime and still have a million more waiting.*

builds on the last, and progress appears in subtle ways: smoother motions, steadier hands, better judgment. The pleasure grows alongside the skill, shaped by time spent paying attention.

Working with our hands also reshapes how we experience time itself. When we are stitching, carving, setting type, binding pages, or weaving fibers, time gains texture. We see progress take shape physically. An afternoon becomes a sequence of decisions and adjustments. The work draws us fully into the present moment, offering a rhythm that is steady and absorbing.

This is where the word amateur deserves renewed appreciation.

At its root, it means something lovely. Amateur comes from the Latin *amātor*: a lover. Someone who does something for the love of it. For interest. For pleasure. For care. Historically, amateurs were not half-hearted participants. They were people deeply engaged in what they were learning, simply unburdened by the need to turn it into a profession.

There is freedom in allowing ourselves to learn without attaching expectations. To take a class, borrow some tools, spend time practicing, and see what happens. Maybe it becomes a lifelong passion. Maybe it becomes a chapter. Either way, it expands us. It teaches us patience. It reminds us that learning is not reserved for childhood or credentials or career tracks.

To work from love is to work with intention.

Choosing to learn a craft places us in a long tradition of people who valued knowledge for its own sake. These skills endured because people took the time to learn them and then took the time

to teach them. Knowledge moved forward through demonstration, conversation, and shared effort. Each new learner became part of that living exchange.

This doesn't need to feel weighty. It can be playful. Curious. Energizing. The commitment is refreshingly simple: pick something, give it some time, and stay present while you're doing it. Let the work be the work. Let the experience be enough.

And if you'd like a place to start, our full article on the Heritage Crafts Red List appears in this week's paper. Think of it as a menu, a collection of possibilities waiting for attention.

We invite ourselves, and our community, to choose one. To learn something with our hands. To spend time inside a process that rewards patience and attention. To give ourselves permission to be beginners again. To remember that doing something for the love of it is not a side note to a well-lived life, it is one of life's great, sustaining pleasures.

## EDITORS

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**Section Editor** Emma Barhydt

**Curated with** Anne W. Semmes

## & CONTRIBUTORS

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

## ARTS & THEATER CALENDAR

### GREENWICH LIBRARIES

Performative Stories, an exhibition at the Flinn Gallery, on view until March 3. [flinngallery.org/performative-stories/](http://flinngallery.org/performative-stories/)

### FRIDAY, JAN. 30

#### 10 a.m.

Goldbas Musical Story Hour. Greenwich Library – Marx Family Black Box Theater. 203-622-7940.

#### 3:45 p.m.

World Music with Anitra. Cos Cob Library Rotunda. 203-622-6883.

#### 7 p.m.

Friends Friday Films: "The Adventures of Prince Achmed." Berkley Theater. [cgibbs@greenwichlibrary.org](mailto:cgibbs@greenwichlibrary.org)

### SATURDAY, JAN. 31, 3 P.M.

Peterson Concert: Jazzmeia Horn Quartet. Berkley Theater. 203-622-7910. [dsalm@greenwichlibrary.org](mailto:dsalm@greenwichlibrary.org)

### SUNDAY, FEB. 1

#### 2 p.m.

"Africa Is Me!" – An Interactive African Drum & Dance Workshop. Perrot Memorial Library, 90 Sound Beach Ave. Free. Registration is required. 203-637-1066. [adultprogramming@perrotlibrary.org](mailto:adultprogramming@perrotlibrary.org), [perrotlibrary.org](http://perrotlibrary.org)

#### 3 p.m.

Peterson Concert: Jazzmeia Horn Quartet. Greenwich Library – Berkley Theater. 203-622-7910. [dsalm@greenwichlibrary.org](mailto:dsalm@greenwichlibrary.org)

### MONDAY, FEB. 2, 7 P.M.

Environmental Book Group Discussion: "The Comfort of Crows," by Margaret Renkl. Perrot Memorial Library. Free. Register. Margaret Renkl. 203-637-1066. [adultprogramming@perrotlibrary.org](mailto:adultprogramming@perrotlibrary.org), [perrotlibrary.org](http://perrotlibrary.org)

### TUESDAY, FEB. 3, 4 P.M.

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

### WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4, 7 P.M.

Perrot Memorial Library: Historic Gardens of Greenwich: A Zoom Presentation by Caryn B. Davis. Free. Register. [perrotlibrary.org](http://perrotlibrary.org)

### FRIDAY, FEB. 6

#### 4 p.m.

Ashforth Children's Concert: Fiddle and Strum A Musical Storytime with Carla Fabiani and Friends. Cos Cob Library Community Room. 203-622-6883.

#### 7 p.m.

Friends Friday Films: "Keep On Keepin' On." Berkley Theater. [cgibbs@greenwichlibrary.org](mailto:cgibbs@greenwichlibrary.org)

### SATURDAY, FEB. 7

#### 1 p.m.

Common Threads Hand Crafts Meetup. Cos Cob Library Community Room. 203-622-6883.

#### 2 p.m.

The Eastern Middle School Drama Club presents "The Olympians." EMS Auditorium, 51 Hendrie Avenue. \$20. [easternmiddleschool.ludus.com](http://easternmiddleschool.ludus.com)

**ludus.com**

### GREENWICH BOTANICAL CENTER

#### THURSDAY, FEB. 5, 6 P.M.

Tulip Tales: Growing, Styling & Designing with Rocky Ridge Farm & Toolbox Florals. Greenwich Botanical Center, 130 Bible St. \$175, Members; \$200, Non-members. [greenwichbotanicalcenter.org](http://greenwichbotanicalcenter.org)

#### SATURDAY, FEB. 7, 10:30 A.M.

GreenRoof: A Sustainable Landscape Option - With Sheri Forster. Greenwich Botanical Center. \$30, Members; \$40, Non-members. [greenwichbotanicalcenter.org](http://greenwichbotanicalcenter.org)

#### SUNDAY, FEB. 8, 2 P.M.

Rescheduled: Speed Jigsaw Puzzle Competition & Puzzle Swap. Marx Family Black Box Theater. [sschugmann@greenwichlibrary.org](mailto:sschugmann@greenwichlibrary.org)

#### BRUCE MUSEUM

#### SATURDAY, JAN. 31, 1 P.M.

Science Solvers: Cardboard Sculptures (Ages 4 & up). Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. Free with admission. No reservations required. Also held Sunday, Feb. 1. [brucemuseum.org](http://brucemuseum.org)

#### TUESDAY, FEB. 3, 10 & 11 A.M.

Bruce Beginnings: Winter Landscapes (Ages 2 1/2-5). Bruce Museum. Free with admission. No reservations required. Also held Wednesday, Feb. 4. [brucemuseum.org](http://brucemuseum.org)

#### WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4, 10 A.M.

Bruce Beginnings Junior: Winter Wonderlands (ages: 12 Months-30 Months). Bruce Museum. Free with admission. First come, first served. [brucemuseum.org](http://brucemuseum.org)

#### SATURDAY, FEB. 7, 1 P.M.

Art Adventures: Shiny Creations (Ages 4 & up). Bruce Museum. Free with admission. No reservations required. Also held Sunday, Feb. 8. [brucemuseum.org](http://brucemuseum.org)

#### SUNDAY, FEB. 8, 2 P.M.

Cinema at the Bruce: Focus on French Film: "What is Love?" Bruce Museum. \$10. Registration is required. [brucemuseum.org](http://brucemuseum.org)

#### THROUGH SUNDAY, MAY 10

Leonardo Drew: Alchemy. Bruce Museum. [brucemuseum.org/exhibitions](http://brucemuseum.org/exhibitions)

#### THROUGH SUNDAY, MAY 17

Ants: Tiny Creatures, Big Lives. Bruce Museum. [brucemuseum.org/exhibitions](http://brucemuseum.org/exhibitions)

#### EASTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL

#### FRIDAY, JAN. 30, 7 P.M.

The Eastern Middle School Drama Club presents "The Olympians." EMS Auditorium, 51 Hendrie Avenue. \$20. [easternmiddleschool.ludus.com](http://easternmiddleschool.ludus.com)

#### SATURDAY, JAN. 31, 4 P.M.

The Eastern Middle School Drama Club presents "The Olympians." EMS Auditorium, 51 Hendrie Avenue. \$20. [easternmiddleschool.ludus.com](http://easternmiddleschool.ludus.com)

### GREENWICH DECORATIVE ARTS SOCIETY

#### MONDAY, FEB. 2, 1 P.M.

Lecture: "The Frick Collection: Past, Present, and Future." Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. [greenwichdecorativearts@gmail.com](mailto:greenwichdecorativearts@gmail.com) [greenwichdecorativearts.org](http://greenwichdecorativearts.org)

### CONCERT & CAKE

#### FRIDAY, FEB. 6, 1:30 P.M.

Concert & Cake Series: Hiroko Miyake Dutton, pianist. Christ Church Greenwich. Free. [concertandcake.org](http://concertandcake.org)

### ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE OF GREENWICH

#### WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4, 5 P.M.

French Cinématheque - lively discussions on French films. Via Zoom. [afgreenwich.org](http://afgreenwich.org)

### RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH

#### WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4, 11 A.M.

Rob Ainsley: "The Glimmerglass Festival." Christ Church Greenwich, 254 East Putnam Ave. & on Zoom. Free & open to all. [greenwichehrma.org](http://greenwichehrma.org)

### ARCH STREET

#### MONDAYS

#### 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Acting Technique with Sachi Parker Maclaine (Recommend for Ages 18+). Arch Street 2.0, 255 Field Point Rd. 203-629-5744. [info@archstreet.org](mailto:info@archstreet.org)

### LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY

#### THROUGH THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

"Rhythm and Colors" art exhibition. Les Beaux Arts Gallery, at Round Hill Community Church, 395 Round Hill Rd. Gallery hours: Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm; Sun, 11am-12pm; closed Sat. 203-869-1091.

### GERTRUDE G. WHITE GALLERY @ YWCA

#### THROUGH SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

"Bird Song" by Susan McHale Art Exhibit. Gertrude G. White Gallery – YWCA Greenwich, 259 East Putnam Ave. 203-869-6501. [ywcagreenwich.org/events/january-and-february-artist-in-residence-2](http://ywcagreenwich.org/events/january-and-february-artist-in-residence-2)

### GREENWICH ART + DESIGN

#### THROUGH SATURDAY, APRIL 25

"POP Goes The World!" The Art of Bermano & Vinci. Greenwich Art + Design, 7 East Putnam Ave. [GreenwichArtAndDesign.com](http://GreenwichArtAndDesign.com)

### BENDHEIM GALLERY, GREENWICH ARTS COUNCIL

#### THROUGH FEB. 26

MON-FRI 10 A.M.-4 P.M.; SAT-SUN 12-4 P.M. Floral Conversations by Toby Sue Gordon, on view until Feb. 26, at the Bendheim Gallery. Greenwich Arts Council, Bendheim Gallery, 299 Greenwich Ave., Second Floor. [greenwichartscouncil.org/current-exhibit-1-1](http://greenwichartscouncil.org/current-exhibit-1-1)

#### 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,

## St. Catherine's Players Bring a Community-Sized Godspell to Life

As of February 1, tickets will be officially on sale for St. Catherine's Players' 2026 production of Godspell, a musical that has long stood apart in the American theater canon for its collaborative spirit and open, participatory design.

First performed in the early 1970s, Godspell approaches the story of Jesus Christ through a series of parables drawn primarily from the Gospel of Matthew. Rather than following a conventional narrative arc, the musical unfolds through storytelling, humor, and play. Games, improvisational moments, and direct address are woven into the structure, creating a piece that feels conversational and shared. Its amazing score moves fluidly across musical styles—from pop to folk to vaudeville—giving each parable its own tone and rhythm.

Over the course of the musical, moments of lightness gradually lead toward deeper reflection. The work culminates in the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, offering a quiet, collective reckoning with the central messages of kindness, tolerance, and love.

That emphasis is reflected in the composition of the 2026 cast. Jacob Ruiz has been cast as Jesus, with Chris Faccenda taking on the dual role of John the Baptist and Judas. The remaining principal roles are filled by Katie Morgan, Patty Cirigliano, Joseph DeMatteo, Femi Shabiolegbe, Denise Casazzone, Brian Beadle, Tyler Panek, Abigail Lupinacci, Katie Suss, Nate Engle, and Rachel Lese. As with all productions of Godspell, these roles function within an ensemble structure, with performers working collectively to tell the story.

A defining feature of this staging is the inclusion of Youth Apostles alongside the adult cast. Jackson Blank, Sadie Reynolds, Annie Keefe, Julian DeMatteo, Sofia DeMatteo, Jackie Casazzone, Addie Lane, Avery Casazzone, Catherine Casazzone, Elena Vairo, CC Butler, and Konstantina Soterakis will appear as Youth Apostles, underscoring the musical's intergenerational framework. The production also includes a full Adult Ensemble and Youth Ensemble, further expanding the sense of shared presence onstage.

The creative team guiding the production is led by co-directors Lauren Nicole Sherwood and Matthew Blank, who also serve as co-choreographers. Musical direction is by Zachary Kampler. The production is produced by Denise and Tom Casazzone, with support from the St. Catherine's Players Board of Directors, whose members include Amy Adorney, Lynn Carbino, Kathy DiGiovanna, Colm McDermott, John Merrill, Father Bill Platt, Cyndy Pulick, Doug Pulick, Katie Suss, and Kelly Thompson.

The production will run February 27, 28, March 1, and March 6, 7, and 8, 2026. Performances take place Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 7 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m.

With tickets now available, Godspell enters its public life not as a finished product but as an invitation—to gather, to listen, and to take part in a story that has endured precisely because it is told together.

### Melissa Groo's Embrace of Sony Cameras

By Anne W. Semmes



A Hairy and a Downy Woodpecker at Melissa Groo's feeder. Photo by Melissa Groo.

It was three years ago that Melissa Groo switched to Sony cameras, she told her talk attendees. "I felt they were at the cutting edge of mirrorless cameras, and the best at autofocus and portability. For me, that's proven to be true." Her present "workhorse" is the Sony A1 II "which is a fantastic camera and has everything that I need. The Sony A9 III is also an excellent tool."

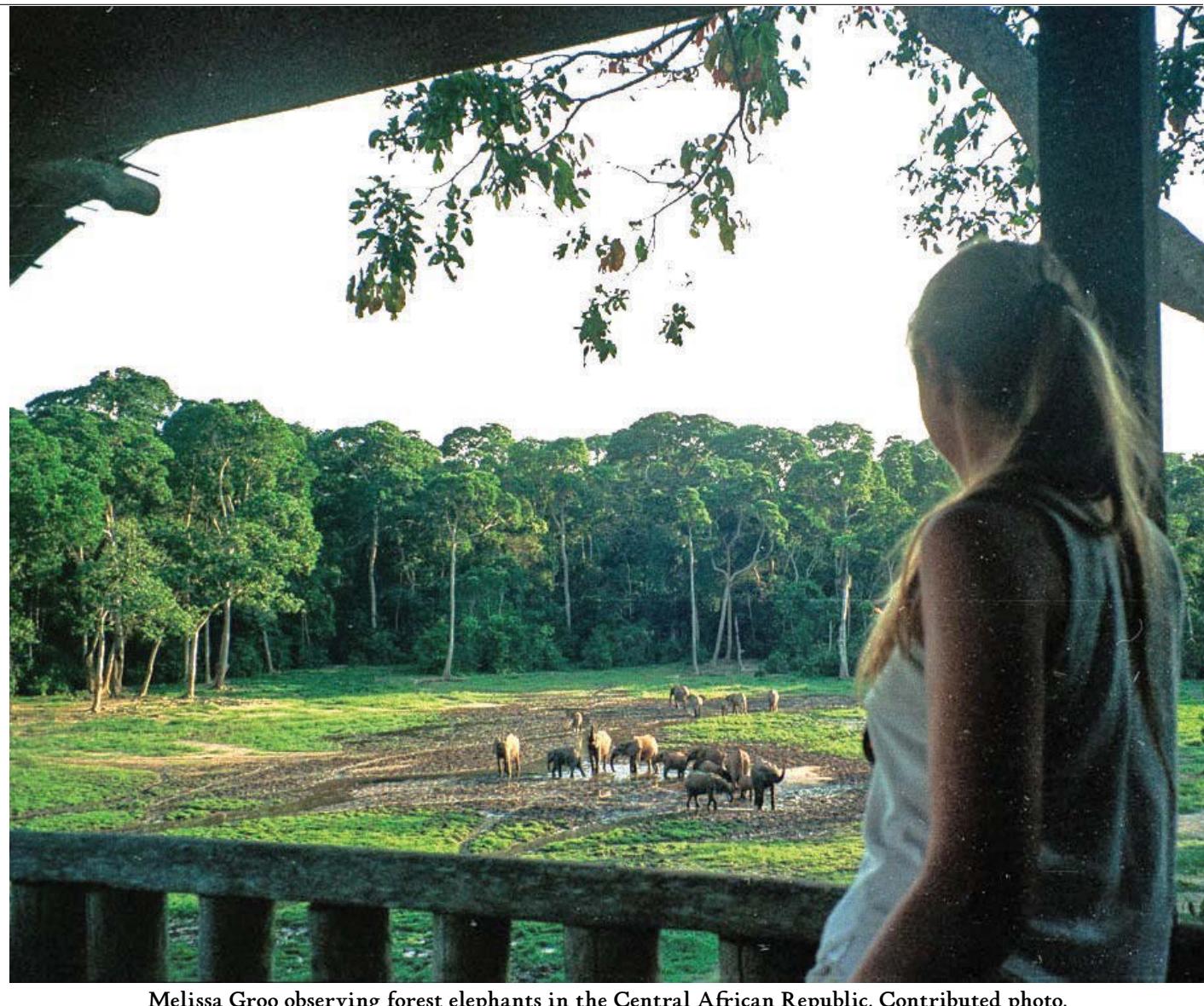
She has also recently added the new Sony A7 V to her arsenal and cites it as having "a much lower price than the other two bodies, under \$3000, yet with a lot of the same features as the other two. So, it's a really exciting camera." The lenses she mostly uses for wildlife are the Sony 600mm f/4, the 300mm f/2.8, and the 200-600mm f/5.6-6.3 lens. I absolutely love those lenses." She also mentions the 400-800mm f/6.3-8 as "another great wildlife lens, especially useful in Africa, and places like Yellowstone where you get such a variety of wildlife, from huge to small."

"With all these cameras, now I can get that moment when a bird is just unfurling its wings... Now you're able to get shots that you were never, ever able to get before. It's amazing... Some of the great things about the new Sony A7 V are its incredible AI-powered subject recognition, real-time tracking, and excellent autofocus for birds and other animals... And it offers precapture, which allows you to capture moments that happen up to a full second before you fully press the shutter. It's like going back in time! You know how hard it is to get the dolphin coming up. Just imagine what precapture allows you to get now with a whale breaching, a waterbird surfacing with its catch after diving, or a leopard leaping from a tree."

In her captures Melissa had worked long to find the perfect image that shows the size difference between a Hairy woodpecker's beak and a Downy woodpecker's beak relative to their heads, "because these birds are so hard to tell apart from one another when they're not next to each other... they're always moving so fast and I wanted to get them perfectly aligned." That moment came with both coming to her suet feeder.

"Because I was using precapture, I was finally able to get the shot. As I was pressing halfway down, I saw the moment happen in a fraction of a second, and then I pressed all the way down and it seized that moment that had just passed. And look at how instructive this is - how much shorter the Downy's beak is in relation to its head! Anyway, I think that's cool."

More information on Sony cameras is available on their website at <https://electronics.sony.com/imaging/interchangeable-lens-cameras/>



Melissa Groo observing forest elephants in the Central African Republic. Contributed photo.

### GROO From Page 1

"I approached very slowly... I was able to capture their natural behavior, nest building, and chicks riding on the parents' back..." Then in Montana at the Bowdoin Lake National Wildlife Refuge, she was able to capture the mating movements of a pair of American Avocets - her favorite shorebird. "They have this elaborate mating ritual... This to me is so beautiful and romantic - I'm always trying to capture this moment." After mating, the male "puts his wing over the female and for a split second they cross bills and you have to be very fast... that crossing of the bills is just so poetic."

But Melissa was also making discoveries in her hometown of Ithaca such as the family life of red foxes as seen in a neighbor's backyard. "The homeowners allowed me to put up a blind, which I like to use so as not to disturb creatures like foxes, especially if there is a sensitive den with young." She saw "how incredibly diligent and committed and involved father foxes are." With the mother "mostly away, the father was there, tending to them, grooming them, watching for danger - just an amazing parent."

Another special moment in her neighborhood was an alert of a family of bobcats feeding on a deer carcass, it having been hit by a car. "It was a mama bobcat and two kits." Her resulting photo of the bobcat with one of her kits nuzzling against her became one of Melissa's signature photos. "To have a moment that shows that they have emotions and connection and family, that I could use this image to try to wake people up with the beauty of these animals, the soul of these animals, is very special."

"We need these animals in our ecosystem," she continued, "They provide important rodent control, and they provide magic and mystery to our landscapes." That bobcat photo she would use to fight against killing contests

in the state of New York. "That's where hunters go out and kill as many foxes, coyotes, bobcats as they can in one day. And we finally got those banned a couple of years ago, thank goodness."

#### Becoming a conservation photographer

Thus, no surprise Melissa would evolve into a wildlife conservation photographer, as shown in a story she has brought to the current Audubon magazine. "I photographed a story on nesting Great Grey Owls in Montana that highlights the importance of snags, or dead trees. They're so important and a lot of people think, 'We have to get rid of all the dead trees.' But these dead trees can often harbor more life than living trees."

She would become a Fellow of the International League of Conservation Photographers, having demonstrated her photography had affected the conservation of a species or habitat. She also volunteers as a photographer at Cornell's Wildlife Hospital. "I want to be able to tell the stories of why these native animals come into the hospital, because I want to offer solutions. So many of them are injured or sickened because of simple everyday decisions we each make."

Lastly, Melissa addressed what has become a longtime passion for her - ethics in photography. "I began to see as I progressed in wildlife photography," she said, "that some people were taking shortcuts at the expense of wildlife." She addressed those concerns in her column on wildlife photography in Outdoor Photographer magazine. "I wrote about 30 articles over the years and often focused on how we as photographers can be really cognizant of and careful about our presence in the field because anytime we're out there, we're impacting wildlife."

"So, what sort of field practices can we follow," she said, "to allow animals to feel comfortable with us, that we're not a threat?" Working with well-known birder and author Kenn Kaufman, the two created an online guide for photographers with Audubon.

"It's not rules as much as it is best practices for how we can proceed in the field to keep wildlife safe." She's proud to say. "It's referred to by a lot of people." (Those guidelines are found at <https://www.audubon.org/photography/awards/audubons-guide-ethical-bird-photography-and-video-graphy>

#### Becoming an advocate for wildlife

A further crusade would, as stated in the start of her talk, get her "into some trouble along the way." "A few years ago, I realized," she shared, "that a lot of the photos we see of elusive animals look too good to be true, like mountain lions leaping from one boulder to another... I don't care how much time you've been out in the field, you're not going to get these photos. How is this happening?" She would discover photography game farms. "It's a little-known photo industry that imprisons wild animals, particularly elusive carnivores hard to see in the wild."

Those animals "are kept in the most miserable conditions, in small concrete cells, and brought out to perform for treats for paying customers." She would locate three sites, two in Montana and one in Minnesota, two of which have shut down, leaving Triple D Wildlife in Montana. "They sued me a few years ago for speaking out about them," she said. "I never said anything untrue. I shared results of USDA inspections and photos, and the knowledge I had about the living conditions of these animals. I was sued for tortious interference."

Melissa's revelatory story came out in 2024 in a lengthy exposé in Rolling Stone magazine, alongside that of the woman who had served for years as head trainer at Triple D (also sued). She had left the facility and reached out to Melissa with a request for her help in rescuing those suffering animals. Their ensuing relationship and crusade will be the subject of a forthcoming documentary.

**Melissa's website is [melissagroo.com](http://melissagroo.com). Prints of her photos are available.**



Rare Spirit bears, mother and cub spotted in Great Bear Forest, British Columbia, Canada. Photo by Melissa Groo.



American Avocets crossing their bills ending a mating ritual. Photo by Melissa Groo.

Juliet Chattaway, *Next Stop, Silver Key*

## ART AWARDS From Page 1

Juliet Chattaway's *Dark Times*, meanwhile, moves decisively into narrative. Told through comic-style panels, the piece follows a young girl as her bedroom—warm, contained, familiar—gives way to a chaotic outside world populated by tentacled forms, warning symbols, and looming threats. The style

is vivid and animated, but the emotional arc is controlled. Fear accumulates slowly. The work never tips into melodrama.

That control is notable across the board. These students aren't rushing to make statements. They're observing, revising, and trusting viewers to meet them halfway.

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards have long been distinctive for the freedom they grant young

artists: students are encouraged to explore any subject, and no work is disqualified based on content. That openness shows here—not in shock value, but in the seriousness with which these artists treat their own ideas. The work feels considered, not cautious.

For a school community, recognition like this can be tempting to frame as a milestone or a launchpad. But the more compelling story is smaller and

closer to home. These images suggest hours spent adjusting light, reworking compositions, rethinking narratives. They reflect classrooms where process matters, where students are given time to look closely and take risks without being rushed toward conclusions.

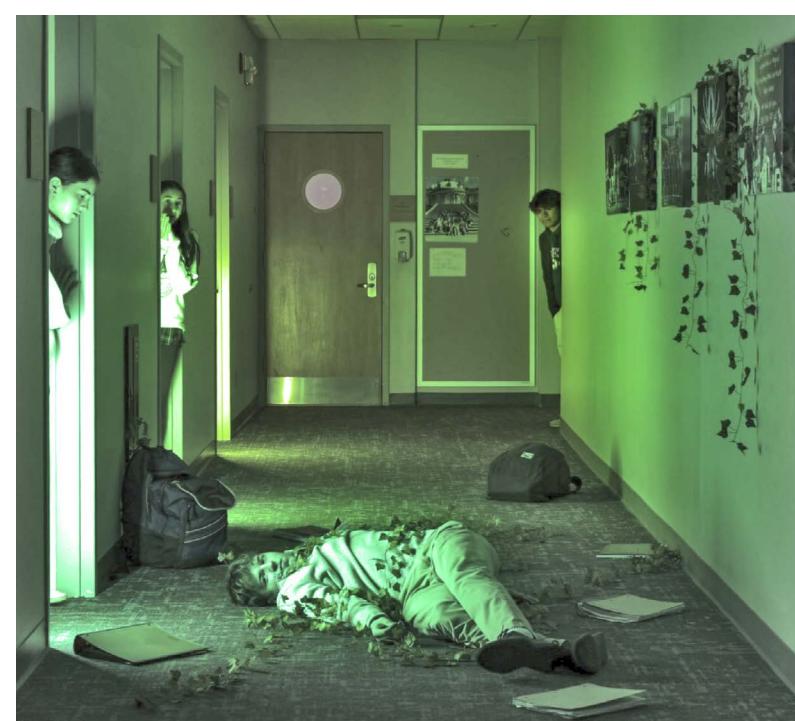
The result is work that feels grounded and alert. It doesn't chase trends or overreach for symbolism. It pays attention to what's right in front of it.

These artists are early in their trajectories, and that's precisely what gives the work its energy. There's urgency here, but also patience. Curiosity without cynicism. In buses and bedrooms, subway cars and school hallways, they are mapping the world as they encounter it now—quietly, carefully, and with a clarity that's hard to teach but easy to recognize when you see it.

And it's worth stopping to look.



From Top Left: Lila Nachbar, *Among, Apart*, Silver Key; Sophia Maddock, *Four in a Row*, Honorable Mention; Lila Nachbar, *Table for One*, Silver Key; Henry Nash, *Entanglement*, Silver Key; Audrey Geren, *Bus*, Gold Key



# Many Traditional Skills are at Risk of Disappearing



A wooden boat hull rests on supports in an outdoor workshop. Traditional wooden boat-building is one of many endangered skills. Photo by Aysegul Alp.

BY EMMA BARHYDT

In May 2023, Heritage Crafts released the fourth edition of its Red List of Endangered Crafts, a comprehensive assessment of traditional craft skills practiced in the United Kingdom and their long-term viability. Evaluating 259 crafts, the report classified each according to risk—viable, endangered, critically endangered, or extinct—offering a rare, systematic account of how well these skills are being passed from one generation to the next.

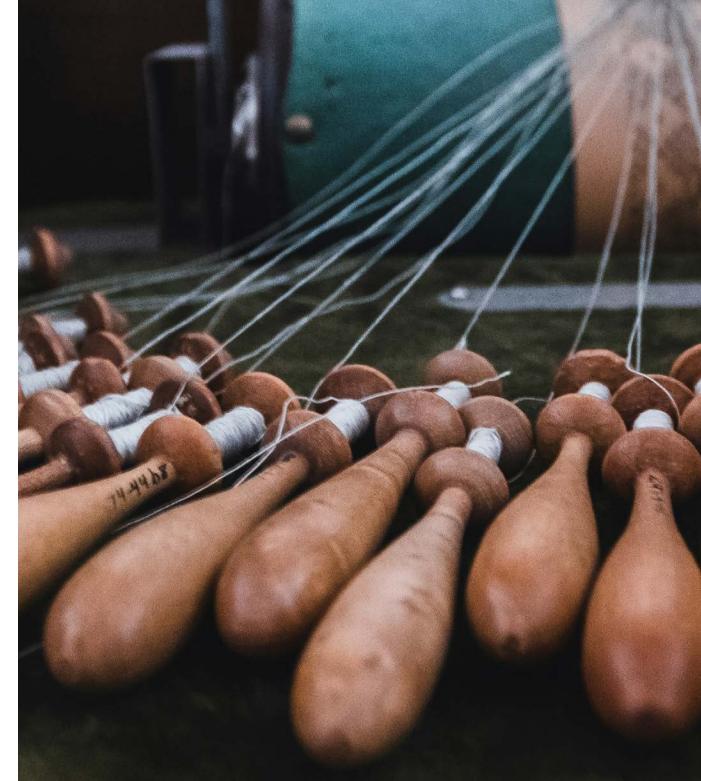
Though the Red List is a UK initiative, its framework has proven widely resonant. No equivalent national inventory exists in the United States or Canada, but the same questions surface repeatedly across North America in ecological studies, museum conservation efforts, Indigenous cultural programs, and apprenticeship initiatives: who still knows how to do this work, and who is learning from them?

Heritage Crafts defines a heritage craft as a practice rooted in manual skill, traditional materials, and techniques developed over at least two generations. Viability is measured not by visibility or commercial success, but by transmission. A craft survives only if there are enough practitioners actively teaching it.

That focus has sharpened attention on skills that tend to disappear quietly. In the UK, several crafts have already crossed into extinction within the past generation, including hand-stitched cricket ball making,



Blacksmiths work at an anvil beside a forge, continuing the endangered craft of traditional blacksmithing in a historic workshop setting. Photo by Tannis Sullivan.



Wooden bobbins and fine threads arranged for bobbin lace making, an endangered textile craft known for its intricate patterns and traditional methods. Photo by Delaney Van.

gold beating, lacrosse stick making, mould and deckle making, and mouth-blown sheet glass making. Their disappearance was gradual, often unnoticed outside specialist circles.

The critically endangered category is broader and includes trades once central to daily life and industry: bell founding, piano making, watchmaking, clog making, parchment and vellum making, and scientific instrument making. In some cases, fewer than ten people remain able to practice a craft professionally. The reasons are familiar—lengthy apprenticeships, high material costs, limited training routes, and an aging practitioner base.

Across the Atlantic, similar patterns emerge, though they are documented differently. In North America, the absence of a centralized registry means risk is often identified indirectly. Indigenous crafts, in particular, appear at the intersection of cultural transmission, land stewardship, and material access.

Black ash basketry, practiced by Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and Wabanaki communities in the Great Lakes and Northeast, is one of the most closely studied examples. The craft depends on black ash trees now threatened by the emerald ash borer. Ecological projections suggest severe losses in coming decades, prompting responses that include seed collection, forest management, and renewed apprentice training. Basketmakers are working not only to preserve technique, but to sustain the living systems that make the craft possible.

Other North American traditions face different constraints. Chilkat weaving, practiced by Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian artists in Alaska and British Columbia, requires years of specialized instruction under master weavers. Birchbark canoe building, once widespread across the Northeast, survives today through workshops and community-led teaching often supported by museums and cultural centers. Native Hawaiian kapa (barkcloth) making, nearly eliminated by the early twentieth century, has been reestablished through sustained instruction, cultivation of traditional plants, and institutional partnership.

What distinguishes many of these efforts is that they are not attempts at reconstruction, but continuation. Teaching remains central. In both the UK and North America, the most effective preservation strategies involve direct transmission: mentor-apprentice programs, community workshops, and structured training that treats craft knowledge as something learned through time and repetition.

Heritage Crafts' Red List draws on conservation models used by the

**several crafts have already crossed into extinction within the past generation, including hand-stitched cricket ball making, gold beating, lacrosse stick making, mould and deckle making, and mouth-blown sheet glass making. Their disappearance was gradual, often unnoticed outside specialist circles.**

International Union for Conservation of Nature and the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, translating them to human skill. That language of risk has proven useful. It allows policymakers, funders, and educators to see craft not as an abstract cultural good, but as a system that can be stabilized—or allowed to fail.

The report's visibility has grown accordingly. It has been launched at the House of Lords, cited in policy discussions, and featured in national media. King Charles III, Patron of Heritage Crafts, emphasized in the foreword to the original report the urgency of documenting skills before they are lost, particularly those reliant on tacit knowledge learned through observation rather than written instruction.

What the Red List also makes clear is that many heritage skills remain deeply relevant. Millwrighting, wheelwrighting, sail making,



An antique clock mechanism with exposed gears and a Roman-numeral dial, representing the tradition of endangered clockmaking, photographed at Ourense Cathedral in Spain. Photo by Eric Prouzet.



Photo of Gisela Colón's works inside the gallery at Bruce Museum. Photograph by Patrick Sikes

## Radiant Earth Brings Light, Science, Sculpture into Dialogue

**Colón's sculptures use light as a structural element, allowing color to emerge through material and movement rather than surface application.**

By EMMA BARHYDT

Gisela Colón: Radiant Earth, on view at the Sculpture Gallery from January 22 through June 28, 2026, presents eight works by the contemporary artist whose practice brings together engineered materials, environmental research, and abstract form. The exhibition introduces viewers to Colón's sculptural language through a focused selection of wall-mounted Pods and freestanding Monoliths, offering a clear view into a body of work shaped by geography, collaboration, and sustained material experimentation.

Colón (American, b. 1966) is a Puerto Rican-American artist based in Los Angeles. Although she began her career as a painter, she has worked primarily in sculpture for more than a decade, developing methods that rely on advanced fabrication techniques and partnerships with professionals in aerospace and scientific fields. Her work draws on scientific principles related to optics and material behavior, while remaining grounded in natural systems and land-based forms.

At the center of Colón's practice is her development of what she calls "structural color," a process in which color is created through the layering and lamination of materials rather than applied pigment. Using engineered plastics, environmentally sustainable carbon fiber, and green resins, Colón builds surfaces that interact with light, producing color that shifts depending on the viewer's position and the surrounding environment. The resulting visual effect is neither static nor uniform; instead, color emerges gradually through movement and illumination.

The exhibition opens with one of Colón's Pods, a wall-mounted, elongated oval form whose smooth surface encloses a concentrated field of iridescent color. As light moves across the sculpture, its interior shifts between pale green, yellow, and violet tones. The work's scale and placement encourage close viewing, revealing

subtle changes in color that are activated by the gallery's ambient light.

Nearby, a single Monolith stands upright on the gallery floor. Tall and tapered, the sculpture's obelisk-like form references both geological formations and historical markers. Its surface contains layered bands of green and blue, arranged in swirling patterns that appear suspended within the structure itself. The finish is highly polished, allowing the sculpture to reflect light from the room while maintaining depth within its interior.

The exhibition's largest installation features multiple Monoliths arranged on a bed of gravel and raw stone. The works vary in color—ranging from deep green to pale amber—and are positioned so that natural light from the gallery windows passes through them. The stones at their bases introduce a material contrast that underscores Colón's interest in the relationship between engineered surfaces and natural elements.

While Colón's sculptures are abstract, their forms are informed by specific landscapes. The mountainous terrain of Puerto Rico, where she spent her early years, and the expansive topography of California both play a role in shaping the verticality and scale of her work. Rather than referencing these places directly, Colón translates them into formal qualities—height, translucence, density—that register through the body as much as through sight.

Colón's work also engages with art-historical precedents. Her sculptures build on the legacies of Minimalism, Light and Space, and Land Art, particularly in their emphasis on material presence and environmental interaction. At the same time, her use of advanced fabrication techniques situates the work firmly within contemporary conversations about sustainability and innovation. The materials she employs are selected not only for their visual properties but also for their durability and reduced environmental impact.

The exhibition is organized by guest curator Dr. Danielle O'Steen, whose approach emphasizes clarity and restraint. The gallery layout allows for unobstructed views of each work, with ample space between sculptures to accommodate changes in light throughout the day. Wall texts provide concise contextual information without directing interpretation, allowing viewers to engage with the works on their own terms.

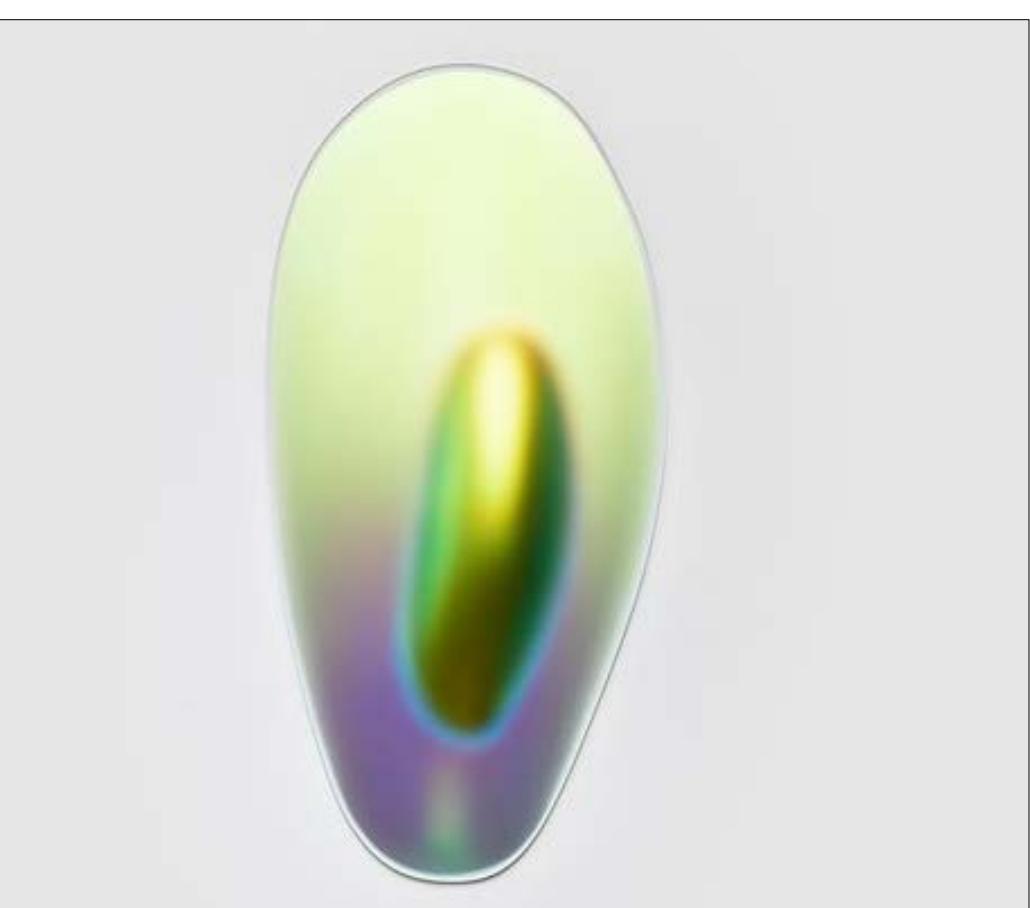
Taken together, the Pods and Monoliths function as a system rather than a sequence of individual statements. Their shared material language and responsiveness to light create a cohesive visual field, one that evolves as conditions shift. The sculptures do not rely on narrative or symbolism; instead, they operate through physical presence and perceptual change.

Gisela Colón: Radiant Earth positions the Sculpture Gallery as a site for sustained engagement with contemporary sculpture rooted in process and research. By foregrounding material development and environmental reference, the exhibition offers insight into how artists are working today at the intersection of art, science, and ecology.

The show also reflects a broader commitment to presenting work that benefits from repeat viewing. Because Colón's sculptures respond continuously to light and movement, no single encounter captures the full range of visual effects they produce. The exhibition rewards attention over time, revealing incremental shifts rather than immediate conclusions.

Through Radiant Earth, Colón contributes a body of work that emphasizes making as an ongoing investigation—one shaped by collaboration, place, and an interest in how materials behave under changing conditions. The exhibition presents that investigation with precision and focus, inviting viewers to observe how form, color, and light interact within a carefully considered sculptural environment.

**Gisela Colón (American, b. Puerto Rico, 1966)**  
**Monolito Parabólico Phytoplankton (Cuenca Hidrográfica del Bosque Tropical de El Yunque, Luquillo, Puerto Rico), 2025**  
 Aurora particles, stardust, cosmic radiation, intergalactic matter, ionic waves, organic carbamate, earth matter, gravity, energy, and time, 98.5 x 24 x 12 in. (250.2 x 61 x 30.5 cm)  
 Courtesy of the Artist  
 © Gisela Colón Studio



**Gisela Colón (American, b. Puerto Rico, 1966)**  
**Plasmatic Rhomboid (Mercury), 2024**  
 Blow-molded acrylic, 72 x 36 x 10 in. (182.9 x 91.5 x 25.4 cm)  
 Courtesy of the Artist  
 ©Gisela Colón Studio



Thursday, January 29, 2025

## SPOTLIGHT on FAMILIES

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WHAT TO DO: COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

**FRIDAY, JAN. 30****8:30 - 11:30 a.m.**Pickleball Tournament – Open to all adults 18+. YMCA of Greenwich. Member: \$20, Non-Member: \$30. Register by Jan. 22. [greenwichymca.org/events](http://greenwichymca.org/events)**3 p.m.**FeederWatch Fridays. Greenwich Audubon Center. All Ages. Free. Register. [audubon.org/events?view\\_type=row&location=Greenwich%20Audubon%20Center](http://audubon.org/events?view_type=row&location=Greenwich%20Audubon%20Center)**4 p.m.**Game Hub (Ages 7-13). Perrot Memorial Library, 90 Sound Beach Ave. Free. Register. [perrotlibrary.org](http://perrotlibrary.org)**7 p.m.**The Eastern Middle School Drama Club presents "The Olympians." EMS Auditorium, 51 Hendrie Avenue. \$20. [easternmiddleschool.ludus.com](http://easternmiddleschool.ludus.com)**SATURDAY, JAN. 31****8:30 - 11 a.m.**20th Annual Boys & Girls Club of Greenwich Swim-a-thon. BCGC, 4 Horseneck Lane. Open to the public. [bgcg.org](http://bgcg.org)**9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**Junior League of Greenwich Super Saturday Class. JLG Headquarters, 231 E. Putnam Ave. 203-869-1979. [greenwich.jlg.org/join-us](http://greenwich.jlg.org/join-us)**10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**The Friends of Byram Park's 2026 Hot Chocolate in the Park. Byram Park, 4 Ritch Avenue West (beach entrance). Free. [friendsofbyrampark.org](http://friendsofbyrampark.org)**10:30 a.m.**"The Paintings of Beate Wheeler" opens. Heather Gaudio Fine Art, 382 Greenwich Ave. On view through March 7. [heathergaudiofineart.com](http://heathergaudiofineart.com)**1 p.m.**Science Solvers: Cardboard Sculptures (Ages 4 & up). Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. Free with admission. No reservations required. Also held Sunday, Feb. 1. [brucemuseum.org](http://brucemuseum.org)**3 p.m.**Greenwich Choral Society: "Antonia" Film Screening and Panel Discussion. First Congregational Church of Greenwich, 108 Sound Beach Ave. Free. [gcs-ct.org](http://gcs-ct.org)**4 p.m.**The Eastern Middle School Drama Club presents "The Olympians." EMS Auditorium, 51 Hendrie Avenue. \$20. [easternmiddleschool.ludus.com](http://easternmiddleschool.ludus.com)**SUNDAY, FEB. 1****9 a.m.**Friends of Greenwich Point: First Sunday Bird Walk. Tod's Point. All levels & ages welcome. Bring binoculars & meet near the main (southern) concession stand by the beach. [friendsofgreenwichpoint.org/events-calendar](http://friendsofgreenwichpoint.org/events-calendar)**2 p.m.**"Africa Is Me!" – An Interactive African Drum & Dance Workshop. Perrot Memorial Library, 90 Sound Beach Ave. Free. Registration is required. 203-637-1066. [perrotlibrary.org](http://perrotlibrary.org)**2 p.m.**Fred Elser First Sunday Science: Ants: Tiny Creatures, Big Lives. Floren Family Environmental Center at Innis Arden Cottage, Tod's Point. Free. No park pass required. [brucemuseum.org](http://brucemuseum.org)**4 p.m.**"My Story, Our Future" Celebration and Exhibition Opening. Greenwich Historical Society. [iccggreenwich.org/events](http://iccggreenwich.org/events)**MONDAY, FEB. 2****9 a.m.**Friends of Mianus River Park: 'Piking'/Hiking event. Meet at the bridge on Merrimroke Lane, Stamford. (Bring gloves and a small trash bag). 203-918-2548. [friendsofmianusriverpark.org](http://friendsofmianusriverpark.org)**9:15 a.m.**Qigong Class @ the Library. Perrot Memorial Library. Free. Register. 203-637-1066. [perrotlibrary.org](http://perrotlibrary.org)**12 p.m.**Women's Business Development Council (WBDC): You Started a Food Business – Now What? Online. Register. [ctwbdc.org/class-listings](http://ctwbdc.org/class-listings)**1 p.m.**Lecture: "The Frick Collection: Past, Present, and Future." Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. [greenwichdecorativearts.org](http://greenwichdecorativearts@gmail.com)**7 p.m.**

Concert &amp; Cake Series: Hiroko Miyake Dutton, pianist. Christ Church

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**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](mailto:lighthouse@kidsincrisis.org)**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](http://roundhillcommunitychurch.org/news/composting-at-rhcc)**6 - 7:30 p.m.**Teen Center High School Support Group for boys: Stress, Success, and Teenage Setbacks – moderated by Executive Director Kyle Silver. [kyle@archstreet.org](mailto:kyle@archstreet.org)**6:30 p.m.**NAMI-CAN (Child and Adolescent Network) Online Support Group - for parents and primary caregivers of children & adolescents, under age 21, with behavioral and emotional issues. Free. [namisouthwestct.org/online-support](http://namisouthwestct.org/online-support)**THURSDAYS:****8 a.m. & 4 p.m.**Tai Chi Basic Moves. First Congregational Church of Greenwich, 108 Sound Beach Ave. Registration required. Tuition is paid as a donation made directly by the participant to abilis, Neighbor to Neighbor, or the First Congregational Church. [experiencetaichi.org](http://experiencetaichi.org)**5 - 7 p.m.**Kids In Crisis Lighthouse LGBTQ Youth Group Meeting - open to all LGBTQ youth in middle & high school. Wilton Historical Society, 224 Danbury Rd, Wilton. Free. 203-661-1911. [lighthouse@kidsincrisis.org](mailto:lighthouse@kidsincrisis.org)**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. [books4everone.org](http://books4everone.org))**GREENWICH LIBRARIES: greenwichlibrary.org****Friday, Jan. 30****10 a.m.**

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

**10 a.m.**

Goldbas Musical Story Hour. Marx Family Black Box Theater. 203-622-7940.

**11:15 a.m.**Qi Gong: Tapping and Healing Sounds. Online. [greenwichlibrary.libcal.com/event/16013384](http://greenwichlibrary.libcal.com/event/16013384)**3:45 p.m.**

World Music with Anitra. Cos Cob Library Rotunda. 203-622-6883.

**5 p.m.**

Art Lounge - Performative Stories. Flinn Gallery. 203-622-7947.

**7 p.m.**Friends Friday Films: "The Adventures of Prince Achmed." Berkley Theater. [cgbibs@greenwichlibrary.org](mailto:cgbibs@greenwichlibrary.org)

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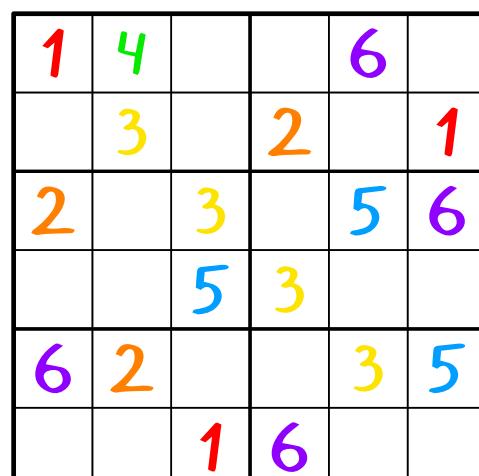
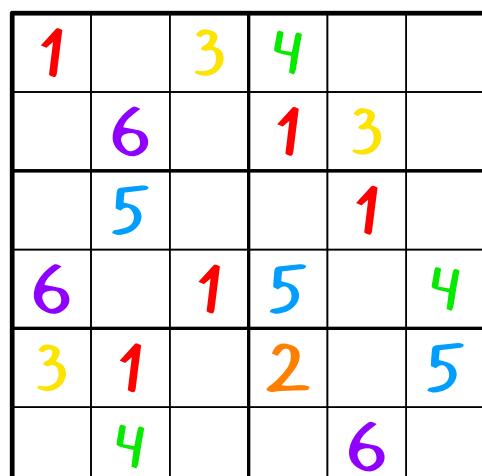
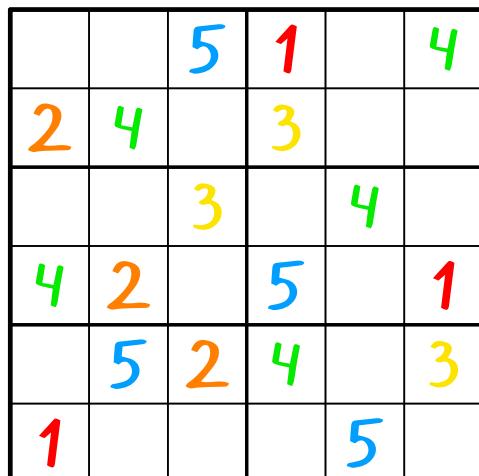
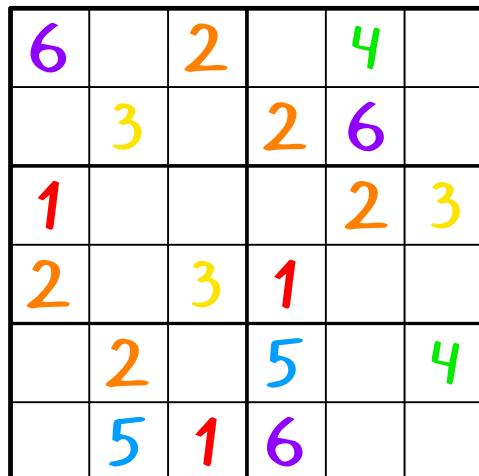
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CALENDAR CONTINUES ON PAGE 7

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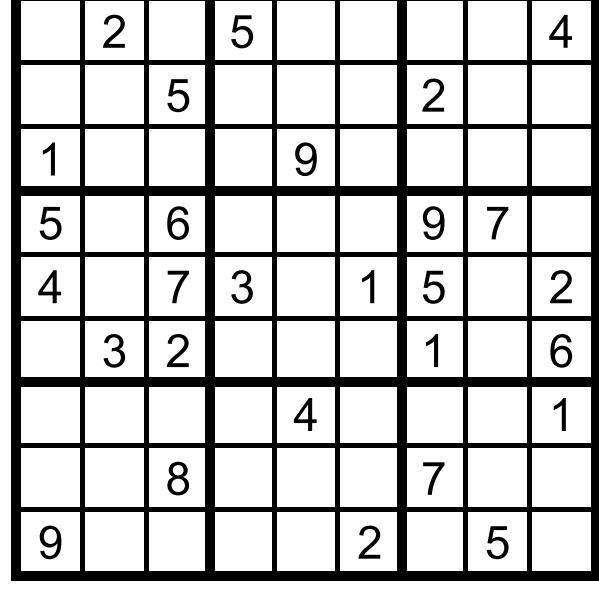
# Sudoku for Kids



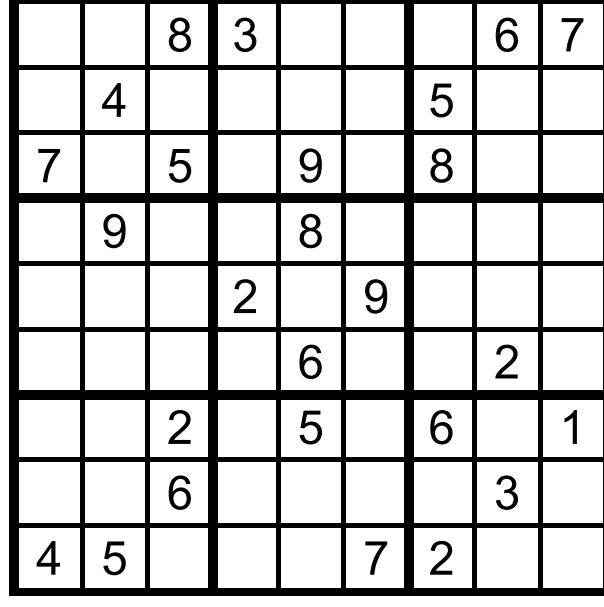
## SUDOKU

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

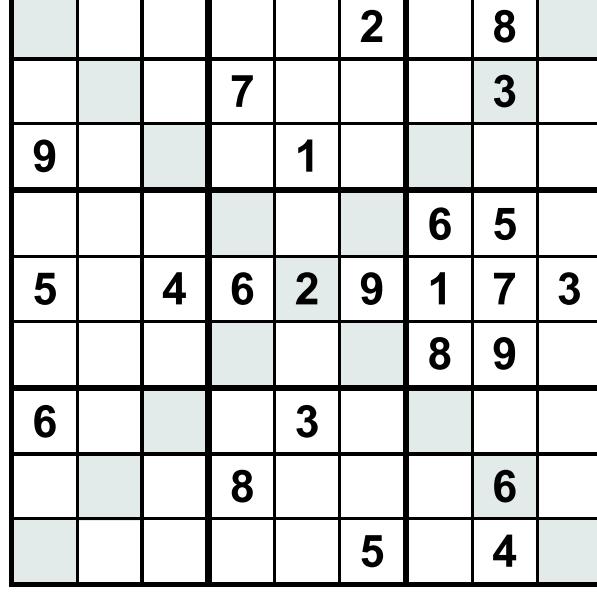
### Easy



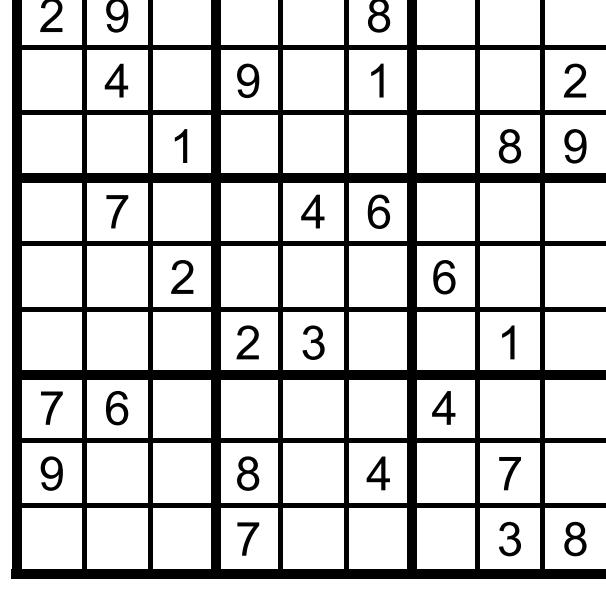
### Hard



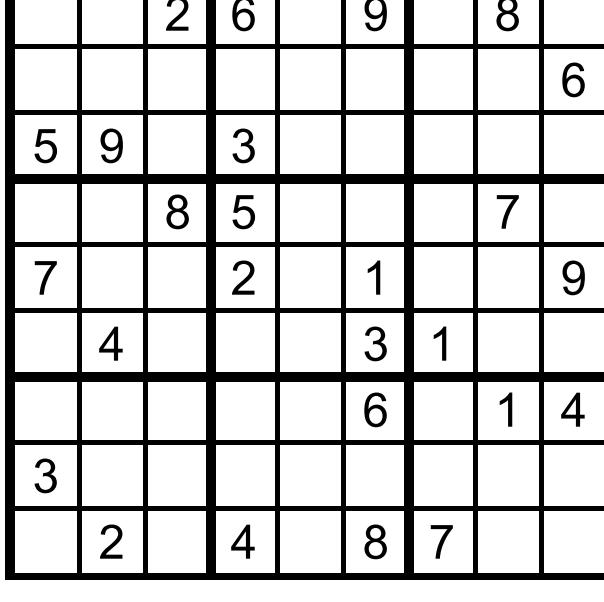
### Very Hard



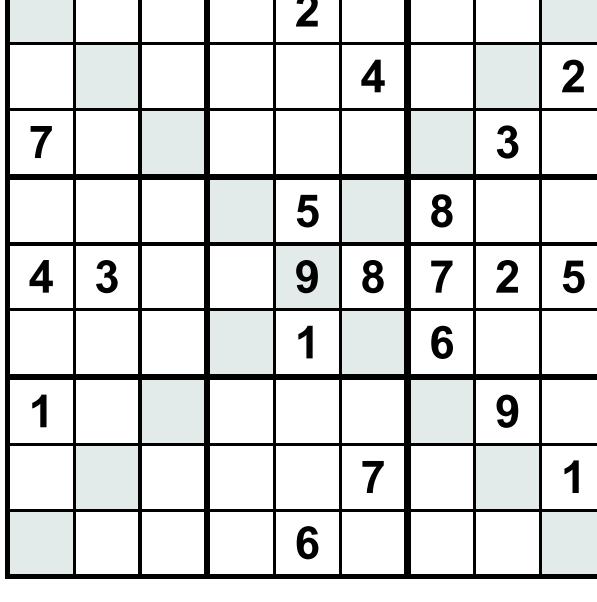
### Easy



### Hard



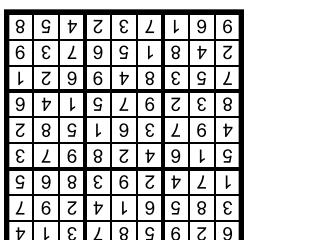
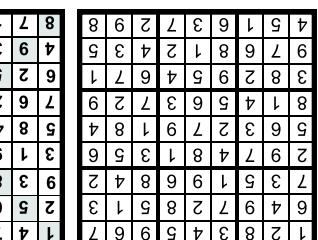
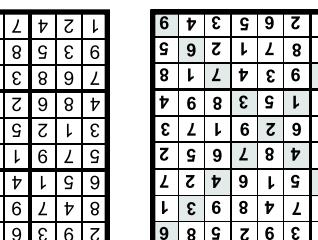
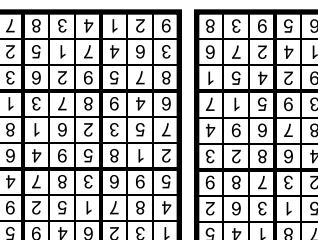
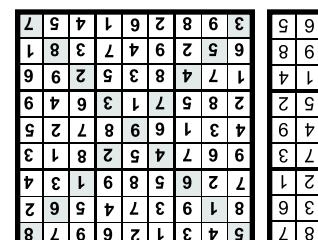
### Very Hard



## Coloring Challenge



**Sudoku**  
answers



**Universal Crossword**

Edited by David Steinberg

**ACROSS**

1 "Don't go!"  
 5 "Yippee!"  
 8 \_\_\_ Man  
 (Village People hit)  
 13 Where you live  
 14 Animal shelter event  
 17 \_\_\_ Spunk-meyer cookies  
 18 "It" or "Us"  
 19 Is in the past?  
 20 Drenched  
 21 Sunisa with three Olympic medals  
 22 Didn't turn off  
 24 Pyramid and dodecahedron, e.g.  
 27 Shaq's last name  
 28 Lil \_\_\_ X  
 30 Nocturnal bird  
 31 Tender cut of meat  
 32 \_\_\_ Mubarak!"  
 33 Live, in a TV studio  
 35 "Keep this simple"  
 39 Suboptimal performance, to a coach  
 40 Greek goddess of dawn  
 41 Maker of Hurricane Drift sandals  
 42 Org. that confiscates liquids  
 43 Person seeking intelligence

**44** Asked for cat food, maybe

45 "Eh, might as well"  
 47 Small rumbling  
 49 Filmmaker Aster  
 50 Gung ho  
 52 Grizzlies' org.

**54** Pol position?

57 Vows beneath a chuppah

**58** Class covering the Bronte sisters, casually**59** High point**60** Donkeys**61** None in particular**62** Word after "language" or "liberal"**1** \_\_\_-and-tell**2** Absolute beginner**3** "Do my eyes deceive me?"**4** Agreeable answer**5** "Yippee!"**6** "Oklahoma!"**7** Peppermint patty brand**8** Spoil the look of**9** DOJ agency**10** Feeling when watching the northern lights, perhaps**11** Bagels' centers**12** "I take re-sponsibility"**15** French \_\_\_ (coffee-making device)

16 Big fuss  
 20 Mo. city with a soccer club in the MLS, as of 2023

**23** Daydreamer's invention

25 Name that anagrams to 31-Across  
 26 "Gimme those"

**27** Out of style**29** TV spot seller**32** Palindromic name in Genesis**33** "Ex's & \_\_\_"**34** Vessel on the Seine**36** Middle Eastern country that's 82% valleys and desert**37** Cars for kids?

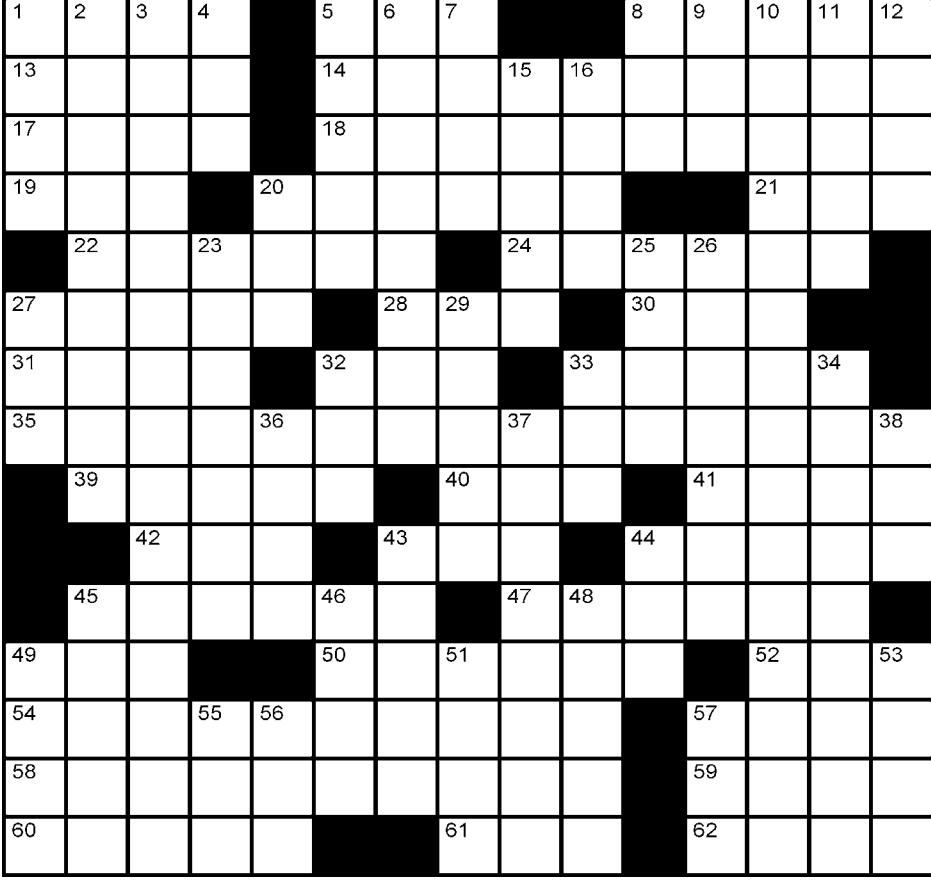
38 Small amount  
 43 Secret supply

**44** "I've seen better"

45 Songbirds with a silent first letter  
 46 Bauxite, hematite, etc.

**48** Shabby**49** Sailing along?**51** Cate

Blanchett's role in "Thor: Ragnarok"

**53** Doesn't just assume**55** The "A" of 57-Down**56** "\_\_\_ the season ..."**57** Optimus Prime beverage**PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER**7/14 © 2023 Andrews McMeel Universal  
www.upuzzles.com**7/15 Universal Freestyle 81** by Matthew Stock and Rafael Musa**Horoscopes****Horoscope: January 29–February 5, 2026**

This week bridges innovative Aquarius season with celestial shifts urging personal clarity and emotional insight. A Waxing Gibbous Moon builds toward the Full Snow Moon on February 1, illuminating priorities, relationships, and what needs expression in your life.

On January 26, Neptune entered Aries for the first time in 160 years, adding a long-term current of dream-to-action energy through 2039 that will shape how signs envision and manifest their intentions.

Mars continues its transit through Capricorn's Shravana Nakshatra (through February 14), enhancing discipline, listening skills, and the ability to mentor or guide others – though overthinking and ego clashes may also arise.

**Weekly Forecast by Sign****ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 19)**

Your ambitions gain spiritual momentum now that Neptune resides in your sign. Continue refining goals begun earlier in January, especially as the Full Snow Moon on February 1 spotlights how you're seen publicly. Practical advice: articulate your vision with both passion and precision; clear goals support real progress.

**TAURUS (APR 20 - MAY 20)**

Partnerships and shared goals are highlighted. The evolving lunar light asks you to evaluate what you give and receive. Practical advice: speak frankly about expectations and embrace flexibility; honesty fosters deeper trust and aligns long-term intentions.

**GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUN 20)**

Communication and curiosity remain central. Aquarius season encourages open dialogue and new perspectives. Practical advice: use the Full Moon's energy to share insights with others – especially ideas that have matured since early January. Clear expression now supports stronger bonds.

**CANCER (JUN 21 - JUL 22)**

Home life and emotional foundations continue to deepen. The Snow Moon illuminates your domestic priorities – comfort, security, and meaningful connection. Practical advice: organize surroundings for peace and invite loved ones into calm, grounding moments.

**LEO (JUL 23 - AUG 22)**

Creativity and romance feel energized. Venus in Aquarius supports unconventional expressions of affection or shared creative projects. Practical advice: prioritize time for joyful collaboration – whether playful or purposeful – that enhances connection rather than competition.

**VIRGO (AUG 23 - SEP 22)**

Daily routines and responsibilities benefit from strategic refinement. Mars through Shravana

**LIBRA (SEP 23 - OCT 22)**

Balance and harmony in relationships are highlighted as the Snow Moon illuminates your partnership sector. Practical advice: clear-eyed conversations about needs and boundaries strengthen mutual understanding. Embrace compromise without losing your own center.

**SCORPIO (OCT 23 - NOV 21)**

Inner resources and emotional resilience rise to the surface. The Moon's approach to fullness encourages careful review of what you hold close. Practical advice: tend to financial and emotional security with transparency – today's clarity supports wiser choices.

**SAGITTARIUS (NOV 22 - DEC 21)**

Social connections and community involvement may feel energized. Aquarius season stimulates networking and idea exchange. Practical advice: attend to relationships that support dreams and long-term aims; the Full Moon helps you see who champions your growth.

**CAPRICORN (DEC 22 - JAN 19)**

Work and obligations gain momentum this week. Mars in Capricorn emphasizes discipline and mastery, while the Snow Moon can reveal where your effort yields the greatest return. Practical advice: take pride in progress rather than perfection; consistent effort now builds stronger outcomes.

**AQUARIUS (JAN 20 - FEB 18)**

Your season continues under vibrant cosmic currents. Communication flows fiercely, and deep conversations are more revealing than usual. Practical advice: be direct but compassionate in exchanges; authenticity enhances connection and supports individual expression.

**PISCES (FEB 19 - MAR 20)**

Inner world and intuition deepen. Jupiter retrograde emphasizes emotional attunement and reflection. Practical advice: allow quiet time to integrate insights, especially as the Full Moon highlights subconscious needs. Trust your instincts, but balance them with grounded action.

**Summary:**

January 29–February 5 blends Aquarius-driven insight with the Snow Moon's illumination of priorities. Neptune's historic entry into Aries energizes long-term personal vision, while Mars in Capricorn sharpens discipline and listening. This week supports clear communication, thoughtful planning, and refined emotional awareness.

**7 LITTLE WORDS**

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

**CLUES**

1 used your car's horn (6)

2 Donatello or Rodin (8)

3 breaking off in bits (8)

4 sounded like a hen (7)

5 made money (6)

6 focus in OOTD post (6)

7 impromptu, like a hoops game (6)

**SOLUTIONS**

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

Can you find the answer to this riddle within the solved puzzle?

Lock up on top?

Look for the answer in next week's paper.

**PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER**

Previous riddle answer:

It looks like a C for carpenter?  
 44-A) CLAMP

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The answers to this week's puzzles can be found in the next issue.

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[www.NewCanaanSentinel.com/subscribe](http://www.NewCanaanSentinel.com/subscribe)



explained to Tigger that he mustn't mind what Eeyore said because he was always gloomy; and Eeyore explained to Piglet that, on the contrary, he was feeling particularly cheerful this morning; and Tigger explained to anybody who was listening that he hadn't had any breakfast yet.

"I knew there was something," said Pooh. "Tiggers always eat thistles, so that was why we came to see you, Eeyore."

"Don't mention it, Pooh."

"Oh, Eeyore, I didn't mean that I didn't want to see you—"

"Quite—quite. But your new stripy friend—naturally, he wants his breakfast. What did you say his name was?"

"Tigger."

"Then come this way, Tigger."

Eeyore led the way to the most thistly-looking patch of thistles that ever was, and waved a hoof at it.

"A little patch I was keeping for my birthday," he said; "but, after all, what are birthdays? Here today and gone tomorrow. Help yourself, Tigger."

Tigger thanked him and looked a little anxiously at Pooh.

"Are these really thistles?" he whispered.

"Yes," said Pooh.

"What Tiggers like best?"

"That's right," said Pooh.

"I see," said Tigger.

So he took a large mouthful, and he gave a large crunch.

"Ow!" said Tigger.

He sat down and put his paw in his mouth.



"What's the matter?" asked Pooh.

"Hot!" mumbled Tigger.

"Your friend," said Eeyore, "appears to have bitten on a bee."

Pooh's friend stopped shaking his head to get the prickles out, and explained that Tiggers didn't like thistles.

"Then why bend a perfectly good one?" asked Eeyore.

"But you said," began Pooh—"you said that Tiggers liked everything except honey and haycorns."

"And thistles," said Tigger, who was now running round in circles with his tongue hanging out.

Pooh looked at him sadly.

"What are we going to do?" he asked Piglet.

Piglet knew the answer to that, and he said at once that they must go and see Christopher Robin.

"You'll find him with Kanga," said Eeyore. He came close to Pooh, and said in a loud whisper:

"Could you ask your friend to do his exercises somewhere else? I shall be having lunch directly, and don't want it bounced on just before I begin. A trifling matter, and fussy of me, but we all have our little ways."

Pooh nodded solemnly and called to Tigger.

"Come along and we'll go and see Kanga. She's sure to have lots of breakfast for you."

Tigger finished his last circle and came up to Pooh and Piglet.

"Hot!" he explained with a large and friendly smile. "Come on!" and he rushed off.

Pooh and Piglet walked slowly after him. And as they walked Piglet said nothing, because he couldn't think of anything, and Pooh said nothing, because he was thinking of a poem. And when he had thought of it he began:

*What shall we do about poor little Tigger?*

*If he never eats nothing he'll never get bigger.*

*He doesn't like honey and haycorns and thistles.*

*Because of the taste and because of the bristles.*

*And all the good things which an animal likes*

*Have the wrong sort of swallow or too many spikes.*

"He's quite big enough anyhow," said Piglet.

"He isn't really very big."

"Well, he seems so."

Pooh was thoughtful when he heard this, and then he murmured to himself:

*But whatever his weight in pounds, shillings, and ounces,*

*He always seems bigger because of his bounces.*

"And that's the whole poem," he said. "Do you like it, Piglet?"

"All except the shillings," said Piglet. "I don't think they ought to be there."

"They wanted to come in after the pounds," explained Pooh, "so I let them. It is the best way to write poetry, letting things come."

"Oh, I didn't know," said Piglet.

Tigger had been bouncing in front of them all this time, turning round every now and then to ask, "Is this the way?"—and now at last they came in sight of Kanga's house, and there was Christopher Robin. Tigger rushed up to him.



"Oh, there you are, Tigger!" said Christopher Robin. "I knew you'd be somewhere."

"I've been finding things in the Forest," said Tigger importantly. "I've found a pooh and a piglet and an eeyore, but I can't find any breakfast."

Pooh and Piglet came up and hugged Christopher Robin, and explained what had been happening.

"Don't you know what Tiggers like?" asked Pooh.

"I expect if I thought very hard I

should," said Christopher Robin, "but I thought Tigger knew."

"I do," said Tigger. "Everything there is in the world except honey and haycorns and—what were those hot things called?"

"Thistles."

"Yes, and those."

"Oh, well then, Kanga can give you some breakfast."



But the more Tigger put his nose into this and his paw into that, the more things he found which Tiggers didn't like. And when he had found everything in the cupboard, and couldn't eat any of it, he said to Kanga, "What happens now?"

But Kanga and Christopher Robin and Piglet were all standing round Roo, watching him have his Extract of Malt. And Roo was saying, "Must I?" and Kanga was saying "Now, Roo dear, you remember what you promised."

"What is it?" whispered Tigger to Piglet.

"His Strengthening Medicine," said Piglet. "He hates it."

So Tigger came closer, and he leant over the back of Roo's chair, and suddenly he put out his tongue, and took one large gollop, and, with a sudden jump of surprise, Kanga said, "Oh!" and then clutched at the spoon again just as it was disappearing, and pulled it safely back out of Tigger's mouth. But the Extract of Malt had gone.



"Tigger dear!" said Kanga.

"He's taken my medicine, he's taken my medicine, he's taken my medicine!" sang Roo happily, thinking it was a tremendous joke.

Then Tigger looked up at the ceiling, and closed his eyes, and his tongue went round and round his chops, in case he had left any outside, and a peaceful smile came over his face as he said, "So that's what Tiggers like!"

Which explains why he always lived at Kanga's house afterwards, and had Extract of Malt for breakfast, dinner, and tea. And sometimes, when Kanga thought he wanted strengthening, he had a spoonful or two of Roo's breakfast after meals as medicine.

"But I think," said Piglet to Pooh, "that he's been strengthened quite enough."

# A Deep-Water Eel With a Pelican-Like Jaw



By JIM KNOX

"What would you like to see?"

"Really? Anything?" I asked incredulously.

The question hung in the air waiting for me to direct our gracious host to any number of rare, obscure, or even extinct species, housed in the museum's vast collections. Like a kid with an all-access fast pass to Disney, I brimmed with excitement.

My mind raced, went blank, then raced again as I considered the possibilities before me. As a zoological curator, I could not have stood in a more revered, and enviable location on the planet. Along with a colleague, I looked out on the archives of the Ichthyology Collection of the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology. Possessing one of the world's largest collections of zoological specimens—the museum houses a staggering 21 million specimens and is consistently ranked among the finest natural history museums in the world.

Numerous living and extinct species vied for my attention, each more compelling than the last. A thought flashed and I spoke up.

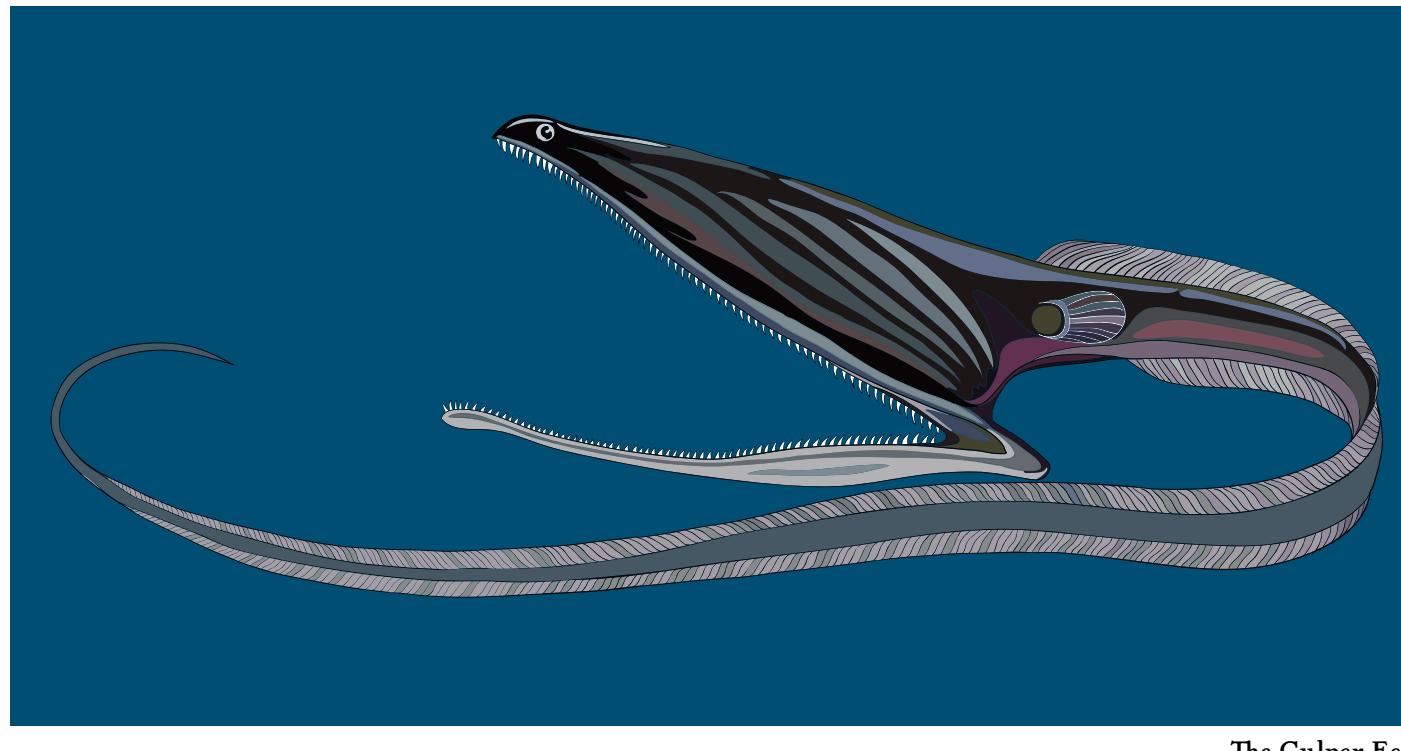
"Do you have any Gulper eels?" I asked naively.

"Gulper eels, really?" our curatorial host asked in surprise.

"Yes, would that be possible?" I asked with greater excitement.

"Absolutely," he responded after a moment. "It's just that I can't remember ever getting a request for Gulpers. These guys are one of my favorites!" he shared with a proud smile.

My colleague and I followed our two hosts into the archives, eventually hooking a left into the stacks of shelves within the zoological labyrinth. There,



The Gulper Eel

## Creatures that can capture and consume prey larger than themselves in one giant gulp are rare indeed.

at chest level on one of the reinforced hardwood shelves, sat hundreds of huge, thick glass jars housing thousands of preserved specimens collected from the world's waters over the centuries.

With casual familiarity he identified the 5-gallon vessel and he reached inward to open it. He produced an extended pair of forceps and deftly probed for a moment before producing a small creature from the amber liquid. I examined the juvenile creature minutely.

The Gulper eel, Pelican eel, or Umbrella-mouth eel, *Eurypharynx pelecanoides*, is a bizarre creature by most standards. Named for its superficial resemblance to pelicans, and ranging from 3 to 6 feet at maturity, these deep-sea fish inhabit the world's temperate oceans at depths ranging from 1,600 to 26,000 feet. At such depths, ocean creatures employ various strategies for predator avoidance and prey capture. Possessing a unique complement of adaptations for capturing prey, these elongated blackish-greenish colored predators utilize

phosphorescence for luring prey. With a pink glowing photophore, or light-emitting organ, the Gulper cruises the depths in search of prey.

With intermittent flashes of red light, the eel draws the attention of crustaceans, squid, and fish. With tiny eyes adapted for detection of the faint light of its prey, the Gulper is able to approach the prey with whips of its slender

tail. Once within range, the eel employs its namesake adaptation, a giant hinged, gulping pouch-like mouth.

With a quick lunge and expulsion of water, the Gulper traps its prey within its enormous pouched, lower jaw. The structure and function of this gulping jaw and extendable pouch is remarkable. Taking up approximately 1/3 of

the creature's length and exceeding its body's bulk, the jaw is formidable, enabling the Gulper to engulf and consume prey far larger than itself. Now, let that sink in for a moment because in the animal kingdom where amazing feats are the rule, the Gulper's ability is exceptional. Creatures that can capture and consume prey larger than themselves in one giant gulp are rare indeed.

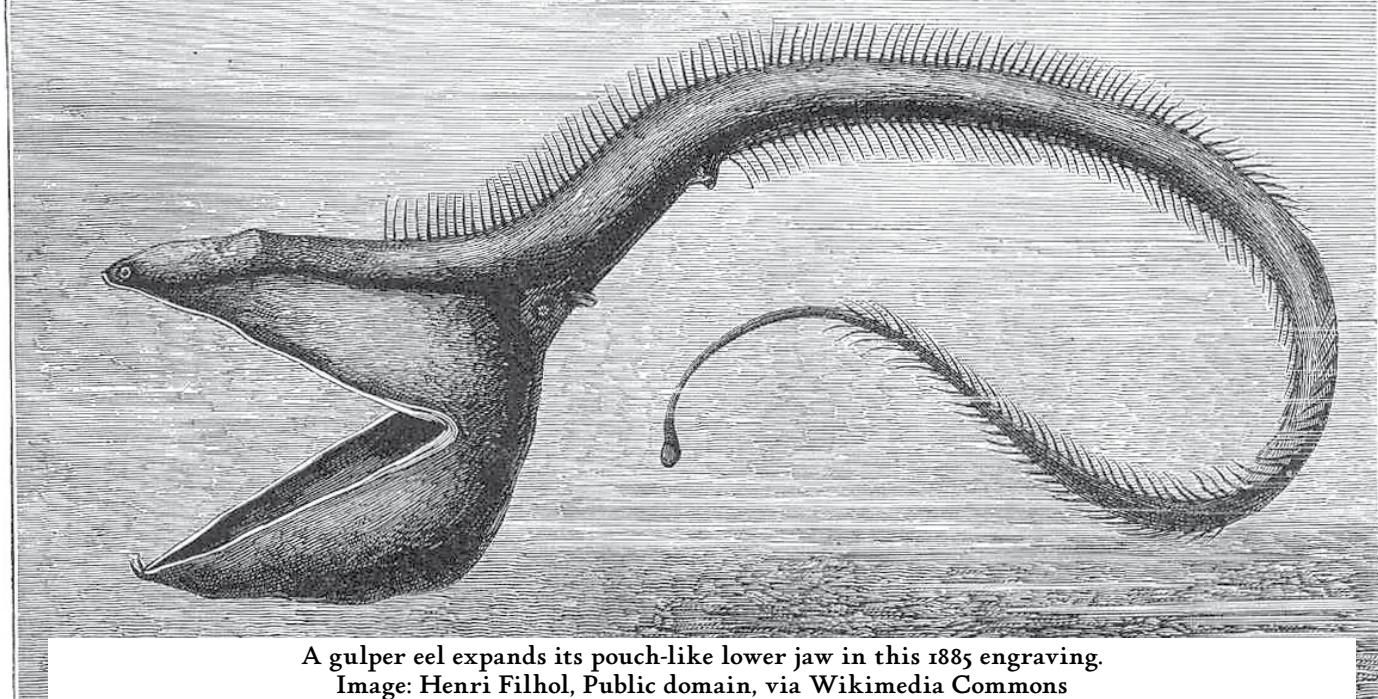
This trait comes in handy in the deep sea where prey is scarce, and prey encounters may be sporadic at best. This confers a huge survival advantage to the alien-looking eels.

While the Gulper is just

one of the many known deep sea creatures, with more than 80% of our planet's oceans unexplored, it seems we are in store for a many more to come. In fact, each year an average of 20,000 new species are discovered by science! That staggering figure hints at the sheer volume of species unknown to science and hints at the likelihood of new discoveries about known species.

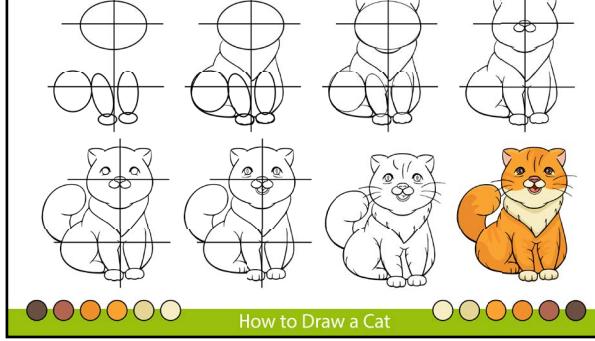
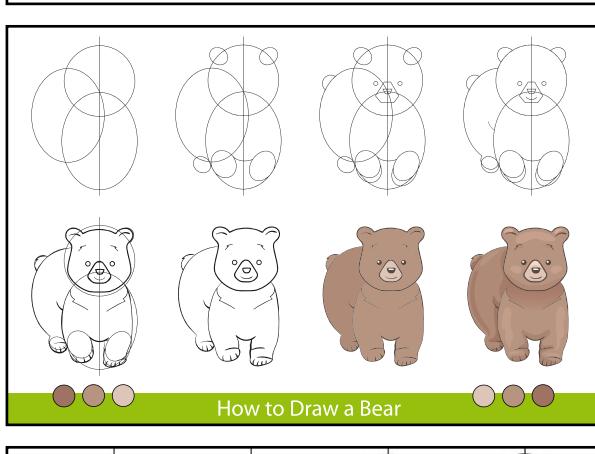
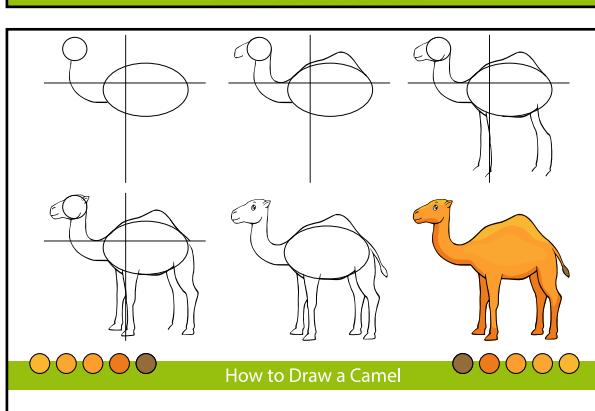
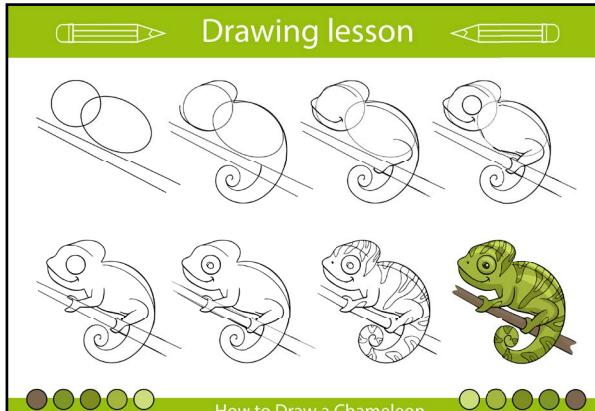
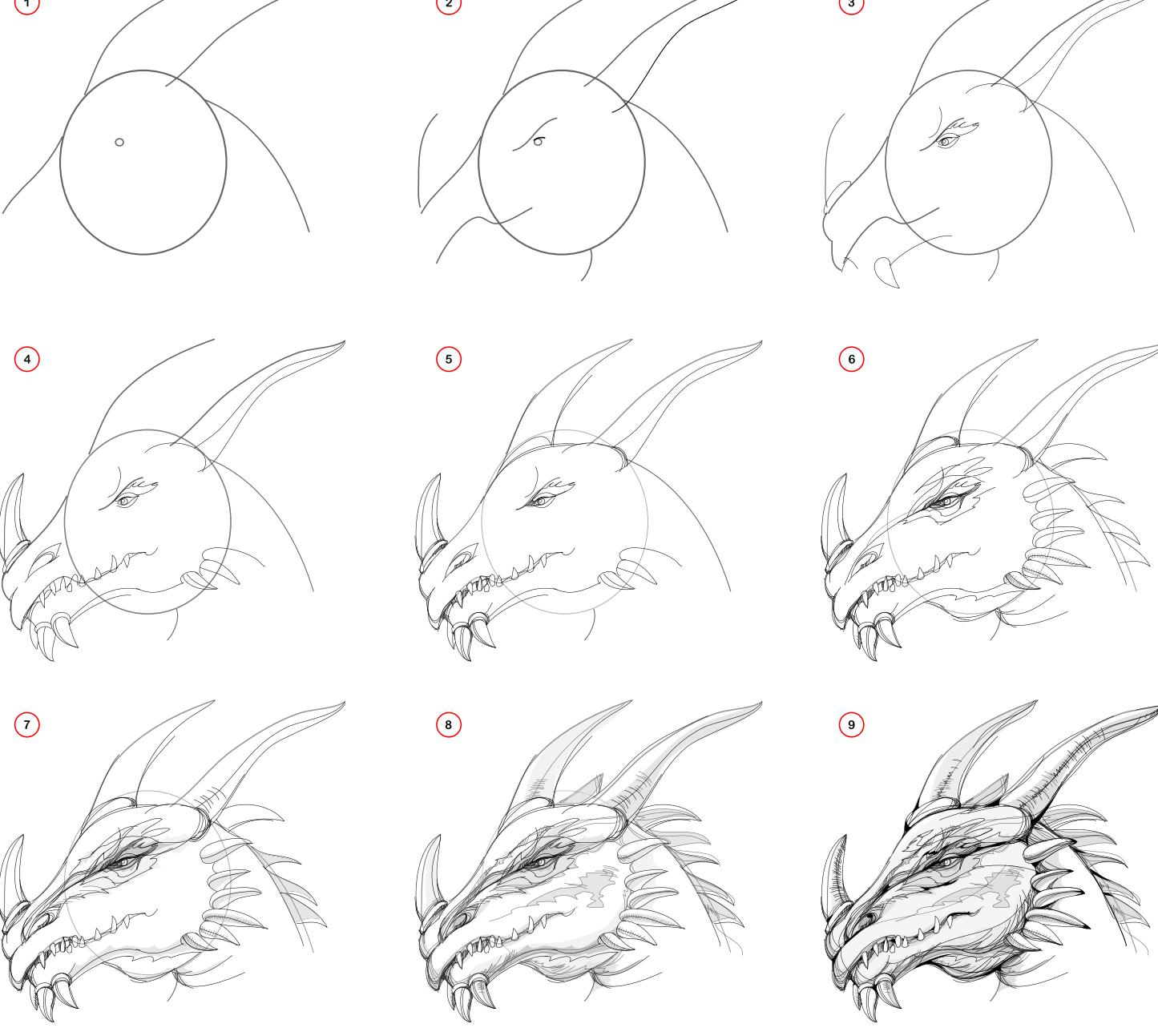
Research institutions such as the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology open a window on the natural world. By providing us with scientific data from precise dates and locations from around the world, they enable us to identify the historical presence, rarity, abundance, and diversity of the creatures in their collections. This in turn enables scientists to gauge means of conservation. With between 90-99% of the world's estimated species unknown to science, such knowledge of the past is essential to protect the known wild world, and to safeguard what still awaits discovery.

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.



A gulper eel expands its pouch-like lower jaw in this 1885 engraving.  
Image: Henri Filhol, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

## GRAB YOUR SKETCH BOOK step by step



**Saturday, Jan. 31****10:30 a.m.**

Self-Care Techniques with Roberta Brown. 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. innovationlab@greenwichlibrary.org.

**Sunday, Feb. 1****3 p.m.**

Peterson Concert: Jazzmeia Horn Quartet. Berkley Theater. 203-622-7910. dsalm@greenwichlibrary.org

**Monday, Feb. 2****All Day**

Adult Winter Reading Challenge Continues.

**10 a.m.**

Little Learners (Storytime Lottery). Children's Constellation Room.

**11 a.m.**

All Together Storytime. Marx Family Black Box Theater.

**11:30 a.m.**

Blood Pressure Screening. Community Room #5.

**12 p.m.**

Byram Lunch Bunch Book Club: "We All Live Here" by Jo Jo Moyes. Byram Shubert Library Community Room.

**1 p.m.**

PrintLab: 3D Printing Studio. Innovation Lab.

**3:15 p.m.**

Nutmeg Book Club with Ms. Flynn: The Carrefour Curse by Dianne Salerni. Byram Shubert Library Conference Room.

**6:30 p.m.**

The Cos Cob Evening Book Club. Cos Cob Library Rotunda.

**Tuesday, Feb. 3****10 a.m.**

Spanish Storytime. Cos Cob Library Community Room.

**11 a.m.**

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

**1:15 p.m.**

Baby Lapsit. Children's Constellation Room.

**6 p.m.**

The M Factor: Shredding the Silence on Menopause. Marx Family Black Box Theater.

**Wednesday, Feb. 4****10 a.m.**

Early Walkers. Cos Cob Library Community Room.

**10 a.m.**

Movers &amp; Shakers (Storytime Lottery). Children's Constellation Room.

**10 a.m.**

La Leche League of Greenwich/ Stamford/Rye. Byram Shubert Library Community Room.

**11 a.m. & 1 p.m.**

Baby Lapsit. Cos Cob Library Community Room.

**11 a.m.**

The Nurse is in: Free Blood Pressure Screening. Byram Shubert Library Conference Room.

**1 p.m.**

LaserLab: Design &amp; Create. Innovation Lab.

**3:30 p.m.**

Math Help with Patty (for Grades K-8). Byram Shubert Library Community Room.

**4 p.m.**

Wild Wacky Wednesday Yoga for Kids with Kristin (Ages 4 &amp; Up). Byram Shubert Library Community Room.

**4 p.m.**

Dungeons &amp; Dragons (Grades 8+). Children's Constellation Room.

**Thursday, Feb. 5****10 a.m.**

Japanese Storytime. Cos Cob Library Community Room.

**10 a.m.**

PLAYdate! Marx Family Black Box Theater.

**11 a.m.**

Sensory Storytime (Storytime Lottery). Children's Constellation Room.

**11 a.m.**

Tech Help. Learning Lab.

**4 p.m.**

Discover the Ocean: Virtual Reality with Gaspare Lipari (Registration Required) - Ages 10 &amp; Up. Byram Shubert Library Community Room.

**6 p.m.**

The Invisible Hand: How Algorithms Secretly Run Your Life. Online.

**Friday, Feb. 6****10 a.m.**

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

**1 p.m.**

LaserLab: Design &amp; Create. Innovation Lab. 203-622-7979. innovationlab@greenwichlibrary.org

**4 p.m.**

Ashforth Children's Concert: Fiddle and Strum A Musical Storytime with Carla Fabiani and Friends. Cos Cob Library Community Room. 203-622-6883.

**7 p.m.**

Friends Friday Films: "Keep On Keepin' On." Berkley Theater. cgibbs@greenwichlibrary.org

**Saturday, Feb. 7****9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

AARP Tax Help 2nd Floor Meeting Room. greenwichlibrary.libcal.com/event/15107765

**10 a.m.**

Satur-yay! Storytime. Children's Constellation Room. 203-622-7940. children@greenwichlibrary.org

**10:30 a.m.**

Hatha Yoga for Adults with Inger. Byram Shubert Library Community Room. 203-531-0426.

**11 a.m.**

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

**1 p.m.**

Scavenger Hunt Saturday. Children's Constellation Room. 203-622-7940. children@greenwichlibrary.org

**2 p.m.**

Innovation Lab for Kids: Pop-up Illuminated Valentine's Day Cards. Innovation Lab. 203-622-7979. innovationlab@greenwichlibrary.org

**2 p.m.**

Chess for All with Ian. Byram Shubert Library Community Room. 203-531-0426.

**3 p.m.**

Friends Performing Arts Series: Musicians from Marlboro. Berkley Theater. 203-622-7910. dsalm@greenwichlibrary.org

**Sunday, Feb. 8****2 p.m.**

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

**9 a.m.**

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

**Tuesday, Feb. 3**

Love Your Heart: Nutrition for Preventing Heart Disease at Any Age. Greenwich Hospital, 5 Perryridge Rd. Free.

**Wednesday, Feb. 4**

CPR Friends &amp; Family (Infant/ Child). 38 Volunteer Ln. \$70. For discount information call 888-305-9253.

**Saturday, Feb. 7**

9 a.m. CPR Friends &amp; Family (Infant/ Child). 38 Volunteer Ln. \$70. For discount information call 888-305-9253.

**NEIGHBOR-TO-NEIGHBOR: ntngreenwich.org****Everyday, all day**

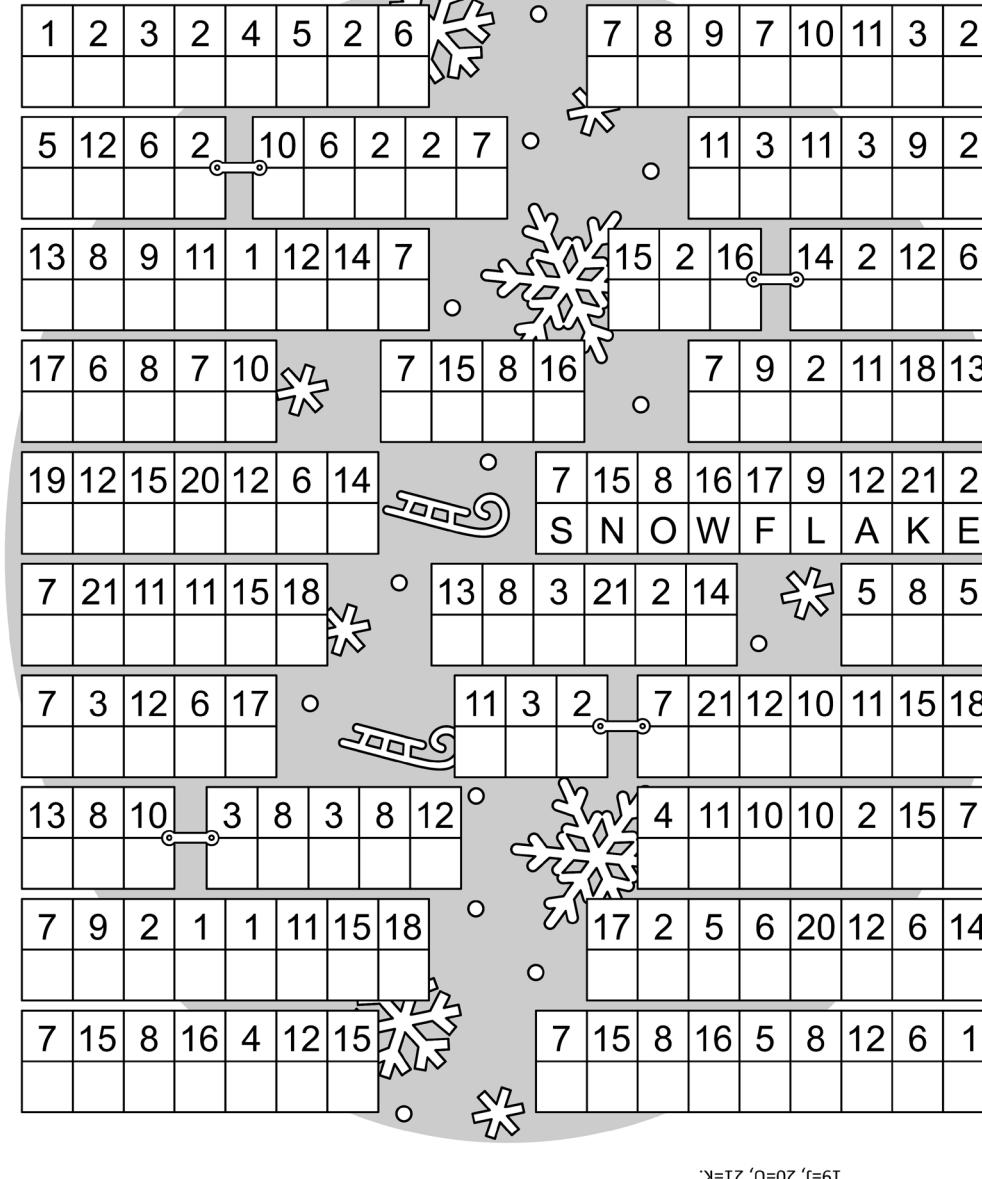
• 24/7 Food Drive Collection site at North Greenwich Congregational Church, 606 Riverside Road. The weather-proof bin is located outside of the Parish Hall.

• 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

## CRACK THE CODE

**Winter****Crack the code to reveal more words.****ANSWER:** 1=J, 2=U, 3=K, 4=D, 5=B, 6=R, 7=S, 8=O, 9=L, 10=T, 11=A, 12=C, 13=H, 14=Y, 15=N, 16=W, 17=F, 18=G**nor Center, 99 Indian Field Rd., Greenwich.****Sunday, Feb. 8****7 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Jill and John Coyle Blood Donor Center, 99 Indian Field Rd., Greenwich.

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE:** redcrossblood.org**Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

Food Drive at St. Paul's Episcopal Church parking lot, 200 Riverside Ave.

**Saturday, Jan. 31****7 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.**

Jill and John Coyle Blood Donor Center, 99 Indian Field Rd., Greenwich.

**Sunday, Feb. 1****7 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Jill and John Coyle Blood Donor Center, 99 Indian Field Rd., Greenwich.

**Monday, Feb. 2****11 a.m. - 7 p.m.**

Jill and John Coyle Blood Donor Center, 99 Indian Field Rd., Greenwich.

**1 p.m.**

Planning &amp; Zoning Commission Briefing.

**7 p.m.**

RTM Special Joint Committee Meeting of Budget Overview, Education, Finance &amp; Legislative &amp; Rules. Town Hall Meeting Room.

**7:30 p.m.**

Budget Overview Committee Meeting. Mazza Room.

**Tuesday, Feb. 3****11 a.m. - 7 p.m.**

Education Committee Meeting. Cone Room.

**7:30 p.m.**

Finance Committee Meeting. Hayton Room.

**7:30 p.m.**

Legislative &amp; Rules Committee Meeting. Gisborne Room.

**7:30 p.m.**

Public Works Committee Meeting. Town Hall Meeting Room.

**4 p.m.**

Planning &amp; Zoning Commission Meeting.

**5:30 p.m.**

Board of Ethics Regular Meeting. Gisborne Room.

**7 p.m.**

First Selectman's Youth Commission Board Meeting. Cone Room.

**Wednesday, Feb. 4****7 p.m.**

District 1 Meeting. Central Middle School Room #201.

**7 p.m.**

District 10 Meeting. Central Middle School Room #220.

**7 p.m.**

District 11 Meeting. Central Middle School Room #222.

**7 p.m.**

District 12 Meeting. Central Middle School Room #224.

**7 p.m.**

District 2 Meeting. Central Middle School Room #202.

**7 p.m.**

District 3 Meeting. Central Middle School Room #203.

**7 p.m.**

District 4 Meeting. Central Middle School Room #205.

**7 p.m.**

District 5 Meeting. Central Middle School Room #207.

**7 p.m.**

District 6 Meeting. Central Middle School Room #207.

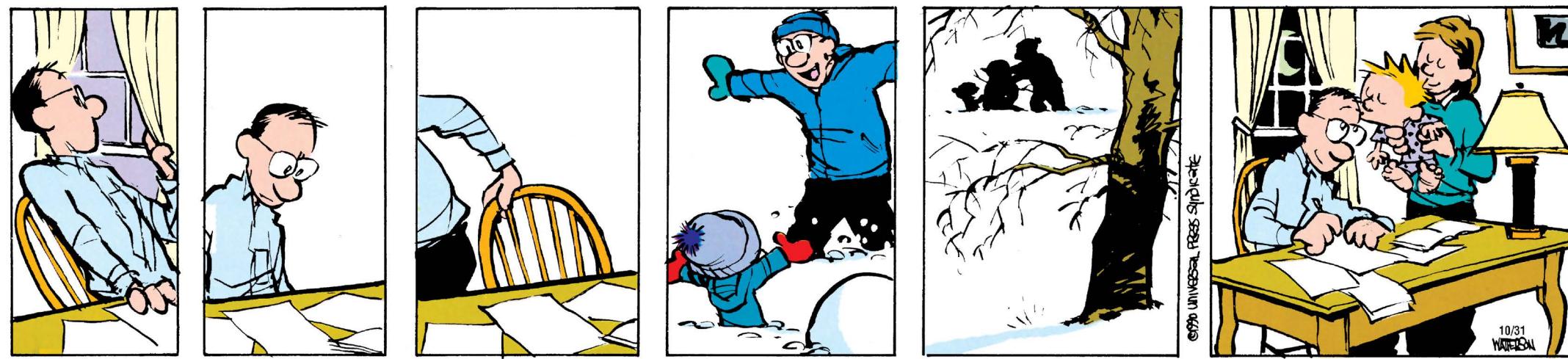
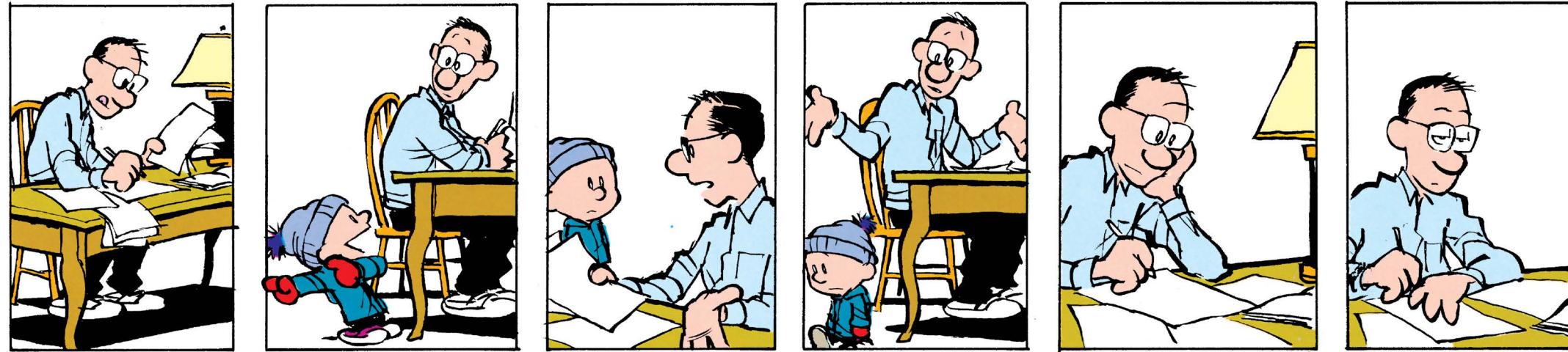
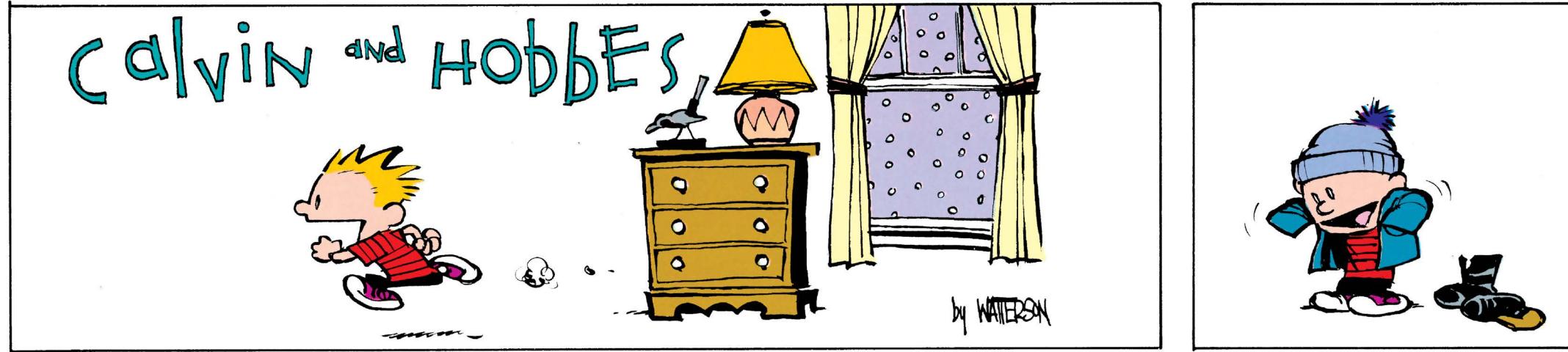
**7 p.m.**

District 7 Meeting. Central Middle School Room #211.

**7 p.m.**

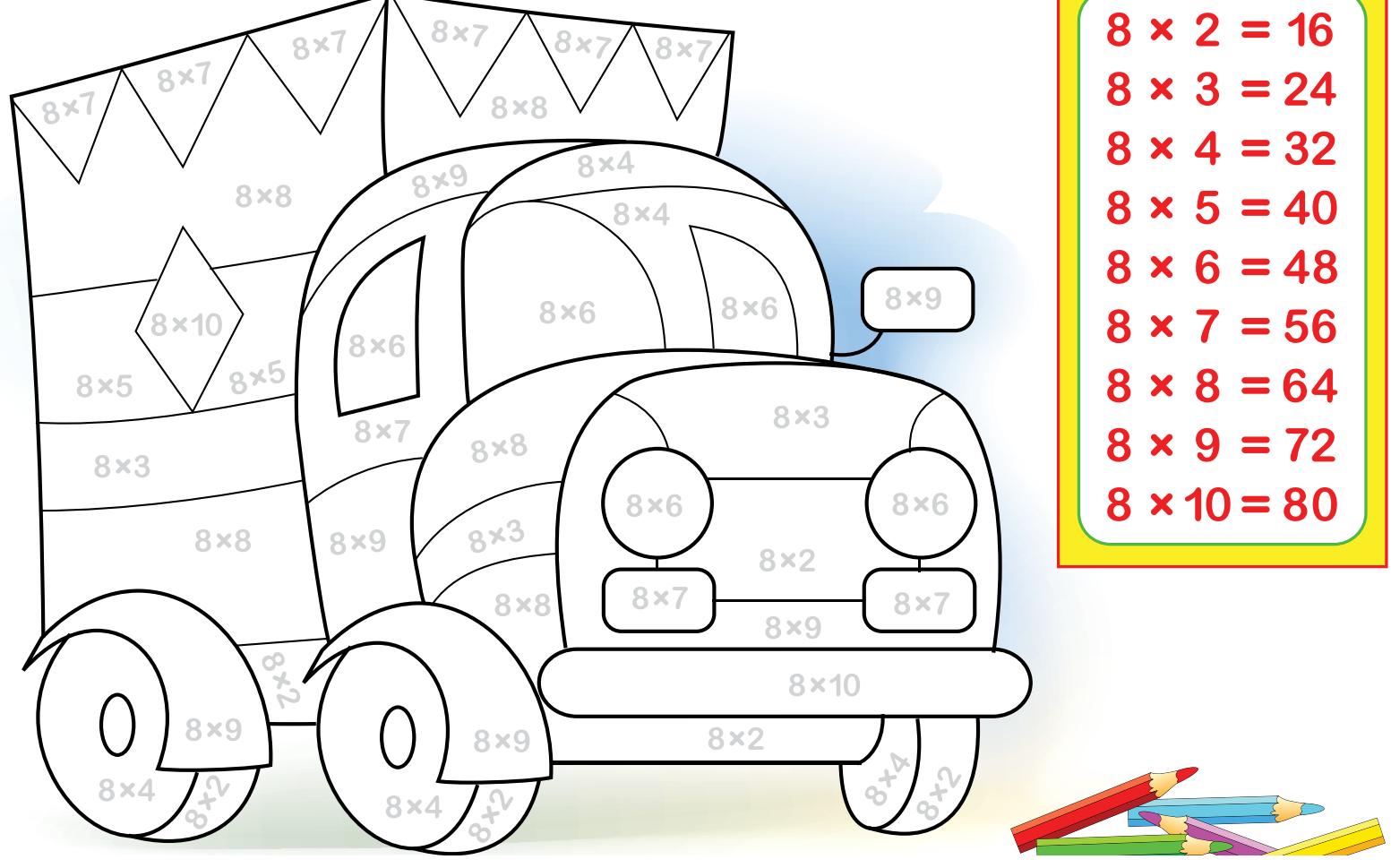
District 8 Meeting. Central Middle School Room #217.

**7 p.m.**



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BLACK	16	
RED	24	
GRAY	32	
PURPLE	40	
LIGHT BLUE	48	
YELLOW	56	
DARK BLUE	64	
GREEN	72	
LAVENDER	80	



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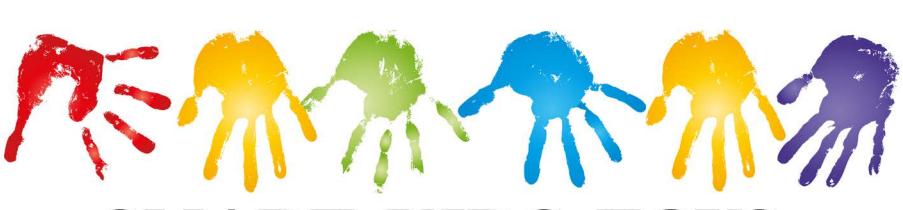
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- + =  ?

HOW MANY?

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



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