

# Local yokel

*(n.) a country folk living in a quaint neighborhood community*

*West Stockbridge*

February

2015

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005



## Inside:

**Host a Child**

**Outstanding Pickles!**

**February Artists' Events**

**The Numbers Are In...Thank you WS!**

*'Out to pasture.'* Photo by John Parker.



# Photographing Israel and Jordan:



## Out of Eden Walk Part III

*By Karen Carmean*

John Stanmeyer, photographer at *National Geographic*, discussed and showed his photos on Friday, January 23, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Stanmeyer Gallery and Shaker Dam Coffeehouse, 2 Main Street, West Stockbridge. Members of the Artists' Guild of West Stockbridge and Richmond enjoyed hearing his stories and learning about his process of photography.

The Out of Eden walk is a seven-year project following the footsteps of our collective humanity's walk out of the Horn of Africa that began 60,000 years ago in the act of populating our planet as we are today. If you want to see more, check out the December *National Geographic*. This project is described in detail at the website [outofedenwalk.com](http://outofedenwalk.com).

*Photo credit: Photo by John Stanmeyer*

# Board of Selectmen Meeting Summaries

**December 29, 2014**

**By Doane Perry**

## **Chief of Police Update**

Chief Tom Rubino reported that he attended the police funeral in New York City. He also updated the selectmen about police activities. The biggest issue for the police has been responding to scams. There have been three complaints. They advise citizens not to give out information, and say, "If you didn't call them, you don't need them."

Chief Rubino also reported on two new police officers, who he said have adapted well to the town; the acquisition of two bulletproof vests; and the installation of IMC public safety software to share information with surrounding towns. The system is efficient, secure, and auditable, and it provides reports and links across the state and country, enabling the sheriff's office to provide assistance if needed.

The chief thanked the town for improvements to the police parking lot and lighting. He also informed the selectmen about issues he hopes to bring to the town meeting for a vote:

- A new cruiser. The cruiser will be four years old in July 2015. A new one costs \$38,000. SUVs are more practical than sedans.
- An additional police officer. There are currently two full-time officers and six part-time officers. Selectman Karen Zick said more activity in the town will justify an additional officer. Mark Webber said he would help the chief prepare a town meeting article for a vote. A new officer could start in July 2015.

Chief Rubino also asked for assistance in getting a responder on the Route 41 cell tower to bridge the gaps in radio reception along Route 41.

## **Litigation Pending on Trailer Park**

Notice of appeal was received from Kraus/Hummel, attorneys for the Mill Pond trailer park owner. Selectmen will meet in executive session on January 12 to discuss pending litigation. Town counsel Pat Cantor will attend. The appeal will be heard in Superior Court on January 14. Speaking for the tenants, Evie Kerswell asked the selectmen to request that the case be moved to Housing Court because it is more familiar with the issue.

## **Other Business:**

- The tax rate was approved December 22. Bills were mailed on December 29. Mark Webber said the increase is entirely attributable to the cost of the schools.

- Peter Skorput said he would fill the position of Berkshire Regional Planning Commission alternate.
- The selectmen approved a motion to extend the contract with RRG assessing services. Mark Webber commented that RRG has done a great job for four or five years. They have provided better and more professional service because they don't know anyone in town. The cost is \$23,000 to \$24,000. The town has appropriated \$38,000. RRG's proposal was the only one the town received.
- Dominic Lucci, the town custodian, submitted a handwritten complaint about the bulletin board in the fire station and asked that Selectman Peter Skorput be fired.
- The selectmen approved a request by the Artists' Guild to use the Town Offices Community Room.

**January 12, 2015**

**By Susan Fisher**

## **Executive Session**

Prior to the open meeting, the selectmen met in executive session to discuss the upcoming (January 14) RCB appeal in Superior Court.

## **FY 2016 Budget Process**

Mark Webber gave the selectmen a standard budget request for FY '16 for their review. He also gave them a timeline he described as "fluid."

## **MA Department of Transportation Solar Project**

The MA DOT will attend the January 26 meeting to review a solar project that will have installations on the turnpike from West Stockbridge to Stockbridge. It will be funded entirely with state funds. The power generated by their current solar project is all sold to the state, but it is possible that some could now go to others.

## **Repairs Needed**

The Police Station door and the Village School furnace both need attention. Mark Webber will get more specifics on what needs to be done. The school furnace circulators on one of the two boilers

*... continued on page 5*

# Fresh Air Fund Seeks Host Families

By Sarah ElSayed

Gabrielle Murphy of West Stockbridge learned about the Fresh Air Fund from reading an insert in the *New York Times* many years ago. She was reminded of the fund, however, by a sign that neighbors placed on their lawn, telling the world that they were a host family. This past summer, Gabrielle and her husband David Edgecomb decided that hosting a New York City child would be a perfect addition to their summer, so they signed up for the Fresh Air Fund's Volunteer Host Family Program.



AJ, a Fresh Air Fund child from Manhattan, recently revisited David and Gabrielle and built this gingerbread house. Photo courtesy of the Fresh Air Fund.

The Fresh Air Fund, an independent not-for-profit agency, has provided free summer experiences to more than 1.8 million New York City children from low-income neighborhoods since 1877. Each summer, close to 4,000 inner-city children visit suburban, rural, and small town communities across 13 states from Virginia to Maine and Canada through the Fresh Air Fund's Volunteer Host Family Program.

With Gabrielle and David's help, 9-year-old Alexander of Manhattan experienced a summer like never before. Alexander, or AJ, spent most of his 10-day stay swimming and building sand castles. The three of them had such a great time during the summer that they vowed to spend more time with one another during the year. Recently, AJ was reinvited to Gabrielle and David's house during the winter break, where they built a gingerbread house and visited the Berkshire Museum.

When asked about the Volunteer Host Family Program, Gabrielle said, "It is a fabulous and rewarding experience that will broaden your horizon and teach you as much about yourself as it will about

the child you host." Although Gabrielle and David don't have children living in the house with them, the Fresh Air Fund's Volunteer Host Family Program is designed for any family with an open heart and an extra bed. They hope to maintain a strong relationship with AJ and his family for many years to come.

The Fresh Air Fund is always seeking host families to enable as many New York City children as possible to benefit from a summer experience outside of the city. To learn more about how to become a host family in the Berkshires, please call Lelia Bruun at (413) 528-6701 or visit the Fresh Air Fund online at [www.freshair.org](http://www.freshair.org).

## February History Quiz Question:

Last month we spoke about downtown buildings with unusual nontraditional architectural styles, specifically the Masonic Lodge. Another uniquely styled building is on Main Street, the brick building north of the public market. Most of the commercial buildings in the town center are wood construction, generally of late 19th-century origin and possibly modified in the 1970s or early 1980s, and they have that New England small town look. This building is different. It is brick construction and looks like a contemporary design with the slanted roof and bay window.

But things are not always what they seem. How old is this building, and what do we know about its early life?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)



**West Stockbridge  
Historical Society**  
Incorporated in 1994



... continued from page 3

blow out other pieces of equipment. Mark is getting an estimate on replacing them and thinks it will be about \$2,000.

#### School District Budget

On Thursday, February 12, at 7 p.m., at Monument Valley Regional Middle School, a school district meeting will be held to discuss the 2016 budget. Prior to that, on January 17 at 6 p.m., there will be a joint meeting of the three towns to hear each other's perspectives on the budget.

#### Other Business:

- The MS Bike Race, which will be held on June 6 and go through West Stockbridge, was approved.
- Karen Zick's request to use the Community Room in two weeks for a Mary Kay gathering was approved.
- Paula Farrell informed the selectmen that the sign at the back of the building was not properly placed back in its hole after snow plowing, making it possible for someone to trip. The selectmen agreed and indicated they would attend to it.


## The *Local Yokel* Needs You!

Would you enjoy being part of the team that produces this free monthly newsletter serving our community, now in its 10th year of publication?

Do you enjoy writing or photography? We need regular and occasional contributors on subjects of local interest.

Or would you like to lend a hand a few hours each month to help with distribution, mailing, and other projects?

Call John Parker at 232-4123 or e-mail [info@thelocalyokel.org](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org) for more information.



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# Artists' Guild: February Events

By Karen Carmean

## Drawing and Painting Sessions: Wednesdays, February 11 and February 25, 6–9 p.m.

Join us for drawing and painting, usually with a live model. Cost: \$15 for the model. We have held a number of successful sessions using different media and at different levels of experience. Artists appreciate the positive and supportive atmosphere, the opportunity to learn from each other, and the quiet meditative sense and focus of attention we share. Some are interested in just watercolor painting and drawing; let us know if you are interested in a session without oil or acrylics used. Our sessions are in a private location so RSVP [kcarmean@gmail.com](mailto:kcarmean@gmail.com) if you wish to participate so you can be notified of any changes due to weather or other circumstances. On Saturday, February 7, 10 to noon, the West Stockbridge Library is sponsoring a free workshop on using pastels. Call the library to reserve a spot.

## Positive Critique Sessions: Wednesday, February 4, 4:30–5:30 p.m.

Artists are invited to bring work in progress or work you would like to get feedback and suggestions on from others. The public is invited. We will be supportive and empowering in our suggestions. We know we can learn a lot from different points of view and experiences. We delight in looking and seeing and sharing. Community Room, WS Town Hall.



Photo by Marie-Elizabeth Mali

## Meet the Artist: Wednesday, February 4, 6–8 p.m.

On January 28 we met the artist Marie-Elizabeth Mali to see her excellent underwater photographs at Six Depot. We asked her questions about what drew her to her art and how she goes about it. If you know of a local artist who is having an exhibit, let us know so we can go together and learn about their approach.

On February 4 we will meet with Paul Rocheleau who has written and photographed many beautiful books. He will answer questions on the topic “How to Make a Book of Photographs.” If you ever wanted to make a book of your interests, your photographs, your artwork, hobby, or family, this might give you an idea of how to approach it and make it happen. Paul is currently working on a book on water and the Berkshires, and he appreciates any material you may have on the subject. Community Room, WS Town Hall.

## First Friday Art Walk: Friday, February 6, 5–8 p.m.

Join us to explore and see the work of dozens of artists including some of our members. You may join a group of us from 5 to 6 p.m. at Bagels Too, 166 North Street, Pittsfield. Light refreshments are served at many locations. The work changes monthly! See [www.Firstfridayartwalk.com](http://www.Firstfridayartwalk.com).

## Coffee as Muse Group Art Exhibition Party: Sunday, February 8, 3–5 p.m.

Six Depot has had a lot of responses from artists and hopes to have a great show of all art inspired or made with coffee or coffee ephemera—from photography (using a coffee can pinhole camera!), painting (yep, with coffee), multimedia sculptures, and poetry. Not to be missed. See Call for Artists post, or if you're interested in participating, e-mail [lisa@sixdepot.com](mailto:lisa@sixdepot.com). Six Depot, West Stockbridge.

## Films on Art

Please let us know of any films about artists you would like to see. We have found at least one a month during the past fall and winter including *Vatican Museum*, *National Gallery*, and several others at the Little Cinema at the Berkshire Museum.

## Real Art Party: Thursday, February 19, 5:30 pm, 7 p.m. drawing, at the Berkshire Museum.

All are invited to a free art party and to purchase real art for a \$25 contribution to benefit Berkshire County art students. Artists may submit work 10 × 10 inches on February 8, 1–4 p.m., and February 9, 3–5 p.m., at the Berkshire Museum, 39 South Street, Pittsfield. E-mail [Berkshireart@gmail.com](mailto:Berkshireart@gmail.com). See the exhibit from February 14 to 19.

## Calendar of Local Art Events

Wed. 2/4	Positive Critique, 4:30–5:30 p.m., WS Town Hall
Wed. 2/4	How to Make a Book of Photography, 6–8 p.m., with Paul Rocheleau, WS Town Hall
Fri. 2/6	First Friday Art Walk, 5–8 p.m. Meet 5–6 p.m. at Bagels Too, 166 North Street, Pittsfield
Sat. 2/7	Adult Pastel Workshop at West Stockbridge Library, 10–noon. Register first. WS Town Hall
Sun. 2/8	Coffee as Muse Group Art Show, 3–5 p.m., Six Depot, West Stockbridge
Wed. 2/11	Model Painting, 6–9 p.m. Register with <a href="mailto:kcarmean@gmail.com">kcarmean@gmail.com</a>
Thurs. 2/19	Real Art Party, 5:30–9 p.m. Art drawing Berkshire Museum, 7 p.m.
Wed. 2/25	Model Painting, 6–9 p.m. Register with <a href="mailto:kcarmean@gmail.com">kcarmean@gmail.com</a>
Wed. 3/4	Meeting of Artists of W. Stockbridge and Richmond area: choose name. WS Town Hall



Photo by Doane Perry



Thank You,  
West Stockbridge!

## Santa's Wish List Donations

In our December 2014 issue, the "Local Yokel" included an appeal for donations to eight West Stockbridge organizations. The total received was \$6,460 (up from \$6,115 last year). We thank all those who gave so generously to these important community groups that work very hard to make West Stockbridge such a special place to live.

### Here are the totals by organization:

Community Health Association . . . . .	\$415
Friends of the Library . . . . .	\$895
Local Yokel . . . . .	\$1,260
Pet Partners of the Tri-State	
Berkshires (new this year) . . . . .	\$165

WS Beautification . . . . .	\$775
WS Farmers Market . . . . .	\$590
WS Fire and Rescue Services . . . . .	\$1,685
WS Historical Society . . . . .	\$675
TOTAL GIVING. . . . .	\$6,460

### MEET THE ARTIST

## Paul Rocheleau: How to Make a Book of Photographs

Paul Rocheleau  
Author / Photographer.

- \*The Berkshires
- \*Smithsonian Guide to Historic America: Southern & Northern New England
- \*Shaker Built
- \*The One-Room Schoolhouse
- \*Houses of Greenwich Village
- \*Shaker Herbs
- \*Olmstead
- \*Farm
- \*Westward, and many others



### How to Make a Book of Photographs: Wed. Feb. 4 6-8pm

Paul Rocheleau will share his process on How to Make a Book of Photographs Wednesday February 4 6-8pm at the West Stockbridge Town Hall on route 102. As the successful author and photographer of many, many books, Paul has developed a process to make this work well. This talk will be based on what interests you and questions you have so please send your questions. Paul is currently working on a book on Water and the Berkshires which will have text as well as photographs. He is interested in all aspects and forms of water in the Berkshires. If you have ideas, information or resources about water in the Berkshires, Paul wants to hear about them. You can send them to [kcarmean@gmail.com](mailto:kcarmean@gmail.com) who will forward them to Paul. RSVP: [kcarmean@gmail.com](mailto:kcarmean@gmail.com). This is a project of the Artists of West Stockbridge and Richmond Area.

### WED. FEBRUARY 4 6-8PM,

West Stockbridge Town Hall  
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West Stockbridge MA  
RSVP: [kcarmean@gmail.com](mailto:kcarmean@gmail.com)

Artists of West Stockbridge and  
Richmond Area



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# CULTURAL COUNCIL ANNOUNCES GRANTS FOR 2015

By Margie Skaggs




Our Cultural Council received 38 applications for grants for 2015 and provided funds for 14 of them. All of those selected met our top criteria for funding: supporting local programs that appeal broadly to our diverse West Stockbridge constituency including school and library programs, local music events, theater, arts, and literary programs.

These are the organizations receiving funding for 2015:

- Bazaar Productions: Fringe Music—free community concerts
- Berkshire Children’s Chorus: scholarships
- Berkshire Festival of Women Writers: various workshops
- Berkshire Playwrights Lab: staged readings at the Mahaiwe
- Community Health: Summer Fun for 3- to 5-year-olds
- Flying Cloud Institute: GIRLS Science Club
- Friends of the Library: library passes to area cultural institutions
- *The Local Yoke!*: general support
- Pythagoras Theatre Works: 2015 Summer Season
- Shakespeare & Company: Fall Festival of Shakespeare
- Ventfort Hall: 2015 Tea and Talk Series
- West Stockbridge Chamber Players: spring concert
- West Stockbridge Farmers Market: WSFM music/entertainment
- West Stockbridge Public Library: storyteller program

Current members of the West Stockbridge Cultural Council are Marshall Fisher, Ellen Greer, Marty Litz, Jackie Moffatt, Marjorie Powell (chair), Margie Skaggs (treasurer), and Peter Thorne.

We are always interested in feedback and input from our constituents. Please don’t hesitate to offer your opinions and ideas. For more information about the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which provides the funding for our grants, and the local grants process, go to [www.massculturalcouncil.org](http://www.massculturalcouncil.org) and click on Local Cultural Councils.



# NEXT!

SELECT CONSIGNMENT

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# Broadband Fiber Network Is Moving Forward

By Steve Sautman

WiredWest and the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) are building a fiber network to bring high-speed Internet and much more to people in small towns in western Massachusetts. The state is providing \$40 million to partially fund the project. For a town to qualify as a “fiber town” and be included in the network, 40% of its households must sign up for service with a small refundable deposit, and the town meeting must authorize its share of the funding.

I hope you have received the WiredWest sign-up letter in the mail. It includes information on packages, pricing, and how to sign up online or by mail. WiredWest will be offering Internet, phone, and high-definition TV with a DVR option to every residence, even those not currently served. Internet speeds will start at 25 mbps, with higher speeds available up to 1 gbps. For comparison, my satellite Internet speed is only 1–1.5 mbps. At 25 mbps, you will be able to do online streaming without buffering and download HD movies from sites such as Netflix. The goal is to get at least 40% of the households signed up by the end of March. Towns with higher sign-up rates will be preferentially built out first for broadband service. If you have any questions, visit their website page at [wiredwest.net](http://wiredwest.net) or their Facebook page at [WiredWestMA](https://www.facebook.com/WiredWestMA). You can also contact me at [Sautman@msn.com](mailto:Sautman@msn.com).

WiredWest is the municipal cooperative made up of 36 member towns, including West Stockbridge, to build and operate a regional fiber network. The resolution letter has been passed by 34 of the member towns’ board of selectmen to be part of MBI’s detailed engineering study to refine the project cost estimate of running fiber to every home and upgrading poles where necessary. Construction of the fiber network would then start on qualified “fiber towns” with pole make-ready work beginning in 2015 and running fiber in 2016. Service to customers would begin in the spring of 2017 as network segments are completed.

Let’s make West Stockbridge a fiber town! Steve Sautman | WiredWest Delegate | [Sautman@msn.com](mailto:Sautman@msn.com)



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## @West Stockbridge Library

Need a cure for cabin fever? We welcome back award-winning pastel artist Greg Maichack for a hands-on workshop, "Regatta," on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 10 to noon in the community room. "Regatta" focuses on the golden age of impressionism and Monet's *The Regatta at Argenteuil*. Beginners to advanced artists are invited to learn about the finer aspects of pastel art and create an original work under Greg's direction. This workshop is free and open to the public. Our thanks to the West Stockbridge Cultural Council! Call 223-0300, ext. 308, to sign up.

Stop by this month to help us celebrate Chinese New Year (Feb. 19). It's the Year of the Sheep. Grab a fortune cookie and admire our friendly dragon. During school winter vacation week, we'll host a Chinese New Year story and craft time, Thursday, Feb. 19, 3-3:30.

DVDs: *Boyhood, Calvary, Equalizer, Gone Girl, Cold in July, Fury, Yanks*

Just for Kids: *Buddies, Treasure Buddies, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*

**FICTION**

- Connelly, *Burning Room* (LP)
- Harrison, *Abduction of Smith and Smith*
- Hawkins, *Girl on the Train*
- Higgins, *Rain on the Dead*
- Johnston, *Descent*
- Paull, *Bees*
- Rock, *Passing Bells*
- Truc, *Forty Days without Shadow: An Arctic Thriller*

**FOR YOUNG READERS**

- Barnett, *Sam and Dave Dig a Hole*
- Chin, *Gravity*
- Dipucchio, *Gaston*

**NONFICTION**

- English, *Quench: Handcrafted Beverages to Satisfy Every taste and Occasion*
- Demick, *Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea*



\*\*\*\*\*

Ongoing

- Call or stop at the library to sign up for computer introductory or Windows 8 classes taught by Bill Biggs. Please indicate your availability.
- Don't forget to set up a CW/MARS online account by going to [weststockbridgelibrary.org](http://weststockbridgelibrary.org) and clicking on the card catalog picture. Your account allows you to keep track of checkouts, re-quests, pick-up locations, renewals, and more.
- Library Trustees Board meetings are open to the public and take place the third Thursday of the month. Next meeting is Feb. 19, 2015, 4:30 p.m., in the community room.

As always, we welcome suggestions on just about anything to improve our library.

*Lee Appelbaum and Jodi Magner*



WEST STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY HOURS  
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Art at the West Stockbridge Library  
February Artist  
**Sharon Vidal/Painterly Photos**



Sharon's February exhibit features vistas of West Stockbridge. The show consists of reproductions of hand-tinted Polaroid manipulations.

Polaroid manipulations are photos taken with an "antique" Polaroid camera and special film that is no longer manufactured. While still warm and before setting, the chemicals are manipulated by hand to give a painted look. Once out of the camera it takes the chemicals approximately 15 minutes to set.

After enlarging and reproducing onto acid-free photo paper or printing giclées on high-quality archival watercolor paper, they are hand tinted using watercolor and oil pastels. No two photos ever end up looking the same.

See if you recognize the locations!  
The West Stockbridge Library  
Town Hall, 21 State Line Road/Route 102



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# DECADE

Ten Years of Photography in National Geographic  
by John Stanmeyer

Uganda  
Published June 2009

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## Recycling Tip - February

### Disposing of Scrap Steel

Used cookware—frying pans, saucepans, cookie sheets, tea kettles, and so on—must go in the open scrap steel container located to the right of the trash compactor. These items should not be put in the recycling container for cans and bottles. When disposing of anything in the scrap steel container, please be very cautious. There is a gap between the container and the cement blocks in front of it. Please stand on the ground, not on the cement blocks, if possible.

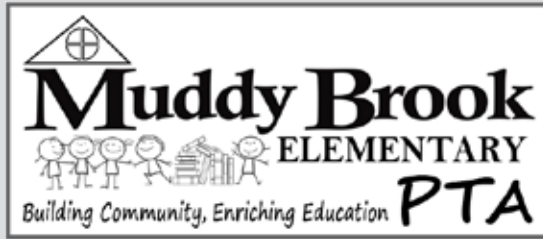
Also, please drive slowly on the transfer station grounds. In addition to possible icy conditions, there could be helpful children and friendly dogs (not to mention distracted adults) wandering around.

*Please send your Birthdays & Anniversaries to the Local Yokel.*

*We are happy to include them in the next issue.*

*The Local Yokel, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266 or by e-mail to [info@thelocalyokel.org](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org)*





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**We are accepting officer nominations for the coming year.** Be involved and help continue the great work of the PTA. Many of our officer positions have term limits, and there will be many openings for next year. If you are interested, please see a current officer or e-mail us.

**February is Box Top Month.** Sneak preview: All labels for Education and Box Tops submitted by Friday, February 27, will be tallied. Clean out your drawers and cupboards and send them all in. The class with the highest per student tally will win a basket of supplies and new books for the class, plus there will be a special class treat and activity. Classes in second and third place will also be recognized. Our goal is to gather 15,000 box tops, which will earn Muddy Brook \$1,500. Send them all in and help us reach our goal. Remember to label them with your child's class.

**Dads' Support Group** will be meeting bimonthly at Muddy Brook. Come and meet other dads of Muddy Brook and Monument Valley students to discuss concerns and share ideas. Complete confidentiality. Refreshments will be served. Led by Stephen Tournas-Hardt, LICSW.

**Next PTA meeting is Wednesday, February 4,** at 6:30 in the MB Library. Please join our conversation about Family Fun Night, Crafting Workshop, Read-a-thon, Spring Dance, Teacher Appreciation Week, and Mud Day!

**Join the fun in the Library or Art Studio** as a parent or grandparent volunteer! Whether you can come in once a week, or once a year, both Ms. Smith and Ms. Benton are always looking for a little more assistance.

**Be sure to check out the Teacher Wish List** on our website to donate to a classroom.

Visit [Muddybrookpta.com](http://Muddybrookpta.com), send us an email at [muddybrookpta@gmail.com](mailto:muddybrookpta@gmail.com), and be sure to "like" us on Facebook!

**Give just 3 Hours of your time this year!**

Thank you for your continued support and volunteerism!

## South Berkshire Kids Offers Playgroups

Winter can be tough in the Berkshires, especially with little children at home. One way to beat the winter blues is to attend one of the many playgroup programs offered by South Berkshire Kids! We offer over 15 programs throughout South County—from "Richmond Reads" (every Thursday at 9:30 at the Richmond Consolidated School) to "Brain Builders" (every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. at the Mason Library in Great Barrington). Check out our full schedule online at [www.southberkshirekids.org](http://www.southberkshirekids.org) or visit us on Facebook. All of our playgroups are free and open to families with children ages birth to 5.

One of our popular groups is "Gym Fun" every Monday morning, 9:30–11:30 a.m., at the West Stockbridge Town Hall. The gym is open for this fun and interactive playgroup! This group is a great way for children to socialize and play, and it gives caregivers a chance to chat too. Moms, dads, grandparents, and caregivers are all welcome to attend. All of our programs are funded by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement grant provided by the Department of Early Education and Care.



## Community News & Events

### Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, February 8, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a stuffed breast of chicken dinner in the Grange Hall on Church Street from 1 to 2 p.m. Cost for adults is \$12; \$6 for children under 12. Takeout is available; please call (413) 298-3185. If the weather is bad, call first to see if the dinner has been postponed one week.

### Council on Aging

The COA monthly potluck luncheon will be held at noon on Tuesday, February 10, in the Community Room at the Town Hall. Hope to see you there!

Send your notices for Community News & Events to the Local Yoke, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, or by e-mail to [info@thelocalyoke.org](mailto:info@thelocalyoke.org).

## West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:

The brick building next to the Public Market might be one of the earliest buildings in the town center. It dates to sometime before 1847, with its original owner none other than Benjamin Cone (1797–1866). He had major land holdings (think Cone Hill Road) in Richmond. He also was a major property owner in the town with over 34 parcels.

The first recorded deed for the property was dated 1847 when Cone sold his property to Caleb Snow, another major landholder in town. The deed describes the building as a "certain brick shop." We don't have business directories for that period, and Cone is listed as a farmer in the census, so there is no indication what kind of shop was originally there.

The building is shown on the later maps of 1855, 1858, and 1878. On the 1904 map, the building is labeled as "J. Keresev," identified in the 1900 census as John Keresev (older brother of Joseph, a prominent local farmer). John was listed as a "day laborer," so the building was likely a residence and not a shop.

The accompanying 1974 photograph shows the building in its original shape with a sign for the Baldassare barbershop on the building. The family also lived there. The building assumed its current form in the 1980s when Gordon Rose altered the roofline and installed the bay window in the front. It is now a private residence.

When friends, neighbors, or relatives move, downsize, or just clean house, *please* ask them to think of the West Stockbridge Historical Society before they discard any old books, pictures, postcards, letters, or memorabilia of the Town of West Stockbridge. E-mail [info@weststockbridgehistory.org](mailto:info@weststockbridgehistory.org) or call 232-4270.



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# Recipe Corner

by Lynn Ryan

## Polenta Fries

Serves 6–8

### Basic Aioli

½ cup mayonnaise  
2 garlic cloves, minced  
1 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice  
salt and pepper to taste

Place all the ingredients in a bowl and whisk until blended. Set aside.

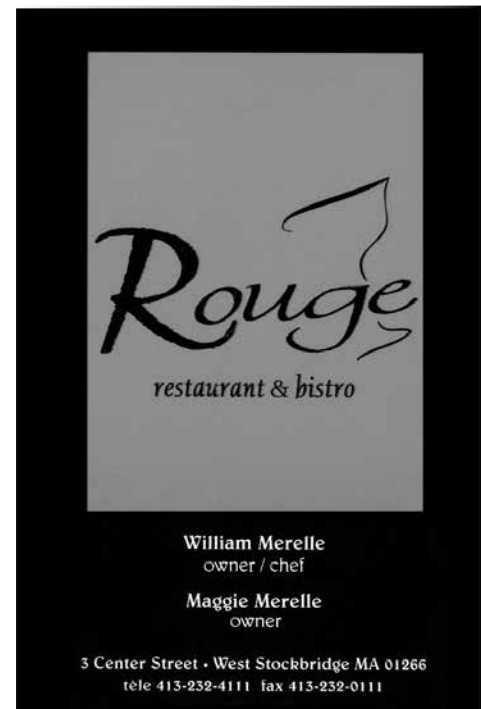
½ cup marinara sauce (store bought or your own homemade)

### Polenta Fries

4 cups low-fat milk  
1½ cups coarse-ground yellow cornmeal  
2 Tbsp. unsalted butter, softened  
2½ ounces goat cheese  
1 tsp. salt  
¼ tsp. pepper  
3 Tbsp. vegetable oil or light olive oil

Pour the milk into a medium saucepan, place over medium heat, and simmer. Slowly whisk in the cornmeal until fully incorporated, lower heat, and continue to stir for about 5 minutes. Fold in the butter and goat cheese and season with salt and pepper. Stir until no lumps remain. Pour into a lightly greased rimmed 9 × 13-inch baking sheet. Evenly spread and allow mixture to cool for about 20 minutes before placing in the refrigerator. Refrigerate for about an hour.

Remove the polenta from the fridge and invert onto a clean cutting board. Cut polenta into ½ × 3-inch sticks. Place a large skillet over medium-high heat and add oil. Lightly fry polenta sticks for 2 to 3 minutes on each side, in batches, making sure not to overcrowd the pan. Place the finished sticks on paper towels and season with salt and pepper. Serve the fries with your choice of aioli and/or marinara sauce. Enjoy!



Lynn Ryan 232-7758 E-mail: [waxonwheels2655@yahoo.com](mailto:waxonwheels2655@yahoo.com) Web: [www.partylite.biz/waxonwheels](http://www.partylite.biz/waxonwheels)

# A Star Is Born: Local Grower / Producer Wins Big!

By Ginna Dudney

West Stockbridge's own Hosta Hill was the recipient of a 2015 Good Food Award in the Pickle category for their outstanding kimchi. The awards, organized by a national group of food producers, farmers, food journalists, and independent grocers, were presented on January 8 in a ceremony at the Palace of Fine Arts Theater in San Francisco followed by a gala reception. Presenting the awards were such culinary luminaries as Alice Waters.

Of 1,462 national entrants, 146 were selected in various categories. In a winning field dominated by California producers, Hosta Hill has the distinction of being one of only two from Massachusetts.

According to their website, the Good Food Awards "celebrate the kind of food we all want to eat: tasty, authentic and responsibly produced. We grant awards to outstanding American food producers and the farmers who provide their ingredients."

Maddie and Abe, thank you for producing good food. Your award is well deserved!



Maddie Elling of Hosta Hill Farm.  
Photo courtesy of Ginna Dudney.

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# West Stockbridge Farmers Market With Great Appreciation

Every year many people need to be thanked for their help and support of the market. This year, the committee would like to recognize our very special volunteers: Laurie Donald, Anthony Voudren, Paula Farrell, Peter Cohen, and Sheila Sullivan. We could not have done it without you!

## **The folks and organizations who helped and supplied the MARKET with absolute necessities:**

Steve Dixon for the most fun wine tasting ever  
WS Cultural Council for the gift of music  
WS Friends of the Library for books for kids  
*Local Yokel* for spreading the word  
Springstube family for the petting zoo and assorted furry and feathered friends  
Lucy Bellville for her wonderful cookies and treats  
Peter Thorne who pitches in when a comrade falls  
Billy Kie for hay for the scarecrows  
Peter Skorput for scarecrow frames and always being there  
Cathy America for produce from her garden  
Jaylyn Olivo & Dale Flecker for produce from their garden  
The Voudren Family for making us smile  
Martin Cavanaugh for filling in on the shortest notice

## **Our most welcome and critical contributors, through donations or support of market fundraisers, kept the market going:**

Matt Donald Builders  
Matt Merritt  
Irma and Robert Gal  
Kathryn and Henry Gallitano  
Eugene A. Dellea  
James Lindner & Lorraine Santhay  
Amy & Brian Butterworth  
Jeannie & William Zox  
Madeline & Martin Litz  
Paula Farrell & Digger Lockenwitz  
Jerri & Daniel Buehler  
Raquel & Lear Levin  
Susan Fisher & Gary Schieneman  
Carol & Stuart Kuller  
Elizabeth Morse & Ron Feldman  
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West Stockbridge Grange  
Carol & Marvin Schwartzbard  
Anastasia & John Stanmeyer  
Ray Dorazio  
Margaret Skaggs  
Molly & Christopher Vreeland  
Joseph Flummerfelt  
Vicky Grayson  
Nancy & Louis Trionfo  
Zina Greene  
Alba Passerini & Charles Wohl, MD

**And, last but certainly not least, a very special thank you to Matt Merritt and the Merritt family for the continued use of the green where our little market has now spent three happy years.**



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2/11 Anne Lesser  
2/22 Jo Anne Ellis  
2/25 Rino Delmolino will  
be 100 years old—  
congratulations!

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? To be sure your listing gets in the *Local Yokel*, please send it in by the 15th of the month before the desired issue each year.

The *Local Yokel*, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge MA 01266  
or by e-mail to [info@thelocalyokel.org](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org)



## Donor Roll Call ~ February

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Anonymous: 3

Thanks to everyone who has donated to WSLY.  
We couldn't do it without your support!  
Keep the *Local Yokel* coming. Please send your gift today!  
(See response form on page 21.)

## Collector's Note

FY 2015 motor vehicle excise bills, along with a few end-of-the-year FY 2014 bills, will be going out by February 17 and be due on March 17. If you turned in the registration on a particular vehicle *prior to January 1, 2015*, please complete the back side of the bill and send it along with the required documentation to the Assessors' office immediately. If you disposed of a vehicle and either transferred the registration or turned the plates in to the Registry of Motor Vehicles *after January 1, 2015*, you should still pay the bill. Having done so, you may then apply for an abatement. Excise bills not paid in a timely fashion can incur up to \$69 in fines and interest per vehicle and result in loss of the right to register or reregister and/or renew a license.

Please be sure to clearly note the parcel ID and/or local street address on all payments not accompanied by a stub. This is especially crucial for real estate and personal property bills that are in many cases issued to someone other than the person who signs the check or when the bill is paid through a bill payment service. I recently received a check through such a service from Sam Smith (I'm changing the name to protect the guilty!) whose bill was sent to John Jones for a property owned by XYZ Corp. Mr. Smith was *not* in my system. He had an out-of-town address, and his check memo was PAYMENT! It took a 20-minute manual search through 1,500 unpaid bills to match the "amount" on his check to an account. In the future, such checks will be returned to the sender.

June Biggs, Collector  
Tel.: 232-0300, ext. 302  
E-mail: [collector@weststockbridge-ma.gov](mailto:collector@weststockbridge-ma.gov)  
Office hours: Wednesday: 3–6 p.m.; Thursday and Friday:  
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The *Local Yokel* is published monthly. Please send submissions to: the *Local Yokel*, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266 or [info@thelocalyokel.org](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org). Copy deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the publication. Editors: John Parker 232-4123, [jandlparker49@verizon.net](mailto:jandlparker49@verizon.net); Vicki Grayson 232-6131, [vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com](mailto:vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com); Susan Fisher 232-4443, [suefish12@gmail.com](mailto:suefish12@gmail.com); Anne Lesser 232-8577, [anne@annelessercommunications.com](mailto:anne@annelessercommunications.com). Design: Kim Bradway [kim@bloominarts.com](mailto:kim@bloominarts.com).

The *Local Yokel* is supported in part by a grant from the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

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# West Stockbridge Sparkles: A Final Word

In addition to those mentioned last month, the Holiday Lights Committee would like to thank Amy and Brian Butterworth for their kind and generous contribution toward the 2014 festivities.

There have been several reports of people who were quite disappointed about the limited number of trees that were illuminated this year. Unfortunately, the rogue ice storm that struck in mid-November caused such substantial tree damage that every cherry picker (that piece of equipment so key in getting to the top of those very high trees) in the county was busy with the cleanup and damage control.

The committee is currently working on developing a plan to ensure that the 2015 lights are installed without a problem!



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Assessors Office	<i>Mary Stodden</i>	232-0300	ext. 303	Tues. 1–5 p.m.; Thurs. 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Board of Health	<i>John Olander</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m., or by appt.
Board of Selectmen	<i>Earl B. Moffatt, Peter Skorput, Karen Zick</i>			
Administrative Assistant	<i>Mark Webber</i>	232-0300	ext. 319	Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Building Inspector	<i>Brian Duval</i>	232-0300	ext. 313	Tues. 4–7 p.m.
Conservation Commission	<i>Jennifer Kujawski, Lori Rose</i>	232-0300	ext. 338	Leave Message for Inquiries
Council on Aging	<i>John Zick</i>	232-0300	ext. 340	Leave Message for Inquiries
Emergency Management	<i>Louis Oggiani</i>	528-2175		
Fire Department	<i>Peter Skorput</i>	232-4200 (non-emergency)		Mon. 6:30–9 p.m.
Highway Department	<i>Curt G. Wilton</i>	232-0305		Leave Message for Inquiries
Library	<i>Lee Appelbaum</i>	232-0300	ext. 308	Tues. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Wed. 1–5 p.m.; Thurs. & Fri. 2–6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.– 2 p.m.; closed Sun. & Mon.
Police Department	<i>Tom Rubino</i>	232-8500 (non-emergency)	24 hours, 7 days/week	
Post Office	<i>Colleen A. Wich</i>	232-8544		Lobby: 7 a.m.–7 p.m.; 7 days/week; Window: Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.–12 noon
Seasonal Lifeguard		232-0315		
Sewer & Water Commission	<i>Michael Buffoni</i>	232-0309		
Town Accountant	<i>Elaine Markham</i>	232-0300	ext. 317	Leave Message for Inquiries
Town Clerk	<i>Ronni Barrett</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	Tues. & Thurs. 1:30–4 p.m.
Town Collector	<i>June A. Biggs</i>	232-0300	ext. 302	Wed. 3–6 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
Town Historian	<i>Robert Salerno</i>	232-4465		
Town Treasurer	<i>Karen Williams</i>	232-0300	ext. 316	Thurs. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Transfer Station	<i>Bill Pixley</i>	232-0307		Tues., Thurs., & Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
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Official Town Government Website: [weststockbridge-ma.gov](http://weststockbridge-ma.gov) • Community and Business Website: [weststockbridgetown.com](http://weststockbridgetown.com)



*Violinist Sheila Fiekowsky and pianist Vytas Baksys take a bow after performing Antonin Dvořák's Romance in F minor, Op. 11.*



*Robert Salerno, president of the Historical Society, welcomes the audience before the concert.*

# Winter Concert

Featuring West Stockbridge Chamber Players:

Annual Event Raises Funds for Restoration of the 1854 Town Hall.



*William Hudgins, principal clarinetist of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, speaks to the audience about the Mendelssohn Concert Piece #2 in D minor, Op. 114, that he, pianist Vytas Baksys, and clarinetist Catherine Hudgins are about to play.*



*Cellist William Rounds takes his place to perform Zoltán Kodály's Sonata in B minor, Op. 8, considered one of the most important works for solo cello written since the Cello Suites by J.S. Bach; it exploits the entire range of the cello and presents many technical challenges for the instrument.*

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28



February 2014 Calendar of Events			
2/2	Groundhog Day		
2/4	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
2/8	Grange Dinner	1 p.m.	Grange Hall, Church St., Stockbridge
2/9	Planning Board	7 p.m.	Town Offices
2/9	American Legion	7 p.m.	Town Offices
2/10	Parks & Recreation Committee	5:30 p.m.	Town Offices
2/10	COA luncheon	Noon	Town Offices Community Room
2/11	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
2/11	Friends of the Library meeting	3:30 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
2/14	Valentine's Day		
2/15	*** Deadline for the Next Local Yokel ***		send to <a href="mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org">info@thelocalyokel.org</a>
2/16	Presidents' Day		
2/18	Ash Wednesday		
2/18	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
2/19	Library Trustee meeting	4:30 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
2/25	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room