

Local yokel

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

West Stockbridge
January
2016

**WE'RE A DESTINATION:
WELCOME
FLOURISH MARKET
WINTER: THE WISDOM
OF THE WATER ELEMENT
WIREDWEST UPDATE**

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005

*"Solitude," oil painting by
Helen Kester Roberts*

Flourish Market

By Doane Perry

Jennifer Knopf has opened Flourish Market on the banks of the Shaker Mill Pond at 2 Albany Road, next to SoMa and across the street from Troy's Garage. Parking is right next to the side entrance. Flourish Market takes vintage and not-so-vintage furniture and lamps and revitalizes them. There are new items for the home and other gifts such as jewelry (a friend bought a handsome pair of earrings for \$10 when I took her there). Flourish is a wonderful shop, very comfortable to be in, with Jennifer's workshop and tools at the center of the space. I recommend a visit to both Flourish and SoMa, followed by a stroll along the pond and Troy's old car and tractor display.

Previously fundraising events coordinator at the Lenox Library (where she did a great job organizing the library's 200th anniversary celebration), Jennifer also served as treasurer of the Muddy Brook PTA for three years and as a planner of school events such as the Winter Wonderland, Spring Family Dance, and Mud Day.

Jennifer said she has collected items her whole life and decided to open a retail store that also serves as her workspace. She describes her new business as "an upcycled and vintage home furnishings store." The eclectic store contains vintage tables, cabinets, ceramics, and upcycled lamps. You can also find new items such as jewelry, tote bags, wall hooks, and wire baskets. "I like the collected look, something

old and rusty paired next to something shiny and brassy; it's about telling your story—where you've been, what you like—anything goes!" says Jennifer.

Flourish Market's winter hours will be Wednesday through Friday 10 to 3 p.m., and Saturday 10 to 5 p.m. The business has a website at www.flourishmarket.com and can be followed on Facebook. The store's phone number is 232-8501.

Welcome to West Stockbridge, Jennifer!



Above: Flourish's interior with items displayed as you might have them in your home. Jennifer Knopf in her workspace. Directly above left to right: a sampling of items to purchase: new canvas tote, ceramic piggy bank, vintage reproduction pendant light.

Photos by Jennifer Knopf. Jennifer's portrait by Doane Perry.

More Good News!

By Doane Perry

West Stockbridge's Sandy Klempner @Home is moving down the street, from 38 Main Street to number 22. Sandy's home stylist business purveys antiques and lifestyle pieces with an eye to the unexpected, as well as designer clothing at bargain prices.

I stopped in to talk with Sandy because we heard that her business space is available for rent and I feared she might be closing her fine store. But no, she is just moving her shop to the site of Donald McGrory's Oriental Rugs shop (Don is retiring). Sandy is best friends with Don's wife Robin Greeson, who owns Equator at 20 Main Street. They will be able to back each other up and take care of each other's stores as Robin and Don do now.

Sandy said she will miss her current location that has a sidewalk terrace in front (thanks to the West Stockbridge downtown improvement project) and a balcony terrace in back over the Williams River.

When I described Jennifer Knopf's plans for Flourish Market, Sandy commented that the variety of stores, cafés, and restaurants are what is making West Stockbridge a destination. Customers come to a destination for the richness of quality choices.

For more information:

Sandy Klempner, www.SandyKlempnerAtHome.com, 232-0022.

Robin Greeson, robingreeson@gmail.com, 232-4100. Her store Equator sells old American Indian jewelry, rugs, textiles, vintage clothes, folk art, and eccentric collectables.

P.S. Don McGrory will remain an important part of the community. He is an outstanding and authentic Delta Blues performer and can be seen at the Gypsy Joynt in Great Barrington and at Six Depot and the Farmers Market in West Stockbridge.



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Saudi Arabia, published in National Geographic ~ July 2014



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. Copy deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the publication. Editors: John Parker 854-7350, john.parker49@verizon.net; Vicki Grayson 232-6131, vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com; Susan Fisher 232-4443, suefish12@gmail.com; Anne Lesser 232-8577, anne@annelessercommunications.com. Design: Kim Bradway 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.

Notes from the Collector's Office

Actual real estate and personal property tax bills for FY16 were mailed at the end of December and are due February 1, 2016. Interest begins accruing on unpaid bills on February 2.

To ensure that your payment arrives on time (we do not use postmarks to determine timely payment), please note the following:

- Mail *at least a week* before the due date (a misdirected letter is still late).
- Be sure to use the correct address (because most town employees are part timers, mail directed to another office can be delayed up to a full week or more). My P.O. box number is 365.
- If you hand-deliver payments to Town Hall when my office is closed, be sure to place it in the drop box beside *my* window (mail left in other locations may not reach me in a timely fashion).
- For same-day crediting, use your checking account or debit card to pay online at www.weststockbridge-ma.gov and click on "Pay Real Estate...". There is a \$0.25 charge, but it's available 24/7 until 11:59 p.m. on May 1, and payments are time-stamped and receipted via e-mail. After May 1, late payments should be handled in person.
- Be aware that delivery times with all other online services range from 5 to 7 business days.

If you question your valuation, you have a 30-day window (until February 1) to file an abatement with the Assessors' office. Forms for filing are available in Town Hall and online. Forms received after February 1 will not be considered.

Excise bills are issued in multiple batches throughout the year (the first and largest batch goes out by late February). They are due on the date indicated on the bill, generally 30 days from the date of issue. *There is no grace period, and partial payment is not accepted.* Please pay your excise bill in full even if you plan to file for an abatement. When the abatement is approved, you will be issued a refund. This will avoid interest, late charges, and restrictions being placed on your license.

June Biggs, Collector

Tel.: 232-0300, ext. 302

E-mail: collector@weststockbridge-ma.gov

Office hours: Wednesday: 3–6 p.m.; Thursday and Friday: 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m.–1 p.m.



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local organizations through
Santa's Wish List:*

- ❖ Community Health Association
- ❖ Friends of the West Stockbridge Library
- ❖ Pet Partners of the Tri-State Berkshires
- ❖ *The Local Yoke!*
- ❖ West Stockbridge Beautification
- ❖ West Stockbridge Community Garden
- ❖ West Stockbridge Farmers Market
- ❖ West Stockbridge Fire and Rescue Services
- ❖ West Stockbridge Historical Society

*Gift totals will be reported in
our February issue!*

Board of Selectmen Meeting Summaries

By Doane Perry

Note: Copies of official board minutes may be read at the West Stockbridge Public Library.

November 23, 2015 Open Meeting

Annual Tax Classification Public Hearing

Jeff Reynolds, associate assessor on the West Stockbridge Board of Assessors, provided information on the tax rate needed to raise the funds the town needs. The selectmen considered the balance between taxes on residential and commercial property. The town would have to raise the commercial tax 20 cents to reduce the residential tax rate 1 cent.

The selectmen voted to maintain a single tax rate, noting they were acting three weeks earlier than last year.

Officer Accepted to Police Academy

The board received notice that Officer Santana has been accepted into the full-time Police Academy. Curt Wilton asked Mark Webber to remind the police chief not to “cap out” because it is not allowed by state law. Mass. General Laws allow only full-time academy-trained police to be full-time officers. Part-time officers cannot work more than 19 hours per week because 20 hours per week is full time and requires different credentials. A part-time officer has less standing in court than a full-time officer.

Sewer System Receives Approval from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

After five years, the town has received word that the sewer’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System is certified to be in good standing with the EPA. Curt commented that the regulations are strict.

BHRSD Regional Agreement Committee Update

Mark reported that his appointment to the new Berkshire Hills Regional School District Committee (at the October

26 board meeting) was not acceptable to the committee, which requires a selectman rather than an administrator be appointed. Curt was then nominated and agreed to serve.


Other Business:

- Curt reported that the new business Boundless has a sign up but should have gotten a permit first. Boundless should comply with the town sign bylaw that specifies square footage. Mark and Curt said they will review the sign.
- Curt agreed that the Highway Department will swap the Council on Aging van snow tires for winter but said he does not want to get involved in any mechanical work.
- Joe Roy raised the issue of the Village Association information board and rack in the public rest room building. Curt said the toilet is open only in warm seasons due to the cost of snowplowing around the building and heating it. Earl Moffatt said placing an information booth next to a commode is odd.
- Roland Dudney of the Parks and Recreation Committee presented plans for the West Stockbridge Sparkles event, 3 to 7 p.m. on December 4, including the Holiday Stroll, tree lighting, caroling, Santa and his sleigh, Farmers Market, and live music. Roland also presented the committee’s outline of the Parks and Recreation calendar.

Executive Session

The Select Board went into executive session to consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real estate.

...continued on page 7

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January Art Calendar

Painting and Drawing Sessions: Monthly in Jan. and Feb. for beginners to experts with a live model: \$15. RSVP:

carolgkelly@hotmail.com

Clark Art Museum: Sun. Jan. 3. 10 am-5pm First Sundays free admission. To carpool with others: kcarmean@gmail.com

Meet the Artist: Jacqueline Del Rossi, Oil Portraiture. Mon. Jan. 4, 12:15-1:30pm. Six Depot, West Stockbridge.(WS) RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Opening Plein Air Artists' January show: Wed. Jan. 6, 3:30-5pm. WS Library, 21 Stateline Rd. Rt. 102. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Meet the Artist: Peter Thorne, Wood and Stone Artist. Fri. Jan. 8, 4-5:30pm. Peter's studio, West Stockbridge
RSVP kcarmean@gmail.com

Members Potluck: Fri. Jan. 8, 6-8pm for members and their partners. Plan art films, demonstrations, workshops on "How to take better pictures on your iPhone" and "How to use Facebook." In Richmond.
RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Positive Critique: Thurs. Jan. 14, 4-6pm Bring 2-3 pieces of your art. Led by Carol Kelly. WS Town Hall, . For required reading & RSVP: carolgkelly@hotmail.com

Book Gathering: Fri. Jan. 22, 4-5:30pm. Share book on: artist, process, technique, photography, etc. WS. RSVP and for location: kcarmean@gmail.com

Meeting: Wed. Feb. 3, 3-5pm. WS Town Hall 21 Stateline Rd. Rt. 102 RSVP: ilenespiewak@gmail.com

Richmond- West Stockbridge Artists Guild: www.rwsag.org



Join Jacqueline Del Rossi on Monday, January 4 at Six Depot, West Stockbridge from 12:15-1:30 pm for a discussion over lunch. You will be able to ask her questions. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com.

A native of New York, Jacqueline recently moved to West Stockbridge. After studying watercolor for several years, Jacqueline now works primarily in oil with an emphasis on portraiture. She has exhibited in a number of places around New York and the Berkshires.

"My work is inspired by my travels, the people I meet, their faces and figures. I may be attracted to a subject by the expression, the curve of the nose, the shape of the head, the fullness of the mouth, or perhaps the gaze."

"I paint what I see responding to the details that define the subject's features, to the light as it is reflected, and to the shadows that are cast at different angles. I enjoy applying the paint wet on wet or patiently glazing layer upon layer to create a realistic likeness that expresses the unique personality and spirit of my subject."

December 7, 2015, Open Meeting

Recapitulation of Tax Rate (RECAP)

Concluding the RECAP process used to set each community's annual tax rate, the selectmen approved a tax rate of \$12.33, an increase of 49 cents.

Driveway Issue on Pixley Hill Road

Residents of 24 and 27 Pixley Hill Road are asking the Board of Selectmen to require repairs to remedy drainage problems. Curt Wilton provided background: both driveways are preexisting and nonconforming with permits from 1994 and 1995 and in violation of the zoning bylaw. Earl Moffatt commented that the parties are changing property ownership to make improvements. He said they should aim for conformance and recognize their responsibility for maintenance. If the driveways are conforming, the town will fix the road.

Public Rest Room Information Area

A building permit application has been submitted by the Merchants Association, but Mark Webber commented that only the town can apply for a permit for a town-owned building.

WiredWest/Finance Committee Update

The West Stockbridge Finance Committee wants to speak with representatives of WiredWest, whose revised business plan is delayed. The funding authority, the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), wants WiredWest to revise its plans. MBI was expected to explain its concerns at meetings on December 14 and 17. MBI has installed fiber wires into the Town Office building. WiredWest plans to install broadband connection to dwellings.

Mark said that the town is in parallel discussions with Charter Cable, raising the possibility that Charter might take over the role of WiredWest. Mark reported that he saw a Nextel truck working near Berkshire Bank possibly for MBI or Charter.

Curt said that WiredWest personnel seem sincere, dedicated, and intelligent, but if a town in the WiredWest consor-

tium drops out (as Otis has), the cost for West Stockbridge goes up. Representatives of WiredWest and MBI have said West Stockbridge's cost would not go up.

Earl Moffatt commented that a Time Warner/Charter merger seems more doubtful and that Charter may have hired Spectrum for work. A citizen in town asked if the selectmen know why his Charter bill has gone up \$23, and they replied they did not.

Flourish Market Sign Permit

The selectmen discussed the sign permit application by Jennifer Knopf for Flourish Market, her new business at 2 Albany Road (see feature story about Flourish Market in this issue of *The Local Yoke!*). The selectmen determined that the size of the two signs is OK, but the location needs to be reviewed by Mass Highway.

Village School Use Permits

The selectmen approved requests to use the Village School on December 10, January 14, and February 3, and for a nutrition program on Saturday mornings from 10 to 11:30.

Community Compact Meeting

Curt will attend the Community Compact meeting in the Great Barrington Town Hall, where representatives from 17 towns will discuss working together.

Annual Liquor License Renewals

The selectmen approved all seven applications for renewal of liquor licenses, effective January 1. The town's allotment of full retail licenses is filled; the restaurant liquor licenses are only partly used. The town's wine and beer licenses are not in use. Current licensees include Truc Orient Express, West Stockbridge Public Market, Queensboro, Rouge, Williamsville Inn, Six Depot, and Shaker Mill Tavern.

New Police Cruiser Update

The town is receiving a \$4,000 discount on a new cruiser, due to arrive in February 2016, because the last police cruiser for the town came with the wrong tires and colors.

Executive Session

The Select Board went into executive session to discuss the purchase, lease, or value of real estate. *



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MEET THE ARTIST

Peter Thorne

Peter Thorne:

*Master Artist in
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Stone*

*Berkshire Woodworkers Guild
Member from West Stockbridge*

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4-5:30 PM**

**Peter's Workshop
West Stockbridge**

**RSVP and location:
kcarnean@gmail.com**

**Richmond- West
Stockbridge Artists Guild
www.rwsag.org**



Join Peter Thorne in West Stockbridge to appreciate his processes and tools and to see his workshop. Peter was inspired by a terrific woodworking teacher when he was in grammar school in North Wales. He found two teachers in the Berkshires who hired him and taught him a lot.

Peter has created tables and chairs for the Hemingway Room at the Kennedy Library and a twenty-one foot table for Harvard University. Local marble and black locust wood are the materials Peter uses to design sculptural outdoor furniture. Peter gives credit to his wonderful clients for his continued success which keeps him busy. His experience enables him to accurately give a price and finish date.. He keeps an eye out for new and different techniques so he keeps learning. He will answer your questions.

WiredWest Update— Back to the Table with MBI

By Steve Sautman, West Stockbridge delegate for WiredWest (Sautman@msn.com)

On December 1 the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) issued a statement denying state funding to the WiredWest project, chiefly because of differences over ownership. MBI is the state agency charged with overseeing the last-mile build-out for remote portions of the state. MBI oversees \$40 million in state money allocated for bringing broadband to unserved towns. WiredWest responded with a press release and a point-by-point rebuttal that can be seen in their entirety on the www.wiredwest.net home page.

“WiredWest has been the driving force in moving the last mile project forward,” said Monica Webb, chair of WiredWest, “starting with having our towns form Municipal Lighting Plants (MLPs), incorporating the organization, conducting market research, procuring early high-level cost estimates and network design, completing financial modeling, signing up 7,000 subscribers, helping 24 towns pass bond authorizations, and putting together an exhaustively vetted business plan and Operating Agreement. And our citizens are impatient to make this happen. We need the state to stop throwing up unnecessary roadblocks.”

WiredWest’s plan calls for creating a regional broadband network, paid for through town spending and allocated state funding, with the WiredWest collaborative owning the network and the towns owning a share of the company in proportion to how much money they invested in it.

At the MBI municipal meeting in Greenfield on December 14, town representatives chastised MBI’s behavior for not working with WiredWest in good faith and not respecting the wishes of the towns to work as a cooperative. A majority of the towns are part of WiredWest and believe that WiredWest is

still the best option for the small towns of western Massachusetts to build and operate a regional fiberoptic broadband network by working together as a cooperative of towns. The rescheduled MBI municipal meeting in Worthington was canceled for a special MBI board meeting with WiredWest.

Two days after a volatile informational meeting in Greenfield, MBI officials met with WiredWest executives in an effort to resolve their differences over how to build a broadband network throughout unserved, sparsely populated western Massachusetts towns. MBI’s board of directors told MBI and WiredWest to go back to the table to work the issues out and then return for a joint presentation with their resolutions. MBI issued this statement: “(Wednesday) MBI and WiredWest had a constructive meeting about how to move forward. Based on that session, we will implement a negotiation framework after WiredWest meets with their board on Saturday.” MBI director Eric Nakajima said, “We’re absolutely committed to working with the towns . . . and the money is not in jeopardy at all.” At WiredWest’s board meeting on Saturday, December 19, they designated a negotiation team composed of a broader representation of directors from the town delegates to work with MBI to resolve issues around the business plan, governance, and technology.

Once WiredWest and MBI finalize the Operating Agreement and Business Plan, they will be issued to the towns for review and comment by our town’s Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen before signing to join WiredWest officially.

Let me know if you have any questions, especially as you hear things in the news and media. I will try to keep you updated in *The Local Yokel*.

Winter: The Wisdom of the Water Element

By Kelly Clady-Giramma, L.Ac., Chinese Herbalist, Qigong Instructor

According to Chinese medicine's Five-Element theory, winter is the time of the water element, which relates to the kidneys, urinary bladder, and bone. Supporting your water element is particularly important if you suffer from poor circulation, lethargy, back, or other joint pain that worsens in cold weather, a low sex drive, lowered immune function, or find it harder to maintain a healthy weight this time of year. Winter offers an important opportunity to strengthen your kidney and bladder systems and address these as well as other seasonal symptoms.

Winter is a time to hibernate and conserve energy; it is normal in cold months to put on a few extra pounds, though hopefully not too many. And while spring is when people, along with the birds and the bees, get extra frisky (which is why more births happen in December than any other month), people are less inclined toward sex during the winter when temperatures drop precipitously. Our nightly inclination to snuggle up by the fire means being less active, but we are also likely to sleep more deeply and longer.

Coldness not only decreases circulation to the extremities, it can also damage the kidneys and bladder. One of the best ways to protect these vital organs is switching from iced beverages to drinking only warm or room temperature water and teas. This kidney- and bladder-friendly habit allows you to better absorb and metabolize fluids. You might try adopting the Asian habit of drinking a hot broth-type soup *at the end* of a meal rather than beverages *during* the meal so you don't dilute your stomach acid, vital for good digestion.

Just as warm water is better in winter, so is warm-cooked food versus raw food. Instead of salads, choose warm, hearty soups, stews, roasted nuts, and cooked (not baked) grains. It is also helpful to rub a warming liniment or herb-infused alcohol on achy arthritic joints.

Staying healthy in winter extends beyond just taking care of the body. Like all of the Five Elements, the water element includes its own unique personality type including being clever, articulate, and introspective. Water people have a calm energy and a lucid mind. They are resilient and constant with great integrity. Water types need plenty of downtime to be alone and recharge. They are easily exhausted by too many social interactions.

When the kidney system is in good balance, you can be courageous and accomplish great things without feeling



*Herbs used in Chinese medicine.
Photo provided by the author.*

taxed, fearful, or overwhelmed. However, when the kidney system, which is more or less synonymous with adrenal function, is overworked, you may feel a deep sense of lethargy and fatigue, eliminate more liquid than is going in, experience a low sex drive, or feel unusually fearful or anxious.

Luckily there are many Chinese medicine cures for such ailments including individualized herbal formulas to support adrenal energy and balance sex hormones, restorative qigong exercises to aid a challenged immune system, and acupuncture to remove internal blockages causing pain and a frazzled or depressed mind. A thoughtful integration of these techniques, along with knowledge of Chinese medicine Five-Element theory, can help you discover a new path leading to optimal physical and mental health.

To learn more specific ways to stay healthy in winter, please attend my free public lecture, "Healing Foods & Herbs for Winter Wellness," on Monday, January 25, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Boundless in West Stockbridge, 5 Albany Road, on the second floor of the Shaker Mill Tavern.

Boundless is a newly opened fitness and integrative wellness center offering advanced styles of massage therapy, acupuncture, Chinese herb consultations, therapeutic qigong, personal training, small group fitness sessions, and wellness workshops. Learn more at www.bound-less.com, or call me directly at (541) 224-4014.

Community News & Events

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, January 10, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a baked beans and ham 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; call (413) 298-3185. In case of stormy weather, please call first.

Council on Aging Luncheon

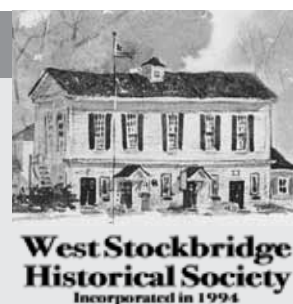
There will be no Stockbridge Grange dinner or COA luncheon in January. The program will resume February 16.

Send your notices for Community News & Events to the Local Yokel, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, or by e-mail to info@thelocalyokel.org.

January History Quiz Question:

Last month we featured the parking lot between the Card Lake Inn and the 1854 Town Hall, otherwise known as the Battistoni block. Early photos show two buildings in the space, the large three-story furniture store and a smaller building next to the Town Hall. The smaller building had one of the more exciting histories of any in the town center while serving a dual purpose. What was it that made the building so different?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)



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Happy New Year!



@West Stockbridge Library

Happy New Year! We're putting out the welcome mat for 2016 with a few new additions, services, programs, and more.



The West Stockbridge Library has joined hundreds of other Massachusetts libraries to provide a new service called the Commonwealth Catalog that makes it easy for patrons to get resources from across the entire state. If our library network C/W MARS does not have an item, residents can use the Commonwealth Catalog (commonwealthcatalog.org) to search through all nine participating networks as well as several public universities. The requested items will be delivered to West Stockbridge Library for pickup. This program replaces the old Virtual Catalog and is funded by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Miss Addison Kramek won the Winnie the Pooh basket raffle. Stop in to see the winners of our holiday hedgehog book art contest.



As of Jan. 1, we've sent five boxes of books to the Savoonga School in Alaska. In November, teacher David Zick, son of our West Stockbridge neighbors John and Karen, asked for help to fill the shelves of his classroom library. We thank all those who've donated books and will continue to send boxes to David and his 7th to 12th graders. Drop off books (preferably lighter weight paperbacks) at the library, and we'll mail them at our discount rate.

Our sincere thanks to the family, neighbors, and friends of longtime West Stockbridge resident Rose Balestro for their memorial donations to the library.

Also, thanks to tech advisor Bill Biggs for donating and installing a new color copier/scanner.

Stay tuned for more about some special activities for young readers as we observe Chinese New Year 2016 at the library. The Year of the Monkey starts Feb. 8.

New Additions

DVDs: *No Escape*, *Mr. Holmes*, *Terminator Genisys*, *Jurassic World*, *Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation*, *Ricki and the Flash*, *A Walk in the Woods*

FICTION

Adams, *Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy 2015*
Belfoure, *House of Thieves*
Fortunato, *Dark Reservations: A mystery*
May, *Entry Island*
Mosfegh, *Eileen*
Rankin, *Even Dogs in the Wild*

Walker, *The Patriarch*

Just for Kids:

Daywalt, *The Day the Crayons Came Home*
Henkes, *Waiting*

NONFICTION

Winik, *1944: FDR and the Year That Changed History* (also LP)

Ongoing

- Set up a CW/MARS online account. Visit weststockbridgelibrary.org and click on the card catalog picture. Your personal account allows you to keep track of checkouts, requests, overdues and fees, pickup locations, renewals, and more.
- Two great free resources for the print disabled are Choice Magazine Listening (CML) (1-888-724-6423) or www.choicemagazinelistening.org. and the Worcester Talking Book Library (1-800-762-0085) funded by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.
- If you use an e-reader, explore the Commonwealth e-book Collections (CEC), a statewide project giving cardholders access to e-books through their libraries. Learn more at eBooks.masslibsystem.org.
- Library Trustees board meetings are open to the public. The next meeting is Jan. 7 at 4:30 in the Community Room.

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

Lee Appelbaum and Jodi Magner



21 State Line Road
PO Box 60
West Stockbridge, MA 01266
(413) 232-0300 x308
weststockbridgelibrary@gmail.com

weststockbridgelibrary.org

HOURS:

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Tues: 10am-5pm

Wed: 1-5pm

Thurs/Fr: 2-6pm

Sat: 10am-2pm

SEARCH OUR CATALOG AT:
www.cwmars.org



The Friends of the West Stockbridge Library
thank the following artists, authors, and speakers for
their participation in our 2015 events:

ARTISTS

Jerri Buehler
Diana Felber
Sandra Flannery
Gloria Friedman
Andi Goodman
Gary Schieneman
Margie Skaggs
Sharon Vidal

Images of Africa Photography
Painting
Images of Africa Photography
Images of Africa Photography
Images of Africa Photography
Painting
Ceramics
Painterly Photos

AUTHORS

Suzanne Strempek Shea *This Is Paradise*

SPEAKERS

Holly Peppe, Millay's literary executor, and Mark O'Berski, vice president of the Millay Society, spoke at the Millay Society's Steepletop program, "Edna St. Vincent Millay—From City Lights to Simple Stone."

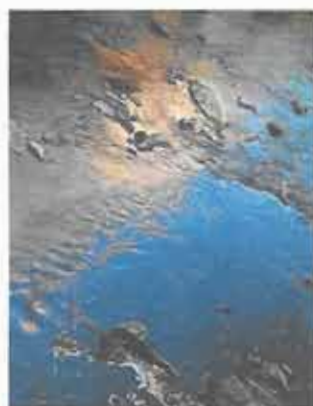
All events sponsored by the Friends are free and open to the public. Watch the *Local Yokel* for 2016 events.

Thank You



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PLEIN AIR EXHIBIT JANUARY WEST STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY



Enjoy the summer and fall work of our Plein Air Artists in West Stockbridge and surrounding areas! Come to the exhibit at West Stockbridge library in January! See the work of **Gary Schieneman, Keith Emerling, Nancy Nirenberg, Karen Carmean, Doane Perry, Susan Sabino, Karen Andrews, and Carolyn Newberger** (clockwise from top left). Join us for an opening on Wed. January 6 3:30-5pm in the West Stockbridge Library, 21 Stateline Ro. Rt. 102 West Stockbridge. Other plein air artists will be showing in February. For questions: kcarmean@gmail.com.



Recipe Corner

by Lynn Ryan

CREAMY CHICKEN GNOCCHI SOUP

It's comfort food time, and this is a great one for a COLD January day!

Yield: 8 servings (2 quarts)

1 pound boneless, skinless chicken
breasts, cut into ½-inch pieces
⅓ cup butter, divided
1 small onion, chopped
1 medium carrot, shredded
1 celery rib, chopped
2 garlic cloves, minced
⅓ cup all-purpose flour

3½ cups 2% milk
1½ cups heavy cream
1 Tbsp. reduced sodium chicken
bouillon granules
¼ tsp. coarsely ground pepper
1 package (16 oz.) potato gnocchi
½ cup chopped fresh spinach

1. In a Dutch oven, brown chicken in 2 Tbsp. of the butter. Remove and keep warm. In the same pan, sauté the onion, carrot, celery, and garlic in the remaining butter until tender.
2. Whisk in the flour until blended; gradually stir in the milk, cream, bouillon, and pepper. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cook and stir for about 2 minutes or until thickened.
3. Add the gnocchi and spinach. Cook 3–4 minutes or until the spinach is wilted. Add the chicken. Cover and simmer for 10 minutes or until heated through. Do *not* boil!

Enjoy!

Happy New Year to you all! By the way, I did not win the “Cookie Swap” on the *Today Show* with last month’s recipe. But it was fun entering and watching the results. I’m always a winner with family and friends, and that’s what really matters! Lynn

Lynn Ryan 232-7758 E-mail: waxonwheels2655@yahoo.com Web: www.partylite.biz/waxonwheels

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West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:

The smaller building next to the former Town Hall was built sometime between 1855 and 1858, based on early maps. Commercial directories in the late 1800s do not list businesses by location, but it very likely was a general store. By the 1880s, the building was owned by James Moore. (Across the street, where Equator is located now, James Moore had his apothecary that also sold books and candy. Think of an early CVS.)

Our building's claim to local fame was in the mid-1890s when it housed the post office. In 1893, Lena Moore, daughter of James Moore, took over as postmistress, and the post office was moved into her family building from its previous space in the old Town Hall. The town was growing, and it needed the space in the Town Hall for other services.

Lena had the dubious honor of serving during the period when robbers blew up the post office safe seven times. (However she hung in there, remaining in her position until 1909, when she finally married at what was then the shockingly old age of 40.) The Reverend Dubois took over as postmaster, and the post office remained on the first floor until the 1930s when it moved across the street, next to the Queensboro Package Store.

The second floor was the town's barbershop. The early photos show the traditional barber pole in front of the door leading upstairs. Isaiah D. Crispell was the only barber in town, according to both the commercial directories of the 1870s and 1880s and the federal census. He was African American, born in Kingston, New York, and moved into town sometime in the 1870s. Isaiah is described in the directories as a "tonsorial artist." In 1905, the business changed hands as Samuel Baldesarre, a recent Italian immigrant, moved into the space and became the local barber.

The building survived until the 1930s when the Battistoni building next door burned in a major fire. The barbershop moved across to the brick building next to the Public Market. The funny-looking little building had more excitement than many others that remain in the town center.

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 or call 232-4270.



*The Battistoni block, located next to the 1854 Town Hall, ca. 1910.
Photo courtesy of Bob Salerno.*

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 1/13 Jim Hallock
 1/13 Abby Hallock
 1/19 Emma Seward
 1/24 John Parker

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.

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By Vicki Grayson

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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, Curt G. Wilton</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.
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27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6



January 2016 Calendar of Events

1/1	New Year's Day - Happy New Year!		
1/6	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
1/10	Grange Dinner	1-2 p.m.	Stockbridge Grange
1/11	Board of Selectmen	7 p.m.	Town Offices
1/12	American Legion	7 p.m.	Town Offices
1/13	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
1/13	Friends of the Library meeting	3:30 p.m.	Town Offices Board Room
1/15	*** Deadline for the Next Local Yokel ***		send to info@thelocalyokel.org
1/18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day		
1/20	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
1/25	Board of Selectmen	7 p.m.	Town Offices
1/27	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
HAPPY NEW YEAR!			