

Local yokel

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

WEST STOCKBRIDGE
SEPTEMBER
2016



Straw sculpture by Carol Kelly and Karen Carmean, made in the workshop of Michael Melle and displayed at the 1854 Town Hall for the 2016 Fine Art Show & Sale. Photo by John Parker.

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"Dragonfly Bowl" by Nava Grunfeld, 29"x 41", watercolor on paper. Photo with reflected Gallery lights by Doane Perry.



"Cloudburst" by Kathleen Cammarata, 42"x 48", oil on canvas. Photo by Doane Perry.



"Reflection" (left) 40"x 50" and "Water Bearer" (right) 46"x 54", oil on canvas, by Kathleen Cammarata. Photo by Doane Perry.

The Diana Felber Gallery

By Doane Perry and Karen Carmean

We congratulate gallerist Diana Felber and her husband Steve Glick on their exciting new art gallery in downtown West Stockbridge. They have turned a big downtown West Stockbridge space into a light-filled and inspiring place to visit.

The gallery is inviting and warm, a one-stop destination for art in the Berkshires and as fine an art gallery as can be found in New York City. Diana is welcoming and knowledgeable, and her choice of art is very original. Her art is accessible with a wide range of prices, and there is a handsome collection of jewelry, pottery, and glass.

Getting to the Diana Felber Gallery is pleasant too because you can drive down Merritt Way behind Rouge Restaurant, past the Vietnamese restaurant, and park in front, or you can park on Main Street by Stone House Realty and walk across the footbridge over the Williams River.

The gallery is in the former glassblowing workshop owned and operated by Ed Merritt, who generously provides the site for the West Stockbridge Farmers Market. He wanted to offer his big space to someone in the local art community, and Diana was the perfect match.

To get started selecting artists, Diana networked and also asked her mentors, Jane Kasten (Great Barrington Train Station gallery) and Kate Knapp (510 Warren Street gallery in Hudson and the Front Street Gallery in Housatonic), for referrals to local artists and those further afield. Diana hopes her selection of artists and imaginative displays will distinguish her fine new gallery.

The Diana Felber Gallery started with a great crowd at the opening, and it keeps getting better. Since the gallery opened in May 2016, Diana has mounted three new shows of two-dimensional paintings and prints. Three-dimensional jewelry, pottery, and glass is on display for longer.

Diana has been enjoying visits to the gallery from notables in the Berkshire art world. Word is getting around about workshops and programs at the gallery too. Check the website for what is happening in the fall.

To learn more about the Diana Felber Gallery, see the July 2016 issue of *The Artful Mind* and the September 2016 *Berkshire Trade & Commerce*.

Open daily 11–5 except Tuesdays, 6 Harris Street, West Stockbridge; dianafelbergallery.com, (413) 854-7007.



Paul Chaleff Tablet: "Symbols of Thought", 42"x 42", clay, glaze, plywood backing. Photo by Doane Perry.

Board of Selectmen Meeting Summaries

By Doane Perry

Note: Copies of official board minutes are available at the West Stockbridge Public Library. Video recordings of town meetings are broadcast on Charter Cable channel 190 and on the Internet at <http://vimeo.com/channels/weststockbridge>. Residents can be notified by e-mail of town events and meeting agendas by subscribing at <http://weststockbridgema.virtualltownhall.net/subscriber>.

Open Meeting: July 18, 2016

Police Department

With Police Chief Rubino leaving for a job with the Stockbridge Police Department on July 29, the Board of Selectmen had a conversation with Officer Frank Murphy regarding a part-time administrative position staffing the department and managing shifts.

Frank is a full-time schoolteacher who lives in Lee and works as a part-time police officer in Lee. He has worked as a part-time officer for West Stockbridge as well. Frank works 185 days per year as a schoolteacher and is available to work for West Stockbridge when not teaching.

Frank offered suggestions regarding staffing, community policing, work details, schedule, benefits, and police cars, arguing that officers should be more visible on the roads, on foot patrol in the downtown, and at Card Lake. He also asserted that paying officers every two weeks would help attract more and better officers (part-time officers are often paid late, sometimes by as much as several months).

Frank suggested that officer candidates take a three-part test involving writing, physical ability, and explaining how they would prioritize response to three scenarios (e.g., a child in distress, a burglar alarm, and an interrupted 911 call) where there is no right answer but that will allow assessment of the quality of the applicant. Frank said he has full-time candidates in mind.

Frank told another story that illustrated his judgment. When asked what was going on at Steven's Glen on a recent Sunday night when the siren sounded and a neighbor heard voices there, Frank said he responded to that emergency—a person with diabetes who could not climb up the hill out of the Glen—by first stopping off downtown to get some orange juice to help her.

Curt thanked Frank for his “great ideas” and for “thinking outside the box,” inviting him to shadow Chief Rubino before he leaves and to “start when Chief Rubino walks out.” Curt charged Frank to run the department, recruit personnel, and to promote public safety by being visible.

Artists' Guild Use of Town Offices

The selectmen gave Artists' Guild president Karen Carmean permission to use the Community Room on August 11 and September 8, 4–6 p.m., for positive critiques; on September 7 and October 5, 4–7 p.m., for demon-

strations and meetings; and on August 17, 5:50–9 p.m., for an artist-to-artist open studio by Alexandra Benton, Karen Farkas, and Karen Carmean. All the events are free and open to the public.

Open Meeting: August 8, 2016

All three selectmen attended along with administrative assistant Mark Webber. The meeting was amplified by a sound system with two microphones and two speakers.

Cultural Council

The selectmen appointed three new members to the Cultural Council: Lorin Krouss, Scott Sawyer, and Curtis Thieling.

Josh Billings Race

The selectmen gave permission to the Josh Billings race organizers for the race to pass through town on September 18 at about 10 a.m.

Police Department

With thanks to the Search Committee, the selectmen announced that they have received 13 applicants “from around the globe” for the Police Department chief position.

Village School Use

The selectmen gave permission to a Youth Soccer program to use the Village School field on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. from August 25 to November 1.

Charter Cable/MBI

Mark Webber said that the process of upgrading the existing system is moving quickly. Charter's corporate customer service operation has not caught up with what is going on in West Stockbridge, which has raised questions and made customers anxious. Mark advised patience and said Charter Cable personnel have been responsive to his calls and have hit every milestone. While service is expected to reach 90% of residents soon, the scenario for the other 10% is being negotiated as Charter seeks support from the state-funded Massachusetts Broadband Initiative (MBI).

Historical Commission

John Masiero described the upcoming August 19 West Stockbridge bicentennial review and the 1974 replica coin the Historical Society will sell to raise money.

...continued on page 4

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Downed Trees

Regarding the recently revised downed-tree protocol, Curt Wilton reminded town personnel that they should call the tree warden who will make decisions about responsibilities. The impetus was an incident involving a tree that fell across Route 41 at 1:30 a.m. and a car that ran into it, for which the Highway Department was called out.

Town Officers

The selectmen voted to accept all appointments and asked Mark Webber to send a letter to each one. Police officers Hungate, Masina, and Santana were appointed. Fire Chief Peter Skorput said that the review of the department will be completed after one more visit.



Curb flags. Photo by John Parker.

Swamp Road Curb

Jill Pixley asked if a sign could be placed at the corner where the sharp curb is cutting drivers' tires. Curt Wilton replied that the town has tried colored tape and is now experimenting with fluorescent fiberglass stakes to keep cars from hitting the curb.

Shaker Mill Tavern License

Mike Skorput asked the selectmen about the status of the paperwork since Dom Luchi is still the owner and manager of reference of the tavern. Mark said he doesn't know, and Curt said he will work on it.

Fine Art Show

The selectmen granted the Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild a one-day liquor license for food and wine on August 27 and permission to put up lawn signs from August 25 to September 5. Curt agreed, provided the signs are removed afterward.

Other Business:

- Curt reported that the town will conduct a traffic study of truck and car volumes Wednesday to Saturday at a cost of \$2,000.
- The deadline for bids on the Baker Street repaving project is August 15.
- Town merchants and the Board of Selectmen need to have a discussion about the permitting process for sales.
- Peter Skorput is looking into prices for interactive flashing speed signs.

Open Meeting: August 15, 2016

Baker Street Paving and Reclamation Project

Curt Wilton, who is head of the town Highway Department, stated that he has no financial interest in any of the bids. The bids are for two components of the renovation project. The first is for full-depth reclamation, involving taking up the existing paving and adding calcium to it as an adhesive. The second component is paving the length of Baker Road. Full-depth reclamation bids ranged from \$2.05 to \$3.95 per square yard with the lowest bid by The Gorman Group of Albany, New York. The paving bids ranged from \$52.60 to \$66.66 per ton in place, and the low bidder was Delsignore of Troy, New York.

The selectmen took all the bids under advisement. Curt commented that the bids were record lows for road work and that the complete project would cost the town about \$120,000.

Bid Opening for Tree Services

The selectmen opened two bids for tree work that the town needs and took them under advisement. The bids include labor and equipment use on a per hour of labor rate. Brush Hill Tree Service of Richmond bid a rate of \$500 per hour for fiscal year 2017 and \$508 for 2018. Bear Tree Service of Sheffield bid a rate of \$712.08 per hour for fiscal year 2017.

Berkshire Pottery Tour
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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. Copy deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the publication. Editors: John Parker, 298-1052, 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. Contributor: Doane Perry, 617-547-1413, doaneperry@yahoo.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.

Chief of Police Search Update

With the deadline for applications on August 15, 2016, the town has received 23 applications for the police chief position, a good pool of applicants. Thanks to the search committee!

Rent Control Board Hearing

The Select Board has two roles in rent control: rent adjustment and eviction petitions. The Trailer Park owner has petitioned for five evictions of tenants. The Select Board scheduled hearings on August 29 or September 12 at 7:30 p.m. Mark Webber commented that this is his first experience with eviction hearings, and he is learning from the Town of Chester's experience.

Peter Skorput asked if the tenants have been notified. Mark said he didn't know but will notify them. Curt commented that scheduling hearings in two weeks is too early. The Select Board is still waiting to receive information requested from the owners.

Liquor License for Fundraising Event

The selectmen voted to grant a liquor license for three hours from 3 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, August 27, to the Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild. The guild presented an insurance certificate and a copy of a bartender's certificate, and the selectmen asked Mark to issue the license.

Special Tax Agreement for Solar Project

The selectmen signed the agreement negotiated several weeks ago establishing a 20-year schedule of payments in lieu of taxes, instead of an annual assessment, for the solar electricity generation project at Interchange 1 on the Massachusetts Turnpike. The scheduled payments will rise from \$8,000 to \$12,000 annually over the 20-year period.

Moscow Road Bridge Replacement

Turnpike bridges over Moscow Road and the Williams River need \$3 million in repairs, which will be performed by Maximillian over two years. Moscow Road will be first because it provides access to residents, to the

town sewer treatment plant, and to the town salt depot. The bridges have had temporary repairs made.

Turnpike Interchanges Demolition

A three-year project will remove toll booths at Turnpike interchanges 1 and 2 (West Stockbridge and Lee) which were first installed in 1955. Curt commented that Governor Baker is putting dollars back into roads and bridges.

Charter Cable

Mark said he is receiving phone calls asking why Charter Cable plans to take up to 18 months to wire the remaining 10% of town dwellings. He said those dwellings have to be newly wired, requiring three steps: a pole survey, pole replacement, and pole construction. He suggested the view that the time frame has improved from "never" to "18 months."

Recycling

Mark announced that West Stockbridge residents should be congratulated for their trash recycling. Among 21 towns in the state with populations of one to two thousand, West Stockbridge is second in recycling. Residents recycled 75 pounds per resident over a six-month period and have doubled their yearly recycling.

Open Meeting Procedures

Curt reported that the Board of Selectmen are following state open meeting procedures. Information Technology Manager Bill Biggs is posting meeting agendas on the website and via e-mail messages.

Other Business:

- The selectmen signed the warrant for the September 8 state primary.
- Peter said there is an agreement with the Municipal Resources Institute to conduct a review of Fire Department operations and finances.
- Earl Moffatt is researching options for regulation of Airbnb in West Stockbridge. □

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Artist-to-Artist Open Studio

Artist-to-Artist

Open Studio

Wed., Sept. 21
6-9 pm
Community Room
Town Hall
West Stockbridge

21 Stateline Road, Rte. 102
West Stockbridge, MA

RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Richmond-West Stockbridge
Artists' Guild
www.rwsag.org and Facebook



Looking for a chance to start a new painting or finish one that's been waiting for you to complete? Looking to take or review photos with others? Looking to

- work on pieces with other artists?
- chat about art?
- watch others work and join in?
- experiment with a new media like the iPad painting above?

This is your chance to encourage your creativity. These sessions are free and open to the public. Bring your own art supplies including drop cloths. Bring photos or still-lives to inspire you!

Mark your calendars! Please RSVP to save your place. Each session will be open to the first 20 people, free of charge. Stay for an hour or all three. The sessions are inspired by an idea that Alexandra Benton proposed last year and Karen Farkas heard about in another area with lots of artists. If these Artist-to-Artist Open Studio Nights are successful, we would like to continue them on the second or third Wednesday evenings, 6-9 pm. Painting is limited to the area with the linoleum flooring with drop cloths.

Come join the fun! RSVP to save a spot: kcarmean@gmail.com.

Celebrate the Visual Arts in September

September Art Calendar

Fine Art Show/Sale 1854 Town Hall West Stockbridge: Aug. 24-Sept. 4, Thurs. & Fri., 3-7 p.m., Sat., 12-6 p.m., Sun., 12-3 p.m. Reception Sat. Aug. 27, 4-6.

Plein Air: Paint, Sketch, or Photograph: Weekdays 9:30-1 with lunch and positive critique. Reserve by 5 p.m. the day before. See Facebook page "Berkshires Plein Air." kcarmean@gmail.com

Model Painting and Drawing: Tuesdays, 3-hour sessions. RSVP: riversidegrp@gmail.com

Art Demonstration and Business Meeting: Wed., Sept. 7. At 4, iPhone photos; 4:45, demo; 5-6:30, business meeting. West Stockbridge Community Room, Town Hall, 21 Stateline Rd., Rte. 102, 0.2 miles west of Rte. 41. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Positive Critique: Thurs., Sept. 8, 4-6. Bring 2-3 pieces of your art. WS Town Hall, 21 Stateline Rd., Rte. 102. RSVP: carolgkelly@hotmail.com

Meet the Artist and Ecstatic Demonstration: **Helen Febbo:** Wed., Sept. 14, 3:30-5:30 in Richmond. To reserve a spot and for location: RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Photo Gathering: Sun., Sept. 18, 3-5, Stanmeyer Gallery. Bring 3-5 photos or on USB or iPhone. www.berkshirephotogathering.com

Painting on your iPad with Anne Auberjonois: Tues., Sept. 20, 9:30-noon, Lenox. \$20 lunch. kcarmean@gmail.com

Artist-to-Artist Open Studio: Wed., Sept. 21, 6-9, WS. Work, chat, experiment. Limited to first 20. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Fine Art Show/Sale of Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild work at Good Purpose Gallery. Sept. 23-Oct. 25 Opening Fri., Sept. 23, 5:30-7:30, 40 Main Street, Lee, MA
Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild
www.rwsag.org and Facebook

Artist to Artist Open Studio

Artist to Artist Open Studio

Wed Sept 21
6-9 pm
Community Room
West Stockbridge

Looking for a chance to start a new painting or finish one that's been waiting for you to complete? Looking to take or review photos with others? Looking to work on pieces with other artists? chat about art? watch others work and join in? experiment with a new media like the iPad painting above?

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Helen Febbo

Helen Febbo

Ecstatic Painting

Tuesdays
September 14

3:30-5:30pm
Lenox

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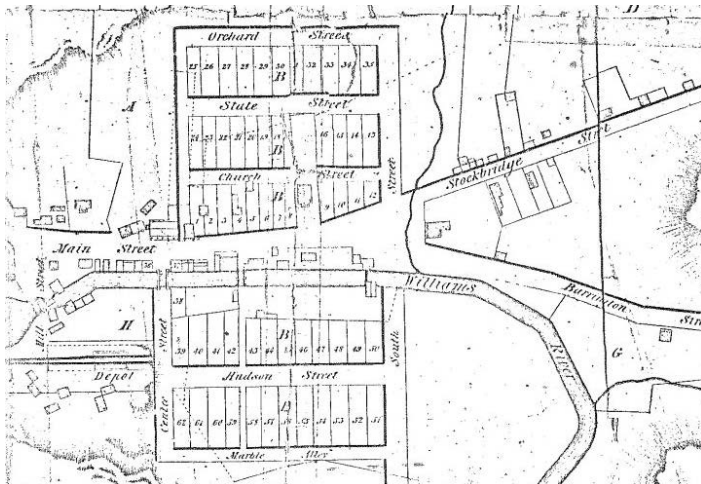
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Annual History Walk on Town's Early "Housing Subdivision" September 17, 10:30 a.m.

Join Historical Society members as we look at the earliest so-called housing subdivision in the town center. Starting at the 1854 Town Hall, we will tour the back streets of town and consider the early houses and roads including some no longer existing. We will see the results of the 1840 real estate speculation plans and hear about what might have been and some of the characters and businesses that settled the area. The walk will be take approximately an hour and finish with a reception in the 1854 Town Hall.

This walk is part of the Upper Housatonic Valley Heritage Walks program and the annual Neighborhoods of West Stockbridge program.



Plat by George Rich for the Hudson & West Stockbridge Marble Association, dated 1841. Courtesy of Bob Salerno.



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September History Quiz Question:

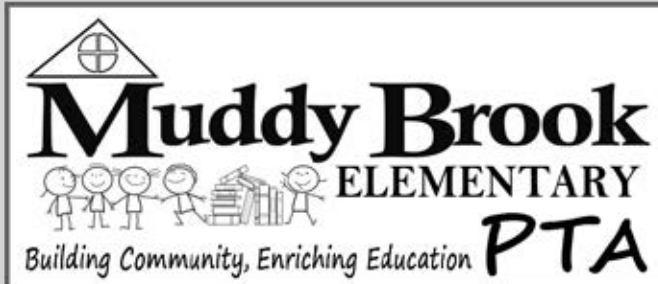
West Stockbridge has 22.5 miles of paved roads, 12.5 miles of unpaved roads, and about 5 miles of private roads. All of them have names. Early roads were named after destinations (Albany Road), or natural features (Pixley Hill), or families who lived on them (Shaw Road). As the town grew and areas became developed, road and street names became more generic, like Iron Ore Road or Bobolink Lane.

Some of the older road names were changed as the families for whom they were named moved or left the area, and some were just dropped. Two of these that passed into history were Mullens Road and Spencer Place. What did they become, and where were they located?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)



**West Stockbridge
Historical Society**
Incorporated in 1994



**The first day of school is
Wednesday, August 31!**

Welcome back to school and welcome to our new PTA officers: Adrienne Rynes, president; Rebecca Honig, Patty Melville, co-vice presidents; Randi Craft, treasurer; and Cory Ziobro, secretary.

Business owners: We are accepting donations for our annual fundraiser, the Muddy Brook Online Auction. Business owners and individuals are invited to donate tax-deductible items—services, gift certificates, classes, food, clothing, artwork, home furnishings, and more. This is our largest fundraiser of the year with the money generated directly supporting wonderful enrichment opportunities for our students including class field trips and a variety of music, theater, movement, creative writing, science, and nature programs, as well as community-building events for families and classroom support for teachers. This is a wonderful opportunity to show the families of our community that you support the efforts of the PTA in enriching the educational experiences of our children. Contact Adrienne Rynes, PTA president, at akrynes@earthlink.net.

Please join fellow parents and teachers in making this year very special for the students of Muddy Brook. Share your ideas, start something new, get involved, **visit muddybrookpta.com, and like us on Facebook!**

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West Stockbridge Bicentennial: It Was a Blast!

By Jill Pixley

The “Blast from the Past” program sponsored by the West Stockbridge Historical Society on Friday, August 18, at the Old Town Hall was a wonderful success. The audience of approximately 75 enjoyed vintage films of the 1974 Bicentennial Parade and Ball, two of the many events that celebrated the 200th anniversary of the incorporation of West Stockbridge in 1774.

The films were introduced by Bob Salerno, president of the Society, and Marion Loring, who served as chairman of the ball. For those who were there in 1974, the parade film refreshed our memories of what a fantastic parade it was! And for newer residents, it produced amazement that little West Stockbridge could have put on such a spectacular event. The film of the ball was nostalgic and heartwarming. From the audience there were smiles, outright laughter, and maybe a few tears at seeing family, friends, or themselves celebrating the town’s 200th birthday 42 years ago.

The winner of the free raffle for a second edition of the 1974 Bicentennial Coin was John K. Korte. Congratulations, John!

At the reception following the program downstairs in the old library, all enjoyed ice cream and a beautiful cake generously donated by Marion Loring. A good time was had by all as stories and memories were shared.

If you were unable to attend that evening, or even if you were there, the West Stockbridge Historical Society has plans to show these films a second time—with pauses—to allow viewers time to scan the crowd and identify people. This second showing will be held at the New Town Hall on State Line Road at a time to be announced.



Bob Salerno, Smitty Pignatelli, and Margie Skaggs. Photo by Liza Bennett.



Irene Norton, Mary Korte, and Michael Norton examine a copy of the Berkshire Herald, dated February 27, 1974, showing pictures of the WS Bicentennial parade and ball. Photo by Nancy Trionfo.



Liza Bennett, Carol Kuller, Bill Bennett, and Zina Greene. Photo by Nancy Trionfo.



Ice cream scoopers Marshall Ash, Helen Nolan, Marlene White, Alison Ash, and Jana Sax. Photo by Nancy Trionfo.



Two children who will be able to celebrate the town’s 300th Anniversary! Photo by Carol Kuller.



Ed and Marion Loring and Dan Buehler. Photo by Liza Bennett.



Irene Norton and her sons Michael and Tom. Photo by Liza Bennett.



WEST STOCKBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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TUESDAY 10am-5pm | WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY 2-6pm | SATURDAY 10am-2pm

You may have noticed lots of activity around the back of our building. Thanks to the efforts of our Library Planning Committee (trustees Barbara Dowling, Sue Coxon, and C. Nihart, as well as our invaluable community member Mike Skorput), the back door will soon be transformed into a handsome vestibule connecting the parking lot to this new and very convenient patron entrance. Many thanks to principal Tim Eagles of EDM, Inc. for shepherding this project along and building contractor Bill Nappo of Grayhouse Partners, Inc. Stay tuned!



Coming soon: new library entrance under construction. Photo by Lee Appelbaum.

Farewell, summer! Hello, a brand-new school year!

These are the winners of our summer reading raffle:

- Two complimentary tickets to the Big E (thanks to the Western Mass Library Advocates and the Eastern States Exposition for donating these tickets): The Seward family
- A copy of David McCauley's *How Machines Work: Zoo Break!* Olivia Dellea
- Lightning McQueen Pinata: Quinn Mullen

Reminder: Our LEGO club continues throughout the year on Thursdays and Fridays, 3-4 p.m.

- Library assistant Jodi Magner has redesigned and updated our Facebook page. Post something at <https://www.facebook.com/West-Stockbridge-Public-Library>.

New Additions

DVDs: *Eye in the Sky*, *Dukhtar*, *The Night Manager Season 1*, *Endeavor Series 3*

AUDIOBOOK
 Vylera, *Smoke*

FICTION

Elias, *Playing with Fire*
 Hertneky, *Rust Belt Boy*
 Penny, *Great Reckoning*
 Perry, *Revenge in a Cold River*
 Sheldon, *Melville in Love*
 Silva, *Black Widow*

NONFICTION

Millard, *Hero of the Empire: The Boer War, A Daring Escape and the Making of Winston Churchill*

Just for Kids
 DVD: *The Jungle Book*

Ongoing

- Set up a CW/MARS online account by going to weststockbridgelibrary.org and clicking on the card catalog picture. Your personal account allows you to keep track of checkouts, requests, overdues and fees, pickup locations, renewals, and more. Can't find it in our C/WMARS network? Click on the Commonwealth Catalog to borrow any item statewide.
- If you use an e-reader, explore the new statewide Commonwealth e-book Collections (CEC) at eBooks.masslibsystem.org.
- Board meetings of the library trustees are now held the third Tuesday of each month. All are open to the public. Next meeting: September 20, 4:30 p.m. in the Community Room.
- A reminder: We offer day passes to many seasonal places throughout the fall. Pick up a 2016 brochure and thank the Friends of the Library and the West Stockbridge Cultural Council for supporting this program. As always, we welcome suggestions on just about anything to improve our library.

—Lee Appelbaum and Jodi Magner



ANNUAL BOOK SALE



Customers at the book sale find many treasures

Friends of the Library
Lisa Bennett and
Jerri Buehler



Photos courtesy
of Jerri Buehler

Thank you to all who donated books to our July book sale and to our valued customers. Your generosity enables us to support and promote our wonderful library. This year, in conjunction with the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, we were proud to underwrite the library's summer reading program.

A reminder: We have a year-round sale of gently used books in the Town Hall Community Room.



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Art at the West Stockbridge Library August/September Artist

Freya Segal *Faces and Portraits in* *Watercolor and Mixed Media*



Freya Segal, a resident of the Berkshires, has always had a profound love of the visual arts. Her formal training began while she was living in Memphis, Tennessee, where she studied at the University of Memphis and the Memphis Art Academy. She works in watercolors and mixed media, a process that enables her to view the subjects as landscapes: fluid, changing, colorful, and challenging.

Freya's experience as a mental health counselor has led her to an understanding of how the face reflects experiences and emotions. Portraits and faces are reflections of the human condition. She hopes her paintings give the impression that they are unfinished but have begun to capture the soul of the individual.

Her artwork is in private collections in Florida, New York, and Massachusetts.

Exhibitions include Becket Art Center, 10x10 Art Show, Berkshire Museum, OLLI Art Show, private art show in Richmond, Artswalk, Knesset Israel, Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild, and Bagels Two.

The West Stockbridge Library
Town Hall
21 State Line Road/Route 102



SO SOON???!!!

The first day of school—crisp September ushers in that most auspicious of occasions once again. Remember when the preparation demanded simply a brand-new notebook? New or highly polished shoes? Sharpened pencils? The anticipation of another year of friendship, sports, and academia only slightly unnerved by the unknown to come? It's a little different now.

But the Farmers Market every Thursday is like that first day of school. Our wonderful growers and producers harvest, pack up, travel, and set up their wonderful wares with the same anticipation that runs rampant in September. The bitter sweetness of autumn is reflected in its bounty—peaches, apples, tomatoes, corn, cukes, carrots, eggplants, potatoes, cauliflower, broccoli, and more! Make your selections to can, pickle, freeze, or simply enjoy.

September is a good month at the market:

- » September 1 our own Chef Tony will highlight fun with salmon and corn in his wildly popular cooking demonstrations.
- » On September 8, author and pianist Jessica Roemischer premieres her own special combination of music and the written word.
- » The Everything Apple Market returns on September 15, celebrating the glories of the orchard once again. Air-dunk that apple!
- » Throughout the month, talented artists Don McGrory, Oakes & Smith, Robin O'Herin, and Linda Worster will perform.
- » Check out creative new projects at Cheryle's Fun with Kids tent.

And then it's time to mark your calendar. October 6 is the last market of the season and the Spooktacular! You can look forward to scarecrow building, hay rides, pumpkin painting, piñata bashing, masks, games, and prizes! We will have an outdoor movie at dusk too. It's the no-holds-barred market of the season. Celebrate the season, and have a very good time!

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Community News & Events

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, September 11, the Stockbridge Grange dinners return with a roast pork 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.

Council on Aging Luncheon

The next COA Potluck Luncheon will be held in the Community Room at the Town Hall on Tuesday, September 13, at noon. We are looking forward to seeing as many seniors as possible!

Congregational Church Bake Sale, Blessing

The West Stockbridge Congregational Church will hold a bake sale in front of Baldwin's Extracts from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, September 17.

The annual Blessing of the Animals will be held at the outdoor Chapel on West Center Road on Sunday, September 18, at 10 a.m.

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.

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

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NEW YEAR

Sun., Oct. 2 Erev Rosh Hashanah 7:00 p.m.
Mon., Oct. 3 Rosh Hashanah 10:00 a.m.
followed by Tashlich
Tues., Oct. 4 Rosh Hashanah 10:00 a.m.

NEW MOON

Tues., Oct. 11 Erev Yom Kippur / Kol Nidre
Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Doors will be closed
during chanting of Kol Nidre at 7:00 p.m.
Wed., Oct. 12 Yom Kippur, 10:00 a.m., with Yizkor
Neilah, 5:00 p.m., followed by Break Fast

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are a chance for self-examination, meditation and spiritual renewal. Poetry mixed with prayer. Thoughtful essays, interpretations and shared wisdom. All in a welcoming environment. Services are held at Berkshire South, Crissey Rd., GB See our website for reservation information.



Recipe Corner by Lynn Ryan

HEIRLOOM TOMATO SALAD

Serves 4-6 as a side dish. I double it for 4-6 people because it's so delicious.

I make this salad constantly this time of year when the tomatoes and corn are in season. It's soooooo good—enjoy!

2 pounds mix of small heirloom and cherry tomatoes,
halved or quartered depending on the size
¼ cup extra virgin olive oil
1 Tbsp. maple syrup (brown sugar can be used as well)
A few pinches of fine-grain sea salt
Generous drizzle of lemon olive oil or chive oil*

2 Tbsp. capers, fried in a bit of oil
A cup or more if you want of cooked off-the-ear corn
6 oz. good-quality fresh mozzarella, cut or torn into chunks
A handful of fresh lettuce leaves, torn
Minced chives

Preheat oven to 350° and put the oven rack in the top third of the oven. Toss half of the tomatoes in a bowl with the olive oil, maple syrup or brown sugar, and salt. Mix gently but well. Arrange the tomatoes, cut side up, on a rimmed baking sheet.

Bake without stirring until the tomatoes shrink a bit and start to caramelize around the edges, 45 to 60 minutes. Set aside to cool.

When you're ready to serve, gently combine the roasted and the raw tomatoes with a bit of chive or lemon oil, the capers, corn, mozzarella, and the lettuce. Garnish with the minced chives.

* To make chive oil, use a food processor to purée ¼ cup chopped chives with ½ cup good olive oil. Stir in another ¼ cup finely chopped chives by hand. Season with salt and pepper. Lemon oil is just fresh squeezed lemon into good olive oil to your taste. I use Meyer lemons for the best taste and most juice and usually get away with one lemon. Make the most of our generous harvest this time of year and eat fresh whole foods while you can. The tomatoes and corn are borderline dessert due to their amazing sweetness. I just can't get enough!

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

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Wednesday & Thursday 11-4:30

Friday & Saturday 11-5

Sunday 12-4



Cricket Returns

By John Parker

In what has become an annual West Stockbridge tradition, a cricket match was played at the Town Offices field on Sunday, August 28. The event was organized by Roland and Ginna Dudney and sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Committee. Players included Roland Dudney, Mati Kiin, Rocky Ghouse and his son Riyaan (age 5) of West Stockbridge; John Parker of Stockbridge; and Steve Harvey, hailing from Christian Malford, Wiltshire, England.

After about an hour of play, participants and spectators cooled off and enjoyed tea with sandwiches, scones and clotted cream, and other treats. Thanks to Roland, Ginna, and friends for a most enjoyable cross-cultural experience! *All photos by John Parker.*



Visiting from England, bowler Steve Harvey shows how it's done



Modeling his non-traditional cricket attire, Mati Kiin takes a swing



Batsman Roland Dudney takes his stance at the wicket



Gulam Riyaan (age 5) practices on the pitch

Word Around the Village From Parks & Recreation

As summer winds down, Parks & Recreation catches up!

Playground improvement remains on hold pending word about the grant submitted.

The tennis court has had a maintenance check after last year's resurfacing, and the basketball court will be resurfaced right after Labor Day.

The tennis fence is now scheduled to be completed; the basketball/parking lot fence is still under consideration.

At Card Pond, the Select Board has implemented a two-stage weed control program (one this autumn and one in early spring) that promises a better swimming area next season.

The new swans have just arrived and will be tucked into storage for release in early spring. Other geese-repellent programs include black hoses posing as snakes if seen from the air and an angry owl, ready to chase any pesky geese that attempt to inhabit *his* beach! Also, in the spring, owners of large dogs will be invited to walk their pets on the beach in the hope of scaring off some of the geese before they settle.

On land, plans are underway to repair one of the BBQ grills in the picnic area and to replace the missing one.

As soon as the pond closes on September 11, canvassing for next year's lifeguards will begin. Anyone wishing to apply for a position as a part-time lifeguard next summer, contact (917) 209-0926.

Word is also out for volunteers to coordinate bocce, croquet, and cricket games on the town playing fields. Anyone wanting to play, who's willing and able to donate a few hours of time to help coordinate, do get in touch! Not a huge time commitment but the result will be a fun event.

Next meeting is September 13 at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Lastly, if there are things you'd like to see/do/play in the village, let Parks & Rec know. The goal is to offer the recreational activities that *you* want!

West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:

Spencer Place is one of the earliest streets in the village center, showing up on the 1855 Walling Map. It ran from Main Street, across the bridge next to the Stone House Realty building, past the Diana Felber Gallery and Orient Express, and ended at the former railroad embankment. The street was named after Sylvester Spencer and his family, who lived on the west side of the river. It is still a town road, although the bridge was converted into a footbridge in the 1980s. It remained on the town's street list until past 1936.

Mullens Road is the stretch of West Center Road from Route 102 to the intersection with Woodruff Road and Red Rock Road, running past the Kie farm and ending at the Baldwin farm. The Mullens family lived right on the intersection of Route 102 and Mullens Road. Eugene Mullens, an Irish immigrant and patriarch of the family, worked for the railroad, as did many of the Irish immigrants who lived in the State Line area.

There are other mysteries of our town roads to explore, like how did Moscow Road get its name, and since there was a large Italian community in town, why aren't there roads named after some of those early prominent families? Stay tuned.

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.



Spencer Place, now known as the footbridge.



Mullens Road, now part of West Center Road.

Photos by Bob Salerno.

The West Stockbridge Historical Society invites you to join us for

An Evening with Simon Winchester

Friday, Sept. 9th

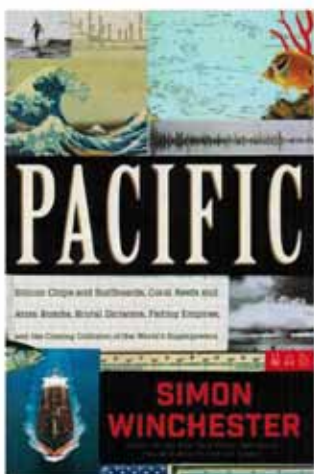
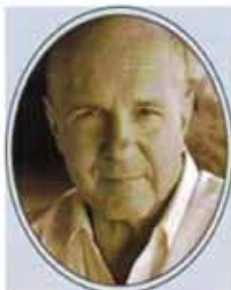
6 p.m.

1854 Town Hall

Main St., West Stockbridge

Admission free, but donations gratefully encouraged.

Reception to follow



One of the country's bestselling authors of nonfiction and Berkshire County resident, Simon Winchester will talk about his enthralling new biography of the Pacific Ocean.

Winchester's personal experience is vast and his storytelling second to none. And his historical understanding of the region is formidable, making *Pacific* a paean to this magnificent sea of beauty, myth, and imagination that is transforming our lives.

Join the West Stockbridge Historical Society for what is bound to be a fascinating program, followed by a reception downstairs with the author.

Free & open to the public.

All donations to benefit the 1854 Town Hall Restoration Campaign.

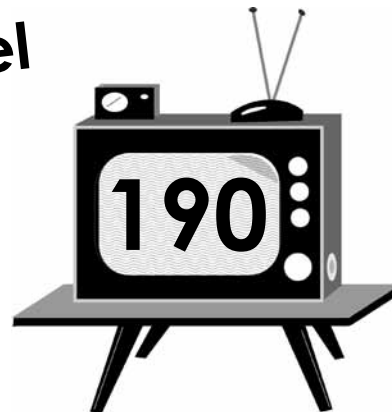
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Anne Auberjonois

Anne Auberjonois:

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Seminar will occur in Lenox.
RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild
www.rwsag.org and Facebook



Join Anne Auberjonois on Tuesday, Sept. 20, 9:30-noon for a talk and digital painting demonstration and support on trying the iPad yourself. **The paintings here were done at our seminar in August.** Clockwise from top left: Doane Perry, Anne Wickham Smith, Nina Polk Lipkowitz, and the fourth done previously by Anne Auberjonois. Please download the program on your iPad before arrival. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com. Luncheon \$20 optional that includes tax and tip. Reserve luncheon buffet by 2 p.m., Friday, Sept. 16.

"I studied at the Art Students League with Jose de Creeft, Will Barnet, Marshall Glaser and Frank Mason. I also took plein air classes with Frank Mason in Vermont for several years. I love the Berkshire landscapes. Nature draws me visually as do the simple objects around me that make up my life. Right now I would say I am searching for my voice. And in my search, I've found the community of artists and creative people here to be wonderfully supportive and exciting. So far, on this journey, I have been exploring digital painting on my iPad and doing some work in oils. My inspiration is easy: it is all around me." My demonstration will include a short primer on how my work has evolved. I will work from a photograph, give a description of my tools, "brush", Ipad and applications. You will get to try these out. Bring your own iPad.

Artists may also work in oil, acrylic, watercolor or photograph if they prefer, off porch.

Donor Roll Call ~ September

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Cecily Patton & Jerry Elias

John Skorput

Sandy Smith

Molly & Chris Vreeland

Louise Wasserberg

Carolyn Wood

Anonymous: 2

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.)

Meet the Artist

Helen Febbo

Helen Febbo:

Encaustic Painter

Demonstration

Wednesday, September 14

3:30-5:30 p.m.

Richmond

Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild
www.rwsag.org and Facebook



Join Helen Febbo on Wednesday, September 14, in Richmond at her studio from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. for a demonstration on encaustic painting and informal discussion. You will be able to ask her questions. RSVP to participate: kcarmean@gmail.com. Encaustic is a wax-based paint composed of beeswax, resin, and pigment that is kept molten on a heated palette.

"My passion for encaustic paint began in the late 1980s when I saw several wonderful encaustic paintings in New York City galleries. Pearl Paints on Canal St. in NY had the supplies I needed as well as a good reference book." Now these materials are available at many other places. "This medium has enriched my art for years. In the late 1990s I had two shows using my encaustic art work. One was in Boston at the Arden Gallery and one was in New York City at the Katherina Rich Perlow Gallery."

"This medium is very flexible and expressive. The advantage today is that the supplies are accessible and easy to use. Over the years I've enjoyed teaching about the use of this medium, so I'd like to invite you to my studio to see how you can use encaustic paint."

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Medicare Insurance: Everything You Need to Know

Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone (SHINE) counselor Winnie Veretto will present a lecture on the world of Medicare insurance and information about the various plans and current issues

Cost: Lecture is free of charge; \$10 per person for the buffet-style dinner

When: Thursday, September 29, 5–7 p.m.

Where: St. Patrick's Church Parish Center, Route 41, West Stockbridge, MA

~Reservations are required~

When making your reservation, please indicate if you are planning to join us for both the dinner and lecture or the lecture only.

Contact: Emilie Jarrett: Tel.: 232-0122; e-mail: Emilie@charws.com, or Phyllis LeBeau: Tel.: 413-698-3656; e-mail coa@richmondma.org.

Flu Clinics Start in October

West Stockbridge Town Hall CHA Office: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9–10 a.m.

West Stockbridge Town Hall Community Room:

Tuesday, October 4, noon–2 p.m.

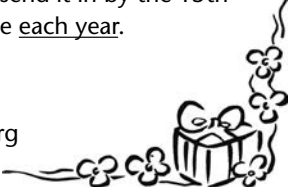
Thursday, October 20, 5–7 p.m.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 9/1 Jennah and Alejandro
Epstein-Santoyo
4th anniversary
- 9/2 Jenni & Jim Hallock
anniversary
- 9/4 J.P. Mikolajczyk
- 9/11 Mary McGuane
- 9/20 Connor & Chloe Seward
- 9/30 Joseph A. Rock

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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Every issue costs us about \$1,000 to print and distribute! Please help us keep the *Local Yokel* coming!

With increased printing and postage costs, we need your help more than ever. To get the latest town news, please contribute to the *Local Yokel*. For your donation of at least \$25.00 per year we will mail each issue to you (unless you prefer otherwise). The *Local Yokel* will continue to be available free at selected locations as long as possible, but we hope you will contribute anything you can. The West Stockbridge Local Yokel, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization, and all contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Please check with your employer, or former employer if retired, for matching gift programs.

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Town Hall Main Number 413-232-0300 • Fax 232-7195				
Animal Control	<i>John W. Springstube</i>	232-0300	ext. 335	As Needed
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, 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.
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., Thurs., and 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>Edward McGrath</i>	232-0307		Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and Sat. 8 a.m.–6 p.m.
Tree Warden	<i>James Hallock</i>	232-4322		
Veterans Agency	<i>Laurie Hills</i>	528-1580		
Zoning Board of Appeals	<i>C. Randolph Thunfors</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	

Official Town Government Website: weststockbridge-ma.gov • Community and Business Website: weststockbridgetown.com

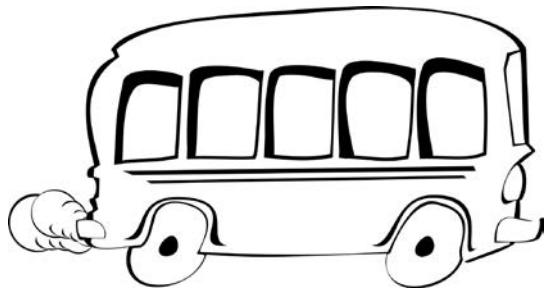
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Call John Parker at (413) 298-1052 or e-mail info@thelocalyokel.org for more information.



Pythagoras Theatre Works Stages a Delightful Return Visit

By Bob Salerno

Pythagoras Theatre Works, the resident theater group sponsored by the West Stockbridge Historical Society, returned with eight performances of two of Edith Wharton's most famous short stories, *Roman Fever* and *The Promise*. These one-act plays were adapted for stage by Dennis Krausnick and directed by Normi Noël. Corinna May, Diane Prushka, Chuck Schwager, and David Joseph all gave superb performances. Paul Brantley composed and performed the cello accompaniment.

The second-floor space was arranged as an intimate setting or, as one of the audience members remarked, "It was just like they performed in my living room." The eight-performance run played to near capacity audiences, with many people new to the performance space and also to West Stockbridge. The West Stockbridge Historical Society hopes to schedule an evening of staged readings with Pythagoras Theatre Works this winter and a new series of one-act plays next summer.



Pythagoras Theatre Works cast. Courtesy of Pythagoras Theatre Works

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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	1



September 2016 Calendar of Events

9/1	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
9/5	Labor Day		
9/7	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
9/8	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
9/9	Simon Winchester Author Talk	6 p.m.	1854 Town Hall
9/11	Grange Dinner	1-2 p.m.	Stockbridge Grange Hall
9/12	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
9/13	COA Potluck Luncheon	12 noon	Town Offices Community Room
9/13	Parks & Recreation Committee meeting	5:30 p.m.	Town Offices Board Work Room
9/13	American Legion	7 p.m.	Town Offices
9/14	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
9/15	*** Deadline for the Next Local Yokel ***		send to info@thelocalyokel.org
9/15	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
9/17	W.S. Congregational Church Bake Sale	9:30-noon	In front of Baldwin's Extracts
9/17	Annual History Walk	10:30 a.m.	1854 Town Hall
9/18	Blessing of the Animals	10 a.m.	Chapel on West Center Road
9/19	Planning Board meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
9/20	Library Trustees meeting	4:30 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
9/21	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
9/22	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
9/22	First Day of Autumn		
9/26	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
9/28	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
9/29	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
9/29	CHA/COA Medicare lecture & dinner	5-7 p.m.	St. Patrick's Church Parish Center