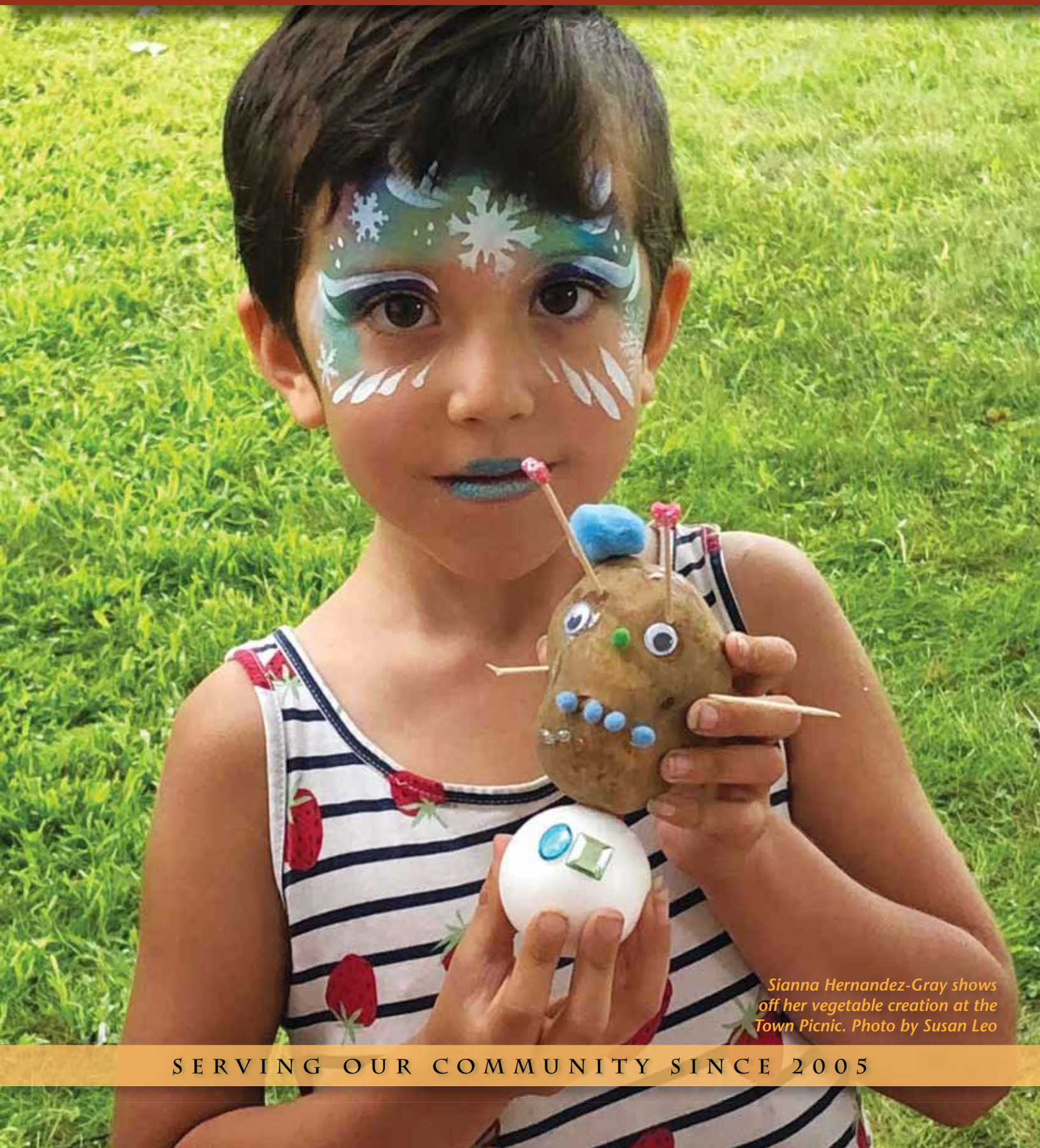


# Local yokel

West  
Stockbridge

September 2018

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



*Sianna Hernandez-Gray shows off her vegetable creation at the Town Picnic. Photo by Susan Leo*

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005

# The Shaker Mill Barn: An Historic Structure Put to New Use

*By John Parker*

For generations of locals, the Shaker Mill has been a landmark structure in the center of town adjacent to the dam and bridge crossing Shaker Mill Pond. Now, thanks to the vision and creativity of Shaker Mill Books owner Eric Wilska, it has taken on new life as a “playful and whimsical” addition to the bookstore.

The story goes back to 1805 when Enoch Thayer moved two barns to the site and joined them together to create a grist mill (for grinding grain into flour). Shakers purchased the property in 1818 and operated the mill until 1851. A later owner used electric power generated by the dam on the Williams River to power the mill and provide the town with electric lights.

Arthur Baldwin purchased the mill in 1933 to use as a hardware, feed, and lumber business. Then, for several decades beginning in the 1970s, the building served as an antique shop. In 2013, Eric Wilska bought the four-story barn along with the adjacent building on Depot Street, to house a bookstore. The adjacent building became Shaker Mill Books that boasts an extensive collection of used, rare, and out-of-print books.

Now the barn has been opened to the public to showcase, as Eric puts it, “Great books in no particular order in a great old building.” The building is, indeed, extraordinary and a history lesson in itself: a celebration of the timber framer’s art with massive beams and numerous artifacts from over 200 years of use.

More than 50,000 books are stored in the upper reaches, and the ground floor (open to the public) features an

eclectic selection of books for sale including many great bargains, cleverly displayed to take advantage of the architecture and historical artifacts. A cozy reading area offers comfortable chairs and a grand view of the dam, spillway, and Williams River just yards away.

Assisted by employees Lauren Losaw and Jeff Wheeler, Eric is planning events for the barn including readings, art, music, and movies. Now through mid-October (when the unheated building will have to close until spring), weekend visitors can watch bookbinder Ken Gilbert at work repairing valuable old books. Currently, open hours are 11 to 4 Sunday through Thursday and 11 to 5 on Friday and Saturday. If you love books, historic architecture, or local history, you won’t want to miss the Shaker Mill Barn! For more information, see Shaker Mill Books on Facebook or call 232-0251.



*Shaker Mill Books owner Eric Wilska*



*The Shaker Mill Barn, now open*

*All photos by John Parker*



*Local bibliophile browses outdoor display*



*Restroom, courtesy of Virginia Woolf*



*Read Dress, by Lenox artist Deb Carter, made from dictionary pages*



*Sitting area with view of dam and river*

## September History Quiz Question:



**West Stockbridge  
Historical Society**  
Incorporated in 1994

In 1852, Massachusetts was the first state to legislate compulsory primary-level education. (Mississippi was the last state in 1918.) This law did not seem to be a burden in West Stockbridge because our first district schools were established in 1826. Before that, the most basic education was provided by the Congregational Church, heavy on Bible studies and religious education.

By 1826 West Stockbridge had set up school districts located in and around the town's hamlets. (No school buses and travel on dirt roads made consolidation difficult then.) The school year was based on the farming season because the children were needed for planting and harvest chores. Also, winter weather could mean many "snow days" off. Some homes also set up so-called private schools, basically home schools to teach reading and writing skills to the neighborhood children. Childhood education was rudimentary and practically based for future farmers and quarry workers.

What was the status of schooling in West Stockbridge when this compulsory education law was passed in 1852?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)

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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# Berkshire Pottery Tour

September 29 & 30, 10am - 5pm



[www.berkshirepotterytour.com](http://www.berkshirepotterytour.com)

## Housatonic Heritage Walks in the Berkshires



### NEIGHBORHOODS OF WEST STOCKBRIDGE SOUTH MAIN STREET IN THE LATE 1900's

**Saturday Sept. 15, 2018**  
**10:30 a.m. – 12:00**

Come explore our southern section of West Stockbridge's Main Street with Bob Salerno and Barbara Dowling. Our walk will view this area, buildings and local industries, with an eye to the late 1800's/early 1900's when South Main Street was the "posh" area of town, home to many of the prominent citizens and local industrial magnates.

1-1/2 hours, 0.5 mile. To register—[whistorybkl@gmail.com](mailto:whistorybkl@gmail.com) or 413-232-5055

Walk will begin at the Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street, West Stockbridge . Recommended parking: if arriving from the south on 102, turn left on Center St. – parking area is one block further, on the left. If arriving from the west/north, turn right on Depot Street (just before the bridge) – parking area is one block further. GPS 42.333607, -73.368700

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# NEW YEAR

Sun., Sept 9 Erev Rosh Hashanah 7:00 p.m.  
Mon., Sept 10 Rosh Hashanah 10:00 a.m.  
followed by Tashlich  
Tues., Sept 11 Rosh Hashanah 10:00 a.m.

# NEW YOM

Tues., Sept 18 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., Sept 19 Yom Kippur, 10:00 a.m., with Yizkor  
Neilah, 5:00 p.m., followed by Break Fast

### THE HIGH HOLY DAYS AT CAS

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.

# Rain Fails to Dampen Spirits at First Town Picnic

By Marjorie Powell, West Stockbridge Cultural Council

Our first “Old School” picnic on the grounds of the Town Offices was reminiscent of our first Zucchini Festival: rain, rain, and more rain. Did we mention rain? What a great omen for good times to come!

The West Stockbridge Cultural Council Picnic committee thanks all who did come out, enjoyed the music, entered the contests, played games, and had a great time. Thanks to the Board of Selectmen and Administrator Mark Webber for allowing the use of the grounds.

Special thanks to Wayne Cooper for all of his assistance. Anyone interested in donating and participating in next year’s picnic, please contact Marjorie Powell at 232-0222. All suggestions are welcome. See you next year!

## Baking Contest Winners

First place: Kathy Valenti, Amaretto Cookie Torte  
 Second place: Tereza Hubkova, Chris & Nicolette Buono, Nicolette’s Red Velvet Cake  
 Third place: Karen Waxberg, Fruit Cream Cheese Crostata

## Vegetable Decorating Contest Winners

Best Looking: Madison Mullen, “Betty the Pop Star”  
 Funniest: Lucca Hernandez Gray, “Deadly Dudley”  
 Most Unusual: Nicolette Buono, “Unnamed” or perhaps a spud-fish?!  
 Most Creative: Riddhi, “Rainbow Potato”  
 Most Seasonal: Sianna Hernandez Gray, “Snowy the Potato”  
 Most Nostalgic: Alex Tenney, “Mr. Zukes”  
 Scariest: Liam Kusman and Quinn Mullen, “Count Octopus”

Winner of the 50-50 Raffle: Steve Dixon

## DONATIONS/PRIZES/GOODS/SERVICES

Jerry & Karen Waxberg: a very generous donation supporting the picnic  
 Donald Young: a very generous donation supporting the picnic

Charles H. Baldwin & Sons	Bob Powell	Chris Gennari
Flourish Marketplace	Shaker Mill Books	Jenni Roy Hallock
Graham Farmhouse Winery and Apiary	Six Depot Coffee Roastery, Café & Gallery	Gloria Losaw
Hoffman Pottery	Colfax Farm/Molly	Jackie Moffatt
Joel Hotchkiss	Harold French	Lynn Ryan
	Tom Gardner	Taft Farm
		Trai Nguyen

## VOLUNTEERS

Matt Cardillo	Susan Leo	Marjorie Powell
Wayne Cooper	Gloria Losaw	Lynn Ryan
John Elling	Les Losaw	Scott Sawyer
Bernie Fallon	Earl Moffatt	Peter Skorput
Richie Girdler	Jackie Moffatt	Joanne Wodecki
Joel Hotchkiss	Randy Murray	Andrew Zick
Sandra Hotchkiss	Mike Nielsen	
John Korte	Bob Powell	

## THANKS TO ALL THOSE WE BORROWED ITEMS FROM

Bernie Fallon	West Stockbridge
Richie Girdler	Congregational Church
Joel and Sandra Hotchkiss	West Stockbridge Farmers Market
Earl and Jackie Moffatt	West Stockbridge Highway
Jeff and Deb St. John	Department
Scott Sawyer	

Thanks to Earl Moffatt and Joel Hotchkiss for bringing their cars to the Classic Car Show. Even in the pouring rain, people enjoyed it!

We apologize if we left anyone off—not intentional!



Winning entries in the Baking Contest. Photo by Marjorie Powell



Children “doll up” their veggies for the Decorating Contest. Photo by Jackie Moffatt



Greg Farley (pictured here) provided musical entertainment, along with the Stone Barn Band and Mary Ann Palermo. Photo by Jackie Moffatt



Earl Moffatt and Joel Hotchkiss displayed their antique cars in the Classic Car Show. Photo by Jackie Moffatt

# September Art Calendar

See a demo, watch other artists, work till noon, then join us for lunch followed by a positive critique for helpful suggestions. Bring your supplies & lunch. We recommend a NARM level membership. **Creating Art Outdoors**  
 M: Hancock Shaker Village. Meet at picnic tables.  
 T: Great Barrington: Great Barrington: Downtown, Riverwalk, Bard College at Simon's Rock,  
 W: Stockbridge: Berkshire Botanical Garden. Town center and other Stockbridge locations  
 Th: The Mount. Meet in lower parking lot by 9:30.  
 F: Lenox: Lilac Park, Library Park, Eastover: Sign in at Mansion and other Lenox locations  
 Sa: West Stockbridge, meet at parking lot across from Post Office. TurnPark, Shaker Mill  
 Su: Norman Rockwell Museum grounds.  
 See FaceBook "Berkshire Plein Air" at 8 am for daily update  
**Figure Painting, Open Studio** Tuesdays in September 2-5pm .IS 183, Stockbridge. \$20 members Bring your supplies. RSVP 413-298-5252x100.

**Art seminars and Business Meeting.** Wed. Sept. 5, 4:00pm. Get your own website bring 2-5 photos. 4:30pm. Collect art for Berkshire Humane Society 5-6:30. Guild Meeting to plan. Community Room Town Hall, 21 Stateline Road (Route 102) West Stockbridge (WS)  
**Plein Air in Sheffield.** Sat. Sept 8, 1:30pm meet at Sheffield Library on Rt 7 to carpool with Thea Baker

**Artist to Artist Open Studio.** Wed. Sept 12 , 6:-9pm. Bring art you want to finish, get advice, try out a new process or technique. Informal chance to do art together for fun! WS Town Hall, 21 Stateline Road. Rt. 102. You must rsvp:

**Positive Critique.** Th. Sept. 13, 4-6pm. Bring 2-3 pieces of your art. WS Town Hall. RSVP required and reading  
**Photo Explorers.** Join Carole Quinn on Fri. Sept. 14 at 8:30 am. at Berkshire Mountain Bakery, 317 Park Street, Housatonic Explore area together. Join Plein Air later.

**Meet the Artist: Hank Kearsley.** Fri. Sept. 14.  
**Bruce Panock on 9/11 photos** Wed. Sept. 26.  
 Both 12:15-1:30, Shaker Dam Coffeehouse in W. Stockbridge.

**Berkshire Photo Gathering.** Sun. Sept. 16, 2-4 p.m. \$5. Berkshire South Regional Comm. Center, 15 Crissey Road, GB Great Barrington, MA 01230 Bring 2-5 photos on flashdrive, smart phone or printed.

**Members Potluck.** Sunday Sept. 23, 5 p.m.-7:30 p.m. In Great Barrington. Bring main dish, hors d'oeuvres or dessert for ten and what YOU want to drink. Partners welcome. RSVP

## Guild of Berkshire Artists

RSVP: [BerkshireArtists.org](http://BerkshireArtists.org)

[BerkshireArtists@gmail.com](mailto:BerkshireArtists@gmail.com) See Facebook

### Recent Works in Artists Studio Tours



Mary Davidson



Walter Pasko



Keith Emerling



Michael Fabrizio



Lorraine Klagsbrun



Scott Taylor



## Studios Tour

Meet 21 local artists in 9 studios  
**Sept 15 • 11 am - 5 pm**

Use Google Maps to locate each studio, listed here from north to south

Walter Pasko  
 Scott Taylor  
 Keith Emerling  
 Lisa Goudry  
 Diane Firtell  
 Rose Tannenbaum  
 The Stationery Factory  
 43 Flansburg Ave  
 Shelton, MA 01266  
 Mark Mellinger  
 100 North St Rm 406  
 Pittsfield, MA 01201  
 Lorraine Klagsbrun  
 95 Seneca Drive  
 Becket, MA 01223

Michael Fabrizio  
 76 East Slope Rd  
 Richmond, MA 01254  
 Marion Grant  
 Keery Hamilton  
 477 Sleepy Hollow Rd  
 Richmond, MA 01254  
 Karen Andrews  
 Fraya Segal  
 2 Furnace Rd  
 West Stockbridge, MA 01264  
 Marceliana Mosca  
 Karen Carmean  
 Bernard Isaacson  
 29 1 Bear Church St  
 Lenox, MA 01240

Karen Dolmanith  
 149 West St  
 Lenox, MA 01240  
 Gail Oswald  
 Thea Baker  
 Barbara Shea Tracy  
 12 Squaw Peak Rd  
 Great Barrington, MA 01220  
 Keith Davidson  
 Mary Davidson  
 7 Partridge Dr  
 South Egremont, MA 01258

[www.berkshireartists.org](http://www.berkshireartists.org)

## As Summer Winds Down...

The Card Pond party, rained out in May, was held on August 19. Once again, the WS Police Department generously donated prizes for the Treasure Hunt and attended to mingle with the kids; the WS Fire Department was on hand to assist with cooking burgers and hot dogs; volunteers from the Congregational Church took on the herculean task of providing food and beverages; Steve Dixon of Queensboro Wines & Spirits once again ensured that all food and beverages remained cold with his very generous donation of ice; and a very few stalwart volunteers worked very hard to keep things running smoothly.

However, there were far too few volunteers this year, placing an unfair burden on the generous neighbors who did join in. Under discussion for next year is the idea of not scheduling the party until a sufficient number of volunteers sign up.

\*\*\*\*\*



Paula Farrell and Frank Torres gear up to serve. Photo by Roland Dudney

There were several unfortunate incidents of vandalism at the pond in August. The geese-repelling swans have once again disappeared. The windows of the shed were broken. The lifeguard station was damaged. The glass around the Notice Board was broken. The Port-a-Potty was rendered inoperable. The new swimming platform was released from its anchors.

These are not examples of normal wear and tear but rather wanton destruction that increases the workload of the Highway Department, raises taxes, and interferes with the simple enjoyment of the pond by local residents. These are mean and nasty actions, taken by a few and damaging to many. As a result, cameras will be installed within the next few weeks.

\*\*\*\*\*

Bids are being collected for the new playground. We hope some resolution will be reached within the next month or so. Any and all playground ideas as well as suggestions for locations for new bike racks throughout town are very welcome. Call (917) 209-0926.



The calm before the storm...  
Photo by Frank Torres



Are we ready?  
Photo by Roland Dudney

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)



The *Local Yokel* is published monthly. Please send submissions to: *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, 394-4368, [john.j.parker53@gmail.com](mailto:john.j.parker53@gmail.com); 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); Designer: 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.

The Community Health Association and the West Stockbridge Council on Aging invite you to join us for a dinner and lecture with Laurence D. Cohen, M.D.

## **“The Agony of Da Feet: Everything You Need to Know About Foot and Ankle Problems”**

**Cost:** \$10 per person for the buffet-style dinner catered by The Marketplace

No charge for attending the lecture only

**When:** Thursday, October 11, 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](mailto:emilie@charws.com)



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## **West Stockbridge Cultural Council Invites Grant Proposals for 2019**

The WSCC has set an October 15, 2018, postmark deadline for local organizations, schools, and individuals to apply for 2019 state grants that support cultural activities in our community.

The WSCC is part of a statewide network of local cultural councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. In West Stockbridge our priorities are to provide a variety of cultural resources for our diverse community from preschoolers to senior citizens.

Our grants can support many kinds of cultural projects and activities including performances, lectures, school programs, workshops, and festivals. Subsidies may also be available for school-age children to attend cultural field trips to local museums and other cultural sites. The council typically grants a total of \$4,000 to \$4,500 annually.

For specific guidelines and complete information on the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, contact Marjorie Powell at ladyeasland@gmail.com or 232-0222. Application forms and more information about the local Cultural Council program are available online at [www.mass-culture.org/lcc\\_public.asp](http://www.mass-culture.org/lcc_public.asp). (click on "application process"). Application forms are also available at the West Stockbridge Town Offices and Library.

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

Greetings from all of us at the library! For anyone who would like to update their Microsoft computer knowledge, please come in or call with the topic and times you would be interested in. Our amazing technology teacher Bill Biggs is standing by to volunteer his time to provide some classes for you! His springtime students learned a lot of new things about Microsoft Excel. Bill is happy to teach you everything from the basics on up through advanced skills. Give us a call!



Tech tip: Look for the new app to make reading eBooks and eAudioBooks a lot easier. Once you get the app, you need your library barcode number to sign in and start borrowing.

### NEW DVDs

*Detroit*

### NEW ADULT FICTION

Hilderbrand, *The Perfect Couple*

Sandford, *Twisted Prey*

Silva, *Other Woman*

### NEW NONFICTION

Meacham, *The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels*

Mosconi, *Brain Food: The Surprising Science of Eating for Cognitive Power*

Pollan, *How to Change Your Mind: What the New Science of Psychedelics Teaches Us About Consciousness, Dying, Addiction, Depression, and Transcendence*

Sedaris, *Calypso*

---

### Friends of the Library Scrapbook Shelf Quiz

1. What musician who used to live in West Stockbridge started Grover's Corner on Springfield's PBS station in 1989?
2. What sport did Nick Race and Trevis Wilton participate in during the Berkshire Holiday Invitational Tournament in 2010?
3. What issue kept the state from funding the town upgrade in 2010?
4. Who filled the seat of the late Senator Edward Kennedy in a special election in 2010?

### 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.
- Please check the library's website, Facebook page, or the Town Offices bulletin board for the date of the next trustees board meeting. All meetings are open to the public.
- As always, we welcome suggestions on just about anything to improve our library.

*Rachel Alter*

Answers: 1. David Grover. 2. Wrestling. 3. The parking setup. 4. Senator Scott Brown.



## FOL Book Sale a Success

The Friends of the West Stockbridge Library (FOL) wishes to extend an overwhelming thank you to the community and all volunteers for their support of our very successful August 4 and 5 book sale. Without a steady stream of donations of new, used, fiction, nonfiction, children's books, antiquarian books, audiobooks, coffee table books, and so much more, the sale would never have been possible.

A team of devoted FOL volunteers, over a period of months, organized, sorted, and categorized countless books and DVDs. Then they completed the task by helping with sales on both days.

The heavy work of lifting the boxes of books, both before and after the sale, was accomplished by Wayne Cooper, Mary McClelland, Larry Tonini, Peter Lockenwitz, and members of the West Stockbridge Police Department. Thank you for your time, efforts, and much needed muscle power. Of course we must also thank our West Stockbridge librarian, Rachel Alter, for her assistance.

A filled-to-the-brim raffle box, that included a beautiful reader's shawl, handmade by Lucy Bellville, was won by Amalia Dolezal Phoeniz, granddaughter of David and Maria Carls. Brava, Amalia!

After all the work was done, it was gratifying to know the goal and the mission of the FOL would continue—readings and book signings by local authors, sponsoring community interest lectures, and providing local newspapers and the all-important provision of passes to local attractions for West Stockbridge residents.

Using the words of Charles William Eliot, "Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers." We hope that everyone will continue to visit the library and enjoy a peaceful summer, fall, and winter.



*Youngsters visiting from Paris find good reads at the FOL Book Sale. Photo by Jerri Buehler*



*The book sale supports the mission of the FOL including readings and book signings, lectures, and passes to local attractions. Photo by Liza Bennett*

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## Donor Roll Call September

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Joseph Flummerfelt

Paula & Jimmy Law

Susan Newson

Sandy Smith

Ruth & Andrew Suzman

Marie Tremblay

Anonymous: 2

Thanks to everyone who has  
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(See response form on page 21.)

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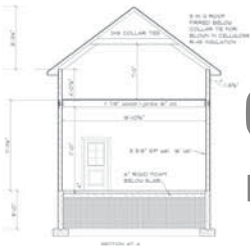
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# On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

## You Win Some, You Lose Some...

To sell a property that has a private “sewage disposal system,” a.k.a. septic system, the system must be inspected by a licensed Title V inspector. (Title V is the Massachusetts law governing septic system installation and maintenance.)

As my faithful readers know, we’re in the process of building a new house in town, and we’re hoping to sell our current house next spring. So we contacted Korey Leonard, a Title V inspector from Mt. Everett Sanitation, in a proactive move. We were due to have the tank pumped out anyway (every 3 years is recommended), so we decided to have our Title V inspection done now.

Korey’s crew arrived to uncover the tank and check out the field. The 1,000-gallon tank and so-called dry well were installed in 1988 by Marshall Gaston, a local excavator and septic system installer. It worked just fine for 30 years, so we certainly got our money’s worth out of it. But the drywell (where the liquids from the tank are dispersed into a gravel-lined pit) failed the inspection. That called for a—*gasp*—new septic system.

To locate the new leach field (the modern equivalent of the drywell, where the liquids, or leachate, from the septic tank are dispersed harmlessly into the ground), Korey returned with Mike Parsons (of Kelly Granger Parsons, civil engineers and surveyors in Great Barrington). Mike and Korey (along with a backhoe operator) were joined by our Board of Health agent Earl Moffat to do a perc (short for percolation) test in our yard.

The perc test determines the ability of the soil to absorb and disseminate the leachate coming from the septic tank. One or two deep pits are dug, about 6 to 8 feet deep, to show the engineer, the inspector, and the health agent the likely groundwater level and the composition of the soil. Then a shallow hole is made at the level just below the topsoil layer, and a pipe with inch gradations is inserted in the dirt. The soil is soaked with water (Mike brought his own special Great Barrington water!), and then the pipe is filled. The number of minutes it takes for 3 inches of the water to be absorbed into the soil determines the quality of the perc. The first test was 28 minutes. Not great, but it would pass. But a leach field placed there would have to be larger to handle the slower perc.

The second test, uphill from the first, was quite good, 2.3 minutes. But putting the leach field there would mean cutting down several trees, and because the field was uphill from the tank, it would require an additional chamber between the tank and field. In this chamber is a pump that—um—pumps the liquids uphill to the new field. It would add about \$4,000 to the system including the wiring for the pump and an alarm in case it fails.



Excavation begins at the new house site. Photo by Thom Lipiczky

The third test was, as Goldilocks would have said, *just right*. An 8-minute perc, and it appeared it could be gravity fed from the tank! And best of all, it meant that much of our treasured plantings and trees could be saved.

Mike could now design a new system for that spot, and Korey could install it, clean up, and reseed the grass. The cost for a new system depends on how much sand and fill is required, as well as whether pump chambers, new tanks, distribution boxes, and channels are required. The range is anywhere from about \$12,000 to \$30,000. Start buying lottery tickets now.

In the meantime, over at the new house site, excavation began! Thanks to Andy Williams of Chris Williams Excavating and his crew, there’s a big hole in the ground where our new house will go. And Andy is also a licensed Title V installer, so he’ll be doing our new septic system as well.

More on the new house and associated topics next time. Questions can be sent to [info@localyokel.org](mailto:info@localyokel.org).

# WAM Theatre Play Reading Series Concludes with *Escaped Alone*

Sunday, September 16, 3:30 p.m., Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street  
Tickets: \$25 general admission; talkback following the performance

## ESCAPED ALONE

by Caryl Churchill

directed by Kristen van Ginhoven



playreading series



Joan Coombs



Nancy Rothman



Eileen Schuyler



Denise Walker

**Sept 16 @ 3:30pm**  
at The West Stockbridge Historical Society


**Tickets:** For info and tickets:  
**WAMTheatre.com**

The WAM (Where Arts and Activism Meet) Theatre Fresh Takes Play Reading Series concludes its 2018 season with *Escaped Alone* by Caryl Churchill. WAM Theatre is very proud to include this iconic feminist playwright's work in our reading series. This is the first time this play, that premiered two years ago at London's Royal Court Theatre, will be presented to Berkshire audiences.

In *Escaped Alone*, the latest work by one of Britain's greatest living playwrights, three old friends and a neighbor spend a series of summer afternoons in the backyard chatting while visions of apocalyptic horror play out inside their minds, drinking tea while contemplating world catastrophe. Caryl Churchill, who has written over 40 plays, including *Top Girls* and *Cloud 9*, is known for her theatrically poetic meditations on grand political themes in which form is dictated by the content.

Associate Artistic Director Talya Kingston, who curates the reading series, remarked, "At 77-years of age, Churchill has written a play that captures older women contemplating how to go on in a world that is collapsing around them. This feels very relevant, and at WAM Theatre we look for work that both features women who aren't usually seen on stage, and that initiates social and political dialogue."

A portion of the proceeds from WAM's theatrical events is donated to organizations that work to benefit the lives of women and girls in our communities and worldwide. More information is available at <http://www.wamtheatre.com/escaped-alone/>.



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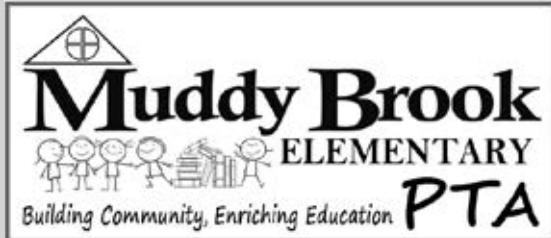
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### WELCOME BACK, MUDDY BROOK STUDENTS!

The PTA has many fun family events planned for the upcoming school year. Take a look at what is planned so far for September:

- ⇔ **ICE CREAM SOCIAL:** Thursday, September 13, 5:30–7:30, in the playground area at Muddy Brook Elementary School. Join us for delicious ice cream from The Scoop in Lenox. Meet the teachers, the new principal, Mr. Tim Lee, and mingle with other students and their families! Ice cream is provided by the PTA.
- ⇔ **KINDERGARTEN POTLUCK:** Monday, September 17, 5:30 to 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Muddy Brook Elementary School. Meet other kindergarten students and their families, mingle with the kindergarten teachers, and enjoy a potluck dinner.
- ⇔ **KICK-OFF PTA MEETING:** Wednesday, September 26, 6 to 7:30 p.m., at Muddy Brook Elementary School. Join us to learn about the PTA mission, vote on our officers, and participate in a Q & A session with our new principal, Mr. Tim Lee. Dinner and babysitting will be provided by the PTA.

### Rewards for Muddy Brook

Clip and save Box Tops coupons from more than 330 participating products including Annie's, Nature Valley, Cheerios, Cascadian Farms, Ziploc, Lysol, and more. Each coupon is worth 10 cents when redeemed. Last year we earned over \$2,000 in Box Tops alone, and we're hoping to exceed that this year. Mail Box Tops to Muddy Brook Regional Elementary School PTA, 318 Monument Valley Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

Please join fellow parents and teachers in making this year very special for the students of Muddy Brook.

Like us on Facebook for other upcoming events: <https://www.facebook.com/muddybrookelempto/>

Thank you for your continued support!

## Community News & Events

### Community Health Association

Blood pressure clinics are held Mondays and Wednesdays, 9–10 a.m., at the CHA office at the West Stockbridge Town Offices. For more information, contact Emilie Jarrett, RN, at 232-0122.

### Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, September 9, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a family-style roast pork dinner, in the hall at 51 Church Street, from 1 to 2 p.m. Cost \$12 adults, \$6 under 12, and under 5 free. Takeouts available, 298-3185.

### Council on Aging Potluck

Hope all you seniors enjoyed the picnic with the Richmond Council on Aging in August. We will have our potluck luncheon at noon on Tuesday, September 11, in the Community Room at the Town Offices. We'll be looking forward to seeing you and whatever you bring. Enjoy the rest of your summer.

### West Stockbridge Congregational Church

The West Stockbridge Congregational Church will have a bake sale in front of Baldwin's Extracts from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 15.

Anyone wishing to volunteer to help the Congregational Church with this year's town Halloween festivities (for example, setting up decorations, making snacks, running a game during the party, etc.) should contact Cait Graham at [wscongregationalchurch@gmail.com](mailto:wscongregationalchurch@gmail.com) or (413) 329-6095.

### West Stockbridge Cultural Council Community Input Meeting

Please attend on Friday, September 21, at 5:30 p.m., at the Town Offices, to share your interests in events/programs that you would like to have in the town of West Stockbridge.

*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](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org).*

# SHAKER MILL



## TAVERN Family SMOKEHOUSE

**Fridays:  
Prime Rib**

Smoked or Regular

**Saturdays:**

**Pork Loin**

or

**Beef**

**Tomahawk for 2**

**Sundays:**

**Beef**

**Short Rib**

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Thursday - Sunday 12-9 pm



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The West Stockbridge Historical Society  
in conjunction with Stanmeyer Gallery & Shaker Dam Coffeehouse  
invite you to join us for:

## Documenting the White House from the Wings

with Janet Philips  
Friday, Sept 28th at 6 p.m.  
Old Town Hall  
9 Main Street, West Stockbridge  
Tickets \$20. Go to [weststockbridgehistory.org](http://weststockbridgehistory.org) to purchase.

Janet Philips, who retired last year after nearly 30 years as photo archivist at the White House, will speak about her personal experiences serving under six Presidents, from Ronald Reagan through Donald Trump. Her talk will include a slideshow presentation.



Janet holds a bachelor's degree in religion from Mary Washington University and a master's in library science from Catholic University. Prior to joining the White House staff in 1988, she served as a photo librarian at *The Washington Post* and as a librarian at *U.S. News and World Report*.

## Wisdom Lodge A.F. & A.M. Chartered June 13, AL5803



### "Open House Invitation"

The public is cordially invited to attend  
an "Open House" at the  
Masonic Building  
3 Hotel St., West Stockbridge, Ma  
Saturday, October 20, 2018

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The Community Health Association of Richmond and West Stockbridge  
**OCTOBER FLU CLINIC SCHEDULE 2018**

The Community Health Association of Richmond and West Stockbridge is offering free flu shots for eligible residents older than 19 years in both communities. For information about influenza, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu).

**COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSOCIATION WEST STOCKBRIDGE OFFICE**

Mondays and Wednesdays, 9–10 a.m.  
except major holidays

**WEST STOCKBRIDGE TOWN OFFICES COMMUNITY ROOM**

Thursday, October 4, 5–7 p.m.  
Thursday, October 18, noon–2 p.m.

**RICHMOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

Every Thursday: 9–10 a.m. (except major holidays)  
Tuesday, October 2, noon–2 p.m.  
Wednesday, October 17, 5–7 p.m.

**RICHMOND LIBRARY**

Tuesday, October 23, 5–7 p.m.

For more information, contact Emilie Jarrett, RN, BSN.

*Community Health Association of Richmond and West Stockbridge*  
21 State Line Road, PO Box 368  
West Stockbridge, MA 01266  
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[Emilie@charws.com](mailto:Emilie@charws.com)

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# RECYCLING TIPS

... think globally, act locally

## What to do with all that shredded paper!



One of the best solutions is to add it to your (or neighbor's) compost. A carbon-nitrogen balance is important. If you need more carbon, tearing up your newspaper (for faster decomposing) or emptying it in your shredding bin is great.

If you decide to bring the shredded paper to the recycle center, **PLEASE DO NOT put it into a plastic bag.** Paper and plastic go into two different bins. So dump it into a cardboard box or a paper bag (we know those are harder to keep closed).

For more tips, visit [www.recycleoftenrecycleright.com](http://www.recycleoftenrecycleright.com)

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 9/1 Jennah and Ahli Epstein-Santoyo, 6th anniversary
- 9/2 Jenni & Jim Hallock, anniversary
- 9/4 JP Mikolajczyk
- 9/11 Mary McGuane
- 9/20 Connor & Chloe Seward
- 9/26 Lavon Bartlett

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)



## The Local Yokel meets the 21st Century!

Visit our website for past issues, plus information about how to support your West Stockbridge community newsletter, submit material for publication, advertise, contact us, and more!

# thelocalyokel.org



# 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 11th 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 (413) 394-4368 or e-mail [info@thelocalyokel.org](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org) for more information.

The West Stockbridge Historical Society & Shaker Mill Books invite you to join us for

An Evening with Simon Winchester

Friday, Sept. 14th

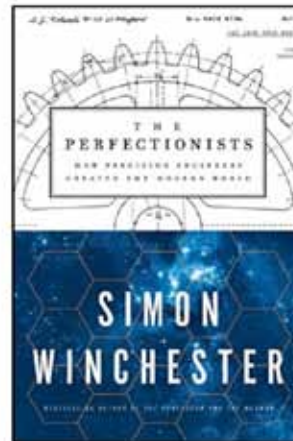
6 p.m.

Old Town Hall

9 Main St., West Stockbridge

Admission free

Reception & book signing to follow at the newly restored Shaker Mill



The revered *New York Times* bestselling author traces the development of technology from the Industrial Age to the Digital Age to explore the single component crucial to advancement—precision—in a superb history that is both an homage and a warning for our future.

One of the country's bestselling authors of nonfiction and Berkshire County resident, Simon Winchester will talk about his new book, *The Perfectionists*.

Winchester's personal experience is vast and his storytelling second to none. Join the West Stockbridge Historical Society and Shaker Mill Books for what is bound to be a fascinating program, followed by a reception and book signing with the author at the newly restored Shaker Mill.

Free & open to the public.

8/13/2018

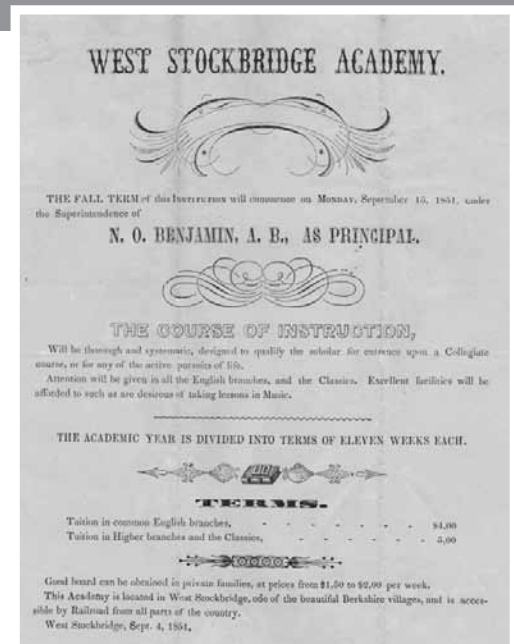
## History Quiz Answer:

According to Joseph Holland's 1855 *History of Western Massachusetts*, West Stockbridge had five primary schools in the hamlets and one primary and two higher schools in the town center. The census during that time shows many children, both immigrant and native born, attending school. West Stockbridge also had two private schools for men and one for young ladies.

In this recently discovered 1854 advertisement, the West Stockbridge Academy was one of the two male private schools. It was promoted as a college preparation instructional program or "for any of the active pursuits of life." The advertisement encouraged pupils from outside the area with boarding and railroad access.

Nathan Benjamin, the academy principal (and major selling attraction), belonged to the prominent Egremont Benjamin family. Nathan was a graduate of Williams College class of 1850, and although he lived in Egremont, he managed to run the private men's school in West Stockbridge. We don't know exactly where in town the West Stockbridge Academy was located; however, there are some references to private schools above the Queensborough store and Stone House Realty buildings.

In August 1862, Nathan enlisted in the 131st New York Volunteers as a first lieutenant at age 32. He was killed in a frontal assault of a Confederate battery in the Battle of Port Hudson, Louisiana, in June 1863.



1854 West Stockbridge Academy.  
Courtesy of Bob Salerno

# Hank Kearsley

*Hank Kearsley*

Artist and Educator

*Formalist painting in a strong social vision*

*Raising questions for the viewer*



Join Hank Kearsley on Friday Sept. 14 at Shaker Dam Coffeehouse, 2 Main Street from 12:15-1:30 pm for an informal discussion over lunch. You will be able to ask him questions. RSVP: BerkshireArtists@gmail.com.

**HANK KEARSLEY** is an artist and educator who makes his social vision aesthetic. He and his wife Bette have recently opened an art studio in So. Egremont. His life spans an America prior to the civil rights movement, through an America still struggling with racism and a world where oppression continues to exist. Hence, the social issues addressed in Hank's paintings and drawings are the result of ongoing personal experiences.

Recently, his painting has become simplified in the use of primary colors: red, green, yellow, blue. The paintings achieve variety by color contrast, rich painting surface, and layers of pure color over one another. The intensity of spatial color relationships allow the viewer to see a much wider range of color.

Many of the paintings are figurative, evolving from people and places Hank has known. The drawings evolve from sketch books and become vehicles for paintings. Hank blends together aesthetic issues with formalist painting in a strong social vision, striving to find the truth, but most importantly raising questions for the viewer.

Hank has studied under Hale Woodruff, Esteban Vicente, Helen Frankenthaler and Louise Nevelson. Exhibits include one-person shows at Museum of the National Center for Afro-American Artists, Goddard College, Long Island University and group shows that include the International Juried Show: NJ Center for Visual Arts (Best of Show Award), Abney Gallery, II Designing Women Gallery, Michael Stone Collection

Guild of Berkshire Artists  
www.BerkshireArtists.org and  
BerkshireArtist@gmail.com  
Facebook rsvp

Fri. Sept. 14

12:15- 1:30pm

Shaker Dam  
Coffeehouse

2 Main Street

West Stockbridge

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# Every issue costs us about \$1,300 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.

**Yes!** I want to support the *Local Yokel*.

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- Yes, please do send me a YKL Bumper Sticker for my donation of \$35 or more.



Please mail this form with your check to:  
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West Stockbridge, MA 01266



## Planning an Event?

### Here's a Tip from the Post Office

Before mailing any type of invitation (wedding, shower, etc.), please bring in a sample. We will weigh it and check the dimensions. This will ensure the invitations have the proper postage and timely delivery!

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Town Government Boards and Commissions, Phone Directory, and Office Hours				
Town Offices 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>Earl Moffatt</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m., or by appt.
Board of Selectmen	<i>Bernie Fallon, Peter Skorput, Doane Perry</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>Rachel Alter</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>Marc Portieri</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>Wayne Cooper</i>	232-0307		Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and Sat. 8 a.m.–6 p.m.
Tree Warden	<i>Andrew Fudge</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](http://weststockbridge-ma.gov) • Community and Business Website: [weststockbridgetown.com](http://weststockbridgetown.com)



Lakonia



# Farmers Market Carries On



Taft Farms



Colfax Farm

The edges of summer are softening. Dusk is settling in a little earlier each day. The temperatures hint at what's to come.

But the Farmers Market carries on. Crops to preserve or use now await. Scrumptious prepared foods are available to enjoy on site or at home.

Savor these days and these flavors! The winter is long, so stock up on pantry staples like pesto, jams, preserves, freezer-ready entrees, meats, and more.

At the mic in September will be Reinhardt Ciccarelli, Paula Bradley, Mark Fisher, and Michael Lesko.

There'll be animals and contests and fun for the whole family. Expect the unexpected, and don't miss it!



First Flower Farm



Villa Mia

*Photos by Peter Cohen, Robin Schmitt, Roland Dudney, and Bruce Redlien*



Pittsfield Rye



Rolling Rock Farm



Windswept Farm



Berkshire's Own Fudge



**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR ALL OF  
SEPTEMBER**

Flexible schedules

If you can help, call (917) 209-0926 or e-mail [WSfarmmarket@gmail.com](mailto:WSfarmmarket@gmail.com)

Save the Date!

**THE SPOOKTACULAR**

2018

**OCTOBER 4**



West Stockbridge  
**Local Yokel**

P.O. Box 238  
 West Stockbridge, MA  
 01266



**September 2018**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						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						

**September 2018 Calendar of Events**

9/3	Labor Day		
9/5	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
9/6	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green
9/6	Board of Health meeting	6:30 p.m.	Town Offices
9/9	Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown		
9/9	Grandparents' Day		
9/9	Grange Dinner	1-2 p.m.	Grange Hall, 51 Church Street, Stockbridge
9/11	Council on Aging Luncheon	12 noon	Town Offices Community Room
9/11	American Legion meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
9/12	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
9/13	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green
9/14	An Evening with Simon Winchester	6 p.m.	Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street
9/15	*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***		send to <a href="mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org">info@thelocalyokel.org</a>
9/15	W.S. Congregational Church Bake Sale	9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.	In front of Baldwin Extracts
9/15	Heritage Walk: Neighborhoods of West Stockbridge	10:30 a.m.-noon	Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street
9/16	WAM Theatre: Escaped Alone	3:30 p.m.	Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street
9/18	Yom Kippur begins at sundown		
9/19	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
9/20	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green
9/21	W.S. Cultural Council Community Input meeting	5:30 p.m.	Town Offices
9/22	First Day of Autumn		
9/26	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
9/27	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green
9/28	Documenting the White House	6 p.m.	Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street