

Local yokel

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

West
Stockbridge
January 2019



“Happy New Year!”

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005

Curious horse, West Center Road. Photo by John Parker

West Stockbridge Author Publishes First Children's Story: A reading and book signing is set for January 20



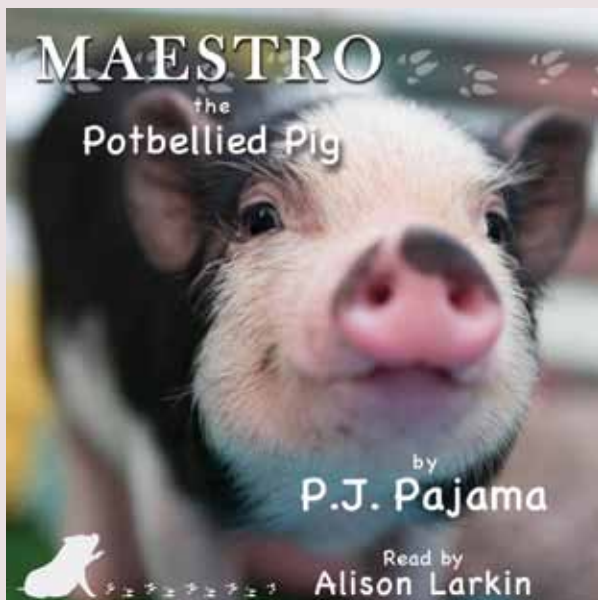
Author Gerald Elias and friend.
Photo courtesy of Gerald Elias

By John Parker

Readers of the *Local Yokel* may recall our profile (in the August 2017 issue) of author Gerald Elias, a part-time resident of West Stockbridge, upon the release of his first audiobook, *Devil's Trill*. Jerry has authored the award-winning Daniel Jacobus mystery series set in the world of classical music, including *Devil's Trill*, the first novel in the now six-book series. The most recent installment is *Spring Break*, published in 2017. Kirkus Review described the critically acclaimed series as "Combining the deductive reasoning of Sherlock Holmes with the rhetorical finesse of Don Rickles."

Jerry's fictional protagonist Daniel Jacobus is a blind, cantankerous violinist and teacher living in self-imposed exile in the bucolic Berkshires—West Stockbridge, to be exact—who finds himself enmeshed in mysterious crimes taking place in the shadowy world of classical music.

Jerry knows his literary terrain—he is a former violinist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra (he still plays with them every summer at Tanglewood), associate concertmaster of the Utah Symphony, conductor, composer, and teacher. Having first come to the Berkshires at age 17 to participate in the Boston University Tanglewood Institute program, Jerry and his wife Cecily have kept a home in West Stockbridge for 40 years. They live in Salt Lake City most of the year but return whenever they can.



Maestro, the Potbellied Pig audiobook cover

Jerry has recently published his first children's book, *Maestro, the Potbellied Pig*, the story of a young harpist named Cassandra whose loneliness from hours of practicing is cured by a music-loving rambunctious piglet she names Maestro. As Maestro grows—and grows—Cassandra is faced with a difficult decision: must she say goodbye to her companion forever, or can she find a better solution?

**...the idea had been percolating for
years based on the real-life experience
of a friend's potbellied pig named—
you guessed it—Maestro.**

This venture into children's literature was prompted by the birth of Jerry and Cecily's first grandchild, but Jerry says the idea had been percolating for years based on the real-life experience of a friend's potbellied pig named—you guessed it—Maestro.

The book is now available in paperback, eBook, and audiobook formats. The audiobook was produced and narrated by Alison Larkin, whose studio is above the Shaker Mill Tavern and who also produced Jerry's previous audiobook offering, *Devil's Trill*. The latest audiobook features musical excerpts performed by internationally acclaimed harpist Franziska Huhn, who is on the faculty of Boston University and the New England Conservatory and teaches at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute in the summer.

The exciting news is that Jerry plans a reading and book signing at the Shaker Dam Coffeehouse and Stanmeyer Gallery on January 20 at 2 p.m. Jerry will perform an excerpt of Scheherazade, and harpist Franziska Huhn will join him for a special "Maestro" reenactment. By scheduling the event on a Sunday afternoon, Jerry hopes to attract a lot of young readers and their parents.

What's next for this eclectic musician and author? Jerry says he is working on an interview with Klondike Bob, the Last Polar Bear. In the story, Klondike Bob is living the good life in a zoo in Florida where people swarm to see him because he's the last of his species, the rest having disappeared due to climate change and the thawing of the Arctic. Given his comfortable situation and adulation, Bob is, of all things, a climate denier! What's in store for Bob? We'll have to wait and see.

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes

[Editor's note: This is the text of the official minutes of the meetings, lightly edited for clarity, length, and format. Copies of the official board minutes are available at the West Stockbridge Public Library. Board of Selectmen meetings can be viewed on the town's Spectrum cable local access channel 190. Residents can receive notification by e-mail of town events and meeting agendas by subscribing at <http://weststockbridgema.virtualtownhall.net/subscriber>].

November 14, 2018

Open Meeting. Quorum present: Bernie Fallon, Chair; Peter Skorput; Doane Perry. Also present: Administrative Assistant Mark Webber. No press present.

Board reviewed and approved previous meeting minutes and weekly warrants.

Special Town Meeting

Board reviewed a draft warrant for the upcoming Special Town Meeting. Although subject to change, the target date for the meeting is December 10 [*subsequently rescheduled for January 14 – Ed.*]. There will be four zoning bylaw amendments generated by the Planning Board and an additional four appropriation articles as follows: free cash transfer to purchase a portable speed trailer; two housekeeping transfers for the sewer and water enterprise account; and a free cash transfer to supplement prior appropriation for National Grid/Moscow Road land purchase.

Transfer Station Repairs

Peter Skorput asked that steps be taken to make improvements/repairs to the Transfer Station roof covering the bottles and cans hopper and to install a roof over the trash hopper to keep the area dry and reduce costs related to increased weight caused by rain and snow mixed in with the garbage. Board agreed, and Mark Webber will bring those concerns to the Board of Health.

Used and Junk Autos

John and John Victor D'Aniello, proprietors of Troy's Garage, were present to discuss progress and steps taken to come into compliance with their recently amended class II and class III auto licenses. Bernie Fallon stated that the owners have done a great job in cleaning up and improving the class III junk car side of the road. However, the owners still must get rid of several more cars on the class II used car area adjacent to Shaker Mill Pond. The owners admitted that they are struggling but are doing their best to remove the excess cars and will continue to chip away. Bernie stated that the owners need to get to the approved number of 21 cars on the Shaker Mill Pond side of the road before the end of December. Failure to do so will put their license renewal in jeopardy.

November 28, 2018

Open Meeting. Present: Bernie Fallon, Chair; Peter Skorput; Doane Perry. Also present: Administrative Assistant Mark Webber. No press present.

Board reviewed and approved previous meeting minutes and warrants.

Special Town Meeting

After consulting with town counsel, the board rescheduled the Special Town Meeting to January 14, 2019, from December 10,

...continued on page 5

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The *Local Yokel* is published monthly. Please mail submissions to: **The Local Yokel**, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, e-mail info@thelocalyokel.org, or visit www.thelocalyokel.org. Copy deadline is the 5th of the month prior to the publication. Editors: John Parker, 394-4368, john.j.parker53@gmail.com; Vicki Grayson, 232-6131, vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com; Susan Fisher, 232-4443, suefish12@gmail.com; Anne Lesser, 232-8577, anne@annelessercommunications.com; Designer: 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.

Special Town Meeting Preview

By Mark Webber, Administrative Assistant

The selectmen have scheduled a Special Town Meeting for Monday, January 14, at 7 p.m. to be held in the gymnasium at the West Stockbridge Town Offices.

There is a total of eight warrant articles; four are zoning bylaw amendments. The remaining four articles seek voter approval for various appropriations. Articles 1–4 require two-thirds voter approval. Articles 5–8 require simple majority approval.

- **Article 1** is a marijuana use zoning bylaw amendment that details the retail and medical uses to be allowed and regulated and locations of same. Article 1 supplants the 12-month retail/medical use marijuana moratorium zoning bylaw passed at the November 13, 2017, Special Town Meeting.
- **Article 2** is in place in the event that Article 1 fails to pass with its required two-thirds majority vote. Article 2 seeks to extend the current 12-month marijuana moratorium (expires on 12/31/18) for another 6 months until June 30, 2019. The purpose of Article 2 is to provide the Planning Board with additional time to reconsider elements of Article 1 and present a revised marijuana use bylaw before June 30, 2019. Article 2 will be tabled in the event that Article 1 passes.
- **Article 3** is a zoning bylaw amendment that, if approved by a two-thirds majority, will provide regulations and special permit requirements for the installation of solar projects. Currently, the town has no zoning regulations governing solar installations.
- **Article 4** is a zoning bylaw amendment that, if approved by a two-thirds majority, will provide regulations and special permit requirements for “formula business,” more commonly known as big-box or chain restaurants and retailers. Currently, the town has no zoning regulations covering this type of commercial use.
- **Article 5** is a fiscal year (FY) 2018 financial housekeeping item for the purpose of refunding the town’s general fund from the sewer enterprise fund.
- **Article 6** is a FY 2018 financial housekeeping item for the purpose of refunding the town’s general fund from the water enterprise fund.
- **Article 7** seeks voter approval to purchase a portable speed trailer for use by the West Stockbridge Police Department to assist in traffic/speeding control. The source of the appropriation of \$8,000 is free cash.
- **Article 8** seeks voter approval to add \$12,000 to an article approved at the May 2018 annual town meeting for the purpose of purchasing approximately 2 acres of land owned by National Grid adjacent to Moscow Road. These funds are being requested to cover unanticipated environmental testing, survey, and closing costs for the purchase. The source of the sought-after appropriation is free cash.



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2018. Town counsel has given assurance that the town could not consider any special permit applications related to the three proposed zoning bylaw amendments (marijuana uses, solar projects, and formula businesses) that will appear as articles at the January 14 Special Town Meeting. Because the Planning Board will have held the required zoning bylaw amendments public hearing before the end of December 2018, the town will not be subject to the default Cannabis Control Commission regulations that will go into effect January 1, 2019.

Tax Title Property

Brian Zanonato spoke to the board regarding the tax title property at 16 State Line Road. Brian asked about the land court status on the property. He was told that the paperwork to redeem the title and put the property back in his name was filed with the Land Court and that the town has not yet received the documents. It was further explained to Brian that the title will not be returned to him until he produces a signed agreement with an approved excavation contractor to connect the property to the municipal sewer,

as ordered by the Berkshire Superior Court. Board also discussed the need to remove the three unregistered vehicles on the property and explained that it doesn't matter who owns them because the property will be subject to fines under the town's junk car bylaw. Brian also stated there are broken water pipes and the furnace is damaged because of freezing. Board members will follow up but are confused how there could be any significant water damage because the town shut off the water back in August for nonpayment.

Other Business/Discussion/Action Items:

- The Board of Assessors and a representative of the Regional Resource Group, the town's professional assessing service, will attend the advertised Annual Tax Classification Hearing on December 5, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.
- Peter Skorput discussed the need to address the water-damaged ceiling in the fire station. Mark Webber will seek prices from contractors to perform the repairs. □



*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, e-mail to info@thelocalyokel.org, or visit www.thelocalyokel.org

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- ❖ West Stockbridge Beautification
- ❖ West Stockbridge Farmers Market
- ❖ West Stockbridge Fire and Rescue Services
- ❖ West Stockbridge Historical Society

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

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January History Quiz Question:

West Stockbridge has been through a number of identities since its founding in 1774. It started out as an isolated colonial farming outpost in the late 1700s through the 1830s, then as a prosperous quarrying, mining, and charcoal production center through the 19th century. By the turn of the century, the character of the town had started to change as the quarries and lime kilns closed down. It became known as a blue-collar working-class town while the neighboring towns of Lenox and Stockbridge were described as quaint and attracted wealthy cottagers and summer tourist traffic.

Not to be left behind, West Stockbridge used its 150-year anniversary celebration in 1924 to promote the town. How did West Stockbridge describe itself then, and would that description fit our town today?

(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 or call 232-4270.



**West Stockbridge
Historical Society**
Incorporated in 1994

Results of the Midterm Election: How West Stockbridge Voted

By John Parker

In case you were wondering how West Stockbridge voted in the recent midterm election, we've compiled the results for you. Voters were definitely engaged in this election: in West Stockbridge, a total of 813 ballots were cast out of 1,160 registered voters (70%). That's substantially higher than the statewide turnout of 60.17%, the highest in a midterm election since 1994 (Masslive.com, 11/21/18).

The results for West Stockbridge mirrored statewide results with one notable exception. Here, Democratic candidates for governor and lieutenant governor Jay Gonzalez and Quentin Palfrey won the vote, whereas the state as a whole went for Republican incumbents Charlie Baker and Karyn Polito. Several prominent legislators won reelection running unopposed including Congressman Richard Neal, state senator Adam Hinds, and state representative Smitty Pignatelli. Elizabeth Warren easily won another term in the U.S. Senate. Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healy, Secretary of State William Galvin, Treasurer Deborah Goldberg, and Auditor Suzanne Bump were all reelected by large margins.

In a hard-fought race, Andrea Harrington held off a write-in challenge by incumbent Paul Caccaviello for Berkshire County district attorney, and Molly Thomas ran a successful write-in campaign for West Stockbridge representative to the Berkshire Hills Regional School District School Committee.

West Stockbridge voters agreed with voters statewide on the ballot questions, saying no to a measure to limit nurse/patient ratios at health care facilities, yes to a citizens' commission furthering a constitutional amendment to reduce the role of money in elections and establishing that corporations do not have the same rights as human beings, and yes to keeping the law prohibiting discrimination in public accommodation on the basis of gender identity.

West Stockbridge Results in the 2018 Midterm Election

Data provided by West Stockbridge town clerk. Candidates are listed in order of votes received locally, highest first, with winners shown in bold.

U.S. Senate: **Elizabeth Warren** 649, Geoff Diehl 130, Shiva Ayyadurai 19

U.S. House of Representatives: **Richard Neal** 689 (unopposed)

MA Governor and Lt. Governor: Jay Gonzalez and Quentin Palfrey 443; **Charlie Baker and Karyn Polito** 340

MA Attorney General: **Maura Healy** 663, James McMahon III 126

MA Secretary of State: **William Galvin** 630, Anthony Amore 111, Juan Sanchez Jr. 38

MA Treasurer: **Deborah Goldberg** 619, Keiko Orrall 106, Jamie Guerin 44

MA Auditor: **Suzanne Bump** 609, Helen Brady 93, Edward Stamas 39, Daniel Fishman 23

MA Governor's Council: **Mary Hurley** 635, Mike Franco 95

MA Senate: **Adam Hinds** 703 (unopposed)

MA Representative: **Smitty Pignatelli** 723 (unopposed)

Berkshire County District Attorney: **Andrea Harrington** 555, Paul Caccaviello (write-in) 202

Clerk of Courts: **Deborah Capeless** 645 (unopposed)

Register of Deeds: **Michelle Laramée-Jenny** 664 (unopposed)

Berkshire Hills Regional School District School Committee:

Great Barrington (both incumbents): **Steve Bannon** 525, **Bill Fields** 506

Stockbridge (both incumbents): **Jason St. Peter** 510, **Dan Weston** 496,

West Stockbridge: **Molly Thomas** (write-in) 60

Question 1 (to limit the number of patients that could be assigned to one registered nurse in hospitals and certain other health care facilities): **No: 591**; Yes: 193

Question 2 (to create a citizens' commission to advance an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to limit the influence of money in elections and establish that corporations do not have the same rights as human beings): **Yes: 631**; No: 130

Question 3 (to keep in place the current public accommodation law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender identity): **Yes: 647**; No: 130

Collector's Notes

I hope you all had a happy holiday season.

Three important messages for taxpayers are on the back side of the bills that were mailed on December 26, 2018, and will be due on February 1, 2019. Please take a moment and review them here.

1. You may pay this bill online by going to the town's website, www.weststockbridge-ma.gov, and choosing the link "Pay Real Estate, Personal Property...". There is a \$0.25 fee to pay by using an electronic debit from your checking account and a separate fee schedule should you elect to pay using a credit card. This second option is pricey, and I don't recommend it.
2. Requests for abatement of FY19 taxes, both real and personal, must be received in the assessors' office by February 1, 2019. Postmark is not accepted, and applications will not be approved if taxes are not paid in full when application is made. Forms are available at the Town Offices or on the town's website, www.weststockbridge-ma.gov.
3. You will now be able to request that an electronic bill for real estate and personal property be sent to your e-mail address by registering at the Unipay site accessed through the town's online payment system (see above). This bill will be identical to the paper version you currently receive. I will mail paper bills as well until the end of the fiscal year. After that, all who enroll in the e-bill program will only receive the electronic version. You do not have to pay your bill online to enroll for this service. Once you sign up for the service, it is your responsibility to make certain that you keep a valid e-mail on file with the Unipay service.

Additionally, I expect that 2019 motor vehicle excise bills will be issued in mid-February. If you no longer own the vehicle for which you are receiving a bill, it is *your* responsibility to complete and submit an abatement application, along with the required documentation, to have the bill adjusted. To avoid late charges, it is wise to pay and then file because although the tax can be abated, the late charges cannot!

May you all have a safe, healthy, and peace-filled 2019!

June Biggs, Collector; Tel.: 232-0300, ext. 302; E-mail: collector@weststockbridge-ma.gov

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American Cancer Society Seeks Volunteer Drivers for "Road to Recovery" Program

Framingham, Mass., November 2018 – This holiday season, and all year long, if you have a car and few hours to spare, you can make a difference in the life of a cancer patient as a Road to Recovery driver. The American Cancer Society is now recruiting volunteers throughout Massachusetts, especially in the western part of the state, to ensure all cancer patients have transportation to and from their treatments. Whether you are available once a month or once a week, even for an hour, you can be a Road to Recovery volunteer.

"Every driver has what it takes to help save lives," said Michele Dilley, program manager for mission delivery at the American Cancer Society. "We're urgently asking drivers to volunteer to take cancer patients to treatment. One cancer patient requiring radiation therapy could need between 20 to 30 trips to treatment over the course of six weeks. A patient receiving chemotherapy may need weekly treatment for up to a year."

Many cancer patients don't own a vehicle or can't afford the extra gasoline. Some patients may be elderly and unable to drive or have no family members or friends who are able to provide regular assistance with transportation. Some patients don't have access to transportation at all, and public transportation is not ideal for those who are in treatment and who are fatigued, sick, and often at risk of infection.



Gary Royal, a Tyngsboro resident (pictured at left), started volunteering as a Road to Recovery driver in 2014 after his retirement. He said he was searching for a meaningful way to give back to his community and found the program's

sign-up and training very easy. He now drives cancer patients in an approximately 25-mile radius around his home about twice a week, and he sees his hundreds of rides given in a year as his donation to the society.

"Driving with Road to Recovery is so rewarding because lots of people need it, especially folks who are going to daily treatments," said Royal. "I love making connections with people; most of them are hopeful and optimistic. It's just so easy to make a difference."

Volunteer drivers donate their time and the use of their vehicles, so patients can receive the cancer-related treatments they need. To volunteer, you must have a valid driver's license, a safe and reliable vehicle, and proof of automobile insurance. Drivers must be at least 18 years old and have a good driving history. They arrange their own schedules and can commit as many or as few hours as their schedule allows. The American Cancer Society provides free training to drivers and conducts criminal background, driving record, and vehicle checks.

"Even the best treatment can't work if a patient can't get there," said Dilley. "Access to care is a big problem in our country, with low-income and minority persons and those living in outlying communities suffering the most from disparities. Transportation programs are vital for these patients to get the treatments they need and deserve."

For information about the Road to Recovery program, to volunteer as a driver, or to request a ride, call 1-800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org.

The American Cancer Society is a global grassroots force of 1.5 million volunteers dedicated to saving lives, celebrating lives, and leading the fight for a world without cancer. From breakthrough research to free lodging near treatment, a 24/7/365 live helpline, free rides to treatment, and convening powerful activists to create awareness and impact, the society is the only organization attacking cancer from every angle. For more information, go to www.cancer.org.



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January Art Calendar

Art seminars, Demonstration, and Guild Meeting. Wed. Jan. 2, 4:00pm Demo. 5-6:00pm Meeting, Community Room Town Hall, 21 Stateline Road (Route 102) West Stockbridge (WS)

Using Multi-Media a DVD course hosted by Freya Segal. Friday January 4, 12:30-2:30. Bring lunch. RSVP for location. Also Jan. 16.

First Sunday at Clark Museum. Sun. Jan. 6, 10am-5pm. The first Sundays of the month are free Oct. to May. We carpool

Classical Drawing. Mondays. Jan. 7, 14, 28, 1-4pm WS community room. Rsvp BerkshireArtists@gmail.com. Gail Oswald

Figure Painting, Open Studio Tuesdays in January 8, 15, 22 and 29. IS 183, Stockbridge. \$20 members, \$25 nonmembers. Bring your supplies. RSVP 413-298-5252x100.

Positive Critique. Th. Jan. 10, 4-6pm. Bring 2-3 pieces of your art. WS Town Hall. RSVP BerkshireArtists@gmail.com required and reading

Photo Explorers. Friday 8:30 am. coffee/breakfast. 8am outside for golden hour. Explore the town afterwards with Carole Quinn on Jan.11 (sunrise is at 7:25am) at Haven, 8 Franklin Street, Lenox. Jan. 25(sunrise is 7:17) for coffee at Joe's Diner, 85 Center St., Lee.

Meet the Artist: Paul Graubard, Painter, Sat. Jan. 12, 1-2:30 pm Shaker Dam Coffeehouse 2 Main St. WS. Buy a coffee, tea or delectable so they can stay in business; bring or buy lunch next door.

Reception for Gallery 35 exhibit, Sat. Jan. 12, 3-5pm, 35 Railroad St. Great Barrington, Stone House Prop. Artists bring hors d'oeuvres.

Members' Potluck. Sun. Jan. 13, 4-7pm in Stockbridge. Bring main dish, hors d'oeuvres or dessert for ten and what YOU want to drink. Partners welcome. In Stockbridge. BerkshireArtists@gmail.com
Art Together. Wed. Jan. 16, 6-9pm. Bring art you want to start, 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: AlexandraBenton.art@gmail.com

Encaustic workshop and work session. Sat. January 19. 11-4pm \$65 for beginners workshop. Or @\$15 an hour for those who have already taken the course. Contact RF Paints ASAP to be waitlisted for this workshop 845-331-3112. Call Carol Kelly to plan trip together carolgoodkelly@gmail.com (413-551-7309). Next: Sat. Feb. 9, 11-4pm

Garlands of the Gods. Susan Pettee. Botanical Artist of a book illustrating wildflowers of the Greek Ruins of Sicily. Th. Jan 24, Six Depot, WS. Lunch at 1:15 pm followed by talk and discussion 2-3:30.
Berkshire Photo Gathering. Sun. Jan. 27, 2-4 p.m. \$5. Berkshire South Regional Comm. Center, 15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230 Put Photos on website to share.

Art Book Gathering Fri. Jan. 25, 2-4 p.m. Share a favorite book: artist, process. Shaker Mill Books, West Stockbridge.

Guild of Berkshire Artists

RSVP: BerkshireArtists.org

BerkshireArtists@gmail.com See Facebook

Recent Works



Janet Brattesani



Barbara Patton



Bruce Shickmanter



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Arlene Weglowski



Carol Kelly

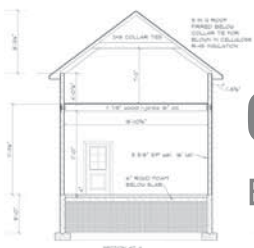
Join us learning how to and making art together:

Classical Drawing: DVD course and practice: Mondays beginning Jan.7, 14,18 1-4. Chair: Gail Oswald. Bring paper and pencil. West Stockbridge (WS) Community Room (CR), 21 Stateline Rd. Rt. 102 WS.

Multi-media: Telling Stories with Collage and Paint. Chair: Freya Segal. Jan. 16 6:15-8:15. WS CR 21 Stateline Rd. Rt. 102.*

Long pose Figure/Portrait Painting and Drawing: Open Studio. Tuesdays in January 8, 15, 22 and 29. IS 183, Stockbridge. \$20 members, \$25 nonmembers. Bring your supplies. RSVP 413-298-5252x100.

Art Together. Wed. Jan. 16, 6-9pm. Bring art you want to start, finish, get advice, try out a new process or technique. Informal chance to do art together for fun! WS CR, 21 Stateline Road. Rt. 102. You must rsvp: AlexandraBenton.art@gmail.com *



On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

In 1967 I graduated from Manhattan School of Music with a degree in music theory that included a course or two in conducting. I had to study scores, so I knew the details of the pieces inside and out. Then I had to lead members of the student orchestra in the performance of the piece—it was Beethoven’s First Symphony—so well that Beethoven would have heard it from his grave and *stopped decomposing*. Decomposing. Get it?

Which brings me to the subject of the latest chapter in the epic story of Anne and Thom’s Excellent Adventure, that is, building our own house. Both of my faithful readers will remember that as 2018 came to an end, I was juggling the schedules of various subcontractors. And this, of course, reminds me that the oboes in bar 234 of the second movement need to be cued while the horns are making their *decrescendo*.

Yup, being a general contractor is a lot like being an orchestral conductor (albeit one with a tool belt rather than a baton). In this case, I’m also the composer because I designed the house as well. But managing the entrances and the accuracy of the players is my responsibility. Here’s an example.

To have ceilings and walls (a prominent feature of my house), I need to get the electricians, plumbers, and HVAC technicians to time their entrances smoothly. There’s an order to this choreography—wait, that’s another art form—because it’s easier to route wires around plumbing pipes than the other way around, for instance. And the HVAC guys need the electricians to hook up the compressors for the heating system. And the plumbers need to run the vent pipe through the roof so the roofers can install a “boot” while they’re shingling.

Now that the HVAC system has been installed, I need to get the insulation subs in to work their magic so the heat generated doesn’t just wander off into the atmosphere. But to have the ceiling insulation (18 inches of blown-in cellulose), I need to cue the drywall team to come in and install just the ceilings and a few walls facing uninsulated space.



Two workers from the Bierbower Drywall & Plaster Company create a ceiling, so insulation can be blown in above. Photo by Thom Lipiczky

Only after the ceilings are done can we get the insulation subs in. But we also need to make sure that the carpentry team (my steadfast helpers Arthur and Chris) first install the Styrofoam air baffles in the rafter bays and air seal the rim joists. And then the *maestro* needs to make sure that any changes in the wiring and HVAC ductwork have been made before they’re covered with the cellulose!

After the insulation team finishes, the drywall team reenters, *molto vivace*, to hang and tape the rest of the drywall for the interior walls and ceilings. And I need to check on the schedule of upcoming players, such as the painters and tile setters. And the tiler doing the bathroom tile needs to be coordinated with the electrician who will install the radiant heat in the floor. And the carpenters installing the interior trim and doors need to dovetail their work (!) with the painters and cabinet installers. And so on, until the *finale*. Which will return to C major, *allegro con brio*, hopefully in time to move in this coming spring!

Questions and comments can be sent to info@localyokel.org.



WEST STOCKBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

21 State Line Rd | West Stockbridge, MA 01266 | In the Town Offices
weststockbridgelibrary.org | 413-232-0300 ext. 308

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



**Warm greetings to all for a great year ahead,
from the staff and trustees of the WSPL!**

LIBRARY ACCESS

As we head through winter, we are offering to help get books to you if you are homebound. Please call us to make arrangements, and we will do our best to help.

THE SMALL ARE MIGHTY

We would like to highlight the fact that our library has more parking than any of our neighboring libraries! And thanks to the statewide library system, we can borrow things for you from anywhere in Massachusetts.

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

We are very excited to have added three Internet HotSpots to our collection! They are devices that provide up to 10 wireless connections to the Internet through the Sprint Mobile system. The HotSpots are a lot like the personal Hotspots on some smartphones. We plan to start loaning these as soon as we finalize a policy for their use. So if you have a temporary need for an Internet connection, please watch for our announcement that the HotSpots are ready!

In other news, our wonderful technology volunteer and guru Bill Biggs ran another successful class in late November, this time introducing Windows 10 to a group of very appreciative students. As always, please let us know if you have something you would like to learn about Windows or Microsoft Office.

CULTURAL COUNCIL GRANT

Vicky Cooper, our amazing assistant librarian (one of two!), applied to the Mass Cultural Council for funding to bring an exciting birds of prey program to the library next spring. We are very happy to say the application was granted, and we will be welcoming Julie Anne Collier and her Wingmasters program. Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 18, at 11 a.m.

NEW ADULT FICTION

Atkinson, *Transcription*
Child, *Past Tense: A Jack Reacher Novel*
Kanon, *Defectors*
Owens, *Where the Crawdads Sing*
Patterson, *Juror #3*
Penny, *Kingdom of the Blind: A Chief Inspector Gamache Mystery*
Ruskovich, *Idaho*
Sukiyama, *The Samurai's Garden*

DVDs (Some friendly folks donated a set of classic films noir, and you'll see them listed here individually) *Americans: The Complete Fifth Season; The Asphalt Jungle; Back to School; Beverly Hillbillies; Book Club; The Catcher Was a Spy; The Crown, Season Two; Gun Crazy; Murder My Sweet; Out of the Past; The Pacific; Set-Up*

NEW NONFICTION

Barron, *Lessons From the Miracle Doctors*
Cohen, *The Flame*
Karr, *The Liars' Club*

CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT

Amato, *Snarf Attack, Underfoodle, and the Secret of Life*
Bauer, *Don't Call Me Ishmael*
Buehner, *Snowmen at Christmas*
Carbone, *Wonder Woman to the Rescue*
Christopher, *Great Moments in Baseball History*
Colfer, *Captain Crow's Teeth*
Greenberg, *Derek Jeter*
Katz, *Where Is Baby's Cradle*
Marlin, *Mickey Mantle*
Moore, *The Night Before Christmas*
Pfister, *The Christmas Star*
Pritchett, *Wilf the Mighty Worrier Battles a Pirate*
Regensburg, *The Runaway Dandelion*
Spirin, *We Three Kings*
Trimble, *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest*
Werner, *Skateboarder's Start-Up: A Beginner's Guide to Skateboarding*

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.
- All library trustees board meetings are open to the public. Our next meeting will be on January 24 at 5 p.m. in the library.
- A reminder that day passes for many of our local attractions are available at the library thanks to the Friends of the Library and the West Stockbridge Cultural Council.
- As always, we welcome suggestions on just about anything to improve our library.

— Rachel Alter, Vicky Cooper, and Brad Havill



FRIENDS OF THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY PRESENT

"WORDS MATTER"...

FUN WITH CROSSWORD PUZZLES FOR ALL AGES
WITH MICHELLE ARNOT



SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 12, 2019, AT 10:30 a.m.
SNOW DATE: JANUARY 19 AT 10:30 a.m.
West Stockbridge Town Offices, 21 State Line Rd. (Rte 102)

Michelle Arnot is the author of *Crosswords for Dummies* and *Four-Letter Words: Secrets of a Crossword Insider*. She is also an official at the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament.

Cider, coffee, and cookies by Lucy will be served.

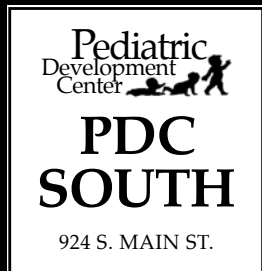


Friends of the West Stockbridge Library Scrapbook Corner

1. What local teacher was awarded the James C. Kapteyn Prize?
2. What inn was up for auction in July 2010, but didn't sell?
3. What senator was instrumental in bringing broadband internet access to western Mass.?
4. Who was the West Stockbridge resident who authored and released the updated book *How to Invest Wisely*?

Answers: 1. Lisa Baldwin 2. The Card Lake Inn 3. Senator John Kerry
4. Lawrence S. Pratt

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OFFICE OF
PREPAREDNESS
AND EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

All-hazard Preparedness Checklist

Before the Storm

- ┐ Listen to local news and National Weather Service for continued storm updates.
- ┐ Gather a disaster supply kit or replace/restock items as needed.
- ┐ Locate the evacuation routes in your local community if applicable and be sure family members know the routes.
- ┐ Store important documents (insurance papers, home inventory, etc.) in a waterproof container.
- ┐ Have cash on hand in small denominations.
- ┐ Make sure vehicle gas tanks are full.
- ┐ Make sure you have sufficient amounts of prescription medications.
- ┐ If you have a generator, test it and make sure you have sufficient fuel.
- ┐ Have a portable battery powered radio (with sufficient batteries) or weather radio on hand.
- ┐ Secure your home by trimming trees; clearing clogged downspouts/gutters; securing or removing items that could become airborne (plants, furniture, grills, etc.).
- ┐ Turn off propane tanks.
- ┐ Fill bathtubs and large containers with water to use for sanitary reasons.
- ┐ Turn freezer and refrigerator to the coldest settings in case the power goes out.
- ┐ Charge cell phones, laptops and other portable electronic devices.
- ┐ If you or your family member has special medical needs, register with your local community and utility provider to obtain any available resources (i.e. transportation to shelter, priority electrical restoration, etc.).
- ┐ Make plans for pets in the event you need to evacuate.

During the Storm

- ┐ Listen to the TV or radio for weather information and updates.
- ┐ Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed.
- ┐ Avoid using corded phones except for emergencies.
- ┐ Stay indoors and away from windows.

After the Storm

- ┐ Continue to tune in to local news and weather for post-storm updates.
- ┐ Carefully inspect your home for any exterior damage or safety issues.
- ┐ Watch for downed power lines and do not go near them.
- ┐ Do not venture out on roads until you know it is safe to do so.
- ┐ If you had to evacuate your home, inspect it upon your return and if there are any safety issues (flood waters; odor of gas, structural damage, etc.) do not enter.
- ┐ **DO NOT** run generators, grills or other gas operated devices indoors.
- ┐ If there was an extended power outage check frozen and refrigerated food for spoilage. If you are in doubt, throw it out.
- ┐ Watch pets carefully to make sure they don't wander in damaged areas.

Donor Roll Call January

Anna Ambrose
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Jerri & Dan Buehler
David & Maria Carls
Sue & Jim Coxon
Eugene Dellea
Rich & Beth Fentin
Irma & Robert Gal
Stan & Sandy Kleiner
Lorin & Andrew Krouss
Sheila & Wally Lehman
Lear & Raquel Levin
John & Ada Masiero
Cecelia & Thomas Meade
William Negrini
Judith Nevins
Tom Sagendorf
Bob Salerno & Margie Skaggs
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Gordon Soule
Paula & Mark Viola
Karen & Jerry Waxberg
Anonymous: 3

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Parks & Recreation, West Stockbridge Police Department: *Sparkle On!*

November 30 was a special day in the village—the day that West Stockbridge once again sparkled! Cosponsored by the West Stockbridge Police Department, the event united groups of neighbors from virtually every part of village life.

The Congregational Church offered crafts and treats for the little ones so their parents could enjoy the Holiday Stroll. The Historical Society presented a nostalgic look at life the way it used to be, and the grown-up refreshments were a treat for all visitors.

The holiday tree was lit; Santa arrived amid carols and set up to man the sleigh. It was a good night. Children laughing. Neighbors connecting. Setting a mood for the holidays to come. But it never could have happened without the help of wonderful volunteers. Our thanks to you all!



The best part of the evening!

Terri Jo Dixon
Ginna & Roland Dudney
Bernie Fallon
Paula Farrell
Andrew Fudge
Jaiden Gombos
Jisten Gombos
Caitlin Graham
Ernie Jordan
Krysta Kaehn

Christine McDermott
Ed Merritt
Helen Nolan
Lisa Parker
Doane Perry
Elizabeth Petty
Robert Salerno
Peter Skorput
Mary & Bob Thibeault
Sarah & Peter Thorne

Randy Thunfors
Tony Viola
Anthony Voudren
Christopher Vreeland
Mark Webber
Ann Marie & Richard Winters
West Stockbridge Congregational Church
West Stockbridge Fire Department
West Stockbridge Historical Society
West Stockbridge Village Merchants

Photos by Roland Dudney



Thanks to Fire & Police, Santa is well protected

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 12/29 (belated) Connor Bagel
Epstein Kraus
- 1/12 Anne Roy
- 1/13 Abby Hallock
- 1/13 Jim Hallock
- 1/17 Peggy Bartlett
- 1/18 Jan O'Brien
- 1/19 Emma Seward
- 1/24 John Parker
- 1/29 Elizabeth Pietrafesa

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

The *Local Yoke!*, P.O. Box 238,
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Martin Luther King Jr. Day (From Wikipedia)

Martin Luther King Jr. Day (officially Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. and sometimes referred to as MLK Day) is an American federal holiday marking the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. It is observed on the third Monday of January each year, which is around King's birthday, January 15. The holiday is similar to holidays set under the Uniform Monday Holiday Act.

King was the chief spokesperson for nonviolent activism in the Civil Rights Movement, which successfully protested racial discrimination in federal and state law. The campaign for a federal holiday in King's honor began soon after his assassination in 1968. President Ronald Reagan signed the holiday into law in 1983, and it was first observed three years later. At first, some states resisted observing the holiday as such, giving it alternative names or combining it with other holidays. It was officially observed in all 50 states for the first time in 2000.



Winter Parking Ban

The "Winter Parking Ban" is in effect from November 1, 2018 to April 30, 2019 between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. for all streets in West Stockbridge. Violations of this ban may result in a \$25 fine for parking in prohibited areas, or a \$50 fine for impeding snow removal. In addition, if the vehicle is impeding snow removal, it may be towed at the owner's expense.

The Municipal parking lot across from the Public Market and the parking area on Moscow Road where the public bathrooms are may be used for overnight off street parking. However, vehicles in those lots must be moved by 8:00 a.m. to allow the Department of Public Works to manage snow and ice removal.

Persons having questions about off street parking or the Winter off-street parking ban can call Mark Webber, Town Administrator at 413-232-0300 Extension 319.

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Chamber Players' Winter Benefit Concert Offers a "Benediction" for the New Year

By Liza Bennett



Violist Daniel Getz, pianist Deborah DeWolf Emery and violinist Sheila Fiekowsky performed with clarinetist and artistic director Catherine Hudgins. Photo by Bob Salerno

Robert Salerno, president of the West Stockbridge History Society, greeted a capacity audience in the Congregational Church on Sunday evening, December 30, by noting that this was the 21st concert the Chamber Players have performed to benefit the restoration of the Old Town Hall. With the Chamber Players' generous support, he said, the vision for the Old Town Hall is coming to fruition: in 2018 alone, close to 3,000 people attended events there that included yoga classes, theater, art exhibits, concerts, and high school writing competitions. And, if all goes as planned, the elevator will be installed over the winter and be ready for use by the Memorial Day Concert.

The Chamber Players, a world-class ensemble of Boston- and Berkshire-based musicians, are led by clarinetist and artistic director Catherine Hudgins, who skillfully curates each of the programs. For this concert, Hudgins was joined by violinist Sheila Fiekowsky, violist Daniel Getz, and pianist Deborah DeWolf Emery. The concert began with Ralph Vaughan Williams's *Studies in English Folksong*, followed by Benjamin Britten's

Lachrymae, Op. 48a. Performed by Daniel Getz and Deborah DeWolf, this piece that literally means "tears," filled the church with its haunting beauty.

The second half of the concert began with Franz Schubert's Violin Sonata in A major, D. 574 that, according to Sheila Fiekowsky who introduced the piece, presents a real challenge to the violinist. Along with Deborah DeWolf Emery at the piano, Fiekowsky gave a masterful performance. Catherine Hudgins introduced the final work of the evening: Selections from Max Bruch's *8 Pieces for Clarinet, Viola, and Piano*, Op.83, that was written in 1910 when the town of West Stockbridge was still made up of mostly miners and iron workers. She spoke movingly of the sense of community she always feels when performing with the Players and said she felt the Bruch should serve as a "benediction to us as we enter the new year."

The concertgoers, including some who attended for the first time and came from as far afield as Quebec and Virginia, were treated to a reception at Connie Eagan's beautiful home next door to the church where they were able to mingle with the musicians and enjoy refreshments.

Where are these doors in your town?

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 answers to September's *Local Yokel* cover question!

thelocalyokel.org





West Stockbridge Farmers Market: A Secret Revealed

By Ginna Dudney

Now that Season 7 and the wonderful Spooktacular are behind us, and Season 8 is in the beginning stages, it's finally time to reveal the market's secret for bringing calm and averting the storm.

Always maintaining the lowest of profiles, you might not notice them, but they are there: helping when necessary, maintaining the peace when needed.



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History Quiz Answer:

The town's 1924 150th-anniversary party was a major event, rivaling the 1938 "Arrival of the Railroad" Celebration and the Zucchini Festivals in the 2000s. As part of the anniversary festivities, the West Stockbridge Club published a small brochure to describe the village called "A Few Things You Should Know About West Stockbridge." The opening paragraphs set the tone:

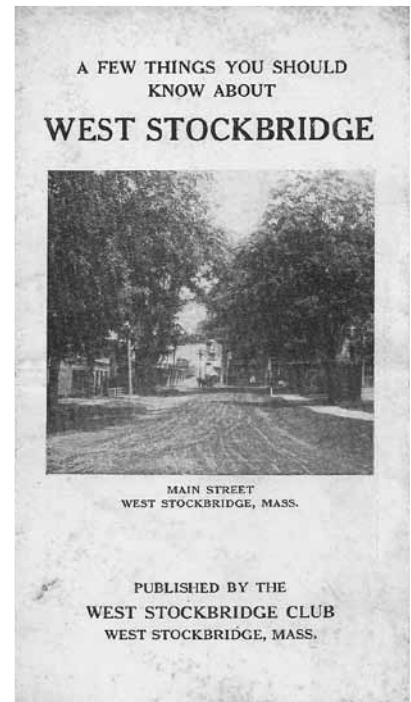
For health, recreation, or a quiet restful vacation; come to West Stockbridge, the "Rough Diamond" of the famous Berkshire Hills. This pretty mountain hamlet is one of the most delightful summer playgrounds to be found anywhere in this broad land of ours. To the tired city dweller, worn to a frazzle by the hard grind upon the big battlefield of modern business life, a vacation at West Stockbridge, "Far from the maddening crowd," is almost a realization of Ponce de Leon's dream of the Fountain of Youth.

West Stockbridge has pure spring water, and its air is pure and stimulating, containing a high percentage of oxygen. Having no unhealthful conditions, it is very desirable. Its natives are hospitable, and the tourist is made welcome.

The brochure goes on to describe our major attractions and advantages. Key features are canoeing with four interconnected lakes and five miles of narrow shady streams filled with fish and other wildlife. *"There is bathing for the expert and novice swimmer, a five-minute walk from the post office. . . . The Scenery around West Stockbridge is superb."* Stevens Glen, Bissell's Peak, Bald Head Mountain, and Maple Hill are all described as having pleasant woody walks, beautiful streams, and extensive views of the Catskill, Berkshire, and Connecticut Hills.

In closing, many of the town's assets are listed including a *"large number of maple and elm shade trees that lend a pleasing vista."* (The front of the brochure shows an unpaved Main Street.) Also featured are three general stores, one drugstore, two garages, and a livery stable. *"It is secluded, not disturbed by the noise and hum of manufacturing."*

Perhaps the best one is *"It's the most hospitable and cordial community in Massachusetts."* Maybe some things haven't changed in 95 years.



"A Few Things You Should Know About West Stockbridge" brochure (1928). Courtesy of Bob Salerno

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.

Council on Aging Potluck

The next Council on Aging potluck luncheon will be held at noon on Tuesday, January 8, in the Town Offices Community Room. See you there!

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, January 13, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a family-style baked beans and ham dinner in the Grange Hall at 51 Church Street, Stockbridge, from 1 to 2 p.m. Cost \$12 adults, \$6 under 12, and under 5 free. Take-outs available. Call first if the weather is "iffy," 298-3185.

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

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



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Assessors Office	<i>Mary Stodden</i>	232-0300	ext. 303	Tues. 1–5 p.m.; Thurs. 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Board of Health	<i>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 • Community and Business Website: visitweststockbridge.com



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thelocalyokel.org



Meet the Artist 2019

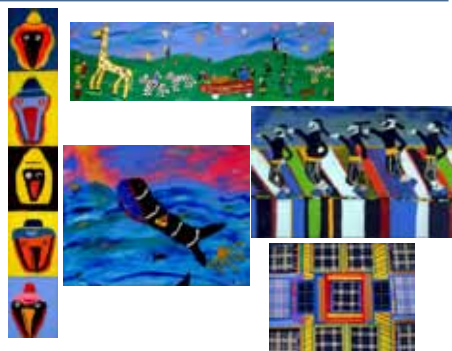
Paul Graubard

*Paul
Graubard*
Painter

Sat. January 12
1-2:30 pm

Shaker Dam
Coffeehouse
2 Main Street
West Stockbridge

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



Join Paul Graubard on Saturday, Jan. 12, 1-2:30pm at Shaker Dam Coffeehouse and Stan Meyer Gallery, 2 Main St. West Stockbridge for informal discussion. Bring or buy lunch next door but you must buy a coffee, tea or delectable from the Coffeehouse so they can stay in business! Paul Graubard grew up in Passaic, N.J. spending his early school years reading, doodling and playing hooky and dropped out in the 10th grade to hitchhike around the country. He then took the high school exam, went to college and became a teacher, professor and psychologist. His eldest daughter's untimely death hit him hard, and he began to draw, then discovered painting. He believes that stumbling on art saved his well-being if not his life. Excerpts from Paul's artist statement are:

"Romania, Romania, a Yiddish song extolling wine, women, song and food, was my Romanian-born father's favorite. I heard it sung often as a child and loved its zest. When I paint and get lucky, that spirit overtakes me. Like dance and music, painting requires rhythm and flow, movement, action and tension. I work to make my paintings twirl and surprise."

"There is a Chassidic belief that one can thank the Lord for the gift of life and its bounties by singing, dancing and engaging in joyful creation. This philosophy is a guiding force behind my paintings. My work comes out of a need to celebrate life. This in turn is inspired by my experience of marriage, the Sabbath and Festivals. The spirit is universal."

"Childhood memories and fantasies often underlie my paintings. On a trip to India I encountered carnival scenes in which the array of color was extraordinary. Since then, color has taken on new dimensions for me and has led to new explorations - a process that will likely last a lifetime."

Meet the Artist 2019

Susan Pettee

Susan Pettee
Botanical
Artist

*Garland of
the Gods*

Book on Flowers of
Sicily

Th. Jan. 24
1:30 pm lunch
2-3:30 Talk and
discussion

No. Six Depot
West Stockbridge

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



Join Susan Pettee on Thurs. Jan. 24 at Six Depot West Stockbridge lunch 1:30pm, and 2-3:30pm for a talk and informal discussion of her process making this beautiful book *The Garland of the Gods* illustrating the flowers of Sicily, Italy. You will be able to ask her questions. RSVP: BerkshireArtists@gmail.com.

For the travelers coming to Sicily on the Grand Tour, the encounter with the luxuriant vegetation of the Mediterranean was as aesthetically and emotionally moving as the sight of the classical ruins they had come to view, an encounter that was almost always enhanced by some knowledge of botany and by a thorough education in the classics.

The Garlands of the Gods is an attempt to restore to today's travelers the fullness of this 'Sicilian experience'.

The book from which this show is born, the first of a series to be published by the Orto Botanico, is intended to facilitate the identification of the principal flowers growing on the island's classical sites.

The illustrations, watercolor paintings by the American botanical artist Susan Pettee, are divided according to the color of the flowers to simplify recognition, with a separate section on the most common plants of the indigenous Mediterranean vegetation, the 'macchia mediterranea'. A short text by the American writer Mary Taylor Simeti accompanies each painting, introducing some of the mythological, literary and historical associations that accompany the plant depicted.

West Stockbridge
Local Yokel

P.O. Box 238
 West Stockbridge, MA
 01266

thelocalyokel.org

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	31		



January 2019 Calendar of Events

1/1	New Year's Day		
1/2	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
1/3	Board of Health meeting	6:30 p.m.	Town Offices
1/8	COA luncheon	12 noon	Town Offices Community Room
1/8	American Legion meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
1/9	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
1/9	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
1/12	"Words Matter" crossword event	10:30 a.m.	Town Offices
1/13	Grange dinner	1-2 p.m.	Grange Hall, 51 Church St., Stockbridge
1/14	Special Town Meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices Gymnasium
1/15	*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***		send to info@thelocalyokel.org
1/16	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
1/20	Maestro reading & book signing	2 p.m.	Shaker Dam Coffeeshop and Gallery
1/21	Martin Luther King Jr. Day		
1/23	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices

