

Local yokel

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

West
Stockbridge
August 2017



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Container planting in front of Old Town Hall created by Lisa Parker, The Lady's Touch. Photo by John Parker

The Special World of Author, Musician, and Composer Gerald Elias

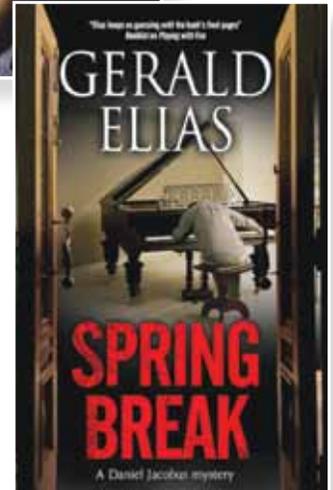
By John Parker

Daniel Jacobus, a blind and cantankerous violinist and teacher living in self-imposed exile in the bucolic Berkshires—West Stockbridge, to be exact—finds himself enmeshed in mysterious crimes taking place in the shadowy world of classical music. That’s the underlying story line for each of the six novels written by local author Gerald Elias, himself not coincidentally a longtime resident of West Stockbridge. I recently sat down with Jerry and his wife Cecily for a fascinating conversation over coffee at 6 Depot to hear about some exciting new developments in his literary/musical career and their attachment to West Stockbridge.

Unlike his alter ego Jacobus, Jerry is most definitely neither blind nor (as far as I could tell) cantankerous. He is indeed a musician and a composer of considerable repute: a former violinist with the Boston Symphony, associate concertmaster of the Utah Symphony, and music director



Author and violinist Gerald Elias in action. Photo courtesy of Thomas Ahern



Spring Break book cover

...continued on page 7

THE RICHMOND-WEST STOCKBRIDGE ARTISTS' GUILD

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Board of Selectmen Meeting Summaries

By Doane Perry

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

Open Meeting: July 3, 2017

With Peter Skorput absent, Curt Wilton chaired the meeting.

Executive Session

The board went into executive session to conduct collective bargaining with nonunion personnel and then returned to the open meeting.

Annual Officer Appointments

The selectmen approved Richard Squailia, William Barth, and Doane Perry as new members of the Cable Commission.

Fire Chief Peter Skorput received a 1-1 vote, which means he can continue to serve as chief but is not appointed. Curt Wilton said the selectmen are still working through the Municipal Resources Institute review. Although Peter has made progress by “leaps and bounds,” they don’t have 100% confidence yet and want to see more. Selectman Bernie Fallon said when selectmen are done with the report they will appoint Peter. Curt said they are halfway through with another six months to go. Bernie commented that fire departments across the country are going through the same issues and that going through the report efficiently is a good thing. Curt said he wants Peter to get National Incident Management System training and commented that the selectmen decided to get an outside assessment of the Fire Department because they could not resolve the complex issues in house. Curt added that he thinks Peter is doing great, but “When I vote a person in, I want 100%.”

Driveway Permits

The Board of Selectmen approved driveway permits for new homes at 44 East Alford Road and 94 Great Barrington Road.

Public Restroom Attendants

The board approved a plan to hire attendants for the public restrooms on weekends from April 15 to October 15 at \$25 per day, paid from the town’s building account.

Open Meeting: July 10, 2017

Executive Session

The board went into Executive Session to conduct collective bargaining and then returned to the open meeting.

Police Officer Hiring

The selectmen acted on Police Chief Marc Portieri’s recommendation to hire Christopher Jackson as a part-time officer. Christopher was an Eagle Scout, and he is a member of the Civil Air Patrol and a licensed pilot. Christopher lives 1 hour 15 minutes away in Tolland, Connecticut, where he has his own business fixing car dents. He is interested in police work because it helps people.

Cable TV Commission

Mark Webber called for rejuvenation of the Cable Commission based on the town’s new contract with its cable company Charter/Spectrum.

...continued on page 5

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Berkshire Hills Chorus of Sweet Adelines Returns to Old Town Hall

By Andy Krouss



Berkshire Hills Chorus performing at the Old Town Hall in 2016. Photo by Bob Salerno

Back by popular demand after a rousing performance last year, the West Stockbridge Historical Society is pleased to host the Berkshire Hills Chorus of Sweet Adelines again on Friday, September 8, 6:30 p.m., at the Old Town Hall.

The Berkshire Hills Chorus is a 27-member award-winning women's barbershop chorus that travels around Berkshire County providing musical entertainment. The chorus is an affiliate of Sweet Adelines International and draws its members from all over Berkshire County and beyond. Members range in age from 19 to 70. The group sings a cappella in four-part harmony, and their repertoire includes ballads, show tunes, up-tunes, holiday songs, pop songs, and patriotic songs. During performances, the group enjoys interacting with the audience, explaining aspects of barbershop singing, and then teaching a short barbershop melody to them. The chorus is codirected by Patricia Feldman and Gail Wojtkowiak.

The chorus has enjoyed performing at the Red Lion Inn, the Norman Rockwell Museum, the Berkshire Atheneum, Berkshire Medical Center, Pittsfield's Downtown Third Thursdays, the North Adams Downtown Celebration, WGBY-TV "Together in Song," the Pittsfield Suns, the Stockbridge Memorial Day parade ceremony, the Berkshire Museum Festival of Trees, assisted living and nursing home facilities, as well as the West Stockbridge Historical Society last year. Last summer, the chorus was invited to sing on the lawn at Tanglewood on Parade.

Barbershop music has been a part of the cultural fabric of our country since the late 1800s. The Berkshire Hills Chorus has kept this rich musical tradition alive in Berkshire County and will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2019.

A reception will follow the performance, so come join the fun. Admission is free for WSHS members; for nonmembers, the suggested donation is \$15 at the door. Seating is limited.

A reception will follow the performance, so come join the fun. Admission is free for WSHS members; for nonmembers, the suggested donation is \$15 at the door. Seating is limited.

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Curt said he would like to see public, education, and government (PEG) programs up and running by December 3, 2017. Peter said the commission will pick its own access coordinator and will draft the job description. Curt said there is an inherited problem because people will call the commission since no local contact is set up and the company is still installing.

Public Restrooms

Selectman Bernie Fallon will provide training, and Mark Webber will be notified of problems. The pay will be \$25 per day. All vendors should submit invoices.

Lenox Road Traffic Issue

Responding to a letter from Ronny Feldman and Elizabeth Morse about speeding traffic on Lenox Road, the selectmen discussed measures the town might take with Police Chief Marc Portieri. Ronny commented that the digital speed readout signs work on him when he is driving too fast. Chief Portieri said he finds the signs work for just a few days and prefers the "three tickets" scenario with officers on patrol. Bernie praised the series of interactive signs in Great Barrington on the hill between Simon's Rock and downtown.

Curt said the Highway Department will use existing signs, survey the road, and research costs focusing on the section of the road from Ronny and Elizabeth's to downtown that has a steep grade. Curt mentioned updating the signs, warnings, education, and enforcement. He cannot put in anything that blocks the road because automobiles have the right of way.

Williams River Trail

Representing the Friends of the Williams River, Peter Thorne asked the Board of Selectmen for support of a Williams River Trail using the railroad bed between West Stockbridge and Housatonic, which has been abandoned since 1964. Peter said the owners of Turn Park support the

trail plan. The people who opposed it in the past are gone now. The key is getting support from National Grid that owns a 50-foot-wide path from the West Stockbridge wastewater treatment plant to Main Street in Housatonic. Peter said the rail bed is intact, and his goal is a natural historical hiking and walking trail (a bike trail is a dream).

Curt said it's a great idea and recommended contacting National Grid as an initial step, and the Board of Selectmen would join in. Bernie asked about forming a committee. Mark cautioned that National Grid has never sold a piece of property, but he will ask town counsel, adding that Mike Martin is the National Grid right-of-way manager. The Berkshire Natural Resources Council High Road program contact is Norian Schroeder.

Upcoming Rent Control Board Hearing

The board discussed postponing the upcoming Rent Control Board hearing due to water meter work. Evie Kerswell said there should be no delay because rules are not being followed. The meeting is scheduled for August 7.

Other Business:

- The board approved a one-day liquor permit for Turn Park on July 15, and a special permit for a belated birthday on July 15 at the Grange at 5 Swamp Road.
- Bernie brought up repaving the potholes at the Routes 41 and 102 intersection.
- Bernie urged West Stockbridge to improve its website and asked that the topic be on the agenda of the next meeting. He said a town's website should reflect its values and where it is going. He suggested submissions from town departments and information about overall goals. Bernie commented that the town of Richmond has a great website, and Pittsfield has a good site too. Bernie wants West Stockbridge to come across as the best town in the county. □



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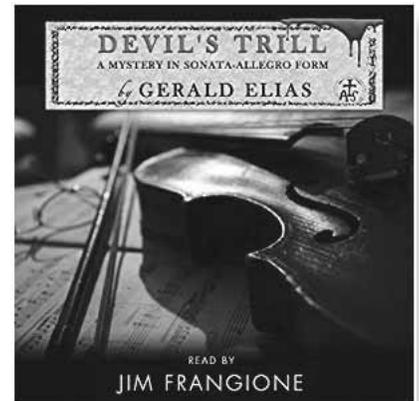
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of the Vivaldi by Candlelight concerts in Salt Lake City. Jerry continues to fill in as violinist with the BSO when needed and on occasional international tours.

Jerry first came to the Berkshires at age 17 to participate in the Boston University Tanglewood Institute program and met his future wife Cecily while both were working as counselors at the Merrywood Music School summer camp. Jerry describes West Stockbridge back then as a “funky” little blue-collar town—he fondly recalls swimming in the nearby quarries—which has undergone “miraculous” changes over the years. Now that the charms of West Stockbridge have been discovered by summer folks and the tourist crowd, he sees the challenge as managing growth and change while maintaining the town’s character and appeal to both year-round and seasonal residents.

Jerry’s first book, *Devil’s Trill*, was initially written as a series of lessons for his violin students, including such topics as selecting a violin, auditioning for an orchestra, and the aesthetics of music. To make it more entertaining, he wove into the lessons a fictional story about a stolen Stradivarius. Over time, he fleshed out the protagonist Daniel Jacobus, added characters and plot twists, and transformed the work into a full-fledged mystery novel. Publishing the book was another challenge: he received many rejections before finally getting a positive response from St. Martin’s Press. Jerry says the rejections never bothered him though. He’s had plenty of experience with auditions and reviewers. In his musical career, he’s had many auditions and only won two of them, but that’s all it took to launch a career!

After his initial success with *Devil’s Trill*, Jerry went on to produce five more Jacobus mysteries. The most recent, *Spring Break*, is being launched August 1. Meanwhile, *Devil’s Trill* has just been released as an audiobook, the first one ever in which clues to the mystery are revealed by the music and performed by the author. The audiobook was produced by award-winning producer Alison Larkin of Stockbridge and narrator Jim Frangione of Housatonic, and recorded in the Sheffield studio of engineer Jason Brown.

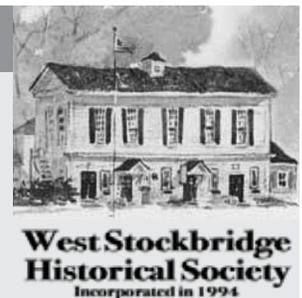


Devil's Trill audiobook cover

Jerry will give a special presentation of the *Devil's Trill* audiobook together with Alison and Jim at the First Congregational Church in Stockbridge, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 21, as a fund-raising event for the Stockbridge Sinfonia, the local community orchestra. Along with a dramatic reading of the text by narrator Jim Frangione, Jerry will perform music from *Devil's Trill* with members of the Stockbridge Sinfonia and offer a premiere of his composition “Piccolino’s Sarabanda,” written for the book. Producer Alison Larkin will lead questions and answers about how the audiobook was created. Also on the evening’s program, members of the Sinfonia, with Elias as soloist, will perform the last movement of the beloved concerto “Spring” from Vivaldi’s *Four Seasons*, in a nod to *Spring Break*, the latest novel in the mystery series.

Tickets to the event may be purchased at the door or online at StockbridgeSinfonia.org. Ticket sales benefit the all-volunteer Stockbridge Sinfonia, composed of students and nonprofessional and retired musicians and provides scholarships for local student musicians.

August History Quiz Question:



W.E.B. Du Bois was one of the most prominent citizens to come from South County. Born in Great Barrington in 1868, educated at Fisk and Harvard, he was one of the most important and influential leaders in the emerging civil rights movement. Du Bois came from a poor single-parent family with limited resources. To pay for high school, he had various odd jobs and worked summers as a timekeeper for the construction of Searles Castle. He was not only popular with all the town’s citizens, but well recognized as a burgeoning scholar to the extent that local residents raised money for his college tuition.

Given the condition of the roads and distances during the late 1800s, travel and interaction among the towns was difficult. Did West Stockbridge have any connection with this significant American hero?

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.

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)

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Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 8/1 Mary Claire Lin
- 8/11 Collin Parker
- 8/17 Jenni Roy Hallock
- 8/24 Joe Roy, Jr.
- 8/31 Caitlyn Alpert

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

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Artists' Guild Presents Third Annual Fine Art Show

By Margie Skaggs



Works by local artists will be on display at the Fine Art Show. Photo by Carolyn Brancato

Beginning with the “West Stockbridge Rocks” event a few years back, our town has become a favorite venue for local artists from the Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists’ Guild (RWSAG) to display their creative work. Many have commented on the particular appeal of the open space in the second-floor auditorium of the Old Town Hall.

Adding to that appeal are the flexible wood panels created by guild members that allow the creation of unique and flexible display spaces, especially for two-dimensional work—paintings, photography, prints, and some hanging ceramics—without damaging the fragile walls of the old building.

This year the RWSAG Fine Art Show will include the work of about 30 artists working in various media including watercolor, oil, stone, clay, and photography. And Mellie, the charming straw artist figure, will again grace the front of our Old Town Hall.

The August/September show will run on Thursdays through Sundays, from August 24 to September 3. Gallery hours are: Thursday and Friday 3-7 p.m., Saturday 12-6 p.m., Sunday 12-3 p.m. The public is invited to a reception on Saturday, August 26, from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.

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Hasta la vista to our July 2017 summer reading program. Our young patrons helped “Build a Better World” by decorating a birdhouse, planting a raised-bed garden, and designing a recycled city. We thank librarian Vicky Cooper for leading our programs. Readers have until August 5 to submit book logs for the summer raffles. Our LEGO Club (Fridays and Saturdays) continues throughout August.

We thank the Massachusetts Library System, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, and the Boston Bruins (with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services), the Western Mass Library Advocates, and the Eastern States Exposition for donating Big E tickets.



FYI for all young readers! Turn a library book into lemonade every Thursday at the West Stockbridge Farmers Market through August. Check out a book. Get a bookmark for a free glass of lemonade.

Many thanks to the great folks at the Farmers Market.

If you haven't visited lately, please stop in and enjoy our comfy sun-drenched vestibule. Bring a coffee and relax at one of our bistro tables with your laptop or e-reader. Or just take in the view. We thank the Balestro family and all those who donated in memory of longtime library supporter Rose Balestro for the brand-new tables and chairs.

NEW DVDs: *Their Finest, The Lost City of Z, Wakefield, The Zookeeper's Wife*

NEW ADULT FICTION

- Benton, *Lilli de Jong*
- Fuller, *Quiet Until the Thaw*
- Penny, *Glass Houses*
- Sandford, *Golden Prey*
- Silva, *House of Spies (also LP)*
- Winslow, *Force*

NEW NONFICTION

- Barsky, *Deep Undercover: My Secret Life...as a KGB Spy in America*
- Bowden, *Hue 1968: A Turning Point of the American War in Vietnam*
- Ervin, *Bit by Bit: How Video Games Transformed Our World*
- Gilder, *Edith Wharton's Lenox*
- Sandberg, *Option B*

NEW YOUNG ADULT FICTION

- Reeve, *Railhead*
- Riordan, *Trials of Apollo Book Two: The Dark Prophecy*

Ongoing

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- If you use an e-reader, explore the new statewide Commonwealth e-book Collections (CEC) at eBooks.masslibsystem.org.
- Library trustees board meetings take place the third Tuesdays of the month. After the August break, board meetings resume on Sept. 12, at 4:20, in the Community Room. All meetings are open to the public.
- As always, we welcome suggestions on just about anything to improve our library.

—Lee Appelbaum and Jodi Magner



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*Eager readers browse the stacks at the
book sale. Photo courtesy of Carol Kuller.*

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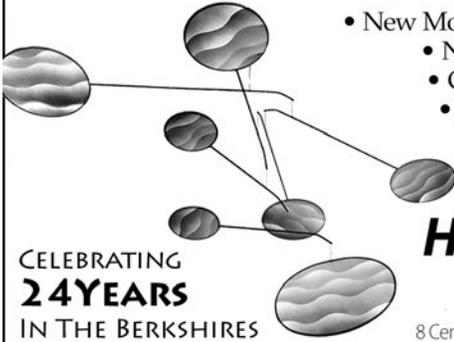
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West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:

In the 1890s, travel between towns was on dirt roads and not done casually. Rail was much more efficient but costly. Each of the towns was its own unique community, and a visit was an event instead of a casual chore (no running to Stop & Shop or Price Chopper for groceries). Interaction among residents, particularly the poorer ones, was limited.

In 1890 W.E.B. Du Bois was a student at Harvard (after graduating from Fisk University). As an assignment for his English 12 class, he wrote a short essay on a visit to West Stockbridge the year before. It offers an interesting perspective of our town.

"A pretty little hamlet, situated in an out of the way nook among the Berkshire Hills.

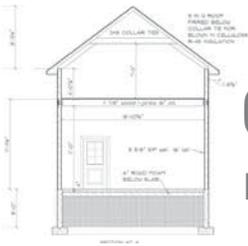
In accordance with the purpose of my visit, it looked dark and cheerless, and wading through mud and doing lots of unpleasant things. Next time I went there I was in a more cheerful state of mind and the single little thoroughfare straightened itself out into pretty country street which led out through a grassy field and sunny *hillocks* to where a great sumac overhung the road to Stockbridge.

My third visit was at night and I recollect the witchery of the gloaming, the drowsy street lamps, and my little companion.

I'm going 'again' to spend Christmas, I wonder how it will look this time."

We don't know the family he visited; nor is there is no indication of the grade he got on his essay.





On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

Questions and Answers...

Question: Can I plant **bushes close to the foundation** of my house?

Answer: Plantings around the foundation are a good way to soften the look of a house, but you need to be careful about how close they'll be to the wall. There needs to be an airflow around the foundation, so keep plants at least 16 inches or so from the wall, and check them periodically to trim them back, maintaining air flow. Failure to do this will result in mold on the house siding and other worse maintenance problems.

Q: Should I put **gutters** on my eaves?

A: I'm not a big fan of gutters. People rarely maintain them—clean them out—and they fill up with leaves, pine needles, etc. I've seen little trees growing in gutters! And then they get very heavy and start to pull on the fascia (trim boards to which gutters attach). And then there's the snow and ice buildup. And it's often difficult to put a ladder against gutters to access the roof.

However, in a few instances gutters are advisable, such as where the eave overhangs are small and rainwater washes over the siding. Or where rainwater pools around the foundation due to grading problems. Be sure to clean them a few times a year!

Q: What's that **dark uneven discoloration** on my shingles?

A: Most likely it's algae, especially on the north slope or in areas where there are trees overhanging the roof. The algae won't harm asphalt/fiberglass shingles. However, *moss* will! If you have moss and lichen growing on your roof, you need to remove it with a stiff brush. Mosses and lichens attach to the shingles by burrowing into the surface and will eventually delaminate and destroy the shingle.

Q: Should I **vent my attic** crawl space?

A: It's a good idea to vent an attic if the ceiling below is insulated and the attic is not. Gable-end vents, ridge vents, or cupolas can remove built-up moisture (which will condense in cooler weather and cause rot, etc.) and hot air. Make sure that the penetrations through the attic floor are well sealed with foam and the hatchway from below has a gasketed seal so the nice warm moist air from the living space doesn't migrate to the cold attic.

Q: I want to **hang a picture** but can't find a stud.

A: I once saw a bumper sticker on a carpenter's pickup: "It takes *studs* to build houses."

If the picture is not heavier than, say, 20 lbs., you don't really need to locate a stud (the framing member behind the wall surface, for those of you afraid to ask). There are some excellent devices like Sheetrock anchors or mollies available at your local hardware store (like Baldwin's, where you can get advice, too!). These devices are meant to penetrate the wall surface (usually Sheetrock/gypsum wallboard) and support a moderate downward weight without pulling out.

If you really need to find a stud (ahem), you can use a stud finder, a battery-powered device that senses changes in the density of materials. When you run it over the wall surface, it can tell whether there's something denser than air or insulation behind, usually a framing member. Or you can sometimes tell by tapping on the wall across a horizontal line. You'll note a change in sound when you get near a stud. Framing members in houses built, say, from the 1940s on, are usually 16 inches apart, or as we studs say, 16 inches on center. So if you find one, you can often locate the next few with a tape measure. Be aware that there are also wires behind the wall surface.

Please e-mail your questions to info@thelocalyokel.org.

Join us! Show 2017

Paint/Photo-Out: Lenox 2017



Original Painting of Lenox Town by Debbie Detwiler Smith

Tues. and Wed., Aug. 1 & 2,
9:30–noon:
Paint/Photograph
Together

Thurs., Aug. 3, 3–5 p.m.:
Submit Art Work to
Lenox Town Hall

Fri. and Sat., Aug. 4 & 5,
11–5
Show at Lenox Town
Hall

Sat., Aug. 5, 3–5 p.m.
Reception and Awarding
of Prizes

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

Celebrate Lenox and its 250th anniversary! Pick up an entry form/call for art/prospectus from the Lenox Historical Society, Lenox Chamber of Commerce, and submit entry and entry fee or online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090544a5a72ca7fa7-paintoutphoto001>

Tuesday & Wednesday, August 1 & 2, 9:30–noon
Paint/Photograph Together in the Center of Lenox. Have lunch together afterward in Lenox. All ages and all media welcome! Special prize for work done on these days.

Thursday, August 3, 3–5 p.m. Bring art or photo inspired by Lenox and ready to display to the Lenox Town Hall. (Your work doesn't have to be done this month, doesn't have to be realistic, but *must* be inspired by Lenox.) Sign waiver and write display tags with title, media, size, artist name, and price (or NFS for Not for Sale). Place your work in the Town Hall under the direction of the committee. Cost is \$20 for Lenox residents and Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists Guild members/ \$30 for others. Bring your work ready to display! All media is accepted (limited space for sculpture), but most artists can expect about 6 linear feet of display space. Work from children and teens under 18 celebrating Lenox is free.

Friday and Saturday, August 4 and 5, 11–5 p.m. Come see the show celebrating Lenox's 250th! Purchase your favorite work. Join us in nominating works for prizes!

Saturday, August 5, 3–5 p.m. Reception and prizes awarded at Town Hall.

Meet the Artist 2017

Marcelene Mosca

Marcelene
Mosca

Abstract Artist



Tues., August 22
3–5 p.m.

The Little Gallery
and Studio

29 Church St., Lenox
(behind Wit Gallery)

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

Join Marcelene Mosca on Tuesday, August 22, at the Little Gallery and Studio, 29 Church St., Lenox (behind Wit Gallery) from 3 to 5 p.m. for an informal discussion. Please bring a small stool. You will be able to ask her questions. RSVP: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090544a5a72ca7fa7-meet> or if necessary kcarmean@gmail.com.

Marcelene has been an artist, teacher, and poet for more than 30 years. Many of her paintings (watercolor, oil, mixed media) include lines from her poems. Her new work is growing more abstract and is inspired by what she sees around her. Marcelene has a book manuscript that includes selected poems and paintings. She is a member of the Art Students League of New York and of the Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild. She has exhibited at Gramercy Arts Club and various shows at the Art Students League in New York City and in the Berkshires.

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Come share your memories of West Stockbridge in the 1970s — and view our great new collection of period photographs!

The West Stockbridge Historical Society presents:



VIEWS OF WEST STOCKBRIDGE IN THE 1970s

Thursday, August 17, 2017

7:00 pm

1854 Town Hall

A walk through West Stockbridge 40 years ago presented a very different town than what we see today. And not just the lack of VW Bugs or “woody” station wagons!

Come enjoy a slideshow selection of our newest collection of the town center from the 1970’s. Share your own stories about the people - the “characters” that made our community unique.

Free and open to the public. Reception to follow.



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Fire Department

LOG FOR JUNE

By Peter Skorput, Fire Chief

Date	Time	Nature of Call
6/10	4:10 p.m.	Medical
6/16	10:52 a.m.	Medical
6/16	10:56 a.m.	False call
6/17	6:26 a.m.	Medical
6/18	8:28 p.m.	Medical
6/20	7:41 a.m.	Medical
6/21	5:07 p.m.	Auto alarm
6/25	4:50 p.m.	Medical
6/26	3:53 p.m.	Motor vehicle accident
6/27	9:17 p.m.	Medical
6/30	9:56 a.m.	Medical

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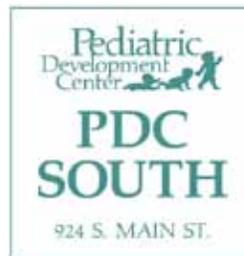
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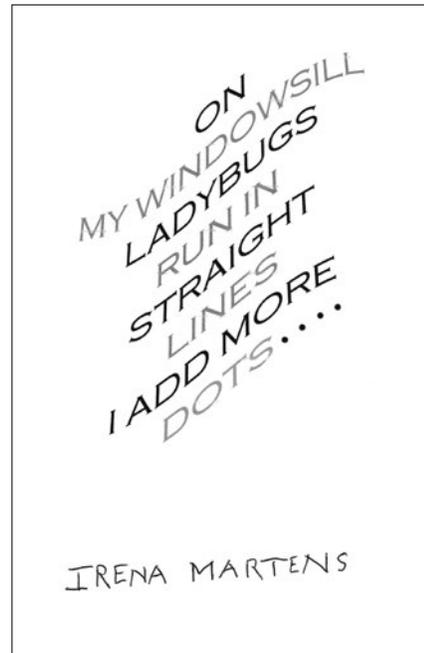
Poet's Corner

Do you live or work in West Stockbridge and love poetry? Karen Carmean and Mary Howard will be considering original poems for publication in our latest feature, the Poet's Corner. If you know other poets, please pass the word along. Kids are also invited to participate. Adults, please encourage any budding poets you know! Poetry can offer a sense of wonder, joy, surprise, and a new way of looking at the world. All topics and styles by West Stockbridge poets of any age are welcome! Please send submissions to info@thelocalyokel.org.

The Trumpet Tree

I see this.
I am here.
Turquoise feathered birds
perch on tree branches in between
yellow orange Trumpet Flowers.
No leaves.
Flowers and birds only.
Turquoise – Yellow – Orange.
The ultramarine sky above holds everything in place.
Of course it doesn't last.
The flowers begin to close ever so slightly
in the slowest of motions.
Anguished wailing sounds escape
from the tightening Trumpets
as they move backwards into bumps
on their velvet skinned branches
announcing the demise of the
Fata Morgana.
Back to the beginning – Back to nothingness
I see this
I am here
I rotate my wings as fast as I can
away from the Trumpet Tree.

Irena Martens





WS Farmers Market Thursdays 3-7 p.m. Don't Miss It!



Celebrate the Visual Arts in August 2017

August Art Calendar

Art Demonstration and Business Meeting. Aug. 2. Schedule: 4 p.m., seminar and demonstration; 5:30-6:45 p.m., business meeting planning for 1854 Town Hall show. West Stockbridge Town Offices

First Fridays Artswalk. Fri., Aug. 4, 5-8 p.m.
www.firstfridaysartwalk.com

Lenox Paint/Photo-OUT Show. August 4 and 5, 10-5 p.m.
Reception Saturday 3-5 p.m. Lenox Town Hall

Narrative Figure Painting. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
\$20 members/\$30 others to pay for model. RSVP
ach022050@gmail.com

Still Life Painting. Mon., Aug. 7, 1-3 p.m. RSVP
carolgkelly@hotmail.com

Positive Critique. Thurs., Aug. 10, 4-6 p.m. Bring 2-3 pieces of your art. West Stockbridge Town Offices. Get advice for 1854 Town Hall show in late August. RSVP for required reading

Art Studio Tour. Saturdays, Aug. 12, Sept. 16, and Oct. 7, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Hosts: Helen Febbo & Palma Fleck

Member Potluck. Sun., Aug 20, in Richmond. Bring main dish, hors d'oeuvres, or dessert for 10 and what you want to drink. Partners welcome. RSVP for address

Meet the Artist: Marcelene Mosca: Abstract Painter. Tues., Aug. 22, 3-5 p.m., The Little Gallery & Studio, 29 Church St. (behind Wit Gallery), Lenox. Bring a stool

1854 Town Hall West Stockbridge Show. Thurs., Aug. 24 to Sun., Aug. 27, and Thurs., Aug. 31, to Sun., Sept. 3.

Art Book Gathering. Fri., Aug. 25, 3:30-5 p.m. Share a favorite book: artist, process. Shaker Dam Books, West Stockbridge. Host Mark Mellinger

Alford Celebration and Paint OUT/ Photo OUT Show. Aug. 26 and 27, 1-5 p.m. Work due Fri., Aug. 25, 10-noon; pickup Mon., Aug. 26. Alford Church, Alford Center Road, Alford.

**Richmond-West Stockbridge
Artists' Guild
RSVP: rwsag.org, "Our Programs."
See Facebook**

THE RICHMOND-WEST STOCKBRIDGE ARTISTS' GUILD

**AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2017
FINE ART SHOW**

**1854 TOWN HALL
9 MAIN STREET
WEST STOCKBRIDGE, MA**

**AUG 24-27
AUG 31-SEPT 3**

GALLERY HOURS
THURS & FRI AUG 24, 25, 31 and SEPT 1 • 3 to 7pm
SATURDAYS AUG 26 and SEPT 2 • noon to 7pm
SUNDAYS AUG 27 and SEPT 3 • noon to 3pm

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.rwsag.org • info@rwsag.org

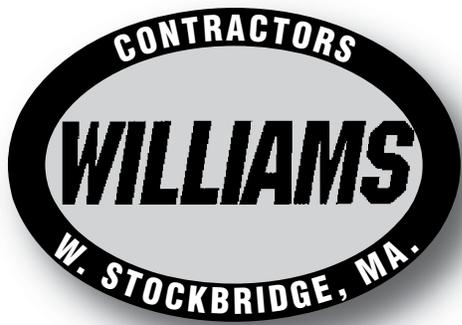
Follow the signs! to the Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists Guild

Studio Tour

Meet 22 local artists in 12 studios
August 12 • 11 am - 5 pm

Use Google Maps or the QR code below to locate each studio

Mark Mellinger - acrylic 29 Church St. Lenox MA	Karen Anderson - watercolor 29 Church St. Lenox MA	Marcelene Mosca - mixed media 29 Church St. Lenox MA
Laura Hays - mixed media 29 Church St. Lenox MA	Linda Klein - sculpture 29 Church St. Lenox MA	Bernadette Harrison - photography 29 Church St. Lenox MA
Palma Fleck - sculpture 29 Church St. Lenox MA	Carol Kelly - mixed media 29 Church St. Lenox MA	Yvonne Baker - mixed media 29 Church St. Lenox MA
John Kelly - mixed media 29 Church St. Lenox MA	John Kelly - mixed media 29 Church St. Lenox MA	John Kelly - mixed media 29 Church St. Lenox MA



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OBSERVANT JEWS
NON-HEBREW-READING JEWS
PASSIONATE JEWS
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Community News & Events

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

No public dinner will be served at the Stockbridge Grange in August. The dinners will resume in September.

Council on Aging Picnic

The West Stockbridge Council on Aging is having a picnic with the Richmond Council on Aging at the Richmond firehouse on Friday, August 25, at noon. Please bring either a salad or dessert. Drinks will be provided. We are looking forward to seeing you there and making new friends.

Congregational Church: Bake Sale, Seeking Volunteers

The West Stockbridge Congregational Church will hold its fourth bake sale for 2017 on Saturday, August 19. The sale will be held in front of Baldwin's Extracts, 1 Center Street, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The West Stockbridge Congregational Church is looking for volunteers interested in helping with the town Halloween party. Please e-mail wscongregationalchurch@gmail.com for more information.

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.

Transfer Station Art

Attendant Wayne Cooper has assembled an eclectic and growing collection of objets d'art for his own enjoyment and for visitors to the Transfer Station. Observing that discarded objects can still bring a smile, Wayne says, "People love it!" Residents are invited to donate items for the display, but he asks that the items already there are left in place for others to enjoy.



Left: Transfer station art. Photo by Bob Gittleman

Top: Wayne Cooper shows off his collection. Photo by John Parker

Right: Photo by John Parker

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Donor Roll Call ~ August

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

Every issue costs us about \$1,000 to print and distribute!

Please help us keep the Local Yokel coming!

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

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Town Government Boards and Commissions, Phone Directory, and Office Hours

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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, Curt G. Wilton</i>			
Administrative Assistant	<i>Mark Webber</i>	232-0300	ext. 319	Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Building Inspector	<i>Brian Duval</i>	232-0300	ext. 313	Sat. 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
Conservation Commission	<i>Jennifer Kujawski, Lori Rose</i>	232-0300	ext. 338	Leave Message for Inquiries
Council on Aging	<i>John Zick</i>	232-0300	ext. 340	Leave Message for Inquiries
Emergency Management	<i>Louis Oggiani</i>	528-2175		
Fire Department	<i>Peter Skorput</i>	232-4200 (non-emergency)		Mon. 6:30–9 p.m.
Highway Department	<i>Curt G. Wilton</i>	232-0305		Leave Message for Inquiries
Library	<i>Lee Appelbaum</i>	232-0300	ext. 308	Tues. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Wed., Thurs., and Fri. 2–6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; closed Sun. & Mon.
Police Department	<i>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: weststockbridgetown.com



Memorial Held for Felix the Cat

Friends of Felix Baldwin gathered at the Phoenix Courtyard Garden at 12 Main Street on July 2 to share stories and celebrate the life of the friendly feline and “cat about town.” A marker was placed just inside the sidewalk fence where Felix rests in peace at his favorite napping place in the garden. Fans of Felix may post photos and remembrances on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/WestStockbridge/photos/>.



Top right: Felix memorial marker. Above: Friends of Felix gather to reminisce. Photos courtesy of Joe Roy, Jr.

Artists’ Guild Recreates the Masters

By Carolyn Kay Brancato

The Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists’ Guild (RWSAG) is recreating famous paintings. Guild board member Adrian Holmes organized a series of live model sessions in staged settings that bring to life famous paintings. Originally from London, Adrian came to the United States in the 1970s where he has worked as a graphics designer and artist, painting primarily watercolors and focusing on narrative art.

A recent narrative art project involved *The Lady of Shalott*, an 1888 painting by John William Waterhouse, based on the 1832 Tennyson poem. The lady in the painting was doomed to see life only through a mirror, but dared to look upon Sir Lancelot and was cursed. She leaves her tower to sail in a boat toward Camelot, where she is found frozen on a riverbank.

Guild members Carol Kelly sewed the lady’s costume and Howard Greenhalgh helped Adrian construct the set, complete with important metaphorical details from the original painting such as the boat, the lantern in the bow, and the all-important reflection in the water, achieved with clever use of mirrors. Hudson-based professional model Vera Vinot posed for several three-hour sittings, during which guild artists painted to recreate their own masterpieces. The next project was the *Lady of Shalott* at her spinning wheel, in front of her mirror.

To participate in these live model narrative painting sessions, you can join the Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists’ Guild at www.rwsag.org.

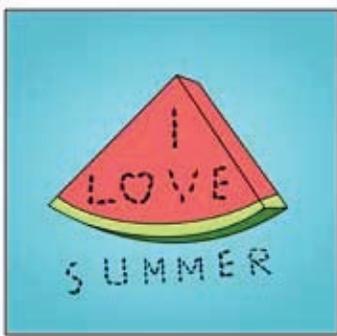
Top: Adrian Holmes painting the Lady of Shalott at her spinning wheel. Photo by Carolyn Kay Brancato

Left: Model Vera Vinot posed as the Lady of Shalott. Photo by Carolyn Kay Brancato



West Stockbridge
Local Yokel
 P.O. Box 238
 West Stockbridge, MA
 01266

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2



August 2017 Calendar of Events

8/2	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
8/3	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
8/3	Board of Health meeting	6:30 p.m.	Town Offices
8/7	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
8/8	American Legion	7 p.m.	Town Offices
8/9	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
8/10	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
8/15	*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***		send to info@thelocalyokel.org
8/16	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
8/17	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
8/17	Views of West Stockbridge in the 1970s	7 p.m.	Old Town Hall
8/19	W.S. Congregational Church Bake Sale	9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	In front of Baldwin's Extracts, 1 Center St.
8/21	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
8/23	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
8/24	RWSAG Fine Art Show	Thurs., Fri., 3-7 p.m. Sat., 12-6 p.m. Sun., 12-3 p.m.	Old Town Hall
8/24	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
8/25	W.S. / Richmond COA Picnic	12 noon	Richmond Firehouse
8/30	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
8/31	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
8/31	Eid al-Adha begins at sundown		