

Owl Light

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April 2019

News



Gun laws in NYS -



New, tougher regulations: Part 1

by Len Geller

For the first time in six years, the New York State Legislature has passed major gun control legislation, seven bills in all, including a controversial “red flag law,” one that bans bump stocks, one that prohibits school teachers and administrators from carrying guns in school, and another that extends the waiting period for gun buyers whose background check is inconclusive and delayed. One bill would allow authorities to review the mental health records of out-of-state applicants for gun permits in New York, and another bill would create local gun buyback programs throughout the state. A final bill, passed early in March 2019 (the other six were passed in January 2019), would require the safe storage of firearms in households with children under 16 years of age.

Except for a 2018 law that removes rifles and shotguns from domestic abusers, closing a loophole that applied only to handguns, Democrats in the legislature had been stymied for six years from passing post-Safe Act gun control legislation by a Senate coalition of Republicans and breakaway Democrats known as the Independent Democratic Conference (IDC). In addition, another Democratic senator, Simcha Felder, a non-member of the IDC, caucused and voted regularly with the Senate Republicans, so that even when the IDC disbanded in 2018, the Republican opposition including Felder still held a 32-31 advantage in the Senate and an even larger voting advantage with former members of the IDC still on their side.

What changed for 2019? Frustrated for years by Felder and the IDC, Governor Cuomo and the Democrats successfully targeted former IDC members with primary challenges in 2018, defeating six of the eight members with progressive candidates. In addition, the Democrats added eight additional Senate seats in

the 2018 midterm election to increase their advantage to 39-23 (excluding Felder) and finally took firm control of both houses of government for the first time in six years. The result predictably has been a whirlwind of new legislation, especially on gun violence and gun control. Of the seven new bills, five close loopholes in the law, one is concerned with school safety, and one provides incentives to reduce the number of illegal guns in the state.

Red Flag Law

Red flag laws are measures that allow a court to issue an extreme risk protection order (ERPO) prohibiting an individual judged to be a violent threat to themselves or others from temporarily possessing or purchasing a firearm. Prior to the 2018 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, only five states (California, Connecticut, Indiana, Oregon, and Washington) had red flag laws on the books, but since the Parkland massacre, eight more states (Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Vermont) plus the District of Columbia had joined them in 2018. New York becomes the 14th state to enact such a law.

The implementation of red flag laws varies by state. Some states like Connecticut, Indiana, and Florida allow only law enforcement officials to petition the court for an ERPO, while others like California, Oregon, and Washington expand the category of petitioners to include family and household members as well. The New York law expands that even more to include school administrators or their designee, such as a teacher, guidance counselor, psychologist, social worker or nurse.

How does New York’s red flag work? The process has two stages. In stage one, if a family member, law enforcement official, or school administrator or their designee has good reason to believe that an individual (student or adult) is a threat to harm themselves or others, he or she can petition the court for a temporary ERPO that would remove all of the guns the subject possesses or has access to and prohibit the subject from attempting to purchase or possess any firearm while the order is in effect. In the second stage, if the court grants the temporary order, it will inform the subject that it will hold a hearing in three to six business days to determine if a permanent ERPO will be issued. At this stage, the court will advise the subject to consult an attorney for legal advice and be prepared to provide evidence that they are not a threat to harm themselves or others. If requested, and the request is reasonable, the defendant can have more time to prepare for the hearing. If a permanent ERPO is issued, it can be for any period up to a year; however, during this period, the subject has the right to one appeal hearing to set aside the order. Once the ERPO expires, the subject must submit a written request to the court to have his or her

Continued page 4

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Owl Light Contributors Monthly Columns

"That Finger Lakes Sound" and "Bee Lines" are taking a break; they will be back soon!!



T. Touris ~ The Light Lens
T. Touris is a wanna-be-retired-computer-programmer. He spends his free time designing and working in wood, while dreaming up the next Light Lens.

Doug Garnar
Doug Garnar works with the Kettering Foundation and NIFI (National Issues Forums Institute) to help citizens find "pathways to democracy." He has taught since 1971 at SUNY Broome Community College. He lives in Binghamton, New York. garnardc@sunybroome.edu



Dee Sharples ~The Night Sky
Dee Sharples is an amateur astronomer who enjoys observing planets, star clusters and the Moon through her telescope. She is a member of ASRAS (Astronomy Section of the Rochester Academy of Science) and records "Dee's Sky This Month," describing what can be seen in the sky, on the ASRAS website, rochesterastronomy.org. Watch for her monthly *Owl Light* feature to learn more about the night sky.

Derrick Gentry ~ Homestead Gardener
Derrick Gentry lives in Canadice with his wife and son, and numerous furred and feathered friends. He teaches in the Humanities Department at Finger Lakes Community College. Derrick.Gentry@fccc.edu



Steve Melcher ~ Dragonfly Tales
Steve Melcher is the primary caretaker, hoof trimmer & poop scooper at Odonata Sanctuary in Mendon. His studies at Harvard and University of Delaware included using members of the Order "Odonata," as bioindicators of freshwater ecosystems. He has written/coauthored in journals, magazines, and books re: environmental literacy and ecological issues. Steve now works with environmental and educational organizations whose goal is to have "no child left inside". *Learn more at fb Odonata Sanctuary.*

Guest Contributors

Len Geller ~ Gun laws in NYS(non-fiction) ~ Front
Len Geller is a free-lance writer who has a keen interest in New York politics. He has contributed in the past on articles related to the Safe Act and the proposed Romulus, NY trash incineration He lives in Seneca County.

Renee Thornton
"Spring's Reclamation" (poem)
Page 6

Gavin Spanagel
"You're the Cat" (poem)
Page 14

Georgeanne Vyverberg ~ "Easter Bunnies" ~ Page 5
Georgeanne has been fascinated by plants ever since a neighbor gave her some flower seeds when she was very young. The magic of watching them sprout into beautiful flowers has become a lifetime of wonderment. She lives in Honeoye Falls with her canine and feline friends, small flock of chickens and more recently a rabbit, or two.

Ken Bristol
At The Late Night Double Feature Picture Show (non-fiction) **Page14**

Omission:
We neglected to include Jim Reed's bio last issue in print - we have included it here and in our online posting of - "Tilia Americana"? Thanks Jim for the lovely poem, and sorry for the bio omission.

Jim Reed
Jim Reed settled in Canandaigua two years ago after retiring from from Unity College in Maine, where he was a Professor of Environmental Humanities. He enjoys cycling, hiking, and traveling often at "home" and abroad, both alone and with his wife.

The last minute submission deadline for Owl Light News is the 21st of each month for the next month's issue. Sooner is better!

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Ben Haravitch~That Finger Lakes Sound
Ben currently lives in Warsaw, NY.He teaches banjo, records music made by his friends, and performs with a variety of roots-based bands throughout the Finger Lakes region. To learn more about what Ben is up to visit: www.benharavitch.com/ or fb Ben Haravitch Music. He can be contacted at ben@benharavitch.com.

Mary Drake ~ The Monthly Review
Mary Drake is a novelist and freelance writer living in western New York. Visit her online at marydrake.org to learn more about her books.

Kade Bentley ~ Kade in the Kitchen
Kade Bentley has collected experience from commercial kitchens, vegetarian and vegan collective living, organic farming, and a general love of food. They can cook for one or 100. As a "kitchen witch," they believe that how and with what we sustain ourselves has a spiritual significance, and sees eating and cooking as agricultural acts. They support small farms, the right to whole nutritious food, generous use of butter and coconut oil, and the creation of a more just food system.

Sky Trombly ~ Simple Sustainability
Sky has been something of a sustainability nerd for most of her life, Sky Trombly's goal is to empower herself and others to live in a way that is congruent with personal values - and intimately linked to the Earth. You can join her in her wanderings through the quagmire of sustainable living in every issue of *Owl Light News*, and on her blog - talkwalking.org.



Sam Hall ~Bee Lines
Sam Hall is a Western NY beekeeper who first worked bees as a child growing up on a "dirt farm" in Allegany County, NY. He has kept bees for most of his adult life and believes that his mistakes "far outnumber his successes."

The Conscious Crow ~Reminding you to grow!
Page 16

Joy Lewis ~ Richmond History
Page 19
Every other issue
Joy Lewis has served as Town of Richmond, Historian since 2013.

Owl Light News

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Seeing more to see change

~ Notes from the editor

Taking a quick look is at times a nice way to view the world. The longer we look, the more we end up seeing. What we see is not always pleasant. We have watched the film adaptation of *Cloud Atlas*, directed by Lana and Lilly Wachowski and Tom Tykwer, a couple times now. I am currently reading the namesake novel *Cloud Atlas* by British author David Mitchell (published in 2004). *Cloud Atlas* is a series of "nested" stories that take the reader from the remote South Pacific in the nineteenth century to a distant post-apocalyptic future. There are still parts of this story that make me want to take another look, and I am hoping that the story in print fills in some of the missing pieces – perhaps it will merely conjure more questions. I prefer to read first, view later, so suspect my earlier viewing will flavor the read.

I also just finished reading Ursula K. LeGuin's *The Lathe of Heaven* (on Kindle, since our dog ate the physical copy my son lent me). Again, there are layers of complexity here – in which time and place changes instantaneously, as the main character dreams reality into being. George Orr has a dream problem, and Dr. Haber, a dream specialist, tries to harness his cursed gift to make all right in the world. There was a 1980 film adaptation of the novel (directed by David Loxton). A&E reproduced a network film adaptation in 2002 (written and directed by Alan Sharpe and Philip Haas). I plan to view these films soon – each will, I am sure, deepen and enlighten the complexity that LeGuin's vision has created.

I followed my read of *The Lathe of Heaven* with Ursula K. Le Guin: Conversations on Writing, a collaborative work built from interviews with David Naimon. LeGuin's responses to Naimon's questions leave me wanting to see more of her worlds – of all created worlds – even if they are a bit disturbing to see.

As the Conscious Crow pointed out in her March *Owl Light News* reflections, no matter how much we see and know, we continue to ask the same questions: "What is the world that we live in and what is the nature of our being?" I have a print of "Three Worlds," a lithograph by the Dutch artist M. C. Escher that was first printed in December 1955. The print hangs where I can see it when I first wake in the morning – as I linger in the mist between dreams and reality. We woke the other morning and started talking about Escher's art, and the ways in which he manipulated images to play with our minds – not very nice when you look at it that way, but really what all of the creators who float into and texture our spheres of experience do. I thought again of Escher's image later that same day as, walking on a forested trail beside a waterfall, I photographed the ice far below and the snow scattered with oak leaves, visible as leaves only later, when I pulled up the photo and took another look.

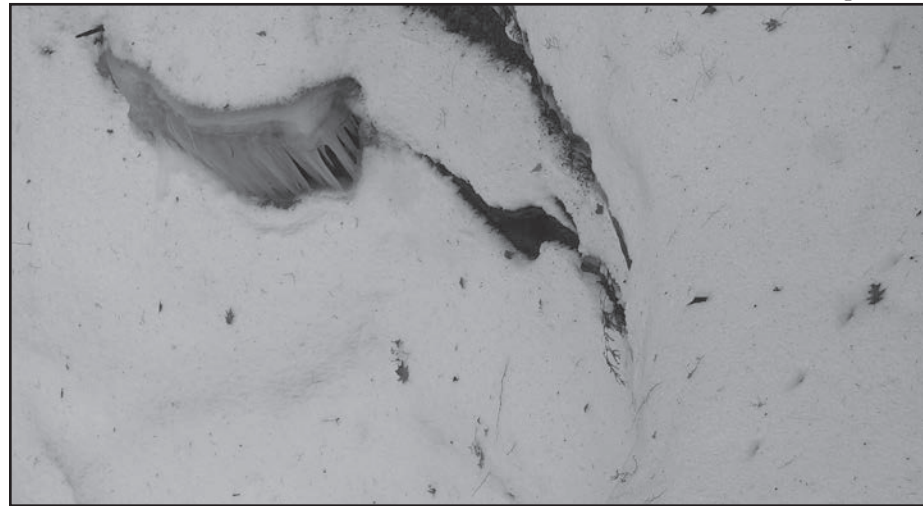
For me, taking a closer look recently has meant looking carefully at the victims of the Ethiopian Airlines crash on March 10, 2019 that took the lives of 157 people - and changed forever the lives of thousands more in a outward unraveling circle of influence.

It has meant, also, taking a closer look at the names of those killed and injured in New Zealand at the Masjid Al Noor and Linwood Masjid Christchurch mosques, as people gathered for prayer. Of all the senseless acts of violence, violence like this, that targets people at the heart of their personal beliefs, at the heart of community, are the most challenging to understand. These shooters want media attention and I am so glad that New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has vowed *never* to say the name of the Christchurch mosque gunman. That should be a common approach, given that these types of things often inspire other similar senseless acts, including, perhaps, the tram attack in the central city of Utrecht, Netherlands on March 18, 2019 - that killed three people and left three others seriously wounded.

In the April issue of *Owl Light News*, guest author Len Geller, who wrote an earlier related piece – "Gun Control and the Safe Act" – takes another look at the complex and perplexing topic of gun deaths and gun control following recently enacted and proposed gun-related laws in New York State. These changes follow in the wake of additional domestic gun-involved acts of harm. So much of our news is offered and consumed in short segments that do not provide us an opportunity to explore the issues – even very complex issues – from many perspectives. Any contemporary social issue, certainly gun control, is seen differently by each and every one of us – depending on the petrified layers of experience that, like the living matter beneath our feet, accumulate and solidify our views.

We all like pleasant images, pleasant dreams to guide us through our lives. Taking one more look at gun control might not be the most pleasant way to transition into spring. Still, spring is about change and renewal. We all want to be happy and for those we care about to be happy – and safe. There are no perfect solutions, but exploring options and taking actions – dreaming and imagining change — is, after all, all we can do.

D.E. Bentley
Editor, *Owl Light News*



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Letters from Owl Light Readers

~Ask questions first, shoot later

When I read the Second Amendment of the Constitution, I reach a conclusion different from other widely accepted opinions. The Amendment begins with the words, "A well regulated Militia . . .". Those words link the right to bear arms to maintaining a Militia, and the only way to regulate well that Militia is to document and control who has guns, how many guns, and what types of guns. Regulation does not prevent ownership of guns; it simply provides accountability. People have the right to vote, but you can't just walk into a polling place and vote. You must register beforehand and sign your name as proof that you voted. People have the right to assemble, but your group has to get a permit first. If the founding fathers wanted to protect unfettered ownership of guns, they could have adopted language that was simpler and less ambiguous, such as omitting all the words in the Amendment that precede ". . . the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed".

We no longer live in a pastoral country of small farms and villages nor in the wide open spaces of the wild, wild West. Today, our nation is complex, crowded, and highly mobile. We bump into each other frequently. In order to minimize conflict from all that bumping, we live in a society that is paradoxically free and defined by limits and boundaries. Even our constitutionally protected rights fall within limits. A good test of the limits on our rights is to ask how much harm is caused by the misuse of our rights. Guns pose potentially great harm. More stringent requirements on exercising the right to keep and bear arms are reasonable compared to exercising other rights, such as voting or assembling. Registration, age limits, background checks, and gun safety classes can all be acceptable limits on our right to a gun without denying that right.

Gun advocates want unrestricted access to guns. Guns present a greater danger than alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and automobiles, yet we put more restrictions on those other items than we do on guns. The passion over gun rights has to do with a distrust of government. This nation was formed by a rebellion against our unjust mother country, England. And we need to be armed and prepared to revolt again if our current government becomes tyrannical. I agree with this argument, but for me, it does not contradict the necessity for basic and sensible limitations on the right to bear arms.

Ken Bristol
Leicester, NY
March 7, 2019

~A letter to Richmond Town residents

Dear Richmond Residents,

With spring just around the corner, a number of infrastructure projects are on the near horizon.

This spring, a large culvert will be replaced on Allens Hill Road to reduce the risk of future damage to critical commuter infrastructure. This project is now out to bid, with an anticipated construction start date late in April 2019.

A bank stabilization and stream restoration project on Mill Creek is slated to start in June 2019. This project has been designed in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District to reduce sediment in the Mill Creek Stream Channel. Added benefits of the project will be wildlife habitat and safe walking trails.

In July 2019, a project is scheduled to begin at Sandy Bottom Park that will stabilize 150 feet of Honeoye Lake shoreline adjacent to the public swimming area. The stabilization will involve the construction of a series of soil lifts, protected by erosion control fabric and native plantings. Large rocks will be placed in the water in front of these structures. The project, administered through the Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District, is funded through state grants and local match. This is a pilot project for Nature Based Best Practices for shoreline erosion.

The Town of Richmond has also embarked on a multi-year Forest Stewardship Plan to manage the Wetland Forest including an ash tree salvage sale within Sandy Bottom Park. The Ash trees have been severely damaged by emerald ash borer. Ash trees that pose a risk to the walking public and park infrastructure are now being removed and sent to a salvage sale, with the goal of keeping the park safe for visitors and protecting park infrastructure. Please look for and follow any park closure signs posted for your safety while logging operations are underway for the next two to five weeks.

Restoring the forest will be an ongoing process for the next three years. With the support of Richmond's Parks and Recreation Committee and Friends of Sandy Bottom Park, the Town has secured a Trees for Tributaries Grant to replant Sandy Bottom Park with native species, following a NYSDEC Forest Stewardship Plan. Volunteers will be needed for the following planting dates:

Arbor Day: April 26, 2019; Love Your Park Day: May 4, 2019;

National Trails Day: June 1, 2019; Make a Difference Day: October 26, 2019

For more information on the above projects, please visit the Project Information page at TownofRichmond.org. Park updates and forthcoming information on tree replanting days can also be obtained by following @TownofRichmond and @FriendsofSandyBottomPark on Facebook.

Sincerely,
Caroline Sauers
Richmond Town Supervisor

Byrnes shoots down gun control legislation

A statement from Assemblywoman Marjorie Byrnes (R,C-Caledonia) on the passage of recent gun control laws.

"Gov. Cuomo is jumping the gun once again by passing the Red Flag Bill, another piece of legislation created without enough evidence to support it. This law would allow police to confiscate weapons from individuals who have been deemed dangerous, or from individuals who live with someone who has been deemed dangerous, without due process. The lawful owner then has the burden to prove the firearm is lawfully owned by him or her, and shifts the burden of proof to a non-party. If the lawful owner is not present during the seizure of their firearms, there are no provisions to notify the owner of the seizure. While it is important to appropriately handle risks, we need to protect the rights of lawful and responsible gun owners."

Submitted March 4, 2019

Gun laws from front

guns returned, and the court must share this request with the original petitioner and law enforcement. If the petitioner or law enforcement requests a renewal of the permanent ERPO because they believe the subject is still a danger to themselves or others, the entire process will be repeated.

Prior to the Red Flag Bill, family and household members, school officials, and law enforcement in New York were powerless to prevent a disturbed and potentially violent individual from legally purchasing and possessing a firearm unless he or she was a convicted felon, wanted for a felony or other serious crimes, convicted of a limited number of serious misdemeanor offenses (like domestic violence), had a verifiable history of mental illness, or was on the state's mental health database. In targeting dangerous individuals that fall outside these categories, the Red Flag Law is designed to reduce this gaping loophole, but of course the loophole will never be fully closed because the law's success depends on feedback from family and friends and on rigorous enforcement by the police, neither of which is foolproof.

Not surprisingly, gun rights groups like the NRA and its allies are strongly opposed to red flag laws because they allegedly violate the Second Amendment and the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. But defenders of New York's Red Flag Law emphatically deny this. The Second Amendment (the right to bear arms), they argue, is not absolute and clearly admits of exceptions and qualifications. If there is good reason to deprive non-adults, convicted felons, and the mentally ill of access to guns, it certainly makes good sense to prohibit such access to emotionally disturbed individuals who exhibit clear warning signs of violent behavior. Such warning signs can include a history of abuse, harassment, and bullying, blaming and scapegoating others, threats of violence against specific individuals or groups, anger management problems, suicidal and homicidal fantasies, and mental health problems such as paranoia, schizophrenia, and other delusional ideation.

Supporters of New York's Red Flag Law also argue that the law does not deprive citizens of their due process rights. Any citizen against whom a temporary ERPO has been issued has the right to defend him or herself in the second stage of the process. They

have a right to legal counsel and the opportunity to persuade the court with compelling evidence to overturn the protection order, and even if they lose in court, they still have the right to an appeal hearing in the future. If an individual is the victim of a false or vindictive accusation, he or she has the opportunity to challenge and disprove the charges.

Opponents of the law also argue that issuing a temporary ERPO violates the fundamental legal right of the presumption of innocence because it assumes a person is guilty and allows confiscation of his or her firearms prior to any hearing. In response, defenders of the law claim that the issuance of a temporary ERPO presumes neither the guilt nor innocence of the defendant. Instead, it follows the maxim "better safe than sorry" and takes a "wait and see" approach followed by a hearing in which the defendant is presumed innocent, and the burden of proof falls on the government to prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt. Like laws that prohibit convicted felons and the mentally ill from purchasing and possessing guns, red flag laws are designed to prevent crime not to punish law-abiding citizens. That is why it is imperative to issue and enforce a temporary ERPO as soon as possible, since waiting another week or two may be too late. The imminent threat of gun violence against self or others requires immediate action; otherwise, the law is ineffectual and pointless.

Do red flag laws work? There is compelling evidence that they do, but not in the way most of us would expect. In a recent study of the effects of red flag laws in Connecticut and Indiana, the two states with the longest history of such laws, what stands out is not the effect on gun homicide rates but the effect on gun suicide rates. What the study found is that Indiana saw a 7.5% decrease in gun suicides in the ten-year period following the enactment of the law in 2005, while there was no significant increase or decrease in non-gun suicides in the same period. In Connecticut there was only a 1.6% decrease in gun suicides in the first eight years following the law's enactment in 1999, but a whopping 13.7% decrease in the eight-year period after the Virginia Tech mass shooting of 2007. In a 2017 study of Connecticut's Red Flag Law, researchers found that one suicide was averted for every eleven gun removals.

Continued on back

Regional Reflections

State Legislature unanimously passes legislation to stop waste incinerators in the Finger Lakes

Governor publicly came out against the incinerator; Finger Lakes residents call on him to sign the bill into law ~ Incinerator opposed by 500+ businesses, environmental organizations and local governments.

The week after the New York State Assembly unanimously passed legislation to stop toxic incinerators in the Finger Lakes, the Senate joined suit also passing the legislation unanimously today, giving the Governor the opportunity to protect the region. Hundreds of local businesses, environmental organizations and local governments oppose waste incinerators in the Finger Lakes.

Last year, Governor Cuomo said that a proposed Finger Lakes "incinerator project is not consistent with my administration's goals for protecting our public health, our environment, and our thriving agriculture-based economy in the Finger Lakes." The dozens of local businesses and groups supporting the legislation are hopeful that the Governor will make good on his opposition to the proposed incinerator and sign the legislation, which would prohibit construction of trash incinerators in the Finger Lakes Watershed.

The legislation, S2270 in the Senate and A5029 in the Assembly, would squash Circular enerG's proposal to build one of the state's largest waste incinerators at the former Seneca Army Depot in Romulus, New York – in the heart of Finger Lakes Wine Country.

The town of Romulus, elected officials, residents and advocates applauded the legislature for passing the bill and have opposed the trash incinerator proposal due to concerns about its impact on community health, the environment, and the local economy. They emphasized that the incinerator is not a good economic deal for the area.

"The Legislature has come together in a bi-partisan fashion to protect the Finger Lakes from this toxic incinerator," said Joseph Campbell, President of Seneca Lake Guardian. "A broad coalition of environmental groups, businesses and local and regional governments support this bill because the proposed incinerator would harm the environment and threaten the growing winery and tourism industries. Senators Rachel May and Pam Helming and Assembly Members Cusick, Kolb, Lifton and Palmesano have shown themselves to be tremendous advocates on this issue. We urge Governor Cuomo to sign this bill so we can put this outrageous proposal behind us and go back to growing the Finger Lakes economy."

The Senate bill was sponsored by Senator Rachel May and co-sponsored by Senators Pam Helming, Tom O'Mara, Brad Hoylman and Rich Funke. In the Assembly, it was sponsored by Assemblymember Michael Cusick and co-sponsored by Assemblymembers Barbara Lifton, Phil Palmesano, Brian Kolb, Carrier Woerner, Donna Lupardo, Fred Thiele, Deborah Glick and Gary Finch. Aside from the incinerator company itself, no organizations have opposed the legislation. More info. at <https://senecalakeguardian.org/Romulus-Incinerator>.

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DISPOSE - drop off and unwanted/unused and expired medication to your local disposal site



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Phelps
Community Center

Geneva
North Street Pharmacy
Police Station

Canandaigua
FLCC (Keuka Wing)
The Medicine Shop

Shortsville/Manchester
Red Jacket Pharmacy

Rushville
Village Hall

Ontario County DMV Office
Thompson Hospital (lobby)
Mental Health Clinic
Police Station (lobby)

Farmington
State Troopers

Victor
Mead Square Pharmacy

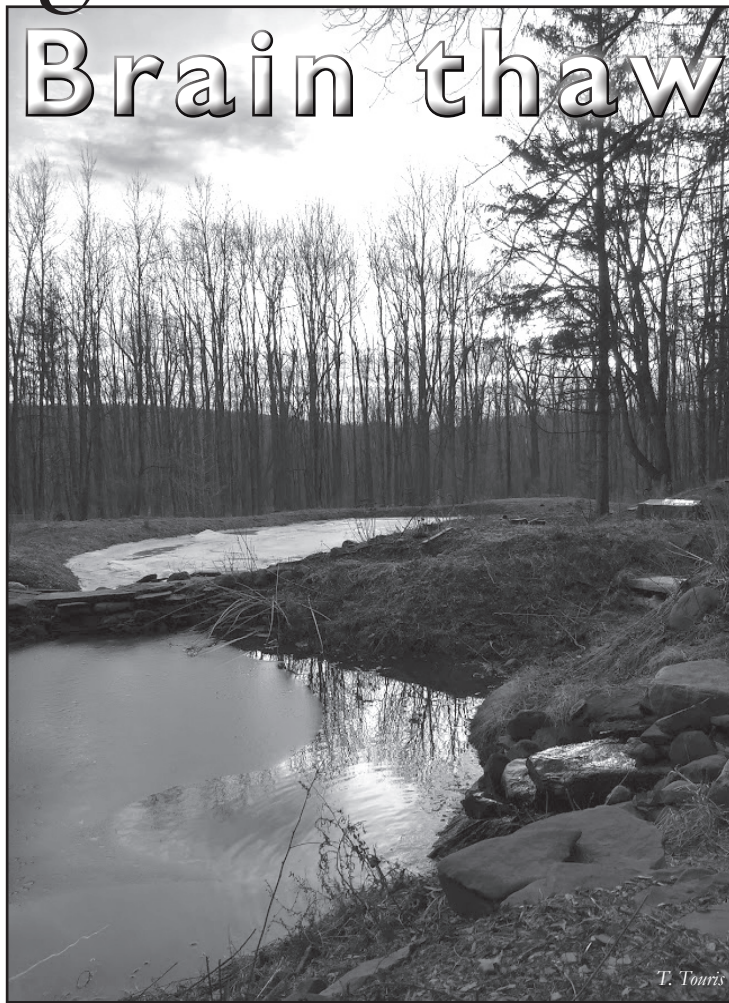
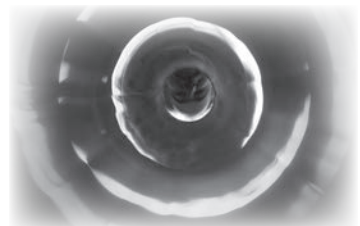
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Hospital (lobby)

Richmond
Town Hall
CVS Pharmacy



Questions, please call us at
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The Light Lens by T. Touris



Winter has finally decided to loosen its icy grip on my cerebral cortex. The last few sunless months have taken their toll on my brain, putting it into a bear-like state of hibernation and frozen consciousness. Stumbling through my garage workshop, I only have vague memories of how the piles of lumber and misplaced tools got there.

As the ice recedes, the layers of ill-formed ideas and unfinished projects begin to reveal themselves. Unfortunately, even global warming won't accelerate the melting of our glacial indoor remodeling project. April and May will hopefully provide a couple months of temperate, sun-filled sanity before the feverish hallucinations of outdoor summer projects kick in.

Easter Bunnies by Georgeanne Vyverberg Why you should think twice before giving live Easter bunnies as gifts.

They are "cuteness overload" a friend recently said after meeting my two rabbit friends. They are certainly that and do make wonderful pets.

But...did you know that pet rabbits are third after dogs and cats as being abandoned to shelters, or worse yet released into the wild where they will quickly die? **Most rabbit rescues see an increase in calls weeks or months after Easter, when it all becomes clear that there is more to their care than was realized.**

Here are a few bunny facts.

- Bunnies can live from 8-12 years.
- They also need as much or more care than a cat.
- They need housing and play areas, food and clean water daily.
- While rabbits can live outside in housing, they *must* be protected from extreme weather and neglect. If kept inside, you need to bunny proof your house. They love to chew on wood and wires.
- Rabbits are easily litter trained. Most are fastidious about their bathroom habits, but daily clean up is needed.
- They need vet care. Mature rabbits should be spayed and neutered for health as well as for behavioral reasons and it's expensive ... \$200-\$300. Although they tend to be pretty healthy creatures, they can get sick.
- Most rabbits do NOT like being cuddled. They might tolerate it when young, but it is frightening to them as they mature. This makes them a less than ideal gift for young children.

So, if, after doing your research, you still think a rabbit is a good pet choice please consider going to a rabbit rescue or humane society. There are many available looking for forever homes..

One more thing. This all could be said about baby ducklings and chicks. Not good pets for the very young. Ducks can live 20-30 years and chickens 5-8 years or more.

Excerpted from a previously published submission to Owl Light News, at the request of the author in advance of the Easter bunny giving season.

Pathways...to Democracy by Doug Garnar



How should we prevent mass shootings in our communities?

Death by guns in the United States is an ongoing problem, which has become more prevalent in recent years. In 2017, guns killed slightly less than 40,000 people. Between 1968-2012 there were 292 mass shootings (defined as four or more dead) globally. With 5% of the world's population, the United States accounted for 90 of these mass shootings. Public mass shootings like those in secondary schools/colleges, night clubs, concerts and places of worship, while attracting considerable media coverage, account for less than 1% of all those killed. Death by guns is not as deadly as drug overdoses, which claim close to 70,000 annually. Illustrative of this point is that in Broome County, NY, 13 people were killed at the local Civic Association by a crazed gunman who then took his own life minutes later (2010). Six years later in the same county, over 73 people died of heroin overdoses (population of 190,000). This said, gun violence is a problem that is growing, and the psychological impact on survivors is beyond calculation. I well remember the duck and cover drills done in my elementary school during the 1950s in response to escalating fears about nuclear bombs. Over sixty years later my grandchildren are required to do drills to find safe hiding places with their teachers. So what might a community do?

After the Sandy Hook Elementary school massacre, the National Issues Forums Institute (nifi.org) developed a deliberative guide to help schools and communities wrestle with the issue. NIFI identified three approaches, which include the following:

Option 1: Reduce the threat of mass shootings by the following actions:

- Restrict assault weapons, high capacity magazines/armor piercing bullets.
- Make involuntary commitment to mental health institutions easier to achieve.
- Require citizens to show cause for concealed carry permits.
- Require citizens to keep guns out of their houses---instead have them stored in secure places like gun ranges.
- Require a mandatory 28 day wait/background checks for all to purchase guns, including those purchased from private individuals.

As in the case of all NIFI deliberative forums, drawbacks of each action is given and people deliberate the "trade offs".

Option 2 Equip people to defend themselves by the following actions:

- Post more guards/security officers in schools and other public places.
- Require all municipalities to allow law-abiding citizens to carry concealed guns and greatly expand training for self-defense.
- Arm teachers/administrators so they can protect themselves and their students.
- Drill teachers/students in the best ways to hide and protect themselves in case of an active shooter.
- Teachers/professors/professional staff should be trained to identify people who appear to be unbalanced/or pose potential threats.

As in Option 1, the deliberation guide provides drawbacks for each action given and people need to deliberate the "trade-offs".

Option 3 Root out violence in society by the following actions:

- News media should refrain from sensational coverage, which gives the shooter fame and notoriety.
- Realign all social services around violence prevention---including youth development, mental health, anti-gang/anti drug programs.
- Restrict depiction of violence in video games and other mass media such as primetime shows.
- Crack down --- try to eliminate all bullying in schools/workplaces. Teach peaceful conflict resolution to all young people.
- Parental monitoring of television and computer use by their children.

As in the first two options, the deliberation guide provides drawbacks for actions given and people need to deliberate the "trade-offs". Through deliberation (weighing an action and its drawbacks) participants come to realize the "trade-off" and why coming to a shared judgment is so difficult. Yet even with a topic that evokes raw emotions, it is possible to have a productive conversation. Working in groups of 15-20, the goal of the aforementioned framework is to move from the raw emotion of gun violence vs. 2nd Amendment Rights to more reflective judgment.

Shortly after the shooting at the Marjory Stonehouse Douglas HS this deliberation was used at a school in Broome County with over 80 parents, teachers, and other members of the community participating. While there was a wide range of views aired, most participants found real value in talking with each other in a civil fashion even when they disagreed on particular actions. One thing is for sure, depression, suicide and related mental health problems are at an all time high in the United States, especially in the Millennial Generation cohort (people born since 1981). Deliberative democracy offers communities a means to discuss a wide array of problems and in the process it can help rebuild a real sense of community which is vital to the health of our democracy.

Any one interested in using this deliberation should contact nifi.org for a template. You can also contact Doug Garnar at garnardc@sunybroome.edu for any questions.

Medication Take back Day - April 27, 2019, 10 am - 2 pm - Canandaigua Wegman's

The medication take back day is an opportunity for community members to drop off unwanted medication including over-the-counter, prescription and pet medication. We will also collect needle based medications and sharps as long as all needles are stored in a hard plastic container such as a laundry bottle. Please do not bring any needles that are loose or in a container that has a loose lid or that needles could puncture. This event helps protect against addiction, accidental poisoning and protects the environment. This event is co-sponsored by the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, Ontario County Sheriff's Department and Wegmans along with a number of community partners.

Spring's Reclamation

By Renee Thornton

Spring daylight lengthens
 Snow begins to melt away
 Winter's grip released

Streams run cold and clear
 Down hillsides where lakes await
 Rushing waters roar

Brave crocuses first
 Kaleidoscopic color
 Pushing through the frost

Turkey vultures now
 Soaring high on thermal lift
 Spring's sunshine provides

Peepers sound the night
 Unseen, but heard nonetheless
 Trilling in cadence

Hungry bears awake
 Rested from hibernation
 On the prowl for food

Busy birds nesting
 Gathering grasses and twigs
 There are eggs to lay

Baby fawns are born
 Keeping close to their mothers
 Scent-free and secure

Trees begin to bud
 A promise of life to come
 The hillsides greening

The earth awakens
 The beauty of the season
 Spring reclaims her time



Bird lovers, families, and hikers come and join us for bird walks along the Lehigh Valley Trail, Taylor Marsh in Honeoye, Great Bend Park in Honeoye Falls, Sibleyville and Odonata Sanctuary. Geoff Gretton and Connie Kellogg, long time bird enthusiasts, will lead the walks. Identify and observe a variety of birds by song and sight.

Walks begins at 8:00am.

April 27, 2019, 8-9:30 am, Lehigh Valley Trail at Rochester Junction entrance on Plains Road in Honeoye Falls.

Go to: www.mendonfoundation.com for additional information and upcoming dates.

"Why Sustainable Agriculture Should Support a Green New Deal"

Presented by Elizabeth Henderson
 April 18, 2019, 6:30-8:30 pm

"Beyond our Comfort Zone"

Presented by Paige Dedrick,
 Citizen Climate Lobby, Buffalo-Niagara Region
 May 16, 2019, 6:30-8:30 pm

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OntarioCountyRecycles.org

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The Night Sky ~ April

The moon meets Jupiter

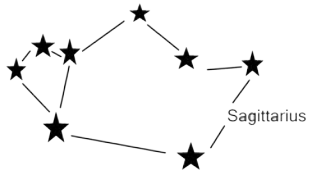
The warming temperatures in April announce that spring is actually here and enthusiasm is growing for observing the night sky.

This month the planet Jupiter can be found conveniently located about 30 degrees (three fist-widths) above the southern horizon in the early morning. Around 5:00 a.m. you can spot it shining like a bright star at magnitude -2.3 against the fainter background stars of the Milky Way.

The Moon meets Jupiter before dawn



Jupiter



Moon passes 1.6 degrees above Jupiter

Illus. Dee. Sharples

ing toward full phase as more and more of its surface is bathed in sunlight each night.

The constellation Sagittarius the Archer is also a highlight of the early morning sky this month. Slow-moving Jupiter will point the way and you will find the constellation much closer to the horizon and to the lower left of Jupiter. It looks very much like a teapot, with its handle on the left and its spout on the right. The Milky Way, the galaxy in which we live, stretches across the sky from overhead, down to the southern horizon passing right through the teapot, looking very much like steam rising from its spout. The faint river-like structure of the Milky Way is made up of countless stars in one of its spiral arms. A view through binoculars or a telescope will reveal many of the individual stars which are just a hazy glow to the naked eye. A dark moonless sky away from ambient lights will more fully reveal its beauty so look for it every clear morning.

The planet Venus still shines brilliantly in the east before sunrise this month. It's the brightest object in the night sky, besides the Moon, dazzling at magnitude -3.9 looking like an extremely bright star.

Two beautiful star clusters can be seen in the evening sky in the west this month and the red planet Mars will help you locate them. Mars shining like a fairly bright orange-hued star at magnitude 1.5 will lie very high in the west after darkness falls. During the first week of April, the Pleiades star cluster, also called the Seven Sisters, can be found above and to the right of the planet. The Hyades, the second star cluster, will resemble the shape of a "V" and lie below and to the left of Mars. A pair of binoculars will enhance your view of these stunning star clusters, both located in the constellation Taurus the Bull.

Lyrid meteor shower

The Lyrid meteor shower occurs this month between April 14 to 30, and reaches its peak in the very early morning hours of April 22. Unfortunately the Moon, just three days past its full phase, will brighten the sky and wash out the fainter meteors. You can be on the look-out for occasional meteors during the two-week active period but there will be fewer than at the peak. The area from which the meteors will appear to originate is near the bright star Vega in the constellation Lyra the Lyre which can be found in the eastern sky 30 degrees above the horizon by midnight and almost straight overhead by dawn.

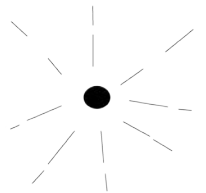
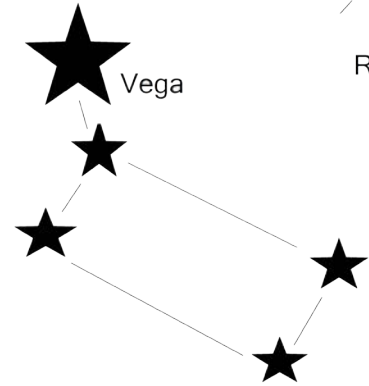
There are many beautiful sights to enjoy in the night sky in April, although some will appeal more to early risers.



by Dee Sharples

Lyra

Lyrid meteor shower



Radiant

Illus. Dee. Sharples

Magnitude:

Magnitude measures the apparent brightness of a celestial object and is expressed by a decimal. An object with a negative number like our Sun is brighter.

- Sun: -26.7
- Full Moon: -12.6
- Venus: -3.9
- Jupiter: -2.3
- Bright star: 0.0
- Dimmest star visible with the unaided eye: 6.0

How to measure degrees in the sky:

A simple "ruler" is to hold your arm straight out and make a fist. The area of the sky covered by your fist measures about 10°. Start at the horizon and by moving your fist up and counting how many "fist widths" it takes to reach an object in the sky, you'll have an approximation of its height. To measure 1°, hold your little finger out at arm's length. The area of the sky covered by your finger is approximately 1°.

Strasenburgh Planetarium

Every clear Saturday night, Strasenburgh Planetarium offers the public an opportunity to observe the night sky through two large telescopes. Volunteers from the Astronomy Section of the Rochester Academy of Science will operate the telescopes from dark to 10:00 p.m. You will need to climb 60 stairs to the telescope observation deck at the back of the planetarium. Call the planetarium after 7:30 p.m. at 585-697-1945, or coordinator Jim Seidewand at 585-703-9876, to confirm this event will take place. If it's cloudy, it will be canceled. Observing and parking are free.



Honeoye Valley Association (HVA) Annual Roadside Cleanup 2019

Our 28th annual road side cleanup is Saturday, May 11th 8 am - noon

The event will start off with a free hot breakfast from 8 - 9 am sponsored by and at the United Church of Christ 8758 Main St. Honeoye, NY.

HVA volunteers will distribute garbage bags and coordinate road assignments from 8-9 am at the UCC.

Families and community groups are encouraged to participate in this annual spring cleaning event to make our valley shine. Debris collected during the event will be accepted for disposal at no cost from 8 am - noon at the Richmond Town Hall with the cooperation of K&D Disposal. To prevent duplication or overlapping of clean-up routes please contact new HVA roadside clean-up coordinator Jerry Passer at 229-5474 or at honeoye5@yahoo.com to request a road assignment. Some roads are already assigned.

Last year over 1000 lbs. of unsightly debris was removed from our community roadsides. Much of this debris would have made its way into our waterways and beautiful lake.

Thanks for considering this opportunity to help beautify our community and protect our lake.

"Fourth Annual Take Pride in Hemlock Day" Saturday, April 27, 2019

- Meet-up at LLCC at 9:30 am

The Little Lakes Community Association, in partnership with the NYSDOT, will sponsor a road-side clean up.

Necessary materials & safety gear provided.

Pot-luck lunch

in the Jane Barnard Community Room

at 1:00 pm, along with local musicians.



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The Homestead Gardener

by Derrick Gentry

Loosening the soil, loving the land

The Clearing

Midwinter spring is its own season, as the saying goes. The sun shines brighter and longer, and our spirits rise up like the sap in a maple tree. The snow melt and the ground thaw then reveal to us a world of mud that checks our aspirations and brings our spirits back to earth. If one is a gardener, it is a tragic mix of high hopes and heavy boots. For the soil is unworkable at the very moment when you most want to work it. You can't even get in there to inspect it, because the wet Spring soil is the most vulnerable to compacting.

Midwinter spring presents a false hope, or at least a premature hope: the end of one season while another is struggling to be born. It also gives us a reminder of our ancestral guilt, which we might as well meditate upon (since we are stuck in the mud and have nothing else really to do).

... In the beginning, long ago, all we wanted was some light and some air. And so we cut down some trees to open things up and plant our crops and gardens. This was in the pre-Lorax pioneer days, when our minds were guided by a different myth. In those days, when the fish jostled in the undammed rivers, a thick layer of rich and friable topsoil lay upon much of the land: built up in some places by the seasonal deposits of leaf litter falling from old growth trees, and on prairie land by the steady amendment of grass-fed manure. This layer of fertile soil was held in place by the roots and the cover of the plants that grew in it.

And then we made our clearing. We thereby made our historic leap from a life of hunting and gathering, to farming and tilling the now-exposed soil on our vast tracts of cleared land. And in many places, within a very short time, that topsoil was depleted of its fertility



and washed away into the bottoms of the (by then) much less crowded lakes and rivers. We were left with wide open spaces and heavy, heavy clay. Having transplanted the remaining trees to the tree museum, we then paved paradise and put up a parking lot -- in part, I think, to erase the shame of our reckless clearing. But mostly it was to cover up the mud.

How to build soil (and battle heavy clay)

Now, amid the shrill cries of the red-wing blackbird, we hear the chant of the gardener's lament in Springtime: "I cannot work the soil because it is heavy clay..."; or, in our more hyperbolic moments: "I cannot have a garden because it is all heavy clay!"

Building good humus soil takes time. You either have it, or you don't, or you are working patiently to get there. The conquering, pioneer spirit is still in us when it comes to heavy clay. But there is no winning in the frontal attack on heavy clay; working the soil too early will destroy the soil structure, and tilling it even at the better times of the year will disrupt and destroy the microbial life that will do most of the soil building for us if we create the right conditions for it.

Raised beds are a fine modern idea. But unless you want to haul in load after load of peat moss and mushroom compost, a raised bed is not so much a solution as the framework for a solution. With raised beds, we still need to build and loosen the compacted clay and hard pan down below in order to allow for proper drainage and aeration. The idea of a raised bed is to build up while building down.

Before we address it as a problem, let us say a few necessary words in praise of clay. Yes, clay retains too much water and dries out in all the wrong ways. But unlike sand, clay at least does retain water. Moreover, the microscopic spaces between the clay particles mean that clay soil has a good "Cation Exchange Capacity," or CEC, an important physical/chemical property that facilitates the exchange of nutrients. Clay, therefore, is a key ingredient of healthy soil.

We just don't want all clay, heavy clay. Our challenge as builders of soil is to incorporate more organic matter and introduce more oxygen down below so that the soil-building microbes can begin to convert that matter into layers of humus. But how we can we facilitate that process without employing traditional methods, such as roto-tilling and double-digging, that commit microbial genocide and destroy what we are trying to build?

There is an ideal tool for the job: is called a broadfork. The broadfork is the antithesis of the shovel and the hoe and the rototiller, tools that are truly emblematic of back-breaking work. The broadfork does not require one to stoop over or lift heavy shovels full of dug dirt. All you have to do is lift it up, drop its series of 12-16-inch tines (mine has 14") deep into the soil, and rock back and forth with both feet on the bar while standing upright. The photo on this page shows one in use. A broadfork loosens and aerates the soil and breaks up the hardpan without inverting the soil layers and destroying the life of the soil. Along with the smaller and lighter-weight garden fork, the broadfork is perhaps the most important garden tool for the project of building soil. It requires no fuel, and most broadforks made today will last for generations.

Cover crops in the garden bed

Cover crops are another excellent way to do things deep in the soil while avoiding the counter-productive practice of invasive tilling. I have become something of an evangelist for the cause of cover cropping in the small-scale garden. As the name suggests, cover crops are meant for crop fields and larger-scale agriculture. But in my view, cover cropping is just as important for building and maintaining soil in the home garden.

There is a large repertoire of cover crop options that work at different times of the year. I seed buckwheat, for example, repeatedly throughout the summer season (and I will have more to say about buckwheat in the coming months). Cover crops have a special function in the winter and Spring, however. In addition to providing green manure and a living mulch while fixing important plant nutrients, off-season cover crops (such as winter wheat and field peas and oats) perform the important task of taking up excess nutrients between the growing seasons so that they do not leach away in the torrent of snow melt and Spring rains. This preventative measure is particularly important if you live in a watershed region. The notorious algae blooms in our lakes are caused at least in part by the leaching of nutrients from agricultural land (phosphorus being one of the chief culprits).

Cover crops are an excellent way to build soil tilth, adding organic matter and loosening up the soil and opening up compacted heavy clay -- all without destructive tillage. Daikon radish, in fact, is also known as "tillage radish" for its ability to drill down several feet into clay and hardpan. I seed daikon radish in late summer and early Fall. It continues to grow until it winter kills at about 15 degrees Fahrenheit. The radishes in the ground decompose in Spring, opening up the soil while depositing organic matter. The open cavities aerate the soil and thereby accelerate the warming up and drying out process in Spring. The cavities also allow for the easy deposit of biochar additive so that it gets down to the root level where it needs to be. (For more on biochar, see the February Homestead Gardener).

I am also fond of hairy vetch, an overwintering cover crop planted in late summer. Vetch is a legume with tap roots that go down deep and loosen up the soil and also fix nitrogen (as do clover and peas). It is a good cover crop to plant following tomatoes or other vegetables that use a lot of nitrogen.

Winter rye is a common go-to for breaking up heavy clay. Rye has a dense root system and grows at a rapid pace in the early months of Spring (having been established late in the Fall). I planted winter rye for the first few winters in our current garden, but more recently I have come prefer the nearly equal benefits of winter wheat. Rye grows a bit too vigorously in the Spring for my taste and is notoriously difficult to till in. Rye is also allelopathic -- an anti-social property that is great for controlling early season weeds, but which is also a drawback since you must allow at least three weeks for the rye grass to break down after it is tilled before your Spring planting (to avoid stunting the growth of your desired plants).

Radishes and field peas and oats typically winter kill by January. Vetch and rye and wheat come back in the Spring and require tilling in at the right moment. "Tilling in"

with cover crops means shallow tillage at most; you simply want to chop up the green growth above ground and sever the roots just below the surface. Large-scale farmers do this when they disk their cover crops or use a crimper or a flail mower. All a gardener needs, though, is a simple stirrup hoe, rather than a fossil fuel-powered tractor with accessories.

It will take more than one season to loosen up your heavy clay, so be patient. Cover cropping is nevertheless one important long-term strategy for turning that heavy clay into a thick layer of loose and friable soil. And once you have that near-miraculous substance called humus, you will have sponge-like soil with the paradoxical virtues of good water retention and good drainage. And that is the ultimate goal.

Ancestral Guilt, Part Two

Was it all worth it? Can we go back? "The worst mistake in the history of the human race" -- that is what the geographer and cultural historian Jared Diamond calls the advent of modern agriculture 10,000 or so years ago.

We now have limited options. A let it be ethic is not one of them. We cannot walk away and let the cleared land go back to its "natural state," since the pioneer species that fill in the vacuum tend to be invasive species that do not restore the biodiverse ecosystems that we disrupted (at least not in

Continued page 12



2019 Events

Brought to you by: the Friends of Tinker and the Town of Henrietta.

April 27 Earth Day Celebration -10 am-2 pm
Wildlife education programs, tree planting, and activities for the kids.

May 11 Rock Gardening -10am
with Master Gardener Gerald Kral

May 18 Coyotes-1 pm Presented by Scott Smith,
a Biologist with the NYS DEC
Informational talk on the habitat, range, impact, and life of the coyote in New York State.

June 1 Bonsai-10 am with Mark Arpag
of the Bonsai Society of Western New York

June 8 Herbs-10 am with Master Gardener
Linda Groves

June 28 Art and Garden Party at
the Tinker Homestead-6:30pm
Join us as we celebrate Henrietta Area artists and view their work throughout the Tinker Homestead. There will be complimentary hors d'oeuvres, and music.

June 29 Art Open House -11:00am-3:00pm
The exhibits will remain open to the public as an open house event, there will be kid-friendly activities.

Tinker Nature Park  1525 Calkins Rd, Pittsford, NY 14534
<https://www.facebook.com/TinkerNatureParkHenrietta/>
Email: naturecenter@henrietta.org (585) 359-7044



Dragonfly Tales

by Steve Melcher

"Magic is seeing wonder in nature's every little thing, seeing how wonderful the fireflies are and how magical are the dragonflies." ~Ama H. Vanniarachchy

There be dragons!

"Watch out for his stinger!" "That one will sew your mouth shut...and your eyes...and your ears!" shouted Aunt Hazel agreeing with her younger sister. My two aunts and I were walking along the swollen banks of the Susquehanna River years ago when I was young and impressionable. "What is that thing?", I asked, grabbing Aunt Menzi's hand while dodging away from what looked like a giant wasp or flying bright green toothbrush. "What - your mother never told you?, that's the Devil's Darning Needle", whispered Aunt Hazel who always wore her hair swirled out from her head like the hat on the Flying Nun. Aunt Menzi shook her head with great gravitas in agreement. "Yes, that's the Devil's Dragon, a Snake Doctor, always found near water... and snakes...that one will lay an egg in your ear and the young will work it's way to the other ear, eating through your brain on the way. Yep, at six years old, I was sufficiently shaken and wouldn't have the nerve to go to the river's edge for a number of years hence.

Apologies to Aunt Hazel and Aunt Menzi for making up such a horrid but certainly possible story. There was the belief that "the 'Devil's Darning-Needle' would 'sew together the fingers or toes of a person who goes to sleep within its reach', according to my 1899 book titled, Animal and Plant Lore. The critter would also 'sew up the mouths of scolding women, saucy children, and profane men'. The message being, if you see one of these... snakes, water, scolding aunts, flying toothbrushes and imminent danger are nearby.

*"It's very far away
It takes about a half a day to get there
If we travel by-dragonfly."
~ Jimi Hendrix*

Folklore

Devil's Darning-Needle is, of course, a folk name for that spectacular and harmless denizen of waterways and wetlands: the dragonfly. The Dictionary of American Regional English (DARE) lists a slew of evil sounding epithets for dragonflies including Devil's Tailor, or Darning Needle. If you hail from Wisconsin, you might call them Schneiders - the German word for tailor. This nomenclature was probably derived from the dragonfly's back and forth hunting and territorial patterns, 'stitching' his way across the pond. In other parts of the country you may hear them referred to as 'ear cutter, eye stitcher, snake doctor, horse stinger, mule killer and bee-butcher'. Yikes! Amazing the way parents used such fearful names to keep their progeny away from the dominion of dragonflies: running water, lakes, ponds, wetlands and other neighborhoods that may entice and trap the unwary child. The folklore of dragonflies would be a book in itself. The awe and fear assigned to them can be seen in the shield of the Samurai and the petroglyphs of our own southwest. An ancient order, we should be thankful that the dragonflies of the Carboniferous period aren't around today. Meganeura is a genus of extinct dragonfly that had a 28 inch wingspan that could've carried off a small child or at least your little Shih Tzu.

But the truth is, dragonflies are harmless, even helpful if you consider the number of mosquitoes they consume. Dragonflies are an important factor in the control of the mosquito population and insect population in general. A single dragonfly can eat 30 to hundreds of mosquitoes per day. And they are very proficient hunters. In one study we did at Wood Hole Oceanographic Institute, dragonflies caught 90 to 95 percent of the prey released into their enclosure. And they are fast buggers, travelling up to 30 mph. What would that be in human terms? They can also hover, turn on a dime, fly backwards, even mate in mid air. In fact, they only catch their prey in flight.

Why Odonata Sanctuary

Dragonflies are voracious predators. Their scientific name, Odonata, means flying tooth or toothed wing in Greek. Odonata is also the name given to our sanctuary in honor of my area of research for the past 30 years. The name seemed to fit in with other names in upstate New York. Odonata sounds like many place names given to us by earlier dwellers of the land. Oneida, meaning the People of the Upright Stone, or standing stone, could represent the lone dragonfly perched on a rock in a bubbling stream. O:nata is the 'corn spirit', o:ne:ka is the Seneca word for water, and Ondatra, another wetland resident, is the Iroquoian as well as scientific name for the muskrat. Or Odonata could simply be interpreted as 'O' de Nada', 'song to nothing' or something else entirely to fans of the hero called 'Nada' in the movie 'They Live'.

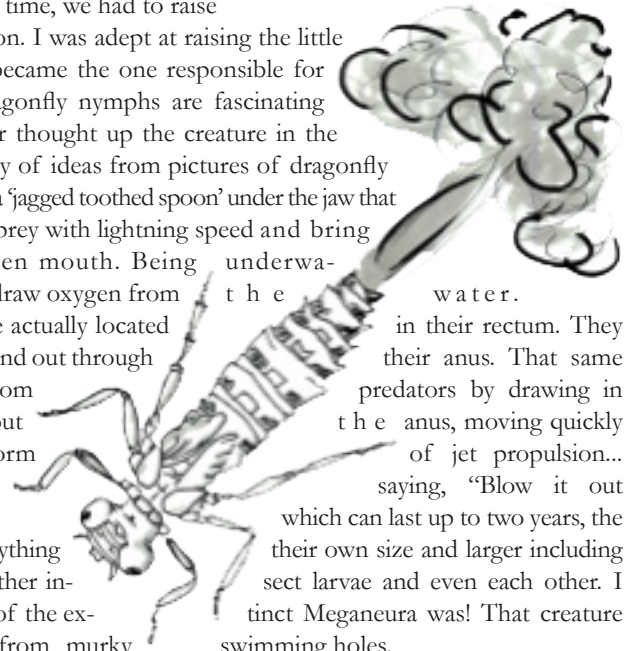
Dragonflies may have been given horrendous names of warning by parents in the past, but the names given to them by Odonatophiles (lovers of all things involving dragonflies as opposed to (careful) 'Odontophilia' - a sexual fetish that involves teeth), have many wonderful names for their object of affection. One of my favorites is 'Prince Baskettail', other favorites are the Moustached Darter and the Fragile Forktail.

The Order Odonata includes dragonflies as well as damselflies. There is an interesting contrast between dragons and damselflies. They are closely related genetically but the damselflies haven't carried the baggage or specter of being a warning sign like the dragons. The Damselflies, are typically smaller and more elusive than their dragon cousins. The delicate damselflies are given names like Beautiful Demoiselle, and Willow Emerald Damselfly. One easy rule of thumb to tell them apart is to watch them land. Dragonflies hold their wings horizontally while damselflies raise them vertically behind their backs when at rest.

Bioindicators

I was first scientifically introduced to dragonflies through my studies in freshwater ecology. Dragonflies spend part of their life cycle underwater in the form of a larva or nymph (sometimes called a naiad). I was working under a Metropolitan Edison grant to determine the effects of the cooling water from the Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant on the aquatic life of the Susquehanna River. There were chemists, and fish experts, hydrologists and entomologists on the team. I was thrown in the group of bug experts and was soon introduced to the world of benthic macroinvertebrates. Benthic simply means 'bottom dwelling' and macro (large) and invertebrates (without a backbone). Many of these benthic macroinvertebrates turned out to be dragonfly nymphs, which because we lacked keys or

ways to identify them at that time, we had to raise to adulthood for identification. I was adept at raising the little nymphs to adulthood and became the one responsible for 'hatching dragons'. The dragonfly nymphs are fascinating creatures. I'm sure who ever thought up the creature in the movie 'Alien' procured many of ideas from pictures of dragonfly nymphs. Some species have a 'jagged toothed spoon' under the jaw that can be whipped out to seize prey with lightning speed and bring it back to an awaiting open mouth. Being underwater they have to use gills to draw oxygen from the water. The gills of some species are actually located in their rectum. They breathe by drawing water in and out through their anus. That same species can shoot away from predators by drawing in water and quickly ejecting out the anus, moving quickly in a form of jet propulsion... giving new meaning to the saying, "Blow it out your arse". In this larval stage, which can last up to two years, the nymphs will eat just about anything their own size and larger including tadpoles, mosquitoes, fish, other in-wonder how big the nymph of the extinct Meganeura was! That creature would've kept kids away from murky swimming holes.



Benthic macroinvertebrates (BMI) turn out to be excellent bioindicators of the health or the environment. We were able to determine many parameters such as water temperature and dissolved oxygen levels by the species that were collected from a particular site. We would use nets and dredges to collect the critters, count them in sieves, pickle some and return the rest. Meanwhile our boatmates would be using thousands of dollars worth of equipment to determine the same critical parameters. Needless to say, since we were determining the same information using far fewer funds, our methods were soon to become the standard for ecological studies involving the health of waterways. I did develop a device to collect benthic macroinvertebrates that is still in use today. The inexpensive device could be placed in the water and then later collected. The BMI move into the device and set up housekeeping on the substrate acting somewhat like a roach hotel. The light weight tool can then be collected, taken apart and the BMIs identified. The general health of the waterway can be determined by the number and type of organisms collected. I called it the 'A.S.S.' or Artificial Substrate Sampler. Marketed to scientists as well as fly fishermen, the sales pitch was 'You don't have to get your ass wet to collect mayflies'.

Citizen Science



*Snake Doctor.
Image courtesy Steve Melcher*

Odonata Sanctuary was a major contributor to the New York State Dragonfly Survey carried out between 2004 and 2009. Through the work of many volunteers, most of the 26 species found, photographed and identified in Monroe County were from Odonata Sanctuary. We expected to find 50+ species, so there is still work to be done! Its April in upstate New York and migration season is in full swing, but it isn't just the birds that are migrating. As part of a program called 'Journey North', Odonata Sanctuary's 'Mariposa de Mendon' team helps track the migration of hummingbirds

and monarch butterflies. We know that the annual migration of the monarch butterfly is multigenerational and complex, but the record for the longest insect migration is held by a dragonfly. The Wandering Glider migrates almost twice the distance of the monarch travelling a whopping distance of 4,400 miles or more. Although conjectured for over one hundred years, we unfortunately know very little about dragonfly migration. In North America we know that certain species are migratory but almost nothing is known about where they come from or where they are going. I remember tagging monarch butterflies at the University of Delaware with tiny mylar numbered markers back in the '70s. That research eventually led to the discovery of the monarch's secret wintering grounds in the oyamel fir trees of Michoacan and other Mexico states. We need a similar concerted effort, to place tags on dragons, to determine the secrets of Rhaegal's journeys.

Hopefully, you can now venture forth without the fear of having your lips sewn shut or being stung by a dragonfly. Many birders and photographers have turned their scopes and cameras toward the water's edge in search of Odonates. There are many excellent books on identifying and photographing dragons and damselflies. I encourage you to pause by that stream or pond a bit longer to observe and study the fascinating denizen of wetlands - the dragonfly.

Perhaps I'll see you on one of our wonderful Finger Lakes in a birch bark canoe, paddling alongside a giant Green Darner.

Image at top of page: Dragonfly nymph using jet propulsion. Image courtesy Steve Melcher

Things to do:

- ~ Come to Odonata Sanctuary to learn the difference between a damselfly and dragonfly and watch them set up territories, mate mid-air or crack through their nymphal shell.
- ~ Create a Dragonfly Habitat for observation and insect control.
- ~ Further reading: *Stokes Beginner's Guide to Dragonflies*, 2002

Authors: Blair Nikula, Jackie Sones, Donald W Stokes, Lillian Stokes.

Odonata Sanctuary:

Odonata Sanctuary is a nature preserve, active farm and sanctuary where abandoned farm animals find a home to spend the rest of their days and Eastern Bluebirds, Meadowlarks, Bobolinks and Monarch Butterflies find suitable habitat to thrive. <http://odonatafarmsanctuary.blogspot.com/>

Live on Stage



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Odd Combination Jazz
in Concert ~ ensemble plays jazz & rock
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Dansville ArtWorks
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This project was made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a re-grant program of the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the NYS Legislature and administered by the Genesee Valley Council on the Arts.



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at
6:30 pm



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GCPC launched their annual Organ Recital Series in March. There are two April performances. Go to www.owllightnews.com/36-2/ to learn more about the organ's history, and for a glimpse inside.

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Owl Vision 2019: Flights of Fancy Owl Light News will be accepting submissions to Owl Vision 2019: Flights of Fancy from April 1, 2019 thru June 1, 2019 (midnight).

Guidelines for Submission:

- Anyone, anywhere, may submit entries.
- We are looking for creative interpretations of the theme that challenge accepted meanings and norms.

Without "unrealistic" dreams where would we be?

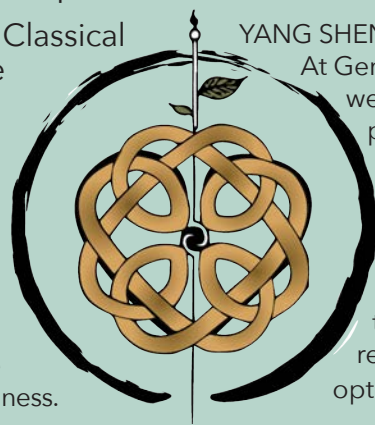
Without flight most certainly!

- All written and creative (still) formats are acceptable (fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, lyrics, graphics, hybrid).
- Submitted fiction and nonfiction works should be 1000 words or less, and can be sent in doc. or docx.
- Poets may submit up to three poems (less than 1000 words total) send in doc, docx and pdf if needed to ensure accuracy.
- Text should be in Times or a similar font, (1") margins on all sides. Images / hybrid entries in jpeg/PNG/pdf.
- Pages should be numbered and the title should be included in the heading on all pages.
- The last page of all entries should include ONLY the title(s) name, e-mail and phone number of the writer. Please omit all personal information from the entry pages (i.e. no name, address, e-mail address, phone number), as all entries are read blindly. All decisions re: placement are final. Submissions should be e-mailed to: editor@canadicepress.com no later than midnight EDT on June 1, 2019. Inquiries via e-mail or voice msg. 585-358-1065 (no text msg.). To see past Owl Vision themes and published entries, go to: www.owllightnews.com and search "Owl Vision."
- Selected entries will be published in Owl Light News - in print and online - July 2019.
- The featured entry will receive \$75 and a one year mailed subscription to Owl Light News (\$100 value).
- All other selected entries will receive a mailed 1 year subscription.

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Owl Light Outings by D.E. Bentley

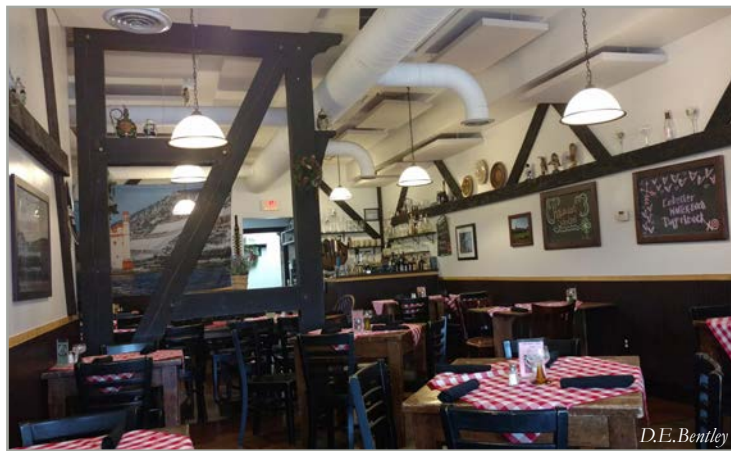
Come for the journey *and* the food: Rheinblick German Restaurant, Canandaigua, NY

Walking into Rheinblick German Restaurant at 224 S. Main St., Canandaigua, NY, one is greeted, not surprisingly, by the sound of German polka music. A hostess wearing traditional German dress also greeted us, and our waitress was right there behind her, similarly attired. German memorabilia is everywhere you look, and on the wall is a large mural of a castle on the shore of the Rhine River (Rhein in German, and Rheinblick means river view). The sturdy wooden tables were adorned with checkered tablecloths. This all seemed quite authentic, not at all overdone. *They found us a table and we quickly settled in.

There was a large selection of beverages to choose from, including white and red wines from Germany and Austria and eleven different schnapps. There were five German drafts on tap and a wider selection of bottled beers. They offer the draft selection in flights, and in growlers to go. We settled on a draft Warsteiner Dunkel, a dark amber beer with a smooth roasted malt taste. This was served, of course, in a ceramic ornamental stein.

We are not huge eaters – and like to save room for dessert. Since they do not offer a lunch menu on Sundays, we opted for a shared dinner entrée. The waitress was friendly, knowledgeable and accommodating. My initial hesitation with eating at a German restaurant was the potential for limited menu options for my somewhat restrictive – by choice – diet. I had been vegetarian, but now eat fish and chicken as well. Rheinblick owners - **Gudrun &

Gary Klemens - have taken the time to thoughtfully include Rhein region fare that is both vegetarian and gluten free for particular dieters. This includes a Vegan Schnitzel – Black Bean & Carrot Schnitzel, lightly breaded with vegan bread crumbs and pan sautéed, served with pan-fried potatoes – and Champignons Überbacken – fresh mushrooms in brown gravy with melted Swiss cheese served over spätzle. I was tempted to try to Champignons Überbacken, but since we both eat chicken we opted for a shared entrée portion



D.E. Bentley

of Hähnchenschnitzel 'Jäger Art' a grilled boneless chicken breast schnitzel, unbreaded, with Jäger mushroom gravy.

The Hähnchenschnitzel 'Jäger Art' was quite enjoyable, and the split portion was just right and allowed us to move onto dessert. We were divided between cheesecake and raspberry linzer almond torte. As we tried to decide, the waitress suggested their coffee, a delightful dessert-in-a-cup served with Asbach brandy, sugar and cocoa, topped with whipped cream.

Asbach brandy has, we learned, a cult following among ex-British servicemen previously stationed in Germany. The combination of this rich drink and the shared torte was heavenly, absolutely heavenly. Despite the delightful presentation - which made it look almost as delicious as it was - we dug right in, after a quick pre-consumption photo op.

Some restaurants are loud and you notice other diners. Despite people coming and going, the conversational acoustics were great. A couple – who appeared to be on a first date – settled in at a nearby table and we barely noticed them. It seemed that the evening dinner and service was just for us – I suspect they felt the same.

*Reservations are suggested.

** Gudrun is a native of Kiedrich, a small village nestled in the vineyards of the Rhine Gorge area, close to Frankfurt, Wiesbaden and Mainz. Gary, born in Berlin, has also lived in the Wiesbaden area for 13 years, so they know the Rhein region and its cuisine.

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Tickets available for Taste of Livingston County

Combine generous portions of top quality food and drink, a dash of local flavor, and a splash of support for two of the area's most significant advocacy organizations; mix well at a breathtakingly scenic venue; and you have the recipe for the 21st annual Taste of Livingston County, coming Tuesday, May 21 to Camp Stella Maris in Livonia.



Tickets are \$25 at tolc2019.eventbrite.com, with proceeds split evenly between The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming and the Livingston County Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber is Livingston County's leader in promoting visibility, positive perception, and growth for area businesses. The Arc is the area's largest not-for-profit supporting individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

Described by Chamber President and CEO Laura Lane as "a signature event to promote signature dishes," the Taste of Livingston County features bottomless samplings from the county's top restaurants, caterers, bakeries, wineries, cideries, and breweries. Originally a project of the Livingston County Health Department, and later run by Genesee Valley Health Partnership, the Chamber and The Arc were given ownership of the event in 2017. They introduced a fresh venue in the form of Camp Stella Maris, and relaxed the nutritional guidelines in favor of a more general food tasting event that aligns with the shared values.

"The Chamber and The Arc are both advocacy organizations," Arc Executive Director Martin Miskell said at the time. "Their focus is business, and ours is people with disabilities. But we both stress inclusion to build our local community. At our core, both groups bring people together – and nothing brings people together quite like great food."

The Taste gained further momentum in 2018, with 23 participating vendors. They included Angry Rooster Deli, Applebee's, The Barn Restaurant, Beachcomber, The Big Tree Inn, The Cake Place, Campus Auxiliary Services at SUNY Geneseo, Deer Run Winery, Dublin Corners Farm Brewery, Hook & Spoon, Leisure's Restaurant, Monk's Bread, Once Again Nut Butter, O-Neh-Da & Eagle Crest Vineyards, OSB Ciderworks, Partyman Catering & Rental, Reminisce Soda Fountain, Suzea's Gluten-Free Bakery, Sweet Arts Bakery, 3 Legged Pig BBQ, Twister's Homemade Ice Cream Shop, Wegmans, and Wendy's Pantry & Country Mouse.

The 2019 edition is expected to feature new names, along with a number of returning favorites. Vendors will be announced in the coming weeks.

Doors will open at 5:30pm on Tuesday, May 21, and Camp Stella Maris is located at 4395 East Lake Road in Livonia. Attendance is limited to 400, so event organizers strongly recommended that interested attendees purchase their tickets in advance. For questions, or details about becoming a vendor or sponsor, contact Suzanne Johnsen at (585)658-2828 ext. 133.

Submitted by The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming

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Finger
Lakes Food

Homestead Gardener from page 8

the short term). We cannot go home again; we have to make our home here. These inherited ecosystems now demand our wise stewardship, and that involves the finding of solutions somewhere in the middle. Not everything in the middle is a compromise.

When Europeans first settled in North America, what looked to them like a wilderness was actually in many places a natural environment carefully managed by Native Americans. The Native Americans were not primitive hunter-gatherers; they practiced what anthropologists now call low-impact horticulture, which is close in meaning to that in-between practice of happy sustenance known as gardening.

A few months ago, I came across an old clip on youtube of Ruth Stout, the iconic author of *The No-Work Garden*. She must have been well into her 80s. The clip shows her casually tossing seed potato on the ground, covering it all with a bit of straw, and walking away. Stout's no-work garden is a major affront to the past 10,000 years of agriculture, not to mention a thumb of the nose at the pioneer spirit.

Was it worth it? I admit there is a bit of Ruth Stout in me. Part of me resents having to start plants indoors, mostly because of the heating pads and overhead lamps and the things I have to leave plugged in. I am still drawn to the perennials and the self-seeders, to the things that do not need doing as well as the things that do. Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not.

I do love those tomatoes, though. What would a garden be without tomatoes?



Art and Garden Party at the Tinker Homestead

June 28, 6:30 pm

Open House June 29, 11:00-3:00

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LABEL photos LASTNAME, FIRSTNAME 1..2..3...
Add a short description of your work, materials
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only. For complete guidelines go to: <https://sites.google.com/view/tinkerpark/events/art-and-garden-party-at-the-tinker-homestead/>



Tinker Nature Park
1525 Calkins Rd, Pittsford, NY 14534
(585) 359-7044

Conference proceedings of the 4-H club: Seeds and seed starting

I have a fairy garden!

I planted a butterfly garden last year!

So, ladies and gentlemen, it sounds like some of us are already gardeners.

Can anyone here explain the difference between soil and dirt and mud?

(silence; the keynote speaker changes course.)

OK, then ... can we all identify each seed and what plant grows from it?

Let's start with an easy one: Sunflower seed! That's right. These are unsalted.

I like artichokes! a high-pitched voice declares with non-sequitur pride.

I like french fries, another declares, and many others present at the meeting concur.

OK, then, here is a hint: This seed grows into something you probably eat with your french fries. Tomato! Right.

Look at the tiny eyes in the seed potato just starting to sprout. They are called "eyes."

I see little hairs on the sprouts! And look at those tiny eyes just beginning to be eyes.

Yes, you're right: look at that. You have a good eye, Lila!

The carrot seeds are tiny, and they smell like carrots.

Really? Do the seeds smell like carrots? She insists that they do.

Quinn interjects: We had a carrot last year that grew that long! (Hands stretch out to size.)

What are those? Those are peas! That was easy. Eat your peas (but not these).

That seed is pointy and has triangle faces all around. A girl with two front teeth missing goes on to describe the shape of the buckwheat more precisely and imaginatively than the presiding adults could have. (One adult almost says "facets," but he realizes that a facet actually is a face.)

This is a type of seed onion, called a "multiplier onion." They also call it "potato onion."

Why? I cannot remember. No, nothing to do with potatoes.

A pair of small hands methodically peels the paper off the seed onion.

Why is there no seed garlic here? Well, the garlic seed (which is just a clove of garlic) has been sleeping in the ground since just before Thanksgiving. You plant it with its flat end pointed down. Don't plant the clove wrong side down, or it won't wake up in Spring.

Beans! Beans, beans, the musical fruit...

Peas and beans. Legumes. Shall we talk about legumes, about families of related plants?

(Interior monologue): *Tomato seed, which is what we see inside the tomato; seed potato, which is the potato itself. How can two seeds that look so different be from two plants in the same family (solanaceae)? That will be hard to explain, just as hard as it is remembering how to spell "solanaceae." Talk about families some other time...*

OK, next on the agenda: Let's make seed starting pots out of folded newspaper!

And we do.

It starts out almost like making a paper airplane. Pairs of hands fold the newspaper carefully to make a biodegradable pot filled with soil, with a single seed inserted in each pot. They are distracted at one point by the words in the ads and the headlines, which they begin to read aloud. The adults, mildly concerned, exchange glances.

Now let's finish up so we can have our snacks! Put the seed to bed with a blanket of soil and give it a pat. Water it regularly when you get home and wait for the warm weather to transplant out. The newspaper will decompose in the warm ground, and all of the words (large font and small) will return to the soil.

On the work table, now dirty with potting soil, I see a bright white onion sitting beside a pile of shredded brown paper.

Nice work, everyone!

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Shining light on arts and innovation in the less traveled byways of the Finger Lakes

Portraiture Project at Quail Summit yields portraits and friendships

For the third year running, the Tim Williams Portraiture Project at Quail Summit is bringing together the generations to find the beauty and character of the human being. The Portraiture Project has expanded to over 20 students this year. Gloria Harrington, Executive Director at Quail Summit said, "This continues to be one of the highlights of our year. It is a wonderful, fun learning project for both the residents and students. A handful of the students have maintained their friendships with residents over the years."

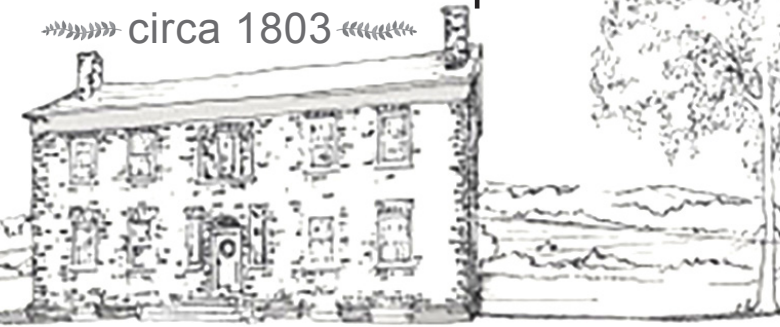
Residents at Quail Summit are talking about the Portraiture Project. Janet Read, resident and retired teacher said, "I hadn't talked with a good teenager in a long time. I had such fun hearing all about school." Mary V. Crowley – Aunt Ginny said, "The enthusiasm of the young people is like an injection that feels so good. Mr. Williams is to be congratulated on his manner and the educational contributions of his students." Al Talke, who was painted in the first year of the project chose to be painted again this year because he enjoyed the personal aspects of the project. Talke said, "I decided to do it again to see how much the project has grown and because I enjoyed meeting the students and their family. It is very personal to see the artists' point of view radiate in their work and to see their family and loved ones take pride in the student's accomplishment."

The students unveiled the completed portraits to the "models," and their friends and family at an art exhibit at Quail Summit at 5102 Parrish Street Extension, Canandaigua on Tuesday, March 26th at 6:00 pm. To learn more about this exciting collaborative project go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3lomIYw7So&t=5s>



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Dansville ArtWorks is seeking 2D and 3D artists to participate in the next exhibit at 153 Main Street, Dansville. The theme is "Space." The interpretation of "space" is at the discretion of the artist. The exhibit will coincide with Dansville ArtWorks' annual cash raffle fundraiser and reception, Dogwood Week, Memorial Day weekend, Father's Day, and area graduations.

Documents and information at www.dansvilleartworks.com/calls-for-artists-.html
 and at Dansville ArtWorks (hours: Thursday and Friday 12-6pm, Saturday 10am-2pm).

Dates to know:
 Exhibitor form due on or before April 12;
 Delivery of artwork April 25 – 27 (during business hours);
 Opening Reception May 3 (5 – 8 PM) or by appointment.



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 5 Center St, Geneseo, NY. ~ fb The Idle Hour

*Peacemaker Brewing Company ~ Wednesdays 6-9 pm
 ~ Hosted by Old World Warblers ~
 *20 Pleasant St, Canandaigua

CB Craft Brewers - every Thursday, 6-9 pm.
 Acoustic Open Mic Hosted by Steve West
 ~ *All ages and talent levels are welcome ~
www.cbcraftbrewers.com - Honeoye Falls
 *Minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

The Lobby Craft Eatery - every Thursday, 6-9 pm.
 With rotating hosts.
 3530 E Lake Rd, Canandaigua ~ www.lobbycrafteatery.com

Brew and Brats at Arbor Hill ~ Fridays, 6 pm!
 6461 BB State Route 64, Naples, NY
info@brewandbrats.com

Dansville ArtWorks
 4th Fridays: February ~ November, 6:30 pm
 153 Main Street - Dansville ~ www.DansvilleArtWorks.com

Fanatics Pub and Grill
 ~ Check web site for dates and times.
 7281 W. Main St. Lima ~ fanaticspubandpizza@gmail.com ~

At The Late Night Double Feature Picture Show* by Ken Bristol

1st Feature: September 25, 1974 -- 44 years ago . . .

The gunshot sounded different from the ones you hear in cowboy western movies. No echo lingered in the air beyond the pulling of the trigger. It was muffled. The walls and doors of the house dampened the bang, as falling snow filters the sounds of winter.

It's late on a school night. I stopped reading my high school chemistry textbook and ran up the staircase. There, on the bedroom floor, in a pool of dark, purple-red blood, lay my older brother Kevin, dead at 20. He's on his back, face up, eyes wide open. For some time I could not get that image of him lying on the floor, his face, and especially his eyes, out of my head.

After graduating high school, Kevin struggled with the responsibilities of young adulthood. He bounced from job to job, unable to keep one for any length of time. Kevin started using illegal drugs. Doctors drugged him up, too, on prescription medications. He was volatile. I remember times when he ranted and raved at Mother and at Dad. On occasion, he ranted and raved at me. On many nights he was not at home. Where was he? With whom? I would lie in bed, looking across the room at his empty bed, and wondered each night whether he was coming home or not. It was very distressing, and I did not know how to deal with him. I wished he would get better and stop upsetting all of us. He wasn't the brother I remembered growing up with. God, we grossly underestimated his emotional needs. We failed him.

Guilt and shame came easily to our Catholic family. I felt grief, guilt, and failure. Our parents must have wrestled with their hearts, minds, and souls incomparably worse than I. As a family, we never sat down and talked about Kevin's suicide, all that led up to it, all that followed it. Swept everything under the rug. His untimely death was the conclusion of a year during which he gradually slid down emotionally and psychologically. I watched him slide, perhaps unwittingly contributing to his downward spiral, helping it along, not knowing what to do. I was always a quiet, shy kid. After Kevin's suicide, I clamped down my emotions, kept them all inside, tried not to feel anything.

For a number of years, I couldn't talk about his death even if I wanted to. My throat would constrict and dry out to the point where I literally could not get the words out. My body would shake, my underarms would perspire, and my eyes would tear up. What a basket case! The new film, *Ordinary People* was released in theaters, and I had to see this movie. OMG! Tears would not stop streaming down my face. I had difficulty stifling my sobs. Used all my Kleenex and the napkins from the theater concession stand and soaked my sleeves with tears and snot. I trembled in my seat. Perspiration poured out my underarms and drenched my shirt. An embarrassing, exhausting, and cathartic episode. I so identified with the teenager in the film. Afterwards, I tried a few months of psychotherapy. It helped, but I did not continue the sessions.

It has been a journey dealing with grief, guilt, and failure, getting in touch with my own feelings, and reaching out to other people. A work in progress. Like Frodo's wounded shoulder impaled by a Nazgûl blade in *The Lord of the Rings*, my heart bears a tender scar that refuses to heal completely. A little pressure on it elicits again fresh tears from fading memories. I have written words here about Kevin's suicide and its impact on me. But the most important thing of all is that Kevin brought joy, love, and inspiration to me, the rest of the family, and to everyone who interacted with him. His beautiful life, not his tragic death, defined him.

2nd Feature: May 11, 2014 – almost 5 years ago . . .

My oldest brother, David, at 63, took his own life in his garage in Ohio, a pistol shot to the head. Oh, please, not another brother down. He felt trapped, he wrote in his suicide note. Not exactly sure what that note meant. Dave was a family man. He and his wife ran a small independent trucking business. While not wealthy, they were living comfortably. He had previously mentioned his desire to step back from the business a bit, but the reality may have been longer hours and modest income for the foreseeable future. Business, family, latent issues from his military service during the Vietnam War? Questions that will never be answered satisfactorily.

I am actually relieved that both Mother and Dad passed away before David ended his own life. The loss of two sons to suicide would have been too much.

To my brothers Kevin and David and to my parents: I miss you and love you. Be at peace.

"Each way to suicide is its own: intensely private, unknowable, and terrible. Suicide will have seemed to its perpetrator the last and best of bad possibilities, and any attempt by the living to chart this final terrain of life can be only a sketch, maddeningly incomplete"

Kay Redfield Jamison, *Night Falls Fast: Understanding Suicide*

*The irreverent title comes from a line in a song from an irreverent movie, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (1975), which was a popular midnight film at college-town theaters in the late 70s and early 80s. With no disrespect to my beloved and departed brothers, off-color humor helps me cope with uncomfortable subjects. Kev and Dave would have approved.

You're the Cat

by Gavin Spanagel

"You're the Cat"

I used to know.

Black in the distance.

When meows meant

All kinds of interesting and

Wonderful things

Especially behind a growl.

Writers: April 5, 2019 is the deadline for the 4th annual New Deal Writing Competition!

The Genesee Valley Council on the Arts New Deal Writing Competition is a short story competition where the writer is asked to use a painting chosen by the staff of GVCA as inspiration for their short story. For this year's competition, they have selected Jacques Zucker's "Fountain, Central Park" from the New Deal art gallery as your inspiration. The first-place winner will be awarded \$200, second-place \$100, and third-place \$50. However, the first-place winner will additionally be published in GVCA's annual magazine, *Artsphere*. This contest will use blind judging—that is, the author's name will be withheld from the judges until the competition is complete—so we ask that every author omit their personal information from their piece(s). Instead, please include a one-page cover sheet for each submission that includes: title, author, address, and phone number. Complete guidelines online.

If you're interested in reading the pieces of winners from previous years, or finding out more information about the contest, check out GVCA's website:

<http://gvartscouncil.org/writingcompetition/>

Written • Spoken

Check out OwlLightNews.com

Pen Prose

Area Writing Groups

Warsaw's Write Connection

2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:45 PM ~ Warsaw Public Library
(no meetings June, July or August)
For more information, contact Wendy at (585) 786-5290

Canadice Lake Writers' Group

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 6-7:30 pm. ~ Honeoye Public Library
Info Darlene at 585-313-7590

Lakeville, NY ~ Poets' & Writers' Group

1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 10:30- noon
~ Chip Holt Ctr., Vitale Park, Lakeville.

The Canandaigua Writers' Group

First Friday of the month from 10 am to 12:30 pm.
~ Ewing Family Community Room, Wood Library ~
Share your original stories, poems, memoirs, and more in a supportive, learning community of fellow writers.

Writing Group in Naples

Meets 2nd Friday of each month, 10:30-noon. ~ Naples Library
Bring a short piece to read aloud.
Info. at 585-374-2757

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come to you.
See page 6.





The Monthly Read by Mary Drake

The definition of originality

A review of *What It Means When a Man Falls from the Sky* by Lesley Nneka Arimah

What it Means When a Man Falls from the Sky by Lesley Nneka Arimah Riverhead Books (2017) 240pp

While back, my daughter gave me a reproduction of an Impressionist painting — a woman reading — and underneath the picture is the caption, “Life is short; read fast.” I feel the truth of this statement so much that I seldom re-read a book, until I find one like Lesley Nneka Arimah’s *What It Means When a Man Falls from the Sky*, which I read three times, and with each successive reading I noticed another perfect detail or got another new insight. This debut book is a 230-page anthology of 12 short stories by a creative writing teacher turned author whose far-reaching imagination will keep you turning the pages, not only to find out what happens, but also because you will come to care about her characters, mostly women, who are by turns humorous, difficult and compassionate, sometimes all in the same story.

Born in Britain to Nigerian parents, Arimah was subsequently raised in Nigeria and Louisiana, before ending up in Minnesota. (I’d be interested to hear her answer when people ask where she’s from.) Optimistically, you could view her travels as having given her an insider’s view of all three societies. She has the voice of a storyteller, and many of her stories have strong spiritual content that places them squarely in the category of magical realism. Arimah is very interested in the mother/daughter relationship, in the attempt of mothers to mold and control their offspring, and in the difficulties these young women often face trying to adapt to the societies where they find themselves.

I am often attracted by titles, and I found this one especially intriguing. So what does it mean when a man falls from the sky? In the dystopia of this story, it means that something has gone gravely wrong with Francisco Furcal’s mathematical Formula which, the reader is told “explained the universe,” and which “had no end and, perhaps, by extension, humanity had no end.” The Formula has become the new religion after floods have caused Europe and North America to disappear under water. The people of Britain, France and America are now “hosted” by other countries: Britain by Biafra, France by Senegal, and America by Mexico (imagine that! No wall necessary now). However, the Biafra-Britannia Alliance is tense, since the British threaten to use biological warfare if they don’t get the land they want. France gained the trust of the Senegalese before turning on their hosts and beginning ethnic cleansing in what is referred to as “The Elimination”.

In the midst of all this, The Center employs Mathematicians (with a capital M) to continually run the Formula through a computer “ticker-style across a screen” testing its infiniteness, and also, in the process, discovering equations for, among other things, human flight. “The scientific community was agog. What did it mean that the human body could now defy things humanity had never thought to question, like gravity? It had seemed like the start of a new era.” Until a camera caught the man’s fall, “the last fifty feet . . . the windmill panic of flailing arms, the spread of his body on the ground.” Now some have begun to question whether the new mathematical religion has an inherent flaw.

The protagonist Nneoma is one of the few and socially privileged Mathematicians in this new world. Her understanding of necessary equations in the Formula has enabled

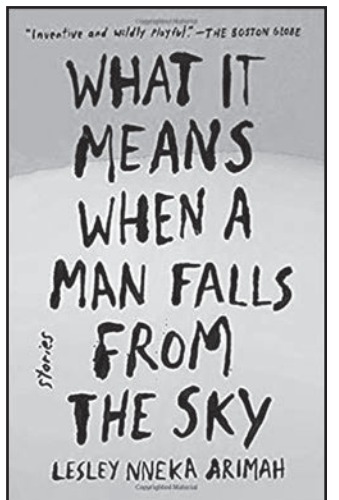
her to become a “grief worker.” She has the unique ability to make a living by “calculating and subtracting emotions, drawing them from living bodies like poison from a wound.” We’re told “she could see a person’s sadness as plainly as the clothes he wore.” By a simple hug she lifts the sadness from a young Senegalese refugee grieving from The Elimination. However, Neoma usually only does grief work for her “preferred clientele,” meaning those who can pay, and she is unable to relieve her father or herself of the grief they feel after her mother’s death. By contrast, her estranged partner, a woman called Kioni, volunteers to do her grief work for those who really needed it—“the displaced Senegalese and Algerians and Burkinababes and even the evacuees.”

There is probably no one who hasn’t wished to escape emotional pain at some point, but Arimah asks us to consider some interesting questions. Is it good to rid someone of emotions that differentiate us from animals? Aren’t we told that suffering can sometimes lead to wisdom? On the other hand, could internalizing too much grief have devastating consequences, as it does for Kioni? We humans can only handle so much suffering and inhumanity.

Even though Arimah deals with heavy subjects like isolation and loss in her short stories, they are easy to read, imaginative, sometimes even playful. Often they are reminiscent of folktales: the language is simple and direct, yet the subject is thought provoking; magic is an accepted part of the world; and the heroine (and by extension, the reader) is led to a new insight by the end. The author often employs repetition, as in the opening of “What It Means When a Man Falls From the Sky”:

It means twenty-four-hour new coverage. It means politicians doing damage control, activists egging on protests. It means Francisco Furcal’s granddaughter at a press conference defending her family’s legacy.

This serves to overwhelm the reader slightly, piling on detail after detail. But Arimah is confident readers will figure out what’s happening in the story, even if we can’t figure out how to alleviate the suffering endured by a man falling from the sky.



Read *Owl Light News* online at OwlLightNews.com



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FLCC will hold its annual Spring Visit Day for prospective students on Saturday, April 6.

Faculty and staff will be on hand to share information about programs, financial aid, disability services and more. The event runs from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the main campus. For more information call (585) 785-1000.

Honeoye Public Library



Basic Computer Class

Monday, May 13, 3:30 - 5:00 pm

Class size is limited to 7 adults

Call to register.



Ancestry.com available at HPL
~ explore your past today ~

"We're Books... and More"

Book Talk Group
Wednesday, April 24 @ 5:30 pm

"The Ten Year Nap"
by Meg Wolitzer

Join Us! ~ 2nd Monday @ 10 am

Writers' Group ~ 2nd & 4th Tuesday @ 6 pm

Second Saturday
Movie &
@ 11:30am



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The Conscious Crow Truth is a slippery element



Inside each and every one of us is a story untold. New pieces arrive at the surface born inside every situation and interaction that reflect what we inherently believe about ourselves and the world. We connect these pieces buried deep within our unconscious, revealing insights, weaving a story built more or less upon the past that presently, and inaccurately guides our lives. The present is cascaded with our mental stream acting as a silent narration to every move we make. It is a habitual, reliable way of interpreting the world that we have become so accustomed to. We continue to practice these opinions out of habit, simply abiding without thinking to question its validity, and following its detrimental wake. When we consciously follow our thought patterns we see the information

handed down to us is our truth only because we were taught as such.

Truth is a slippery element constantly changing. What we currently think and believe isn't necessarily formed out of our own accord but rather an adopted perspective handed down from our ancestors and society. A trail of breadcrumbs that we have accumulated over the years ingrained and drawn into our psyche out of necessity and expectation. There is an unconscious bias seeping into our mindset and quietly overtaking our lives. It is an underlying belief system responsible for our actions, habits, beliefs and values, incessantly playing a weary, broken sound of the past. Since we are a product of our environment we unconsciously adopted this view of the world we see today- based on the view of the world yesterday. We are comfortable with the ideas we've learned and automatically revert to the known, repetitive approaches without realizing how much of it is stale knowledge and is steering our life in a constraining way.

If we consciously approach our mental soundtrack and allow ourselves to question our thoughts we will find many false, outdated habits. Ghandi speaks to the importance of finding these precious seeds of awareness, for they dictate and direct where we find ourselves today. The evolution of our actions start with belief, and "your beliefs become your thoughts, your thoughts become your words, your words become your actions, your actions become your habits, your habits become your values, your values become your destiny." Consider what it is that you believe and if your life reflects this, or that of another's. This one question could single-handedly plant the seed to awakening, and steer your life in a conscious direction.

~Conscious Crow, reminding you to grow

Kade in the Kitchen

by Kade Bentley



with Soup. Again.

This new take on a blended vegetable soup features parsnip, mung bean, and apple. The fried tofu contributes a little extra substance to your meal. Maybe serve with some lovely toast.

Carrot and Mung Bean Blended Soup with Fried Tofu ~ 40 minutes ~

- You'll need:
- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|--------------------|
| - 2 yellow onions | and | -olive oil |
| - 3 Tbsp fresh ginger | | -red pepper flakes |
| - 4 cloves fresh garlic | | -salt |
| - 2 whole sweet potatoes | | -pepper |
| - 2 parsnips | | - coriander |
| - one apple. | | - cumin |
| - a good large handful of carrots | | - turmeric |
| - 1 1/2 Cup yellow split mung beans | | - thyme |
| - green onions for garnish | | - rosemary |

- In a large soup pot pour a thin layer of Olive Oil.
- Caramelize 2 yellow onions, cubed, until fragrant and translucent.
- Add ginger and garlic, continue on low being careful not to burn.
- Cube root veggies (and apple). Add as each is completed, stirring into pot: sweet potatoes, parsnip, carrot, and last, one apple
- Cook on medium high for a while until veggies are nearly cooked and pan bottom browns, maybe 20 minutes or so. Supplement with more olive oil if it looks dry.

- In a separate pot bring 5 cups of water to boil. Add a cup and a half yellow split mung beans. Cook until very soft – about 15 minutes. If yellow split mung beans cannot be found, cook whole mung beans according to package directions.

- When veggies are nearly cooked add herbs and spices and toast on medium, careful not to burn: coriander, half teaspoon or more; cumin, teaspoon; tumeric, teaspoon; thyme, teaspoon; rosemary, half teaspoon or more; red pepper flakes, half teaspoon - or to taste.

- Add 6 cups water to veggie pot. Bring to boil, then adjust and simmer a few minutes.
- When veggies are very soft blend using an immersion blender.
- Add cooked mung beans.
- Salt and pepper to taste.

Garnish with sliced green onions and paprika and fried tofu.



Kade Bentley

Sky's Handy *by Sky Trombly*
Household Hints
Good for you ~ Good for the environment.

Green web surfing *with*



If you're looking for an easy way to eco-activate from home, I highly recommend greening up your Internet searches through Ecosia. Ecosia is a search engine that uses add revenue garnered through web searches to fund global reforestation projects.

It doesn't stop there:

- ~ Ecosia servers run on 100% renewable energy (they've build their own solar energy plant!).
- ~ The planted trees help remove CO2 from the atmosphere for as long as they live!
- ~ Ecosia is a transparent company and publishes a monthly financial report.
- ~ It also takes your privacy seriously and avoids user data collection and tracking methods.

So, if you'd like an easy win for the environment, just set this search engine as your browser's homepage and start planting trees from the comfort of your own home.

I realize that this sounds like an advertisement, but I am in no way affiliated with Ecosia. I just really, really love this business model.

Check them out at: <https://www.ecosia.org>

Finger Lakes Food

Breakfast at the Moose
Sunday, April 14, 2019
at 8 am - 10 am

Penn Yan Moose Lodge, 301 East Elm Street., Penn Yan, NY
Penn Yan Theatre Company

Simple fried tofu

~ 10 minutes ~

- You'll need:
- A block of Firm Tofu
 - Coconut or Olive Oil
 - Salt and Pepper



- Slice tofu into thin rectangles about 1 cm or like 1/4 inch thick
- Heat a cast iron griddle or heavy frying pan to medium high.
- Cover the bottom of pan with oil and let heat a minute before placing the tofu slices in the pan. You'll want the tofu to just set in the oil, not go swimming. The hot oil should splash and sizzle just a touch as you set the slices in. Careful!
- Fry the tofu slices for a while. Don't be scared. The longer you keep them in, the crispier they get. Flip it over to check every couple minutes. They might stick. Don't worry; just scrape 'em off with your spatula and flip 'em over. Both sides should get at least a little browned.

- Just before they're how you want them, add salt and pepper to taste.

- Optionally: set your tofu slices out on a cloth or paper towel to soak up the oil before serving. I just serve 'em up greasy.

A Note on Tofu Storage:

If you don't want the whole block of tofu at once (and who could blame you) keep it fresh in the fridge by submerging it in clean water in a tight tupper. Tofu will keep for a couple weeks if you change it out with fresh water every few days. When I know I'll use it soon I just leave it in the plastic box it came in and change the water often.

Spill hazard!





Simple Sustainability by Sky Trombly

Final thoughts on minimalist wardrobes

Many aspiring minimalists will begin by tackling their closets. In fact, the now famous “KonMari Method” begins with clothes and then proceeds on in an orderly fashion to other categories of stuff.

I happen to (mostly) agree with Marie Kondo on this aspect of decluttering. Clothing is an excellent area to begin the process of evaluating and downsizing your lifestyle because:

- ~ everyone (regardless of gender, location, or socio-economic class) wears clothes and keeps some kind of wardrobe;
- ~ the clothing and fashion industry is one of the most environmentally destructive industries and right-sizing our consumption can have a tremendous impact; and
- ~ it is an easy way to try on the benefits of minimalism without disrupting your home and housemates.

I started with my closet in my minimalist journey for these reasons. I learned a lot in the process, but the process that I went through was extremely messy and time consuming. I was lost to a sea of theory: capsule wardrobes, minimalist uniforms, the KonMari Method, dressing seasonally, for body shape and coloring and so on. Plus, during the process I was pregnant and post-partem and had fluctuating weight. It certainly wasn't smooth sailing.

Ultimately, I did feel successful, though. Everything I tried presented new discoveries about myself and I grew a lot. Here, I hope to streamline the journey for others who want to right-size their own closets, but don't want to spend a tremendous amount of time doing so.

Don't Start With Throwing Things Away!

The KonMari Method has individuals pick up one (clothing) item at a time in order to determine whether it “sparks joy”. You return whatever “sparks joy” to your wardrobe (typically after folding it in a special way, but for more on this, I recommend her books or the Netflix docuseries cited below).

Anything that doesn't “spark joy” gets thanked and sent away to be donated or whatever seems most appropriate. In the end, there is no minimum or maximum number and someone who uses this method may not end up down-sizing much at all.

Or, down-sizing too much. Which is my main concern with this method. You could, theoretically, not like anything you own, but still need to get dressed the next day. Throwing stuff out just to replace items is wasteful. And most of us can't afford to buy a whole new wardrobe.

Some of us may come to the project without a firm grasp on our personal style or the roles we need to dress for.

Furthermore, I find “sparks joy” to be a nebulous concept that may work for some people but not for everyone. Even though she allows for “recognizing usefulness” to be included in the concept of joy, we might not be that emotionally invested.

I think some initial evaluation of what we already have, what we need, what we like, and what our goals are is an important step before we actually toss our belongings.

Step 1: Reacquaint Yourself with Your Wardrobe

Separate out your “heck, yeses”. Those items you wear frequently, love, that even might “spark joy” for you. Or, if you're a little more on the pragmatic side, those items that you reach for most often. You don't have to sweat getting every single piece because this step is just about gathering intel.

Hang them or lay them out together somewhere so that they are separated from the closet clutter. What do you like about these pieces? How do they fit on your body? What colors and patterns do you gravitate toward? Do you prefer natural materials or synthetic? Opaque pieces or sheer? Do you enjoy layering? What is your go-to outfit configuration? Do you wear a blouse and jacket with slacks? Or are you a t-shirt and jeans kinda person?

Then, grab a bunch of “heck, no's”. The sort of clothes you wear on laundry days or keep out of guilt. Again, don't sweat getting every last one, that step is coming later.

~ How do you spend your days? Do you require business attire or more casual clothing or both? What kinds of things will get in your way and what will serve you best? Do you work with your hands? Need sturdy clothes? Or need to look professional to get that promotion? ~ Do you obviously have too few of something? Are you frequently running out of underwear between laundry days?

~ Speaking of which, how often do you do laundry? What is the minimum number of clothes that you can get away with? (You might be able to re-wear your pants, but not be interested in re-wearing your underwear so stock up on those!)

~ How closely does your current wardrobe fit your ideal? What do you think you'll need to buy or get rid of?

If you're considering creating a minimalist uniform, what does it look like? And if you're considering a capsule wardrobe, what pieces seem to fit best with each other?

Step 4: The “Spark Joy” Test... Modified.

Now is the time to declutter. You can begin by picking up each piece and if the “spark joy” concept works for you, begin eliminating those things that don't bring you joy. Now that you have a firmer picture of your likes/dislikes and you're armed with a vision, this should be easier and more productive.

For those of you who don't resonate with the “spark joy” concept, I recommend using numbers. If you need 6 pairs of jeans for your ideal wardrobe, but have more, then pick out the very best 6 and put them in your wardrobe. Work through the relevant categories: base layer shirts, jackets, button-downs and even socks and underwear.

Also, make sure you try on the clothes you decided to keep. If you are depending on a pair of pants for your wardrobe, they need to fit you now.

Once you've decided on your wardrobe plan, decluttered clothes that don't suit you, and tried everything on, there is one final method to try. Flip all your hangers the wrong way and demarcate your clothes in drawers and other containers. After you've worn your clothes for a day, do a check in. If you really liked your clothes, wash and rehang them (flipping the hanger around or put them in the “keep” side of your drawers).

In about a month, you can reevaluate your wardrobe. Anything that remains unworn is probably superfluous or requires an upgrade.



Image courtesy Sky Trombly

This is the best possible time to make smart purchases. You've done the initial work and had the proof of a month to judge what you really need.

A Final Word

I know all this seems like a lot of work. It is. The nice thing about going through this process is that you will get crystal clear about your preferences and needs. Going forward, you'll have a valuable tool and even if you experience a career change or other lifestyle upheaval, you won't be starting from scratch.

I have experienced some great benefits: I make fewer purchasing mistakes, fashion faux-pas, take fewer trips to my closet, always have enough clothing, know how to pack when traveling, and feel comfortable all day long.

It is my hope that I can spread some of this simple joy.

Until next time, be the light by living lightly!

Resources from Maria Kondo:

- The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing*, 2014.
- Spark Joy: An Illustrated Master Class on the Art of Organizing and Tidying Up*, 2016.
- Tidying Up with Marie Kondo (2019 Docuseries by Netflix)*.

Sustainability

Fuzzy Bunny to host free Mending Café

~ April 13, 2019, noon to 3 pm

Have a shirt that needs buttons, a pair of pants that need hemming, or a sweater with a pull or hole?

Bring it down to the Fuzzy Bunny Studio in Honeoye on Saturday April 13, 2019 from noon to 3 pm, for some free TLC. Volunteer menders and darners will do their best to mend what is marred and will provide free mini-classes on fixing similar issues in the future. There is no charge for the service, but donations will be accepted for the Honeoye Food Pantry. Coffee, tea, and homemade snacks will be available as well. Please limit your mending to no more than two items.

The Fuzzy Bunny Studio is located at 6 Honeoye Commons, Honeoye, in the shopping plaza across from the school.

For questions or more information, contact Emily Pecora at Emily.Pecora@gmail.com.

Be a Change Maker

Summit in the Valley welcomes 2019 presenters to share their perspectives on how climate change impacts their organization in the Naples Valley.

Bring a friend to the following events.

Draw Down Presentation April 23, 2019, 6 pm - 7:30 pm
Naples Community Library. All welcome!

Learn how to be a Change Maker for our beautiful Naples Valley. Understand how even you can offset carbon emissions with just a few simple choices. Angie Cannon-Crothers will facilitate the presentation Draw Down, written by Paul Hawkins.

Zero Waste Forum April 24, 2019, Wren's Roost Barn by invite only.

Summit in the Valley will hold a special evening for restaurant owners, wine and beer tasting hosts, and other food service professionals to a Zero Waste forum. If you feel your food service would like to attend this event, please contact Annie Almekinder by email aalmekinder@gmail.com

Be a Change Maker - April 25th @ Trinity Federated Church, Main Street, Naples. All are welcome!

The Finger Lakes region is fortunate to be surrounded by water. Bring your family to learn more about our fragile water ecosystem and how we can be better stewards of our lakes and streams.

Find out more about Summit in the Valley on our Facebook page and on our website <http://bit.ly/Summitinthevalley>

Community Calendar

Save these dates and watch for monthly *Owl Light* calendar updates for these and other area events in every issue of *Owl Light News*!

Faith in Community

Honeoye UCC Spaghetti Supper

April 3, 2019, 5-7pm- A portion of the profits will be donated to the Salem Bus Token Fund.

May 1, 2019, Time: 5-7pm - A portion of the profits will be donated to the Food Pantry.

Honeoye United Church of Christ, 8758 Main Street, Honeoye, NY 14471 Honeoye United Church of Christ, 8758 Main St., Honeoye,

Finger Lakes Forest Church

April 13, 10 am: Celebrating Signs of Spring!

A guided marsh walk will invite us to tune into the sights, smells, and sounds of spring. Optional: bring any favorite nature guide books and a notebook/ writing utensil for recording your impressions.

Location: *Southern end of Canadice Lake.

*Follow Canadice Lake Road south past Canadice Lake Outfitters. Parking area/entrance will be on the right.

See Finger Lakes Forest Church on fb for more info.

Free Spirit Book Club

Wednesday, April 17, 6:30 - 8 pm

- Honeoye United Church of Christ,

8758 Main Street, Honeoye, NY.

This book club, with a broadly spiritual focus, meets the third Wednesday of each month. It is an open-hearted, open-minded group, focused on reading and discussing texts from spiritual disciplines around the world.

All are welcome - even if you haven't read the text.

For more info., including the title of the reading for our next meeting, contact emily.pecora@gmail.com.

New Age Book Study at the Warsaw Public Library

Wednesdays at 4 pm

Hosted by Trinity Episcopal Church.

Specific book details at trinitywarsaw.org.

"Mystical Meet-up"

Friday, April 26, 2019, 7 - 9 pm.

All are welcome to join our spiritual meet-up group to discuss paranormal, supernatural, metaphysical, and mystical subjects. Led by Parapsychologist and Spiritual Teacher, Mary Grace

\$5.00 donation to LLCC Jane Barnard Community Room, Little Lakes Community Center, Hemlock, NY

Grief Share is a non-denominational help seminar providing encouragement after the death of a loved one.

Mondays at 6 pm, Springwater Church of the Nazarene, 8498 Indian Valley Rd (Rt 15), Springwater.

For more info: 585-728-5961 or 585-669-2319.

Area Food Pantries

All welcome community contributions and volunteers.

Geneseo/Groveland Emergency Food Pantry

Tuesdays/Thursdays 10-2 am, Wednesdays 4-6:30 pm

31 Center Street, Geneseo (the lower level of CPC).

To donate, please drop items during scheduled hours (lower level).

Springwater Food Pantry

Wednesdays 6:30 - 8 PM and Saturdays 9 - 11 AM*

South Main Street, Springwater

*Serves Springwater Canadice & Webster's Crossing area, but no one in need will be turned away!

Foodlink Mobile Pantry will be at the Springwater Fire Hall on March 23, 2019 & April 20, 2019 - Set up 8:45am/Distribution 10am.

Honeoye Community Food Pantry

First Saturdays of the month, 9-10:30 am.

UCC church on 8758 Main Street, Honeoye

Celtic Journey

First Sunday monthly, 6:00 PM at the Honeoye United Church of Christ

* Welcoming and inclusive of all people

* Honoring the wisdom of the ancient Celts and Jesus

* Contemplative worship and teaching

April 7th - Celebrate Beltane (Celtic May Day)

May 5th - Sailing Life's Seas with Brendan the Navigator.

June 2nd - Herbs of Blessing.

July 7th - The Grail in Celtic Britain.

August 4th - Persistent Resistance:

Calls for Justice in the Celtic Traditions.



honeyeucc@gmail.com, <http://ucchoneoye>

8758 Main Street, Honeoye, NY ~ 585-371-8880

Remembering...

Memories from Owl Light readers

The Past

From Tom Sargeant of Livonia, NY.~

“In the late 1930s or 1940s, I remember going to the fish Hatchery in Mumford, NY. On the way into the hatchery there was a man sitting with a bushel basket of bunches of corn ears called Caramel Popcorn.

He had a sign that read:

“ It will tickle your toes;

it will curl your hair;

it will make you feel like a millionaire’.”

Editor's note: The Caledonia Fish Hatchery was established in 1864. New York State purchased the hatchery in 1870. It is the oldest Fish Hatchery in New York State and the Western Hemisphere. Seth Green, known as the father of fish culture, created the hatchery. The hatchery is run by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and, according to their website, rears brown trout and rainbow trout with an annual production is approximately 170,000 pounds.

From Betty Larned Culbertson of Richmond, NY.~

“When I was a little girl, all I heard about from my father was Bradley Adams. Adams lived near the pipeline in Hemlock woods. The local teenagers would play tricks on him (like blowing out the lights), but they all liked him. My father was one of these boys (he was born in 1904). Bradley Adams liked to draw the boys down so he could orate to them. What my father remembered the most was ‘how Oregon was saved for the Union by the Great Hudson Bay Company.’ I also remember going with my parents to the white bridge at the bottom of Holden Hill Road. My parents would swim and I would splash around. That was our Saturday night fun.

Editor's note: Mrs. Culbertson was reminded of these memories by an article on Bradley Adams by Richmond Historian Joy Lewis that was published in the March 2019 Owl Light News. You can read the story online at: <https://www.owlighnews.com/richmond-history-richmonds-remarkable-recluse-bradly-adams-february-21-1852-february-9-1934/>.

United Church of Christ of Honeoye

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Maundy Thursday, April 18th, 7 PM:

"Maundy" comes from mandare-commandment-for this is the evening when Christ summarizes life's duty with the precept "love one another as I have loved you."

Simple service with Reflection and The Lord's Supper.

Good Friday, April 19th, 7 PM.

The Passion of Christ, "It is finished" in order to make everything new. Traditional Tenebrae Service with hymns and readings.

Easter Sunday, April 21st, 7 AM.

Communion Service at Sandy Bottom Park Pavilion.

Please come dressed for the weather, the pavilion is sheltered but not heated.

Easter Sunday, April 21st, 8 AM.

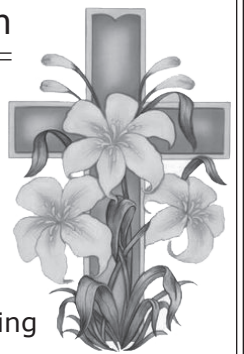
Breakfast at the church and reception (in advance) for new ones who will be baptized.

Easter Sunday, April 21st, 10 AM.

Celebrate the Resurrection of Christ-and humanity with him! Bring fresh-cut flowers to transform the cross through the flowering of renewal, celebrate baptisms, and rejoice in the promise of new life.

8758 Main Street, Honeoye, NY ~ 585-371-8880, honeyeucc@gmail.com

To listen to services in the sanctuary 585 371-8110, <http://ucchoneoye>.





In Memoriam
Notices & Tributes



Bonnie Drake
~ February 28, 2019

Springwater: Bonnie Drake passed away peacefully the morning of February 28, 2019. She fought strong for many years in her battle with cancer. Our warrior now has peace. Bonnie is survived by her husband Emery "Butch" Drake; daughter Missy Drake; son in law Doug Burns; brothers in law, Ed Drake and Jerry (Caroline) Drake; and nephew Jason Robb.

Thank you to Dr. Jules Zysman for the amazing care you gave.

There will be no services at this time. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in Bonnie's name to the Breast Cancer Coalition, 1048 University Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607. To send a condolence or share a memory please visit: www.doughertyfuneralhomes.com

Herbert F. Mason "Herb"
~ March 2, 2019

Canadice: Herb passed peacefully at his home on March 2, 2019 at age 91. He is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Caroline (Paeth) Mason and daughters; Lisa Mason of AZ, Cindi (Dan) Lynch of Lima, and Tricia Mason of AZ; grandchildren; Dan Lynch of Rochester and Cristie Feldman of AZ; great-grandchildren, Makayla and Colin Feldman. Herb is also survived by many loving neighbors and friends including his close family friend Raymond Nichols.



Herb was born on November 28, 1927 in Marilla, NY to parents Floyd and Esther (Seeger) Mason. He enlisted in the US Navy during WWII and served honorably from 1944-1947. Herb was an electrician for many years and was a member of the IBEW Local 86.

A Memorial Service will be held in the future. Interment will be held privately. Memorial contributions may be made in Herb's memory to the Richmond Fire Dept. & Ambulance, PO Box 469, Honeoye, NY 14471 or the Lutheran Church of the Epiphany, 6050 East Avon Lima Road, Avon, NY 14414. To send a condolence or share a memory please visit: www.doughertyfuneralhomes.com

Obituaries and other In Memoriam notices in *Owl Light News* are \$50. E-mail editor@CanadicePress.com or call 585-358-1065.

Others

Hospice House Inc.
6th Annual
Monte Carlo Night



Saturday, April 27th, 6:00 pm
\$40.00 per person through April 17th.

*Tickets can be purchased at
<https://www.hospicehouse.org/events>
or by calling 585-374-2090

Join us for an evening of Las Vegas-style fun. This event features 18 high-quality, professional grade casino gaming tables with professional dealers for each game. Dealers will teach and entertain everyone in poker, craps, blackjack, roulette and more. Your ticket purchase includes \$500.00 in gambling chips, entry to win a door prize, grand prize raffle, 50/50, hors-d'oeuvres, desserts, coffee and then it's up to you and lady luck! At the end of the evening, your winnings are converted into tickets for you to win any number of amazing gifts and prizes such as weekend getaways, local artwork, golf packages, fitness memberships and so much more!

Not into games of chance? Don't let that stop you from coming out to join us. Many people just spend the evening socializing and coming together for a great cause. We will have appetizers circulating throughout the evening, delicious desserts from local bakers, and a cash bar with a variety of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. Proceeds benefit Hospice House Inc. a two bedroom comfort care home for the dying.

*Pre-sale ticket holders can beat the crowds, peruse the grand prizes, enjoy live music, and be first at the bar

6:30pm Doors open for ticket sales
7:00pm Opening remarks and presentation
7:30pm Gaming tables open

Honeoye-Richmond
Historical Society Museum

Winter Hours
First Saturday of the month,
9:30-11:30 am.

Honeoye-Richmond
Historical Society Museum
provides a wonderful and
enlightening glimpse into the
past and is free of charge.
(Donations are appreciated).

Located in the back of Richmond Town Hall,
8690 Main Street, Honeoye, NY 14471.

585-229-1128
historian@townofrichmond.org



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meetup.com
for event/class schedules

Vietnam Talk by David Taylor
Vietnam veteran and author of, "Our War: The History and Sacrifices of an Infantry Battalion in the Vietnam War, 1968-1971," will give a free, public talk at the main campus of Finger Lakes Community College - Stage 14 (Room 2185), 3325 Marvin Sands Drive Canandaigua NY - on Tuesday, April 9. The event begins at 12:45 p.m.; visitors should arrive early to allow for parking. For more information, call (585) 785-1307.

Native American Meditation
& Drumming Circle
Friday, April 12, 2019, 7 - 9 pm ~ Fundraiser donation \$10.00
Conducted by Bob and Jodie Kiss. If you have your own drum please bring it but it is not necessary for participation.
Little Lakes Community Center, Hemlock, NY

Number of gun suicides per 100,000 Population



Gun suicides in the United States have reached epidemic proportions compared to the rest of the world. Americans kill themselves with guns at the rate of 6.9 per 100,000, second in the world only to Greenland, which has a higher rate due to being a country with so few people (11 gun suicides per year versus nearly 24,000 in the U.S.). In 2017 there were 39,773 gun deaths in the U.S., of which 60% or nearly 24,000 were suicides. Firearms are used in about 33% of female suicides and in 50% of male suicides. Extensive research has shown that the gun suicide rate in the U.S. is not distributed randomly throughout the country but is concentrated in states with the highest rates of gun ownership and the most lenient gun laws. Montana is the leader with 19.4 suicides per 100,000 followed by Wyoming (16.6) and Alaska (16.0). Alaska has the highest rate of gun ownership in the United States (61.7%), and Wyoming (53.8%) and Montana (52.3%) are not far behind.

These statistics confirm what common sense tells us: that access to guns will increase the incidence of gun suicides. There are two reasons for this. Guns are the most lethal and effective means of committing suicide, and a significant percentage of suicide attempts occur because of impulsive decisions made during short-lived and transitory periods of anguish and despair, decisions that the individual would likely regret later if he or she had survived. A major study of suicide attempt survivors bears this out. Nearly 90% of suicide attempt survivors do not end up dying by suicide. Studies show that 85-90% of suicide attempts by gun are successful compared to less than 10% of attempts using pills or slashing wrists and just 5% by all non-firearm methods. A meta-analysis of 14 different scientific studies concluded that having access to a firearm triples the risk of death by suicide.

In addition to lowering suicide rates, red flag laws can reduce the incidence of mass shootings by disturbed and violent individuals who exhibit clear warning signs before committing their crimes. In a Mother Jones study of 62 mass shootings over a thirty year period from 1982-2012, 80% of the shooters obtained their guns legally and 61% displayed multiple warning signs prior to the murders. In 2014 the FBI released a study of "active shooters" (those who kill or attempt to kill people in a populated area) between 2000 and 2013, and 62% had a history of abuse, harassment, or bullying and other warning signs. In the Mother Jones online database that tracks mass shootings from 1982-2019, there were 47 more mass shootings between 2013 and 2019, of which only 18 had a definite indication or absence of warning signs (the rest are "unclear" or "to be determined" or simply not specified), and of these, 16 or a full 89% had clear warning signs.

The recent Parkland mass shooting is a case in point. Not only did the 19-year-old shooter give numerous warning signs, but his concerned mother contacted law enforcement numerous times. Since Florida did not have a red flag law in place at the time, there was very little that law enforcement could do. If a red flag law had been in place (the Parkland massacre was the catalyst for enacting the Florida law), it's very likely that the tragedy would have been averted. And Parkland is not alone. There are many other tragic stories about mass shootings that could have been averted had a red flag law been in place and rigorously enforced, and I encourage the reader to google "mass shootings with warning signs" to learn more.

"In a 2017 study of Connecticut's Red Flag Law, researchers found that one suicide was averted for every eleven gun removals."

Expanded Background Checks

Under current federal law all firearm purchases (including rifles and shotguns) are subject to a background check by the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). When a gun dealer requests a background check, the NICS will reply with one of three answers: "proceed," "denied," or "delayed." While the vast majority of nationwide background checks (92%) are resolved immediately, those receiving a "delayed" response must be completed in three business days, and if no reply is received within the three-day window, federal law allows the transaction to proceed. According to the FBI, just over 60% of "delayed" cases are resolved within the three days, which leaves almost 40% of such cases unresolved because more time is needed for the FBI to complete the background check. In the meantime, the gun sale will go through, even though the applicant has not been thoroughly vetted. According to the FBI, between 2010 and 2014 more than 15,000 gun sales went through nationwide to ineligible individuals whose background checks were "delayed" but not resolved within the three-day waiting period.

One of the new gun laws in New York closes this loophole by extending the waiting period from three to thirty business days, allowing the FBI to undertake a more comprehensive background check on "delayed" applicants. For example, some state and federal laws make certain misdemeanor convictions like domestic violence or drug possession a disqualifying condition for purchasing or possessing a firearm. If an applicant's criminal history indicates a misdemeanor conviction, the transaction will be flagged as "delayed" to allow the NICS to contact local court and law enforcement officials to determine if the conviction is disqualifying, often resulting in a delay beyond the three-day waiting period and the default sale of a gun to a prohibited applicant. A case in point is the white supremacist Dylann Roof who murdered nine people at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in South Carolina in 2015. Even though Roof had confessed to a prior drug possession that would have disqualified him from purchasing or possessing a gun, and even though the purchase was delayed, the NICS was unable to discover the confession within the small three-day window. Had a longer waiting period been in place, it is likely that Roof would not have been able to legally acquire the gun that murdered nine people.

A second bill that expands background checks concerns non-residents who apply for a handgun permit in New York state. In a major case in 2013 involving a Florida resident who owned a vacation home in Schoharie County, the New York Court of Appeals ruled that non-residents who work, own a business, or live part-time in New York are eligible to apply for a handgun permit, but it soon became clear that the new law had a significant weakness. Since confidentiality rules prevented New York authorities from investigating the mental illness records of other states, it was impossible to check those records unless the applicant waived his or her right to confidentiality. The new law closes this loophole by requiring a non-resident applying for a handgun permit to waive this right and allowing New York law enforcement to investigate the applicant's home state mental illness history.

In our May 2019 issue of Owl Light News, Len Geller will examine the four remaining pieces of new gun control legislation in New York State.

Resources:

- <https://www.npr.org/2018/06/04/616268027/gun-studies-permit-laws-reduce-murders-red-flag-laws-cut-suicides>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/dec/13/us-gun-deaths-levels-cdc-2017>
- <https://everytownresearch.org/reports/disrupting-access/>
- <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2012/07/mass-shootings-map/>

Check out OwlLightNews.com for more content and more color

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