

Owl Light News

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Free

Out and about in the Owl Light- 10, 11, 12, 13
Poetry, The Monthly Read - 14 & 15
& Making Lemonade (new feature!) - 15
Richmond History - 19 & the Back page

June 2019



Special feature by Derrick Gentry

At one stage of childhood development, still an early diaper-wearing stage, we all learn Garrett Hardin's second law of ecology: "Everything must go somewhere." As we grow older and mature, we then develop our moral sense and begin to harbor good intentions and cultivate the desire to do the right thing (regardless of whether it pleases our mother). Some of us go on to become parents ourselves – the stage when we are reminded that it is not so easy to do the right thing given the constraints of our busy day-to-day lives. Disposable diapers are designed for convenience. Reusable cloth diapers require time and effort, and (in any case) we come to learn disheartening facts about how that cotton was sourced and how much of a carbon footprint we are making long before our child takes its first steps. Most of us ending up choosing disposables, with a heavy heart, knowing full well that the mixed materials that make them so lightweight and absorbent also make them unrecyclable.

In spite of all the well-intentioned product labeling and signage, managing one's own waste is not always an easy task when we are cast in the role of a solitary consumer in a complex economy full of system-level paradoxes and long supply chains. Being the change you want to see, moreover, can sometimes be a challenge when the rules keep changing and it is not always easy to see where things go to when you are done with them (let alone know where they come from).

The rules of recycling have undergone some dramatic changes of late. Ever since the 1990s, when recycling really took off in the United States, China has been by far the largest market for receiving material to be recycled. In July of 2017, however, China announced its melodramatically titled "National Sword" policy, which reduced the acceptable contamination level for all plastic recycling to only .5% of the total load (6-15% or more used to be the standard). Recycling exports to China dropped by 92% over the first five months of 2018 in response to the new policy.

The new de facto ban on recycling has not been in the headlines as much as the emerging tariffs war, but it has received

ample media attention. There are reports that local municipal waste management districts nationwide are sending loads of recyclable material to landfill due to unacceptable levels of contamination as well as the general collapse of the market. Media headlines have registered the crisis: "Is This the End of Recycling?" asked the Atlantic Monthly, while the NBC headline did not even take the form of a question: "Recycling Breaks Down."

The advent of single-stream, single-bin recycling led to a sharp rise in the rates of consumer recycling. The simple days of no-sort recycling seem to be gone. We now live in an era of complex, hard-to-sort packaging that makes increasing demands upon the consumer. Single-use, thin-film plastic (shopping bags, for example) and newer forms of lightweight packaging (the new amazon.com mailers) are not only non-recyclable; they are also wreaking havoc with complex zero-sort machines and are a major contributor to the contamination of entire loads of otherwise acceptable plastics. From a waste processing standpoint, the new contamination standards for recyclables are akin to the herd immunity phenomenon with vaccination. Something close to full compliance and participation is now required in order to make sure the recycling material gathered from various sources is not diverted to landfill. Recycling campaigns now advise consumers "when in doubt, throw it out": better to err on the side of caution and send your post-consumer packaging directly to landfill.

In addition to the global recycling crisis, our region and our state are facing additional pressures. The three largest landfills in New York -- located in Monroe, Ontario, and Seneca counties, all of them managed by Casella -- are scheduled to close in 2028 when the current contracts expire. The closure means that all of the waste that has been sent there from various sources near and far, including waste from the host counties themselves, must now find somewhere else to go.

One option, of course, is simply to locate another landfill outside the area, sign a new contract, and continue with business as usual while paying the bill for shipping and landfilling of waste. That is not the plan of Ontario County, home to one of the landfills scheduled for closure. A committee led by Canadice Town Supervisor Kristine Singer has instead passed a Call to Action resolution that sets a timeline for the county to come up with a strategic long-term plan that will divert from landfill as much compostable and recyclable waste as possible. They have resolved, in other words, to treat the current crisis as an opportunity.

Educational campaigns in Ontario County have already had a measurable impact. And while Casella is currently losing money on its recycling operation, the recycling material that gets sent from within Ontario County has a very low contamination rate and therefore still goes on the market -- "something we should be proud of" Singer says, attributing the low rate to "public education on how to properly dispose of the recyclables, clean and without non-recyclables mixed in." There is still work to do, Singer hastens to add, in the project of getting people to appreciate that terms like "post-consumer waste" and "zero-sort recycling" do not relieve consumers of their responsibilities.

Continued page 8



Michael Amadori, Sustainability Manager Hobart and William Smith College Photo courtesy Michael Amadori



Jason Wadsworth, Manager of packaging and Sustainability, Wegmans. Photo courtesy of Jason Wadsworth,

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Owl Light Contributors


Monthly Columns



Page 5

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




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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.



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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




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"Kade in the Kitchen" and "The Light Lens" are taking a break for June. Homestead Gardener, Derrick Gentry, has set aside his column for a feature front page piece for June.

Guest Contributors


Opinion ~ Page 3

Kurt Staudter ~ Sacred days for workers
Kurt Staudter, Springfield, VT. Over the course of thirty years Kurt's career working for National Grid and New England Power has given him a unique perspective on the Connecticut River. From operating the Bellows Falls Hydro Plant in the 1990s, to his job now in Substation Operations & Maintenance, every day his work takes him someplace along the river. He is an elected Executive Board Member of IBEW Local 486. A longtime activist and political columnist for the Vermont Standard, Kurt along with his wife Patti also ran the Vermont Brewers Association representing the growing number of craft breweries in the state for almost seven years. He has a Bachelors of Arts degree from the National Labor College, and participated with a fellowship in the Harvard Trade Union Program.

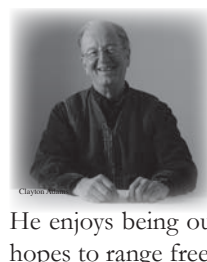


Poetry ~ Page 14 - 15

Scott W. Williams ~ Dalai Java in Summer
SUNY at Buffalo Professor Emeritus Dr. Scott W. Williams is a poet and author of short stories. His poems appeared in "Sunday Review", "Coffeehouse Writings From the Web", "Juniper", "Peach Mag", "Ground & Sky", "Scryptic Magazine", "Le Mot Juste", "Punch Drunk Press", "Journal of Humanistic Mathematics." The most recent of his books are "Bonvibre Haiku" (CWP Press-2017) and "Natural Shrinkage" (Destitute Press-2018). Scott edits the syfy poetry & flash-fiction anthology series, "A Flash of Dark" (Writers Den-2018) and "A Flash of Dark vol 2" (Writers Den-2018). Williams hosts workshops of the poetic forms Ghazal and Haiku and co-hosts the series Second Stage Writers (w/Dr. Max Stephen in Buffalo, NY) & Poets Soup (w/Victoria Hunter in Canandaigua, NY).




Stephen S. Lewandowski ~ ABSENT MIND
Stephen Lewandowski was born in Canandaigua, NY in 1947. When his ethnobotanist parents were killed in a plane crash, he survived and was reared by bears in the Southern Tier of New York. Later, he was discovered, shaved and clothed, and sent to Hamilton College where he studied English Literature. Not completely civilized by this experience, he also did graduate work in philosophy and folklore. He enjoys being outdoors and, being recently retired from gainful employment with Soil Conservation, hopes to range freely again. Writing, even thinking, is painful to him.




Jeff Thomas ~ Progeny – Aftermath ~ to the ash trees

Wendy Schreiner ~Joy of Spring (poetry) Page14
Wendy Schreiner resides in Warsaw with husband Dave and their two shih tzu Daisy Mae and Paisley Rae. She studied English at Daemen College and loves writing when not at her day job at Wyoming County Dept. of Social Services. She also facilitates "Write Connection" at the Warsaw Public Library.




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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.*



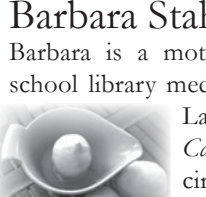
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Mary Drake ~ The Monthly Review
Mary Drake is a novelist and freelance writer living in western New York. Visit her online at marydrake.org to learn more about her books.




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Barbara Stahl ~ Making Lemonade! NEW!
Barbara is a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, retired school library media specialist, and a western New York/Finger Lakes area lover who did a previous column for *Canandaigua Daily Messenger*. She loves her family, circle of friends, reading, writing, history, music, theater, and Tarzan the cat who critiques her articles.




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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.




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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.



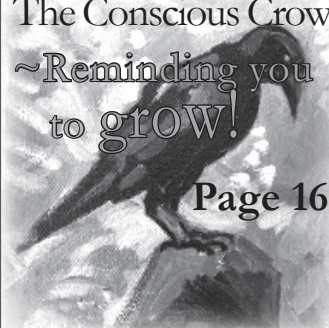
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Sam Hall ~Bee Lines
Sam Hall is a Western NY beekeeper who first worked bees as a child growing up on a "dirt farm" in Allegany County, NY. He has kept bees for most of his adult life and believes that his mistakes "far outnumber his successes."



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The Conscious Crow ~Reminding you to gROW!
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Joy Lewis ~ Richmond History
Joy Lewis has served as Town of Richmond Historian since 2013.



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Every other issue

Read Listen Reflect

Owl Light News

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and Laurie Phillips (Naples).

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On news, trees & sustainability

~ Notes from the editor

Many years ago, when I lived in downtown Ithaca within walking distance of the Commons, I had a Sunday morning ritual of walking to a place (alas, wonderful but short-lived) called Muffin Madness. On my way there I would pick up a *Sunday New York Times* from T.G. Miller Son's Paper Company (gone after many, many years). After ordering a pecan sticky bun and a coffee, I would settle in at a window-view table, looking onto the corner of Aurora Street and State Street (now dually designated as Martin Luther King Jr. Street) and read the *Times* end to end – which took about as much time as eating one of Muffin Madness' rich and irresistible sticky buns.

I was reminded of my previous Sunday morning ritual when I became aware that I had missed the NYT's brief period of free online (if I had seen this Sunday, I would have ran for a sticky bun). Many local papers have managed to keep their online (and in many cases print) content free and available to all. (This includes the *Owl Light News*). Many other newspapers now have pay walls, annoying pop up ads – or both. I did open and read a "cheery" NYT's article (relevant to this issue's focus) on the acceleration of the global extinction of plants and animals and the increasingly obvious link between the extinction of other species and our potential for long-term survival (www.nytimes.com/2019/05/06/climate/biodiversity-extinction-united-nations.html). The article was, coincidentally, sponsored by an advertisement for a million dollar pent house. Newspapers need advertisers.

I am sometimes asked if I would accept more advertising from corporations. I guess my short answer, I am not very good with short answers, is yes. Although in reality it would depend on the corporation: how do they treat their employees; whether their service or product supports the environment; what becomes of their wealth? It is a delicate balance to keep advertising rates low enough to encourage and support small business and nonprofit service organizations while encouraging wealthier advertisers and remaining a sustainable press. I do understand why the *Times* and many other mainstream – and less mainstream – newspapers do what they do. Carl Sagan's quote, "Extinction is the rule. Survival is the exception." applies, sadly, as much to newspapers as it does to life here, or anywhere.

As media discussions continue around who gets access to what news, and for how much (free press!), around paper (which is expensive) vs. digital, environmental sustainability is as relevant as economic sustainability. Although our delivery goal is that all the *Owl Lights* get picked up and read, they ultimately get upcycled into flowerpots or worm bedding, recycled (to where and to what ends?) or, worse yet, thrown out. Paper is still made primarily from trees, and, as I often say, "they don't make trees like they used to." When I pick up a copy of the *Sunday New York Times* to read I wonder just how many trees it takes to print all those pages. (It also takes fossil fuel to bring the *Times* to my door). Nonetheless, I have decided that print is an important choice for our *Owl Light* readers and that online content – like the print copy – should be available to all.

As for my *Sunday New York Times* quandary I do love that morning ritual of consuming the paper slowly, in a way that is only possible with print. Despite recent criticism (some warranted; some vindictive) the *Times* has long been recognized as a "newspaper of record," and continues to provide more in-depth coverage than most – if not all – U.S. press sources (my current global news "go to" is the BBC). A digital option looks like just the thing, allowing me to support independent press and the environment. Besides, the availability of pecan sticky buns in Canadice on Sunday morning is nil.

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



Inside Miller's at 113 N. Tioga, Ithaca, NY

his two sons Ernest A., and Arthur P. Miller into the business incorporating it as T.G. Miller and Sons Paper Co. *The Ithaca Journal*, Ithaca, New York - 26 Jan 1979, Fri • Page 30
https://www.newspapers.com/clip/10373986/tg_millers_sons_original_photo/

In 1878 Enz & Miller was started on East State Street by Thomas G. Miller and Frank J. Enz, two former employees of Andrus & Church Book Bindery. A few years later they moved and listed their office and warerooms at 13 North Tioga Street (later 113 N. Tioga St.) with a mill at Fall Creek (later known as the Reed Mill) and were listed as "manufacturers and wholesale dealers in Paper, Stationery, School Supplies, etc.", offering, "blank books of any desired style ruled, printed and bound to order." In those days delivery was by horse and wagon and even then the young firm was sending salesmen down into northern Pennsylvania. Some years later Mr. Enz returned to his home in Germany and Thomas Grant Miller formed a corporation and took

An Owl Light Thank You to our readers, contributors and advertisers!

We love what we are doing and really appreciate the positive comments and advertising support. That so many people are willing to contribute their thoughts and words to the *Owl Light* reminds us that we are on the right track in terms of the quality & scope of our content.

Owl Light News is made possible by our readers, by our contributors and by our advertisers, so thank you one and all! Read us free in print. Read us free online.

Let the *Owl Light* shine into your home with home delivery (this guarantees you a paper and supports us) and keep the *Owl Light* shining on by advertising on our well-read pages – or by becoming an advertising sponsor for our online content.

If you are new to us, or not, take some owllight time to read, listen and reflect!



Letters from Owl Light Readers

Sacred days for workers

Opinion by Kurt Staudter

Each year, at the end of April and at the beginning of May there are two holidays celebrated by workers all around the world. Even though both of these days commemorate events that happened here in the United States; one holiday is never recognized by the powers that be, or worse demonized, and the other only gets lip service from those CEOs that haven't figured out how to get rid of their unionized workforce yet. Throughout our history American workers have always had a complicated relationship with the owners of capital. In exchange for the best years of our lives they profit, and when they find greater profits elsewhere we are replaced, discarded, and told to fend for ourselves like our contribution never really mattered at all. Meanwhile our elected officials just stand aside watching like guilty coconspirators.

April 28 is the Workers' Memorial Day and commemorates those that are killed or injured on the job. The date was chosen because it's the anniversary of the Occupational Health and Safety Administration. Created and signed into law in 1970 by President Richard Nixon, the Occupational Safety and Health Act has saved countless lives. On OSHA's website they boast "In more than four decades, OSHA and our state partners, coupled with the efforts of employers, safety and health professionals, unions and advocates, have had a dramatic effect on workplace safety. Worker deaths in America are down-on average, from about 38 worker deaths a day in 1970 to 14 a day in 2017. Worker injuries and illnesses are down-from 10.9 incidents per 100 workers in 1972 to 2.8 per 100 in 2017."

Yet each day at the electric company my boss will give us the "Daily Safety Brief," and over the course of a year there are hundreds of near misses, bad accidents, and unfortunately the occasional death. It always amazes me that given how dangerous our work is that there aren't more fatalities. Now in the more than three decades I've worked for National Grid never once have I been around for an OSHA inspection, and the likelihood that I ever will is pretty slim. Under the Trump administration there are fewer inspectors making a lot less inspections, and when they do catch some unscrupulous employer, OSHA no longer sends out the damning press release of shame. According to an article in *The Nation*, "Enforcement has also slackened amid diminishing capacity. OSHA's staff has shrunk since the Reagan administration, from more than 1,000 in 1982, to 952 in 2016, and as of 2018, down to a 48-year low of 875 personnel."

Everyday we seem to hear fresh stories in the news about this or that corporation responsible for workplace illnesses and deaths. With the pro-corporate media, unless it is something particularly appalling or if there's a huge settlement we never hear about it. *The Nation* goes on to say, "The reduction probably isn't a function of violations growing less serious—it's more likely that the agency is just treating them less seriously. The median penalty issued for a major violation in fiscal year 2017 was \$3,553; if a worker was killed on the job, the typical penalty was only \$7,500." So there's a dollar amount for what the life of a worker is worth? That's a shamefully low number.

If you're a child of the Cold War the images that May Day might conjure are the displays of military might thundering through Red Square in the USSR. Before you get your anti-communist dander all in a twist, nothing could be more American than May Day. The internationally recognized Labor Day arose from an incident in Chicago called the Haymarket Tragedy. A labor rally in May 1886 calling for the unimaginable and unreasonable demand of an 8-hour workday ended in violence that left both labor activists and police officers dead. Eventually, organizers of the rally were brought to trial, convicted with some of them being executed, although there was never any proof that they were guilty. These men were known as the Martyrs of Haymarket, and it is in honor of their sacrifice that an international labor body in Paris, France declared May 1 a day to remember the contributions of working people. For a wonderful book on the subject I direct your attention to the late UMass labor historian James Green's "Death in the Haymarket: A Story of Chicago, The First Labor Movement and the Bombing that Divided Gilded Age America." This reads like any best selling thriller.

So another Workers' Memorial Day and May Day have come and gone with no real progress in workplace justice. We still get the table scraps and our lives on the job are still at risk. Recently in *Business Insider* a report on Bridgewater Associates, one of the largest hedge funds, pointed out that it's "The most pro-corporate environment in history," but we knew that didn't we. Maybe the tide is finally turning. More people now than ever are starting to demand their fair share. It would seem some aspects of Socialism might just be what are needed in an age of unbridled capitalism.

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New Owl Light deadline!
The submission deadline for
Owl Light News is the
Third Thursday each month,
for the following month's issue.
Sooner is better!



Pathways...to Democracy by Doug Garnar



Climate Choices Meeting the needs of a warming planet?

Some may argue that climate change is a “global hoax” perpetrated by the Chinese. But if peer reviewed climate science is to be considered a reliable guide then consider the following “climate canaries” on the planet:

- Within the last year snow and ice on Mt. Everest is melting at a rate to unearth hands, feet, whole bodies of close to 200 hundred climbers who died while scaling the mountain in the past century.
- Permafrost is melting at a record rate in Alaska and Canada releasing greenhouse gases and making areas uninhabitable.
- NYC Mayor Deblasio is considering a 10 year plan costing \$10 billion dollars to enlarge lower Manhattan Island to protect it from rising seas.
- In the past three weeks record flooding has destroyed billions of dollars of levees designed to keep the Mississippi and Missouri rivers in check now rendering a record number of unusable acres for this year’s growing season.
- 66 tons of human feces has surfaced in Denali National Park as a result of recent record temperatures. All mountain climbers must take their human feces with them when they leave the park.

Droughts, bomb cyclones, hurricanes, extreme rainfall, forest fires are all examples of the increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events which climate scientists increasingly attribute to climate change. Climate change has resulted in public health concerns; a threat to national security; and an economic challenge of considerable import. So the proverbial question is what is to be done? The National Issues Forums Institute has created a deliberative forum on “Climate Choices” we should consider. As is the case with all NIFI deliberative forums there are three options with multiple actions that might be considered. To stimulate a good deliberation NIFI also includes a counter point for each action. This allows deliberation participants to recognize the importance of evaluating “trade-offs”.

The aforementioned issue book includes the following options:

Option 1 Sharply reduce carbon emissions:

- requiring states to meet a new national emissions standard by significantly increasing use of renewable energies (wind, solar, geothermal, etc)
- institute a carbon credit (“cap/trade”)
- charge fossil fuel producers a “carbon tax”
- require increased use of electric cars; ban cars in some areas; redirect highways funds to create more bicycle paths & pedestrian friendly communities
- require dramatic reductions in household energy use through weatherization, more efficient appliances and reduced driving.

Option 2 Prepare and protect communities:

- upgrading infrastructure (storm water systems; levees); increase wetlands; build roads/ transportation above flood levels
- provide care/treatment assistance for prolonged periods of heat; homelessness due to natural disaster etc.
- use zoning/building codes/and insurance requirements to keep people from building or rebuilding in vulnerable areas.
- develop more local power grids (i.e. wind and solar farms) and promote strong local agriculture
- provide farmers with technical subsidies/technical support to promote more sustainable agriculture.

Continued page 5

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RICHMOND REPUBLICANS

THE REAL CHOICE FOR TOWN SUPERVISOR

RANDY WALKER

DON'T WRITE HIM OFF... WRITE HIM IN!

Write-In

“THE BOTTOM LINE”

THE KEY TO GOOD GOVERNMENT IN THE TOWN OF RICHMOND STARTS ON THIS ROW

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Let’s have more Open Communication - Accountability - Tax Reform

LEADERSHIP: Five Years on the School Board & Four Years on the Town Board

**GOP Primary Election Day, June 25, 2019 Richmond Town Hall
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PAID FOR BY DECEIVED TAXPAYERS WHO WERE TOLD BY THE CURRENT SUPERVISOR THAT
Taxes were going up 11.80%
When bills arrived in the mail the taxes were **16.20%**


Option 3 Accelerate Innovation:

- offer companies incentives to develop technologies to help build a low carbon economy
- strengthen the development of “geoengineering” of the Earth’s climate
- ease up on regulating processes to bring new “green technologies” to the market place more quickly
- allow business and NGOs to have more opportunity to help shape appropriate science/technology curriculums at colleges/universities
- promote the use of “smart” electric motors and GPSs combined with peer pressure and the use of social media to encourage people to reduce their energy consumption

Historians, climate scientists and anthropologists are now referring to the current epoch as the Age of the Anthropocene. By this they mean that the composition of the earth’s ecosystems and its geochemistry from the upper atmosphere to the oceans, seas, lakes and rivers are now more impacted by humanity than any other factor. Symbolic are two types of photos taken of the Earth by first the Apollo mission when the planet is seen as a green/ blue body contrasted with the blackness of space. The second are countless photos taken from space which show innumerable points of man made light dotting the entire planet. The first photo shows us the rare nature of a planet teeming with life. The second series of photos shows humanity’s desire to illuminate the planet regardless of the toll imposed on the planet’s ecosystems. In the late 1980s a futurist/historian, Warren Wagar, coined the term “ecocide” implying the death of a natural ecosystem. One wonders what humans will say in 2119 about the issue of climate change---will they say what were those early 21st century humans thinking, or will they say that a Climate Swerve occurred which moved the planet back to a sustainable trajectory. The power of deliberative democracy might well be a catalyst for the latter future. We should remember that all great public policy questions such Climate Choices will require “sacrifice”---how much is part of what this deliberation is all about.

Anyone interested in the value/use of deliberative democracy should contact nifi.org or Doug Garnar (NIFI Ambassador) at garnardc@sunybroome.edu

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VOTE FOR STEVE BARNHOORN

Councilmember, Richmond Town Board



Your Primary Hometown Choice

VOTE, Republican Primary Election Day
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As an active member of the Town Board, Richmond Councilmember Steve Barnhoorn has played a key role in many positive changes that have shaped *our* community. A lifelong resident of Honeoye, Steve’s local leadership is inspired by his love and knowledge of the community and his passion for public service.

Trusted experience and proven results:

- **Spearheaded** the process of strengthening land use **regulations to protect Honeoye Lake from runoff** that contributes to algae blooms.
- **Completed capital projects** that brought public water to residents of East Lake Road and Ashley and White Roads, **providing clean, fresh drinking water** to help stabilize property values and improve residents’ daily quality of life. These projects were completed **under budget**.
- **Engaged the NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) to replace our Main Street (Route 20A) bridge**, advocating for its construction as well as partnered with the Town’s Streetscape Committee to provide input on project design.
- **Led the effort to streamline zoning and permit process** to make it easier for homeowners to install **residential solar units** and achieve energy independence.
- **Shepherded a local law to promote Agritourism** (farm-based event venues), increasing our tourism presence in the Finger Lakes region.
- Instrumental in forming a new Municipal Parks District **for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations**.
- Played a key role in **supporting and guiding the construction of the current Town Hall**, built in 2009 after more than two decades of talk (debt was retired in 2018).
- Led a five-year process to develop a policy handbook for town employees and officials, **protecting the town from liability and bringing employment standards up-to-date**.
- **Successfully advocated for and participated in the creation of the Town of Richmond’s website**, launched in 2009 to improve communication with residents.
- **Proudly recommended and obtained approval by Congress and the US Senate to honor, for all time, Colonel Thomas E. Schaefer USAF** (a Honeoye Laker, one of the 52 Americans held hostage in Iran, 1979-81) in the Congressional Record.

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- | | |
|--|---|
| Bristol: Town Hall | Farmington: State Troopers |
| Canandaigua: FLCC (Keuka Wing) The Medicine Shoppe Ontario County DMV Office Canandaigua Police Dept. Thompson Hospital (lobby) Mental Health Clinic (County Complex) | Clifton Springs: Hospital (Lobby) |
| Geneva: Police Station North Street Pharmacy | East Bloomfield: Town Hall |
| Richmond: Town Hall CVS Pharmacy | Naples: Village Hall |
| | Phelps: Community Center |
| | Rushville: Village Hall |
| | Victor: Meade Square Pharmacy |

If you do not live in Ontario County, please contact your local law enforcement agency. Questions, please call us at 585-396-4554.





Bee Lines by Sam Hall

It's SWARM SEASON!

For honey bees swarming season is here. It is when nature tries to increase the number of colonies to insure the survival of the species. Though I have not heard of any swarms so far this year, I'm sure I will within the next few days. The earliest that I have ever heard of a swarm here is April 17 but that was an exceptionally warm early spring.

Hopefully you have been privileged to see a swarm hanging in a bush or a tree. What you are seeing is about 40% to 60% of the population from the old colony. An area that the bees do not seem to be the best at is when this group separates from their former co-workers at the old location they really don't know where they are going. They leave with the old queen who they have placed on a diet for a few days before they leave so she can get light enough to fly. Usually though because of the old queen they don't initially go very far from the old location as she gets tired. When she alights the bees form the cluster around her and that is what you see hanging in the tree or bush.

Before the colony swarms several things happen in the colony. The bees will create swarm queen cells usually located on the bottom of the two frames in the center of the brood nest. There are usually 5 to 9 of such cells. The queens in these cells are not allowed to emerge until the old queen is gone.



For example if the weather does not allow the old queen to leave on time the workers will add wax to the tips of the swarm queen cells to keep the queens from emerging.

The first queen to emerge from one of the swarm queen cells will go to the other queen cells and sting to death those queens before they can emerge. If two should emerge at the same time they will fight until only one is left. It may seem cruel but nature only allows one queen bee to reign in the colony at a time except in one situation which I will not cover here.

This whole process is nature's way of trying to increase the number of colonies and insure the species survival. Tom Seeley from Cornell has spent 40 some years studying swarming. His book *Honeybee Democracy* is a must read if you are really interested in this phenomena of nature.

For those of you that are beekeepers this is the time to start carrying your swarm box and other items you need to capture a swarm in the trunk of your car or bed of your truck. I carry a simple swarm box which I have made from a deep super with a tacked on screened bottom and a hinged screened top.

You can see from the accompanying pictures how I use the box, ladder, sheet and other items in taking a swarm from an old apple tree. I never cease to be thrilled to watch the thousands of bees which I have shaken onto the sheet from above suddenly like they have gotten a military command start marching into the swarm box where I have managed to hopefully have the queen.

Twice in recent years I have had to retrieve swarms that are already on the ground. I do not know the forces that forced them to the ground but one of the concerns is where is the queen. If you step on her the colony is lost unless you have another queen immediately available and they accept her.

"Place a beehive on my grave And let the honey soak through. When I'm dead and gone, That's what I want from you. The streets of heaven are gold and sunny, But I'll stick with my plot and a pot of honey. Place a beehive on my grave And let the honey soak through."

~ Sue Monk Kidd, The Secret Life of Bees



Top: A swarm on the branch of an apple tree.
Left: A swarm being shaken off into a super over a sheet (to collect bees that do not make it into the box). This is much easier when the bees are on low trees and bushes.
Above: The tools needed to remove a swarm from a tall tree.
Photos courtesy Sam Hall

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Interested in bees? Looking to learn more?

Consider attending a meeting at one of the area beekeeping clubs.

Ontario Finger Lakes Beekeepers meets the second Monday of each month at 7 pm in the Auditorium, Building 5, Canandaigua VA Medical Center.
More information *fb Ontario Finger Lakes Beekeepers Association*

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Finger Lakes Forest Church
June 15, 10 am: Labyrinth Walk

The contemplative experience of walking the labyrinth and trails at Quiet Meadows will invite us to engage with the twists and turns of our own lives.

It is recommended that participants wear sturdy shoes and long pants.

Location: Quiet Meadows, 5787 Barnes Rd., Canandaigua.
Directions available at <http://www.quietmeadows.org/directions.html>.
See Finger Lakes Forest Church on FB for more information or contact flforestchurch@gmail.com.

Get Owl Light delivered to your Home ~ See page 7

The Night Sky ~ June

“Old Moon in the New Moon’s arms”

Plus summer solstice, Jupiter, Ursa major & Cassiopeia



by Dee Sharples

Observing the night sky can sometimes feel a little frustrating. I stepped outside at dusk on May 6 to see the predicted crescent moon and the planet Mars looking like a reddish star situated close together in the western sky. It was a mild beautiful evening, clear skies in every direction . . . except for the dark ominous clouds closing in from the western horizon.

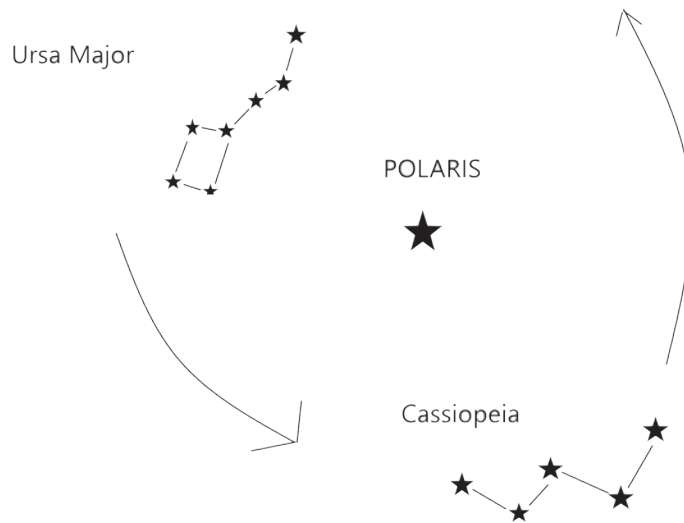
The crescent Moon was there, beautiful in the twilight, but as I waited for the sky to darken so that I would be able to spot dimmer Mars, the clouds steadily rolled in soon obscuring even the moon before I was able to spot the planet. Yes, it was a little frustrating, but on the up-side, I was out under the sky, enjoying the spring weather and drinking in the beauty of that slender crescent moon.

A thin crescent is a new moon and it’s the time when you can still see the complete round lunar shape - the bright crescent and the dimly lit larger night side. It’s a special event in itself – referred to as the “Old Moon in the New Moon’s arms”. The Sun’s light reflects off the surface of the Earth onto the moon, creating earthshine, a dull glow that barely lights up the night portion of the moon. And this is an event that happens every 29.5 days. If it’s clear on June 7th, look for this pretty sight once again as the Sun sets.

Although you can never count on a clear sky when you want to look up at the stars and planets, you can count on certain constellations always being in the northern sky every day of the year.

From our vantage point on Earth, two easily recognized constellations Ursa Major (Big Dipper) and Cassiopeia (the Queen) move counter-clockwise around Polaris, the North Star. If you consistently look to the north every clear night, they’ll be there like reliable friends but always shifting positions as the months and time of day change.

LOOKING NORTH 11:00 PM



Ursa Major can be found high in the northwest around 11:00 p.m. each night in June, while Cassiopeia will be opposite it, low in the southeast. Before daybreak they will have shifted positions as they circle Polaris, with the Big Dipper now low in the southwest and Cassiopeia higher in the northeast.

Polaris is not the brightest star in the sky as many people believe. It’s a somewhat dimmer star at magnitude 1.97 located due north, about 43 degrees up from the horizon. It actually ranks 48th in a list of the 50 brightest stars in the sky.

Our planet is tipped on its axis at 23.5 degrees which means Earth’s North Pole happens to point almost directly toward Polaris, designating it as our North Star. All the stars in the sky appear to us on Earth to circle Polaris.

Jupiter, the largest planet in our solar system, can be seen rising in the southeast after the Sun sets. On June 10, Jupiter reaches “opposition”, which means it will lie directly opposite our Sun and be visible for the entire night. This month it will be its brightest for the entire year, shining brilliantly at magnitude -2.6.

The summer solstice, the first official day of summer, occurs on June 21st at 11:54 a.m. We’ll have fewer hours of darkness but many more hours of daylight to enjoy our beautiful Earth and the night sky.

Send comments and questions
Re: The Night Sky to:
Editor@canadicepress.com.



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 about 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.

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
- Jupiter: -2.6
- 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°.

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Recycling from front

"Middle-Out" Change

It is true that the recycling turmoil within the global market has led to a crisis of confidence in many places, including media headlines. But as Ontario County demonstrates, such a crisis can also inspire, or even force, a shift of attention to local solutions at the community level.

We often say that real change must occur at all levels. There are certain levels, however, that tend to get overlooked and perhaps deserve some more focused attention. We all know the two familiar strategies for change: "Top-down" change (whether it be governmental bans or subsidies or taxes, or abstract market forces); and "bottom-up" change (individuals trying to be the change they want to see, whether by being conscientious consumers or by opting out and living off the grid).

Then there is what might be called the intermediate level of "middle-out" change, brought about by local institutions – public, local institutions understood in the broadest sense – that meet local needs and help to create cultures and places of belonging. These are the places where people work and play and hang out; the places where people are educated and where they educate each other; where people work together to do the good they want to do and bring about the kinds of concrete change they want to see. What follows is a profile of three such "middle-out" institutions in our area, along profiles of three individuals within these organizations who are working in different ways to make sustainable practices – including waste management practices – a part of the natural rhythms of daily communal life. We will meet them and get to know their successes, as well as some of the challenges they continue to face along with the rest of us.

Impact Earth

Impact Earth is a zero-waste consulting firm headquartered in Rochester and founded in 2014. On their website, it states that its number one goal is "to educate and prepare our communities' residents for a future without landfills, and how to be the leaders for a sustainable future."

Cassidy Putney co-founded Impact Earth while she was still a junior in college. She recalls being motivated by "a need in our community to do something about our impact on the earth and a real lack of solutions when it came to waste. We have a lot of landfills in New York state, and they are all scheduled to close in the next decade, yet we weren't doing anything to prepare for this huge cultural change. There was a great lack of education and awareness [back then] about personal and corporate waste management."

The Impact Earth website also announces with pride that as of March 2019 they have successfully diverted 179 tons of waste from landfills. (For reference, the Ontario County landfill accepts just under 3,000 tons of waste every day from within the state, about 300 of which comes from within Ontario County itself.)

Impact Earth is not a pick-up or drop-off service, however. Their work primarily involves educating local companies and institutions on how to set up their own systems for dealing with organic and inorganic waste and working toward a zero-waste system. Their clients come to them with a simple request for ideas on how to do things better. Comprehensive on-site assessments are then followed by data-filled reports offering recommendations on how to set goals and establish timelines. The recommendations often focus on the logically prior task of helping to "create a culture of mindfulness" (as one report reads). Everything is premised on the active engagement and participation of the organization's members, along with a shared sense that everyone is in it together.

Schools and colleges are among their growing list of institutional clientele. Naples Central School was scheduled for an on-site assessment a few days after my conversation with Cassidy, and I spoke with someone at the school in advance of the visit. Naples already had a recycling program in place that was entirely student-driven, and their cafeteria food waste was already being collected for composting (off-site). They simply wanted to now what they could improve upon.

When working with school districts, Cassidy reports that "the easiest part of our job is to educate the students and staff and get them on board." The most challenging part, she says, comes with "changing procurement policies and finding affordable alternatives to single use products that cannot be composted or recycled." More schools in New York will be dealing with the challenge of finding affordable alternatives when the state ban on single-use plastic products goes into effect.

Cassidy is well aware of ways in which "sustainability" can become co-opted in more bureaucratic contexts, in some cases becoming little more than a matter of corporate branding. "Genuine sustainability practices," she stresses, "[must] revolve around transparency. Institutions that share or publish their data, that are realistic with their goals, and take true action and invest both time and money into implementing solutions are the most genuine. Most institutions don't take this route because it requires hard work and money, and it's much easier to just have a 'sustainability department' or other 'go green' initiative with staff once a year."

While Impact Earth is obviously motivated by hopes and concerns on a planetary scale, Cassidy is a firm believer in the kind of change that occurs at the level of local community action and produces a chain effect. "If we, as a network of communities, work together to solve our environmental problems, especially related to waste," she says, "we will create a bigger impact than if we wait for an international agreement."

Getting educated at the Wegmans Café

For better and for worse, supermarket chains are in some sense the gatekeepers of our consumer culture. Wegmans is a large chain, and a large corporation, that has nevertheless earned itself the reputation of a local institution. It has tried for many years to be a gatekeeper in the better sense. Over the past decade, it has been a pioneer in exploring and implementing ways in which a supermarket chain can educate its customers and create a "culture of mindfulness" with regard to sustainability. With Jason Wadsworth at the helm as Sustainability Manager, Wegmans has approached the task from many different angles. They have made and continue to make significant progress in reducing food waste, for example. And in partnership with the Rochester Institute of Technology's Center for Sustainable Packaging, they have made innovations in redesigning their packaging so as to make it lighter weight and more easily recyclable. Nearly every in-house Wegmans package has easy-to-read directions on what the consumer can do with their package when they are done with it.

From a cultural and social-behavioral point of view, however, the Wegmans cafe represents perhaps the most interesting laboratory for creating a culture of low-waste con-

sumption. Improving the clarity of recycling bin signage has been an ongoing project, but the current versions are about as clearly articulated as any public signage currently available. On a visit to the café one weekday afternoon, I spoke with one café worker who was emptying a bin designated "landfill." He confidently reported that "people are pretty conscientious" about following the new recycling procedures. The compostables bin is still fairly new, having made its debut about a year ago. In it go chopsticks, paper plates, napkins, and (of course) organic waste -- uneaten apples, banana peels, and a range of other edible non-plastic items.

The system certainly does not have the appearance of a high-stakes sorting game. There is education and signage and people around to assist, and Casella's zero-sort recycling system is spoken of by café employees as an insurance policy that relieves customers of the full burden of sorting. Many of the patrons in the cafe seemed to be regulars and seemed already comfortable with the new system and how to use it. The only real challenge, according to the Wegmans staff I spoke to, comes when dealing with tour bus patrons and other non-regulars to the café who are not familiar with the new system and may not be fully acculturated to recycling practices.

Determining what goes in the recyclable bin and what goes in the landfill bin can be bit complicated, though the signs above each bin made these fine distinctions between what goes and what does not with the aid of an ensemble of dancing chopsticks and other images on the sign. Sushi is one of the most elaborately packaged items sold in any café or food bar. The bottom of the sushi tray goes to landfill; only the clear plastic top is recyclable. All the packets of soy sauce and wasabi go to landfill. A number of other commonly used items in the café always go to landfill: soup cups and coffee cups and plastic utensils.

Wegmans has replaced plastic with paper straws, but it still offers customers only plastic utensils. The most current innovation with utensils is the single-dispense system. Prominent signage informs the café patron of the virtues of the single-dispense system that is designed to dispense no more than what the customer needs utensil-wise (in contrast to packeted utensils with a full ensemble of a place setting and napkin, whether needed or not).

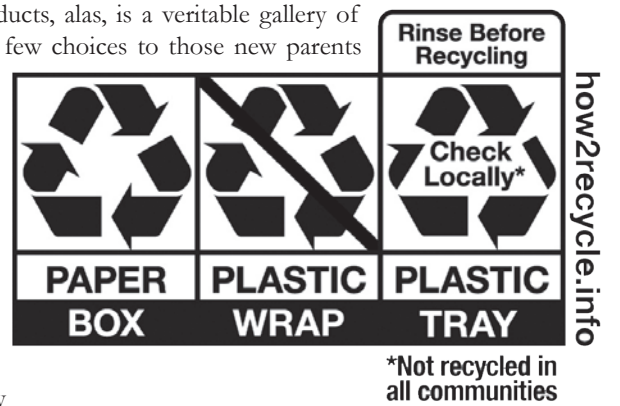
At the top of each napkin and utensil dispenser, the new system announces itself: "The Smart System to keep waste out of landfills." The "Smart System" refers to the manner of dispensing; the plastic utensils are still single-use, and they still go to the landfill. But fewer of them go than might otherwise have gone. This reduced-impact campaign employs a counterfactual logic that is commonly invoked in sustainability discourse: "here is what we have avoided, and here is we might have done otherwise were it not for the current system." It is not deceptive advertising, but the logic is nevertheless subtle. By characterizing and advertising progress in this way, the messaging makes the consumer feel like they are a part of the project and share in the real but retrospective savings.

In addition to the complicated but nevertheless clear signage, a recently expanded staff of hospitality workers in the cafe maintain a constant presence. Now part of their job is to assist patrons with question or to spot those who seem confused about what goes where. As Hartman and I spoke, a patron asked "is the straw compostable?" The straw was a paper straw, and the answer on that occasion was simple.

The café is something of a controlled environment for Wegmans, where they have the freedom to experiment with reforms they want to make with their in-house packaging and straws and containers. Beyond the café, however, is a forest of k-cups and clamshells and disposable diapers and a full range of choices from other brand-name suppliers. Exiting the café at the Canandaigua store, one first comes across a large display of Driscoll's berries in plastic clam shells: #1 PET thermoform plastic, often confused with #1 plastic bottles. Nearly all clamshell packaging ends up in landfill, although it is much easier to sort than lighter-weight packaging and therefore represents much less of a contamination issue. Clamshells can be recycled, but only if the adhesive labels comes off easily – something that the consumer is not instructed to do, but may be done with some difficulty. Three decades after introducing the clamshell, Driscoll's R&D is apparently at work on the label problem.

The long aisle of baby products, alas, is a veritable gallery of non-recyclable items, offering few choices to those new parents

who still aspire to live a low-waste lifestyle. Baby diapers, no matter how they are packaged, contain mixed materials; and if the user follows the directions, they become soiled in any case and are sentenced to landfill on that charge alone. Traditional glass baby food jars still line the shelves, but they are being displaced by the new mixed-plastic squeeze pouches that are lightweight and convenient – and neither recyclable nor re-usable.



Paper or Plastic? Bins versus Bans

Wegmans generally relies on education and customer choice, though occasionally they have taken a different approach. In 2008, Wegmans banned the sale of tobacco products from all of their stores on ethical grounds, due to their negative effects on human health and the environment. The educational effort and the shift in the larger culture had already taken place by 2008 (delayed in part because of the resistance and notorious lack of transparency of companies like Philip Morris).

This year Wegmans announced that it will phase out their single-use (but recyclable) plastic shopping bags in advance of the state ban that will soon go into effect. In the months leading up the vote, Jason Wadsworth was vocal in his opposition to the state ban. The issue presented Wadsworth with a challenge that corporate sustainability managers often face: educating and informing customers in ways that run counter to their intuitions, framing issues from a systemic point of view and persuading customers that the behavior and choices that may seem right from their point of view are in fact not as right as they supposed. With reports on microplastics and Texas-sized plastic archipelagos in the ocean and images-gone-viral of marine life tangled in plastic and birds feeding plastic to their chicks, it was a formidable challenge for Wadsworth in his middle role as educator and defender of current practices.

Continued page 16



Dragonfly Tales by Steve Melcher

Nature as a place of peaceful reprieve

“In wildness is the preservation of the world.”
~Henry David Thoreau

So spoke a true ‘Nature Boy’ over 100 years ago. Henry was someone who was seen as an ‘odd duck’, over educated and underemployed by his town’s folk. He was often seen sauntering through the woods of Lincoln and nearby Walden Pond where he built his now famous ‘cabin in the woods’. He sauntered seemingly with no direct purpose in mind, stopping here and there to observe a recently blooming flower or passing grasshopper. Sauntering is something that has become seldom seen in our swift superficial society. After all ‘saunter’ means to wander in a slow and relaxed manner without hurry or effort. Here at Odonata Sanctuary, we are planning to build a replica of that cabin and other huts and hideaways of other nature writers. John Burroughs had his ‘Slabside’, still open to the public in West Park, NY. ‘The Shack’ is a rebuilt chicken coop along the Wisconsin River where Aldo Leopold crafted his conservation classic, *A Sand County Almanac*. Anne LaBastille’s wilderness cabin, famous worldwide for where she wrote the *Woodswoman* series of books, will be taken apart and transferred to The Adirondack Museum.

These special places are not just for nature writers. We all need a space to reconnect to nature...especially children. The IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) World Conservation Congress provided dramatic support for the worldwide movement to re-connect children and nature—for their health and well-being and that of the Earth itself. The proposal states that children have a right to ‘equitable access’ to nature. Amazingly there are children near us in nearby cities that have never seen stars at night and only play on plastic ‘playgrounds’.

The IUCN adopted the resolution, “Child’s Right to Connect with Nature and to a Healthy Environment.” The resolution calls on IUCN’s government members, signers of the Jeju Declaration and NGOs to promote the Rights of the Child. Whew...all this and I just want to get my kid outside and have the ‘stink blown off him’.

“Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life.”

~Rachel Carson

Another finding that is shocking to me is the relationship between a child’s exposure to nature and feelings of loneliness. In their ‘Loneliness Experiment’ the BBC found that Loneliness is felt most intensely by young people. 40% of young people reported feeling lonely ‘often’ or ‘very often’, compared with 27% of the over 75s. The study concluded that ‘spending time in the natural environment – as a resident or a visitor – improves our mental health and feelings of wellbeing. It can combat loneliness and bind communities together.’ A pediatrician recently told me that loneliness has become as much of a factor of a child’s poor health as obesity and diabetes.

“In the end, we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand and we will understand only what we are taught.”

~Baba Dioum

Children that grow up exposed to nature, connected to nature, will have a greater chance of preserving the nature that they knew as children. If you expose your children to nature and allow those positive experiences to flourish, you create a future citizen who is more likely to preserve that experience through efforts to conserve wild areas. Children need nature as much as nature needs children. We owe our own story of our special place to our children and we owe them the preservation of ‘wildness’, for if ‘In Wildness is the preservation of the World’, who more deserves that preservation than our children: the future guardians of Earth?

You remember that special place you had as a sanctuary. Maybe down by the stream or even on the back step of your porch where you would ‘connect with nature’ while gazing at clouds or watching ants explore the concrete beneath your feet. I remember mine very well. Give yourself permission to saunter and take a kid with you.

“I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order.”

~John Burroughs

Nature Deficit Disorder

What the Union, PCRM (Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine), educators and many others including child psychologists are saying is that exposure to nature is as necessary to a child’s health as a healthy diet and exercise. A recent Yale study correlated children’s health with exposure to nature. In the study ‘The Nature of Americans’, Yale professor, Stephen R. Kellert, states: “The relationship of Americans and nature is changing.” Adults and children alike spend evermore time indoors, participation in outdoor activities beyond sports is stagnant or declining, and shifts in social expectations treat engagement with nature as a mere amenity. These trends pose a nationwide problem, since overwhelming evidence shows the physical, psychological, and social well being of humans depends on contact with nature. We’re finding a significant loss of exposure to nature with each generation. To many, Nature, ‘red in tooth and claw’, is to be feared and conquered. That fear has led to a separation from nature that is having dire consequences for our children. Children have an affirmative posture towards life. They have a natural curiosity. They are active beings who want to explore, experiment and build. As adults, all we need to do is provide the space and time for that exploration. We don’t need adults to show young children how to connect with nature. The space becomes the mediator. That space can be a local park or the tree in the backyard. Older children may want a mentor to further their natural curiosity about nature. We hope that our Odonata Sanctuary will become such a place in the near future.

“If we want children to flourish, to become truly empowered, then let us allow them to love the earth before we ask them to save it. Perhaps this is what Thoreau had in mind when he said, “the more slowly trees grow at first, the sounder they are at the core, and I think the same is true of human beings.”

~ David Sobel

Further Reading:

The ‘Vitamin N Challenge’

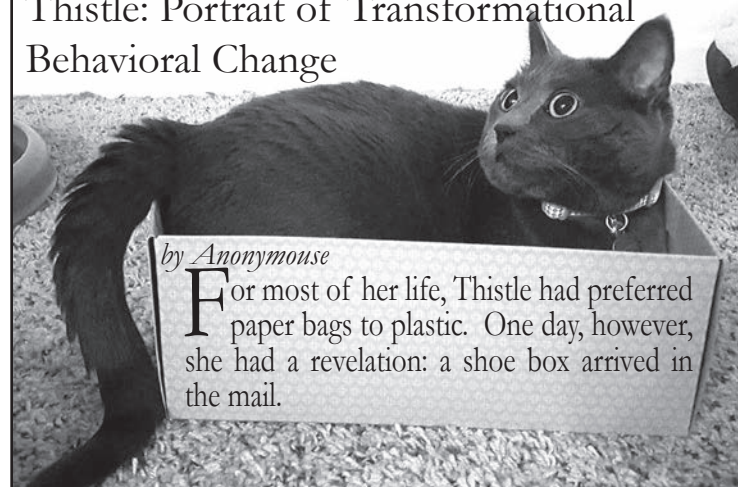
Children and Nature Network (C&NN...not CNN) has created the ‘Vitamin N Challenge’ to bring together ideas for parents and practitioners to give their kids a healthy dose of vitamin N. There is even a book titled *Vitamin N*, which presents over 500 nature-oriented actions and activities. *Vitamin N The Essential Guide to a Nature-Rich Life: 500 Ways to Enrich Your Family’s Health & Happiness* by Richard Louv

The Walden Project: I’ll be writing a whole article on this wonderful endeavor, but for now check out: <https://www.walden.org>

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/>

Thistle: Portrait of Transformational Behavioral Change



by Anonymouse

For most of her life, Thistle had preferred paper bags to plastic. One day, however, she had a revelation: a shoe box arrived in the mail.

It was not addressed to Thistle, and the shoes were not her size. On the inside lid of the box there are tips addressed to the consumer on how to re-purpose the empty box after the pair of shoes have found their feet. On the inside lid of the box, down the short list, is Tip #3: “Can be used as a bed for your pet!” Thistle needs no instructions. She is an upcycler by instinct, a purring observer of carefully defined limits and cozy parameters. The product to packaging ratio is quite low when the contents are low-density, long-haired breeds. In any case, the box has opted out of the supply chain and has come to rest. Thistle, meanwhile, wanders within a short radius of home, hunts her own food, leaves behind very little trace of her meals, and returns at the end of the day to her re-purposed home in the corner.

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Reflect
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Penn Yan Farmers' Market open for 2019 Season

The Penn Yan Farmers' Market (also known as the Yates County Cooperative Farm and Craft Market), the area’s longest running market, opened for our 43rd year on Saturday May 25th. The market’s held Saturday mornings 7:30 to noon in downtown Penn Yan, on the sidewalk of Main Street between Elm and Jacob Streets. This year the Market is expecting a new baker and a new nursery grower, who will join our multiple produce growers and craft vendors. Vendors are looking forward to seeing regular customers again, as well as to meeting new ones. The Penn Yan Market is still accepting new vendors. All items must be grown or made in Yates County or one of the immediately adjacent counties. Interested vendors, or customers with questions, should contact the market president, Rivka Davis, 607-243-5234, rivkaroadsend@frontiernet.net; or the market manager, Howard Hoover, 315-536-3192.

Photography by Don Sylor opens June 7 ~ Dansville Artworks



Arts • Exhibits

First exhibit at new solo artist gallery

Dansville ArtWorks launched its viability test in a 20'x20' room four and a half years ago. As many know, this small room is adjacent to the current arts center at 153 Main Street. Next month, the community arts organization will expand into that space, creating a solo artist gallery and special event venue.

ArtWorks is especially excited to acquire this space to host a collection of Don Sylor's photography starting June 7. Board members have been in discussion with Sue Sylor, Don's wife, to exhibit his work and offer some of his remaining pieces available for purchase. Don and Sue operated a frame shop and photography studio at 142 Main for more than four decades. Don's preferred photographic subject matter included all things coastal, and his prints were sold in galleries on Cape Cod. He was a regular contributor to Cape Cod LIFE magazine, and in fact, his first-ever submission to the magazine resulted in selection as cover for the 2004 Cape Cod LIFE Annual Guide.

Another long-time friend of ArtWorks, Bernard Dick, will have a second solo exhibit this fall. Bernie's digital painting technique is well-honed and unique. The solo artist gallery will be available in 2020 for more exhibits; a call for artists will be issued this coming summer.

Additionally, Dansville ArtWorks is seeking partnership with one or more individuals or organizations who may have interest in sponsorship of the solo artist gallery. There is a permanent naming option or annual sponsorship opportunities. Please reach out to board president Nicole Alioto to discuss: dansvilleartworks@gmail.com.

Get your arts venue into the Owl Light
www.owllightnews.com/owl-advertising/

3rd Annual Genesee Valley Fare and Ware Festival

Saturday, June 15th from 11am – 6pm

Sunday, June 16th from 11am-5pm

~ Highbanks Recreation Area at Letchworth State Park
via Mount Morris Entrance, NYS Route 36.

Celebrate the beginning of the summer at the Third Annual Genesee Valley Fare and Ware Festival! The festival will be held on Saturday, June 15 from 11:00am – 6:00pm and Sunday, June 16 from 11:00am – 5:00pm at Letchworth State Park. The Fare and Ware Festival brings together local food, wine, beer, spirits, arts and crafts. There will also be live music, art demonstrations and activities for kids. Letchworth State Park and the Livingston County Chamber of Commerce are event partners. Admission to the festival is free and tasting glasses for alcohol samples will be available for \$10; beer and wine will also be for sale by the glass. Identification will be required for sale or tasting of alcohol. A few of the vendors who will be present include Irish Mafia Brewing, Deer Run Winery, Black Button Distilling, Concord Art Glass, Treasured Trestle, Cheesed and Confused, Guglielmo Sauce, plus many more! Mr. Scribbles will be at the Festival both days to entertain the kids. There will also be live music both days with performers including Thurlow, Joan Burch and Gary Barteau. Bring Dad out to celebrate Father's Day! It will be a fun day for the whole family. Find more information at www.gvartscouncil.org/fare-and-ware.

*Sponsored by Genesee Valley Council on the Arts.

GENESEE VALLEY COUNCIL ON THE ARTS PRESENTS



MOUNT MORRIS ENTRANCE | HIGHBANKS RECREATIONAL AREA

JUNE 15TH 11AM-6PM

JUNE 16TH 11AM-5PM

FREE ADMISSION / \$10 TASTING GLASS

family friendly - live music
local food, beer, wine & spirits
art demos, craft vendors
and more!

WWW.GVARTSCOUNCIL.ORG
INFO@GVARTSCOUNCIL.ORG
585-243-6785



Athesia Benjamin: Solid Before. Different Now Exhibition kicks off the Summer Art Shows at the ACWC galleries.

The public is invited to attend the opening reception of Solid Before. Different Now on Friday, June 7 at 6:30, with artist talk at 7pm.

Athesia Benjamin is a graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology where she earned her BFA and a Masters of Fine Arts degree. She has been a full-time art professor at Monroe Community College for 13 years, where she teaches a variety of art courses, including Drawing, Painting & Figure Drawing.



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Brandon Santini

Tues. June 25,
7pm - \$20



Plus...

- Rebecca and the Soul Shakers ~ Sat. June 1, 8 pm - \$15
- JP Soars ~ Sun. June 2, 5 pm - \$20
- Lil' Ed and the Blues Imperials ~ Tues. June 11, 7 pm - \$20
- Hanna and the Blue Hearts ~ Sat. June 15, 8pm - \$5
- and John Nemeth ~ Mon. June 17, 7 pm - \$20

Tickets available now for upcoming shows

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Donna the Buffalo



Tickets: inspiremoorewinery.com

Inspire Moore Winery

Saturday, June 22,
at 5 – 11pm
Donna the Buffalo
returns to
Naples, NY with
Dustbowl Revival
supporting!

Get Out and about in the Owl Light

owllightnews.com/events/
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**Groveland Station
rolls into LLCC
Sat., June 8th,
7-10 pm**

"Americana fiddle boogie" that mixes "swing, country, blues, bluegrass and jazz styles" to get you on your feet and dancing!!!
Tickets \$15 ~ Refreshments included.

Little Lakes Community Center
4705 S. Main Street, Hemlock, NY

www.littlelakesny.org



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– who will be retiring
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September 2019!!!

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Zugibe Vineyards' Brisket, Blues & Booze with Ellen Kaye, Ethan Fein and Local Artist Peter Chwazik

To help bring awareness to and support for Seneca Lake Guardian, a Waterkeeper Alliance Affiliate.

At The Seneca Lake Wine Trail's Smokin' Summer Kickoff ~ Zugibe Vineyards
Sunday, June 9th - 12-3pm

4248 East Lake Road, Geneva, NY, 14456
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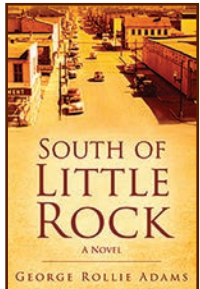
Volunteer Site Clean-Ups at the Finger Lakes Museum
Saturday, June 29 and July 27 9am - 12pm

Calling all gardeners and trail workers! It takes a lot of work to keep our grounds looking spiffy! Join our staff and wonderful volunteers as we spruce up the site and keep it looking attractive for our guests. Tasks will include weeding, mulching, mowing, trail maintenance and other site work as needed. Come for an hour or two – or three! Coffee, pizza and laughter provided! *3369 Guyanoga Road, Branchport, NY

Honeoye Public Library

"We're Books ... and More"

Book Talk Group
Wednesday, June 26 @
5:30 pm



Book Sale, July 13 – 20
during our normal business hours.

Summer Reading...begins
Saturday, June 22 at 9am.
Tuesdays @ 2 pm begins July 2nd

Performances
at
Honeoye
Lake
Friday, July 5th
at 7 pm
at the gazebo!

Second
Saturday
Movie &
11:30 am

Join Us! ~ 2nd Monday @ 10 am
Canadice Lake Writers' Group
~2nd & 4th Tuesday @ 6 pm



Hours: Mon. & Thurs. 2-8, Tues. - 10 - 8, Sat. 9-1
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honeoye.pls-net.org
585-229-5020

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Hours:
~Thursday - Saturday 10 am to 6 pm ~ Sunday Noon - 6 pm
darlenedeats@gmail.com ~ 585-703-0213

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Sunday, June 9, 2019

Doors open at 11:15 am • Drawing begins at 12:30 pm



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- * You do not have to be present to win.
- Tickets are 25 for \$5 (plus a chance to win a door prize).
Premium tickets are \$1 each or 7 for \$5.

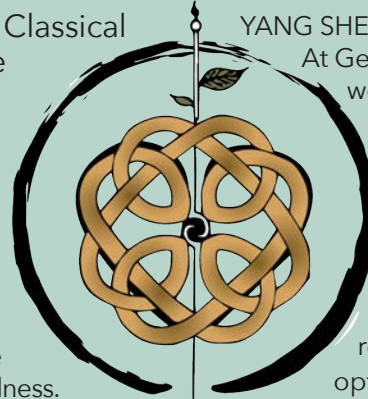
For more information, please contact Lory @ 585-229-1178.
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"Spotlight Exhibit" at West End Gallery, Corning



Linocut by Cynthia Cratsley, Corning, NY

New "Spotlight Exhibit" featuring four artists represented by West End Gallery, Corning, NY. The artists, working in a variety of mediums - oil, watercolor, & linocut printmaking, will be showing their work from May 24- July 5, 2019.

The featured artists are:

Cynthia Cratsley, Corning, NY - Watercolor and printmaking.
Christina Johnson, Corning, NY - Food and flower still-life paintings.
Jennifer Miller, Olean, NY - Paintings of birds and wildlife.
Judy Soprano, Livonia, NY - Watercolors of winter and rural scenes.

WEST END GALLERY, 12 West Market St, Corning, NY 14830
www.westendgallery.net

All events at West End Gallery are FREE and open to the public.



Owl Light Outings by D.E. Bentley

For all who have not been, a great stop in Honeoye Falls is the Brewery Pub and Grill at 8 West Main Street. This was my first stop after moving here five years ago - I ordered their Warm French Brie served with apples, toasted almonds, raspberry preserves and grilled bread and sat there looking out at the falls - which reminded me so much of home. I grew up in a mill town, and there is something about their histories that make these places special.

What adds to the specialness of any place is the company we share, and some of my most enjoyable outings with family and friends have been at The Brewery. It is always relaxing sitting there, sipping a drink while looking out at the historic Main Street and the falls that drove the town's early growth and prosperity. Their drink menu includes craft beers on tap and a wine selection. The regular food menu offers something for everyone - one of my favorite sides is the sweet potato fries with sriracha honey dipping sauce. They also offer a rotating daily specials menu and service is always timely and friendly.

More recently, I have found that it is also a wonderful place to meet with groups. I have met there with the writing group I facilitate - Canadice Lake Writers' group - during one of our off site ventures (we are usually generously hosted by the Honeoye Public Library). In May I shared a delightful lunch get together with four women who help out, in one capacity or another, with Owl Light News. Although the patio wasn't open yet - they open Memorial Day, as the steps remain wet until then due to the mist that drifts off the falls - we reserved space in the gazebo, which affords a delightful view year round.

After the meal we exchanged various harvested goods and plants and some of us hung out a bit enjoying the view and the historical ambiance. Laurie Phillips captured my soul as I looked out at the water, immortalizing forever that moment in time. Since it was such a wonderful and enjoyable gathering - thanks all for the grand company - I guess that is okay...this time.

Honeoye Falls
Photo courtesy Laurie Phillips

The Steel Rail Revival - Sunday June 9th 12-7pm 28 musical acts - 4 stages - Iron Smoke Distillery

The Steel Rail Revival is an exciting, annual, one-day event presented in 2019 to benefit the Neurosciences Department at Rochester Regional Health. All proceeds from the event will be directed to support the Neurosciences program. Hosted by Steel Rail Revival and Iron Smoke Distillery, 111 Parce Avenue, Fairport, NY. www.steelrailfest.com

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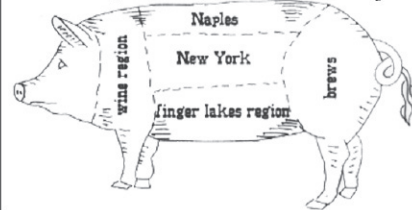
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Gary Peet
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Friday, June 28 - 6:30 pm

Free and open to the public

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.



Dansville ArtWorks

Arts Center & Gift Shop
153 Main Street - Dansville

585-335-4746

www.DansvilleArtWorks.com
Thurs 12-6 | Fri 12-6 | Sat 10-2

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



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Out & about in the Owl Light



Shining light on arts and innovation
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June 2019 Events

National Trails Day at Sandy Bottom Park Saturday June 1, 9am-2pm

The Town of Richmond and FOSBP will host a community celebration of our trails. We will begin the day by planting along the trails, and then have an afternoon of fun activities and food. Tour the agricultural museum and the museum in Town Hall to learn more about our local history, including artifacts found along our trails in Sandy Bottom Park. Join us in the park from 11AM-2PM for nature bingo, pumpkin seed planting, story time, face painting, boat rentals, good food, and more!

Spring Concert of Young Voices

Saturday June 1, 3 pm ~ Hochstein Performance Hall; free
Young singers in Hochstein's choral program—Hochstein Singers and Youth Singers, directed by Maryellen Giese, and the Hochstein Little Singers, directed by Grace Adams—will be featured in this free afternoon concert.

Spaghetti Supper - Honeoye UCC

Wednesday, June 5, 5-7pm ~ - \$7
Honeoye United Church of Christ,
8758 Main Street, Honeoye

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to The Hospice House.

Community Paddle/Wetlands Walk w/ *Finger Lakes Museum Saturday, June 8 10am - 2 pm

Have you ever wanted to try a kayak or canoe out for the first time? Curious to learn more about Sugar Creek and the Townsend-Grady Wildlife Preserve wetlands? Come to the FLM to speak with staff and volunteers while enjoying some time out on the water and in the wetlands! Kayaks, canoes, oars, and life jackets for children and adults are available to use at the museum. Or bring your own!

*3369 Guyanoga Road, Branchport, NY

Honeoye Concert Band Alumni Performance

Saturday, June 8, 7 pm - HCS auditorium
Honeoye Central School, 8528 Main St, Honeoye, NY.
Contact Grace Wood for more information:
Gwood@honeoye.org.

Kayak Lessons with the Finger Lakes Museum ~ \$20

Saturday, June 15, 9am - 12 pm
Beginning kayaking skills, taught by Pat Atkinson, NYS Outdoor Guide & FLM&A Educator; Intermediate Kayaking taught by Dan Murn, professional Kayak Racing Coach and Racer based out of Fairport, NY.
*3369 Guyanoga Road, Branchport, NY

Old World Warblers

Wednesday, June 26th, 2019, 7:30-10:30 pm
Old World Warblers return to Cottage Hotel for more
"Organic Roots Moonshine Music"
Cottage Hotel - 1390 Pittsford Mendon Rd
www.facebook.com/pg/OldWorldWarblers/events/

L.L. Bean Clinic: Campfire Cooking

Thursday, June 27, 6-8pm

Learn to cook easy and delicious campfire meals and keep campers well fed and happy with this program brought to you in partnership with L.L. Bean and the Finger Lakes Museum. Event is held at the Keuka Lake state park, 3560 Pepper Road, Keuka Park, NY. Entrance to the park is free for this event. Sponsored by Finger Lakes Museum.

Volunteer Site Clean-Up at the Finger Lakes Museum

Saturday, June 29, 9am - 12pm

Calling all gardeners and trail workers! It takes a lot of work to keep our grounds looking spiffy! Join our staff and wonderful volunteers as we spruce up the site and keep it looking attractive for our guests. Tasks will include weeding, mulching, mowing, trail maintenance and other site work as needed. Come for an hour or two - or three! Coffee, pizza and laughter provided!
*3369 Guyanoga Road, Branchport, NY

Get Out and about in the Owl Light

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Sculpture Auction Fundraising Event

Saturday, June 1~6 p.m.

The Dansville Moose Club
6 Main St, Dansville, NY 14437

Proceeds benefit Noyes Hospital.

The Metal Trades Project Needs Your Help

Do you have any old tools or farm implements that you might be discarding? Students in the Metal Trades program at the Charles G. May Center in Mt. Morris are crafting metal sculptures, which will be auctioned to benefit the United Way. These sculptures are created from scrap metal, aluminum, stainless and carbon steel. We are seeking any scrap metal and farm implements like drag teeth, cultivator discs, plow points, bearings, and miscellaneous iron.

Last year, the students created 45 sculptures and this project raised \$46,000 that benefited The Vincent House in Wayland. Please contact Olie Olson, Metal Trades Instructor at 658-7811 or oolson@gvboces.org.

This bird feeder is one of the sculptures from last year's project and was crafted from cultivator discs and scrap wire fencing.



Voice,
Music,
Poetry,
Stories

OwlLightNews.com

Kelly's Saloon ~ Tuesdays, 8:30 pm 'til 2 am!

Hosted by Tim Bucci... and Buzzo!
71 Main Street, Geneseo ~ fb Kelly's Saloon

Idle Hour ~ Mondays, 8:30!

Hosted by Tim Bucci, and Emily
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

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Dalai Java in Summer

by Scott W. Williams

To those who read my words.

For the

unfurling flag in the breeze.
cars stopping at walkways.
passing sirens and flashing lights.
drunks drooling across the street.
retirees playing checkers in the park.
tourists sauntering by the windows.
unwashed hawker entering with wares.
sipping couch and bench sitting patrons.
smiling purple-tipped barista taking
too damn long making my grilled cheese.

To those who sense my words.

Taste that

sweet nougat.
tart flesh of quinces.
orange icing of carrot cake.
strong African dark roast.

Smell the

gases leaking from the adjacent table.
linseed oil from the finished floor.
beeswax protecting the wrought iron.

Touch the

ceramic steaming mug.
rough edge paper napkin.
food bits on the teeth.

Hear

hammering and scything in my legs.
meditation mantras in my heart.
my trains and piano in my head.

To those who write my words.

Bring in your lexicons and thesauruses.
Bring on your rhyming dictionaries.
Bring forth your prose poetry.

Stretch to tackle images.
Open to inner revelations.
Beg another day of writing.

Written • Spoken

ABSENT MIND

by Stephen Lewandowski

The dark storefront stands
like a bad tooth in
the Main Street block.
My tongue can't leave it alone.

Vets from the VA in motorized chairs,
working single mothers,
older natives with little to spend,
groups of small Mexican workers
and Amish women in caps
look for another safe space
where they can participate
in the only true American sport,
shopping, for less than a couple bucks
on half-price days.

The bleached out once-red
Salvation Army Thrift Store sign remains
but only calls attention to its absence.
"Used," unwanted, died and left behind,
One man's wastestream is another's treasure-
goods washed by sunami waves of
industrial productivity and finally
deposited on these shores
where we walk and look and pick.

Progeny – Aftermath ~ to the ash trees

by Jeff Thomas

I look out
I ask of the trees
I look at the leaves
The ground below
Now the sun shows
What may be lost
if you no longer grow

My leaves & roots give
life to the earth
when I am gone
What was my worth

Where are the peepers
The fireflies the bats
In the nite
All those who mistook us
Know naught of our plight

*Two individuals, a horse-drawn cart and a haystack in the shadow of the ash tree.
John Thomas, glass plate circa 1885 www.lgc.org.uk/en/*

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Because It Is Bitter, and Because It Is My Heart
by Joyce Carol Oates 416pp
Penguin Random House (1991)

The Monthly Read by Mary Drake Bitter hearts ~ timeless relevance

A review of *Because It Is Bitter, and Because It Is My Heart*
by Joyce Carol Oates

Some books age better than others. The one I recently picked off my shelf to read on vacation is one such book. Although it was published 29 years ago, it still seems relevant. The book is *Because It Is Bitter, and Because It Is My Heart*, written by Joyce Carol Oates. Perhaps it has aged so well because it deals with timeless subjects that are still topical today, such as race relations, social classes, coming of age, and finding one's place in the world. Much could be written about these subjects, but a good story dramatizes how the fictional characters handle life, so that we might learn from their mistakes.

The book has also aged well because of the writing. It was nominated for a National Book Award for excellence in fiction in the year it was published, and Joyce Carol Oates herself had become well known and respected as a writer while only in her thirties.

She is a local author made good. Born in Lockport, New York, near Lake Ontario, her novels are often set in small, upstate New York towns where the weather is cold and cloudy. *Because It Is Bitter, and Because It Is My Heart* takes place in Hammond, New York, which could be the twin of Lockport. Like most authors, Oates uses some of her own experiences in her fiction—the main character in this novel wins a scholarship to Syracuse University, much like Oates herself. She wanted to write from an early age and was encouraged by her parents who had grown up during the Depression and been unable to attend college. Not only did Oates graduate from college, she went on to become a professor of creative writing at Princeton University, and has written 56 novels, over 30 anthologies of short stories, eight volumes of poetry, as well as young adult fiction, plays, book reviews, and essays. This prolific writer has regularly produced two novels per year throughout her long career. However, she still says that what disturbs her the most is that “I have so many ideas I consider exciting . . . that I will never live to execute because it takes me so long With all this practice, though, it's no wonder her books are so well written.

Because It Is Bitter, and Because It Is My Heart transports readers back to the 1950s in upstate New York, and it is a far cry from *Happy Days*. If you thought the North had somehow escaped the racism of the South, think again. The story concerns a white girl named Iris Courtney from a poor family whose parents are alcoholics. She's attracted to Jinx Fairchild, the star basketball player at her high school and an all-around nice guy. But there is a racial divide in their community that must not be crossed. One can look at the other, make polite conversation, perhaps even joke around and flirt, but a strong taboo exists against anything more, and crossing that line can have severe consequences. When Iris's mother, Persia, and her “mulatto” lover, Virgil, are pulled over by the police for no apparent reason, Virgil knows that the situation is bad. The police routinely bully Negroes, and because he's with a white woman, he's in even more serious trouble. Persia tries to reassure him that they haven't done anything wrong, but Virgil knows how things are: “No matter what I done or didn't do, it's who I am.” He shuts off the ignition as two state troopers approach their car, pistols drawn. He says, despairing, “And there's you.” Using racial slurs, the troopers shove Virgil around and tear apart his nice clothes and his car looking for some phantom offense. Afterwards, Persia tearfully tells her daughter that it's “So awful . . . seeing a man crawl.” Teaching in Detroit, Michigan, in the 1960s, Oates was in a hotbed of racial unrest, and the civil rights movement was just beginning. But a

Negro character in the book mentions Martin Luther King, and she views him as more of a troublemaker than a savior.

In the society that Oates sketches, some people are more valued than others: whites more than blacks, the wealthy more than the poor, the educated more than simple folk, the talented more than the masses. Social stratification is everywhere, which is why Iris Courtney recognizes that she must keep hidden her attraction to Jinx Fairchild. But she sees him everywhere, at the local swimming hole, at school, at the corner store. When a mean

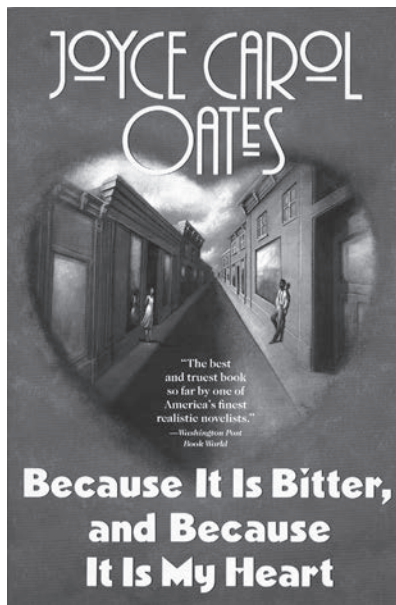
white boy from a poor section of town threatens and harasses her, Iris turns to Jinx for protection. The deadly fight that ensues leaves both Iris and Jinx demoralized and guilt ridden. The rest of the book concerns how they cope with the blameworthiness of what they've done. Jinx keeps looking at his hands, hands that are so skilled when they encircle a basketball but that, like Lady MacBeth's hands, have blood on them. He recognizes his guilt and would like to confess, but he's understandably afraid what will happen to him given the racial implications. He is beloved by his teachers and classmates, but only because of his basketball talent. He comes to see himself as nothing but “a performing monkey. S'pose you decide to stop performing,” he asks himself. He knows the answer, and it's grim.

Iris blames herself for leading Jinx Fairchild into trouble, but their secret draws them together. She tells him, “No one is so close to me as you, no one is so close to us as we are to each other.” Jinx feels that Iris Courtney is “the only white who sees him, knows him.” Because she knows who he really is, he's attracted to her, yet her secret knowledge about him also means she could destroy him, and for a while he imagines her dead. Both wonder who they are, in relation to one another, in relation to the world. Where and how do they fit in, especially after what has happened?

Despite their guilt, the murder remains unsolved. Jinx seems destined to go to college on a basketball scholarship, but misfortune prevents that from happening. After graduation, when Iris next sees him, he's riding in “a truck rattling by, Orleans Co. Maintenance on its side, several black men in the open rear in thick jackets, wool caps, amid shovels, sandbags, road repair equipment.” Jinx is the tallest one, and he doesn't respond when she calls his name and waves.

Iris, being one of the smart girls, goes on to get a scholarship to Syracuse University, her ticket out of dumpy little Hammond. Her mother has died of alcoholism, her father disappeared years ago, and she has little left in the town but an eccentric uncle.

The trajectories of Iris and Jinx have gone in opposite directions. Is this because of race, or circumstances? Bad luck, or better opportunities? Whichever it is, Iris ends up engaged to an up-and-coming art student from a wealthy family who has just been offered a curatorship at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Jinx, after a troubled marriage and several children, enlists in the army and is being sent to Vietnam. They could hardly have had more different outcomes. Yet Jinx writes Iris a parting note on the back of his picture as a proud new recruit; it says, “Honey—Think I'll ‘pass?’” And when Iris tries on her bridal gown, she asks her future mother in law “Do you think I'll look the part?” They're both still playing a role in life, the ones society has assigned them, the ones their choices have led them to.



Celebrate summertime by Wendy Schreiner

Boats sail
wave as
they go by
kites fly
up high
in the sky
kids ride bikes
families take hikes
picnics in park
fireworks in dark
celebrate summertime
listen to a windchime
play a melody
enjoy summertime being carefree



Making Lemonade!

by Barbara Stahl

Okay, prepare yourself to allow me a little time to feel sorry for myself! Being widowed adds a dimension to the “getting old is not for sissies” concept. Male or female, if one has had a supportive long-term marriage, being alone adds challenges in different ways.

Remembering all those times you took your ailing spouse for medical tests, or sat awaiting his/her surgical outcomes flash through your mind when you need medical care. You know you shouldn't complain because after all you are the one still alive and he/she isn't. But, navigating medical visits on your own can easily bring out the “poor me” emotion!

Because I am currently having glaucoma related eye problems related to a laser procedure, having a “live-in” chauffeur would be handy. Yes, friends offer, and that is greatly appreciated. Also, adult children want to be helpful, but have busy lives. And, if one is an independent/stubborn sort such as I am, another dimension to that feeling of “poor me” is an attitude of “I can do that, dad-nab it”!

Fortunately, I have a very strong and capable right eye. It has always been the dominant one and has admirably come to the rescue while my left eye gains in sight and strength. I recall my neighbor (who had recently had eye surgery) following a trip when he drove to town, reminding his wife that “a lot of people drive with only one eye.” Recalling his “questionable sage” advice, I became one of those people of whom he spoke.

Recently at the hospital where I drove myself for a medical test I began thinking about all of this again. That day I saw an elderly gentleman in a wheel chair with a hospital aide, obviously awaiting someone to come and pick him up. He had a carnation sticking out of a bag full of what were probably personal belongings. I was so tempted to go and talk to him, but I was about to be called in for my test. Should I have tried to speak to him? Was he widowed? Who was coming to pick him up? What was his life story? I had passed him when I first entered to register for my test so he had been waiting there for quite some time.

When I finally began thinking things through more clearly I realized that, “There, but for the grace of God, go I.” And, as we were reminded by Dr. Ken Walker (Gifford Jones) in the April 9, 2019 issue of the *Canandaigua Daily Messenger*, “as one wise sage remarked, ‘There are many people suffering from worse conditions who would love to have one of your bad days!’”

Thanks for listening, and keep well. If you still have a spouse, go say something kind to him/her. If you don't, I'm thinking of you and hope that helps a little. I can see okay to drive – honest (and in our family honest is a no-nonsense, truthful declaration), so don't worry!

Real Lemonade!

A delicious & refreshing summertime treat!

Add (1) cup sugar to (1) cup water in a small saucepan. Stir in (1) tsp lemon zest (wash all lemons well first). Heat on medium, stir as needed, until the sugar is fully dissolved. Place in the refrigerator to cool. Squeeze the juice from 6-7 lemons. After pouring through a course sieve (remove the seed but not the pulp) add the lemon juice to the cooled simple syrup. Add water to dilute to desired taste. Enjoy!



The Conscious Crow Vibration Pollination

As the seasons begin to change, blossoming into a fully emerging environment, we can't help but notice all the ways nature so beautifully and harmoniously creates and recreates existence season after season. Fresh blooms, new life, and an entire universe of sprouting possibilities rise

to the surface with the change of winter to spring. This rejuvenating, budding energy swirls to the forefront of our consciousness and in turn affects our thoughts, actions and energetic approaches; we shuffle and clean our environments and internally evaluate our habits to mirror the season's new beginnings with a lively and hopeful spring to our step.

As with any endeavor, change or evolutionary adjustment, we see the need of supporting one another in the process as essential. In stepping into this new beginning, we gain a deeper level of connection to the earth and bring awareness to light. There is a newfound sense of interconnectedness of everything. It's as if we are pollinators, simultaneously feeding and supporting one another through our actions, gestures, words, and energy. The relationship between the bee and flower is synonymous to our relationship to the world, and how essential each person is to enhancing our growth, as we draw information from one source to the next, dropping bits here and there.

Without our even realizing how it occurs, our energy is being renewed and rewired on an energetic level. The seeds strewn about in our subconscious create a ripple effect, prompting some new idea, sprouting an awareness, or driving an inspired action. All of which we can't see. We are continually extracting energy and information from every person, place and experience, infusing what personally resonates with us, to distill a response of our own accord. This sensitive process is a potent reminder in paying close attention to what we surround ourselves with because it is ultimately translated in our own psyche and that of another. We should aim then to be conscious contributors and positive provider for the world around us, remembering how impactful everything is from here to there.

We are influencing and motivating one another by how we choose to exist; how we react, what we demonstrate, accentuate and support. We are visual and energetic reminders; lessons from our lineage. Choices are crucial and actions spread like wildfire. Words can either harm or heal. We must realize that we are making significant contributions everyday with every choice we make- whether they be seen or not. We notice how apparent energy is when certain people or places illicit a healthful, positive response, and others may trigger repulsion and disgust, making us want to leave. We are always drawn to that which we resonate from. Take care in noticing which vibration you are pollinating the earth and your fellow brothers and sisters with.

These seeds carry farther than the eye can see.

~ *The Conscious Crow, reminding you to grow*

Recycling from page 8

In this case, it was the commonly held belief that paper bags are more "environmentally friendly" than plastic bags. Wadsworth does not argue that single-use, thin-film plastic is good for the environment. But he does argue that in many not-so-obvious ways plastic is less bad than paper. Wegmans provides customers with choices, but there are better and worse choices among those options. Cloth is the best choice on the list of bad and less bad, so long as the cloth bag is used on a regular basis.

In the public discussion leading up to the vote, Wegmans had opposed the New York ban of single-use plastics including but not limited to shopping bags. Speaking on behalf of the company, Wadsworth explained the rationale in an open letter press release:

"It has long been Wegmans' position that unintended consequences come from banning anything. And, we are not in favor of adding fees or taxes that may burden our customers to solve environmental issues and concerns. We know from experience that it's possible to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags by educating customers about reusable bags and reminding them to bring plastic bags back to our store for recycling. This coupled with the use of plastic bags made from recycled plastic will have a much greater impact in the long run. Wegmans uses a true closed-loop recycling program."

Wegmans reports that close to 50% of the plastic bags are currently recycled, placed in dedicated bins near the front entrance of each store. In April of this year, Wegmans announced that it is committed to reduce in-store plastic packaging made from fossil fuels, along with other single-use plastics, by 10 million pounds by 2024. The company is currently looking at plant-based alternatives to plastic.

Getting educated at college

Michael Amidori serves as the Sustainability Manager at Hobart and William Smith College, which is located sometimes within smelling range of the large landfill just south of Geneva. When Hobart and William Smith College recently adopted its "when in doubt, throw it out" campaign in response to the China ban, students were initially surprised to hear this advice coming from a sustainability office.

If grocery stores like Aldi and Wegmans are gatekeepers for our convenience-oriented consumer culture, then colleges and universities are gatekeepers for the corporate and institutional world. Colleges are quasi-communities, civic training grounds, where students learn how to be a corporate and institutional citizen while (in some cases) training as future leaders.

When I spoke with Michael, he had a plastic fan running in his office. It was a warm late Spring day, and he had been hauling compost outside. "There is nothing wrong with plastics per se," he told me. "It is single-use plastics that are the problem." I asked him his thoughts on the single-use plastics ban and Wegmans opposition to it in favor of consumer-driven choice. "Regulating and education both have a role to play," he said. "I would rather have a 10-cent charge per bag than a ban." Like Wadsworth, Amidori believes in consumer-end incentives and disincentives, in "taxing consumption, not production."

He also worries about the many loopholes in a ban, the opting-out loopholes. In spite of Wegmans' arguments regarding single-use plastic shopping bags, Amidori is unpersuaded: He would still go with paper over plastic.

Michael's job promoting and implementing sustainability at the college is centrally dedicated to the task of education. He speaks of sustainability -- and unsustainability -- in systemic and also in more societal terms. "We need to stop promoting a linear, throwaway culture," he says. "This behavior needs to change."

There is also challenge of educating the public about the limits of recycling packaging materials, whether paper or plastic. Michael makes a sharp distinction between down-cycling (recycling that degrades) and up-cycling (repurposing) old plastic products. Amidori assumes a myth-busting tone, indicating that he knows that he has his work cut out for him. "When they recycle, people think they are doing the right thing," he says, and then pauses to qualify himself: "Well, they are doing the right thing, but purchasing products made of upcycled plastics is just as important. We have to create a market for these products by choosing to buy them."

He says that many of the students he works with these days want to talk about the more fundamental problems with our "throwaway society" based on consumer convenience.

Virtually everyone endorses the basic ideal of sustainability. But as is the case at any large institution, some people assign these issues a high priority than others. One of the particular challenges at a college, where everyone specializes in a different field of study and prepares for a different profession, is achieving the sense of a "shared community" and a sense that we are all in it together when it comes to sustainability measures.

Hobart and William Smith aims to be a carbon neutral institution by 2025. Recycling is one of many sustainability initiatives at the college. The college has also begun adopting a new carbon offsetting program, an increasingly common policy at institutions that want to offset their carbon footprint when it cannot be reduced or eliminated. There are two large energy expenditures that the institution cannot phase out and must approach with offsetting: travel (for conferences, study abroad, etc.) and heating the facilities with natural gas. It is the institution itself that takes care of the offsetting: Employees are thereby relieved of the burden of calculating their individual carbon footprint and let the institution do the math and fund the planting of an appropriate number of trees somewhere in the world.

Michael has run against some skepticism among the student body with regard to this new policy. Some students think carbon offsetting is a "cop out," a modern form of the medieval Catholic practice of selling indulgences. Michael admits there is some truth to that charge, but he stresses that "offsetting can still have a huge impact."

Michael believes in getting students directly involved in sustainability projects at the institution, and that means hands-on work that goes well beyond sorting one's own waste. "You can learn about food deserts and poverty," he says, "but it's not as powerful as planting gardens with members from an economically stressed neighborhood."

He admits that there are challenges in getting people across campus to prioritize issues that impact us all. This is a challenge at any institution where people spend so much time focused on their fields of study and preparing for specialized careers: "Everyone makes waste, while not everyone is impacted by, say, French literature." Michael says he particularly loves the opportunity to have public screenings of documentaries that expand the scope of what students care about -- documentaries that now constitute a large and fairly popular sub-genre. As Michael spoke, it was hard not to think that this is the sort of college environment (and perhaps stage of life) in which Cassidy Putney, while still an undergraduate, decided to co-found Impact Earth and become a leader helping to bring about change in her community, which happens to be our community.

The bigger picture: How to define "Sustainable"?

Many companies and institutions now have sustainability offices headed by sustainability managers.

A search with that job title will likely turn up a number of openings across the country. The job description includes but is certainly not limited to overseeing zero-waste and recycling programs. Sustainability is a much larger concept and implies a broader mission: a sustainability officer needs training in organizational behavior, the sciences, complex systems thinking, and philosophy. It also helps to have some awareness of the plight of a diaper-changing parent.

The standard definition of "sustainability" still derives from the now-classic wording of United Nations Brundtland report of 1987: "Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." As many critics have noted, this definition is inherently conservative, since it assumes a constantly shifting baseline of market-driven needs. To a large extent, those needs have been created by companies like Driscoll's, whose sales now represent a third of the fresh berry market thanks in large part to their breakthrough innovation of the 1990s: the ubiquitous clamshell plastic packaging that made long-distance transport possible, and which is currently not recyclable. For three decades now, the "needs of the present" -- the needs of grocery store customers worldwide -- have included a steady supply of non-local blueberries in January (North America) and in June (Australia).

Cassidy Putney is not the only sustainability officer who has doubts about the meaning of the word that appears in her job title. "I think that we need to reexamine what our needs truly are for a functioning economy," Cassidy says, "and that includes our social and environmental welfare. I think that as a society, it is critical that we change our behavior on how we create and how we consume. Ideally - sustainability in my mind would mean we don't pollute, we don't have any waste that cannot be reused or recycled into a circular economy?"

At home with the Owl Light. Subscribe today! See page 7



Simple Sustainability by Sky Trombly

The family essentials system for simplicity

Sustainability

I am about to let you in on a little simplifying secret that no one is really talking about. I'm calling it the "family essentials system" and it has simplified our home life and our budget in useful ways.

I have spent a lot of time deciding what is essential to my day-to-day life. I've factored in things like laundry habits and regional climate and our family activities. While many of these factors will vary from family to family, within the family, the factors remain mostly the same. So why reinvent the wheel?

Here's an example: everyone in my family has two coats. We each have a lightweight rain jacket and a winter coat. These can be layered together or with other parts of our wardrobes to create a complete, 4-season system. We hang them by the door so we always know where they are and what needs replacing or repairing (or washing!).

We apply this essentials system throughout our home. We have two bath towels and four washcloths per person, two sets of bedding each, everyone has a backpack, a toothbrush, and we share a family shampoo bottle. This simplifies our home and the decision-making that goes into it. It puts a convenient cap on our spending habits. Everyone gets their essential needs met as part of the family budget.

You might think that it also quells individuality, but we have an answer to that! For example, while I decided that the 2 coat system really met my needs, I wanted something a little fancier for occasion wear. So, I bought myself a long wool-like blazer style coat which suits dresses, skirts, office wear or can be used to dress up jeans. I used my personal funds to buy this coat.

I imagine that as my kids grow older, they will want things beyond the essentials too. You know, what the cool kids will be wearing, or whatever new hobby they'd like to try. These are things that they could earn through chores, jobs or be gifted at birthdays.



Family essentials, such as a small selection of seasonal coats, does not preclude the potential for other items to enjoy and use. It does help clarify needs vs. wants. Photo by Sky Trombly

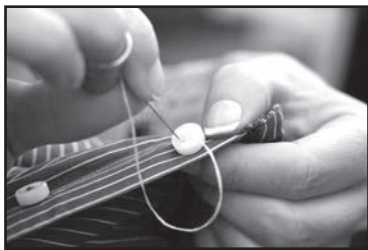
Going through this process will serve to underscore the difference between needs and wants. It will also help them to determine the value of work and money in relation to satisfying their desires and help them build a gauge that is only fine-tuned with practice and reflection. It is a tricky skill we're all in the process of perfecting.

I hope that the "family essentials system" will serve you in coming up with your own family's simple, sustainable lifestyle.

Going through this process will serve to underscore the difference between needs and wants.

Until next time, be the light by living lightly!

**Saturday, June 15, noon to 3:
Mending Cafe at the Fuzzy Bunny.**
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 the third Saturday of each month, from noon to 3 pm, for some free TLC.



Volunteer menders and darners will do their best to mend what is marred and, if desired, provide free mini-classes on fixing similar issues in the future. There is no charge for the service, but donations will be accepted for a local nonprofit. Please limit your mending to no more than two items. The Fuzzy Bunny Studio is at 6 Honeoye Commons, in the shopping plaza across from the school, in Honeoye.

Place your business card in the Owl Light for as little as \$25.20 per run.

<http://www.owllightnews.com/owl-advertising/>

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

Minimalism isn't a goal,
It is a Love Poem

Take it all out.
Put what you know you love back in.
Get rid of the rest.
Learn and enjoy.

Take it all out

Pick one area. It can be a physical space, a drawer, a room, a schedule, a to-do list, a play list. Whatever. Clear it out. If it is a physical space, take the time to clean that space. Wipe off shelves. Vacuum crumbs. Empty the bookshelf, the clothing rack, the book bag.

Put what you know you love back in.

Think about each thing or pick each item up. One at a time. If it is useful to the life you want, if it brings you pleasure, if it "sparks joy", put it back nicely. In a way that gives you pleasure. Keep what is valuable to you and infuse your life with your values. Everything has meaning. Everything builds you up or...

Get rid of the rest

...it takes you down. You don't need the things that diminish your joy, your contribution, your sense of meaning. Get rid of it. Don't "gift" your unwanted stuff so that it will be another's shackle. If someone else can use it, donate it, sell it, offer it to friends and family without paper and bow, without obligation. Let it go.

If you don't trust yourself just yet, box it up. Give yourself a trial separation. Don't let it collect too much dust.

Learn and Enjoy

Learn your needs and your preferences. Tame the wanting. Enjoy the feeling of "enough". Everything coming in becomes well-considered. Your life feels like you. There is a sense of alignment or rightness. Don't fret mistakes. Explore your boundaries. Minimalism is gifting yourself.

Massage by Amanda,
Amanda Miles LMT,
at Shannon's Family Barber.
Located at 7 N Main St, Wayland NY 14572.

To schedule appointments please call
(585) 728-5515.

Hours: Thursday-Friday 8am-7pm,
Saturday-Sunday 8am-2pm.

Read
Listen
Reflect

2019 Garden Tour ~ Canandaigua & Vicinity

Self guided tour - 11 am to 4 pm
~ Tour gardens in the Canandaigua area on a beautiful June Saturday.
Proceeds will benefit The Ontario County Historical Society.
Details soon at <https://www.ochs.org/>



In Memoriam Notices & Tributes

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

Livonia Kevin W. Honeoye

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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 St, Geneseo (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!

Honeoye Community Food Pantry
First Saturdays of the month,
9-10:30 am.
UCC church on 8758 Main St., Honeoye

Faith in Community

Celtic Journey First Sunday monthly, 6pm ~ Honeoye UCC

* Welcoming and inclusive of all people * Honoring the wisdom of the ancient Celts
and Jesus * Contemplative worship and teaching

June 2nd ~ Herbs of Blessing; July 7th ~ The Grail in Celtic Britain
Honeoye United Church of Christ, 8758 Main Street, Honeoye, NY

New Age Book Study at the
Warsaw Public Library
Wednesdays at 4 pm

Hosted by Trinity Episcopal Church.
Find book details @ trinitywarsaw.org.

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

Mondays, 6 pm, Springwater Church of the Nazarene,
8498 Indian Valley Rd (Rt 15), Springwater. Info: 585-728-5961 or 585-669-2319.

Richmond Republican Primary - Tuesday June 25th Re-Elect Caroline Sauers - Town of Richmond Supervisor Partnering and Planning for the Community's Future



Don't Go Back!

It's Caroline!

for

A Better Community



Caroline's leadership has engaged the town board, supporting committees and countless volunteers to move Richmond forward, by focusing on a myriad of community-based initiatives.

Honeoye Hamlet Transportation Study

- After 2 failed attempts by previous boards and supervisors, Caroline was successful in getting the county to assist in an overall plan for Main Street including: sidewalks, bike lanes, zoning updates & economic development strategy.

This is a community project to address what Richmond residents want for *your* Main Street. We are now one step closer!



Let's keep the momentum going - together!

• Secured grant funding for Infrastructure with Brian Kolb (left) and Rich Funke.



• Supported the Park & Recreation Committee to secure a Trees for Tributaries replant grant.

• Received reimbursement grants for e-waste recycling events. Partnered with OCSWD to stop erosion into Honeoye Lake with a WQIP grant for Sandy Bottom Park.

• Partnered with Ontario County Soil & Water District and US Fish & Wildlife to help control erosion along Mill Creek with a grant.

"Securing grant funding before a culvert or road washes out will reduce the overall cost of the project for the Richmond taxpayers and bring their tax dollars back into our Community."

Richmond History by Joy Lewis

The Alchemist: Part 2 - Lewis J. Beam

The story of Lewis J. Beam part one can be found online at www.owlightnews.com/lewis-j-beam-part1/

(April 10, 1834 – February 25, 1914)

Missourian Lewis Story was three years older than Lewis Beam. He'd been in California for half a decade and was recently married. Having tried his hand at mining, then at hotel keeping, he'd come to the conclusion that his erstwhile occupation of farming was the better choice for a man of his experience. Mr. Story settled on a fertile property forty miles east of San Francisco, a property known as the Adobe Tract. (His farm today, Rancho Solano, is the site of a prestigious golf course in the town of Suisun.) He had a blacksmith shop on his farm and in the autumn of 1856 he hired Lewis Beam as blacksmith.

For more than twenty years Beam lived with the Story family, managing the smithy and the buggy shop associated with it. He ventured into real estate, husbanding his capital and multiplying his investment. He became a very wealthy man.

Twice in the next quarter century Lewis returned home to Canadice to visit his family. Then in 1883 he came home to stay. He bought an 80-acre farm on West Lake Road and the next year another larger farm across the road bordering Honeoye Lake. The hillside house of the first property was painted white, then further embellished with balconies and balustrades. A wide veranda overlooked the lake and along the shore he had planted a long row of Lombardy poplars. A winding cement walk came up to the house, bisecting the green carpet of lawn. The park-like grounds were decorated with a pleasing arrangement of maples, elms, and evergreens. The large orchard bore fruit of every description, and was flanked by a trellised vineyard. A good-sized barn was put up beside the house (Lewis' brother Daniel, the contractor) and on its gable end was painted "California Ranch."

Lewis Joy Beam was born in Starkey (Yates County), New York, the fifth son of Jacob and Mary Ross Beam. Married about 1820 in Sussex County, New Jersey, Mr. and Mrs. Beam were the parents of two sons – Peter and Freddie – when they came by oxcart to upstate New York in 1826. Three more sons were born in Starkey: Stephen, Elias, and Lewis. The baby was named in honor of his uncle Lewis Joy Partridge, who was married to Mary's sister Jane.

When the youngest Beam son, Lewis, was four years old the family relocated again, settling in Canadice. They had a farm toward the western end of (today's) Cratsley Road. Later that summer another son was born, Daniel, and in the course of time two more boys arrived: Doctor Willard (named after the man who assisted at the delivery: Dr. Willard Doolittle; they called the boy "Doc") and John.

John was not yet ten when his father died. The older boys worked the farm for their mother, until one by one they ventured afield, each taking up a trade. Daniel built a roller mill south of Hemlock, then another in the center of village itself, and yet a third in Lakeville. Peter was a shoemaker; neither he nor his brother Fred were men long-lived. Stephen and Elias emigrated to Michigan. Doc was a house carpenter and a farmer, grower of hops on his Canadice farm. John Beam owned a hardware store in Hemlock, and Lewis was a blacksmith plying his trade in Solano County, California, until he returned home to Canadice in his early forties.

On July 8, 1888, at age fifty-four, Lewis married his much-younger cousin Alice Partridge, the daughter of Lewis and Jane (Ross) Partridge. The wedding took place at her parents' farm on (present-day) Luckenbach Hill Road. The Ontario County Journal of July 13, 1888, carried notice of the wedding: "Canadice – On Sunday afternoon L. J. Beam and Alice L. Partridge of Canadice were united in marriage by Rev. J. L. Humphrey of Springwater, and it is probable that very few ceremonies performed in a similar way are on record. Mr. Beam, who is somewhat of an eccentric person, purchased a new carriage four years ago, but had not allowed a horse to be hitched to it. He bought it and kept it for this special occasion and insisted upon having the ceremony performed out of doors in front of the bride's home, the bride and groom sitting in the buggy. Immediately after the marriage service, Mr. Beam and his bride drove to their elegant new home. Mr. Beam made a fortune in California some years ago."

The wedding buggy was never used again. It was kept in a place of honor in the barn,

polished and repaired once a year on his anniversary, and displayed in the lawn for a day or two.

A well-known character in Honeoye, Lewis was small of stature, trim – surprising for a man who'd made his living at the forge. He was a well-dressed man, with a neatly groomed Vandyke beard. A dapper fellow, he was an accomplished violin player and an appreciator of this world's "finer things." Mid-morning of every day but Sunday Lewis drove into town to get his mail riding in a little dog cart drawn by a sorrel mare. Sundays saw him stay-at-home for he did not give credence nor thought to the hereafter.

Known far and wide for the beauty of its grounds and the elegance of its home, the Beams' California Ranch was celebrated as well for its hospitality. In 1907 the Beam Family Reunion was held here. The following summer mention was made in the Livonia Gazette (July 18, 1908): "Lewis J. Beam of California Ranch on the west side of Honeoye Lake, had the pleasure of an afternoon visit from Miss Ethel Roosevelt [daughter of the sitting president Theodore Roosevelt] who came with a party on horseback from Avon... The party was fascinated by the lakeside home of Mr. Beam and the beauty of the countryside surrounding it."

It seems that Mrs. Herbert Wadsworth of Avon was hostess to a large party of out-of-state guests including Miss Roosevelt, a Mrs. Rice of Boston, Congressman Andrew Peters of Massachusetts, and three young Army officers from Washington, D. C. The group were out for a day's ramble over the country roads from Ashantee.

Coming along the west shore of Honeoye Lake, they espied a lovely well set in a most inviting grounds. And so they stopped and asked for a drink of water. They were greeted cordially and offered refreshments. Later Mrs. Beam told her friends that Miss Roosevelt remarked upon the view of the lake and hillside that the Beams enjoyed from their veranda.

Lewis and Alice lived contentedly in their lakeside home until his death February 25, 1914; he was nearly eighty years old. Alice sold the house and property two years later. She lived more than thirty years a widow, dying November 24, 1949. Both he and she are buried in Lakeview Cemetery in Honeoye.

The account of Lewis Beam's trip to California is based on the memoir: "A Trip Across The Plains in the Spring of 1850," by James Abbey (<http://www.joe.gov/resource/calbk>); and quotations in this part of the narrative are taken from this work.



The "California Ranch" house on the west side of Honeoye Lake as it looked when Beam built it. Photo courtesy Joy Lewis

Honeoye-Richmond Historical Society Museum

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every Saturday
June, July, and August

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

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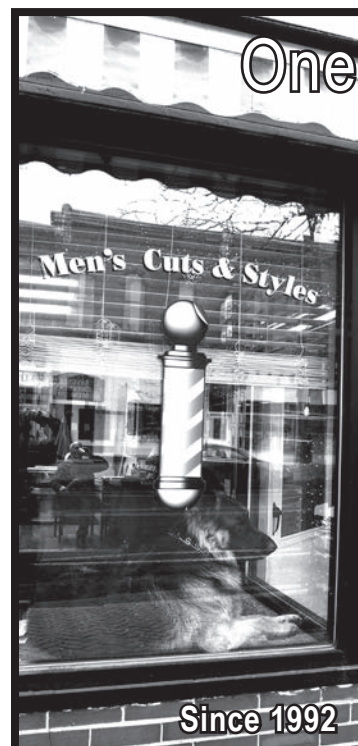
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VOTE Republican Primary Election Day
Tuesday, June 25, 2019 - Richmond Town Hall
Polls Open (12 Noon - 9:00 pm)

Barnhoorn's vision for Richmond includes: Maintaining a fiscally responsible Town Budget; attracting new residents, small businesses and companies, promoting and protecting Honeoye's small town charm; continued improvement in the quality of Honeoye Lake; increased tourism presence in our region of the Finger Lakes; improved infrastructure (water, sidewalks, park and trail systems, access to highspeed internet); and updating Richmond Town Code that empowers and encourages economic growth, supports agriculture and fosters community pride.

Learn more about Steve Barnhoorn's experience & vision for Richmond - www.barnhoornforrichmond.com.

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Daryl Marshall
For
Supervisor
Town of Richmond

- * 13 plus years on the Richmond Town Board and Deputy Supervisor for the majority of the Supervisors I have worked with
- * Lifelong resident of the Town of Richmond
- * Community minded: I have been a member of the Honeoye Chamber of Commerce, Honeoye Junior Baseball, Honeoye Lake Rotary Club, and worked with other community groups and organizations.
- * Small business experience: President of D.G. Marshall, Inc. a residential construction company with 35 years of experience starting and running a small business in our community.
- * Fiscally responsible: I have worked to understand the Town Budget process and I work diligently trying to keep each budget fair to the Taxpayers while providing for the Town's needs.
- * I always have and always will listen to the concerns and wishes of the People of The Town of Richmond.

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