

WHISTLER: Alison Latham 387-5711 [aliemae1@outlook.com](mailto:aliemae1@outlook.com)

### ON JUNETEENTH

*"The South deluded itself with the illusion that the Negro was happy in his place; the North deluded itself with the illusion that it had freed the Negro. The Emancipation Proclamation freed the slave, a legal entity, but failed to free the Negro, a person."  
Martin Luther King Jr.*

### MISSED AN ISSUE OF THE WHISTLER???

No problem, the last 3 years are available on our website [westminsterwest.org](http://westminsterwest.org) thanks to website guru Ray Huessy.

### REFLECTIONS

#### "KEEPING FAITH WHILE WE WAIT"

Pastor Susie Webster-Toleno

Greetings, dear church and community!

*"You know how people say that freedom ain't free? Well, apparently, freedom ain't fast either. In a world that seems proud of its chains, it's no wonder that freedom has to run through obstacle courses to reach her destinations."* These are the opening words of the "Still-Speaking Daily Devotional" published on June 25, 2022, entitled "When God Runs Late." The author, Rev. Naomi Washington-Leaphart, a Black, queer preacher, teacher, and agitator wrote it as part of a reflection on Juneteenth, a holiday many of us in Vermont never learned about when we were children but are now beginning to understand and appreciate. She writes of the energy in the sanctuary of the church in Galveston on the morning of June 19, 1865: *"full of proud yet tired Black folks who were still longing for a freedom they didn't even know was already theirs."*

I recently had a hospice patient who identifies himself as a "devout agnostic" ask me about how I make sense of the suffering of the world, and what seems like the ongoing drumbeat of bad news: mass shootings, the reality that there are forces working to systematically reduce the civil rights of Americans through legislation, court action, and unjust voting restrictions. How, he asked me, do I reconcile my faith with the fact that God seems to be running late?

I can't say that I answered him brilliantly, but I did answer him honestly. The honest answer is that I am a bit of a heretic. I do not get caught up on the question "How can an all-loving, all-powerful God allow horrible things to happen?" because the truth is that I think laying it all at the feet of an all-powerful God is pretty well letting humanity off the hook. I *do* believe that God is all-loving, but somehow God needs our help to bring about justice and peace. I know that that formulation is unsettling to some Christians, who need to believe that there is nothing God can't do, but for me it would be far more painful to believe in an all-powerful God who simply opted not to stop suffering.

And the gentleman's other question was something like this: "How do you not lose faith when the world keeps seeming to move away from justice, equity, and loving kindness?" Well ... sometimes that's harder than other times, to be sure. For me to remain engaged in the fight for a peace-filled justice that Jesus might recognize as honoring the Creation that God loves so deeply, I need a few very simple things. I need to be *doing* something, even if it's something small: maybe I write a letter to the editor or to power-wielders, or donate to an organization that supports equality or civil rights. I need to be *pausing*, remembering that it doesn't all rest on my shoulders: this is the benefit of Sabbath, in which we remember that when we put down our burdens for a day, someone else will be doing the work that is needed. We're in this together! When I honor Sabbath, I trust that the work will get done, and I spend time in the beauty of nature, remembering that all of this is bigger than any one of us. And lastly, I need to *spend time with God*: I sit in silence, pray for guidance, pour out my heart, and listen. (For me, it's important to do this both alone and in community, which is where the church comes in.) And then ... I get up and get back to *doing*.

Washington-Leaphart writes: *"I wish that the good news never ran late."* It's undeniable that sometimes it does, unfortunately. As a church, let us pause together to gain strength for the journey from our God who loves so deeply, and then let us rise together to join in the freedom movement once again.

In faith and hope, Susie

### ECOLOGICAL STUDY AT LILY POND HIGHLANDS

By John Gregg

Lily Pond Highlands, the 615-acre parcel of land conserved by the Pinnacle, is located in the towns of Athens, Brookline, and Townshend. The study, by ecologist Brett Engstrom and cartographer Andrew Toepfer, who's also a former WHPA board member, found more than 230 species. The study includes an inventory of significant natural communities of plants and animals; ponds, streams, wetlands, and vernal pools; and cultural features at the site. They observed 188 species of plants and 45 species of animals, such as scarlet tanager, Blackburnian warbler, spotted salamander, and signs of bear and moose. Ten plants documented on the parcel are rare or uncommon in Vermont, including the lance-leaved violet.

The information will help guide the management of the property, including the placement of hiking trails. The study states: "As an overarching vision, recommendations for management of LPH lean towards a high-level of protection for the natural communities, both upland and wetland, and the conservation of native species and natural features that are integral parts of the natural communities." The wealth of biodiversity found on these lands during the ecological inspire this vision.

## THE WHISTLE BLOWER

Congratulations to recent graduates:

Bellows Falls Union High School: **Anya Taylor**

Putney School: **Anna Hubbard**

Springfield High School: **Dwyer (Lucy) Mitchell**

Clark University, **Nicholas Mitchell** Summa Cum Laude with high honors in computer science.

**Elena Tansley** attended her Hooding Ceremony for her Doctorate in Physical Therapy from Ithaca College on May 21st. During graduate school, Elena was awarded with the Department of Physical Therapy Professional Excellence Award and was nominated into the Alpha Eta Society. Throughout her years in school, Elena enjoyed her roles as class representative, PT mentor to undergraduates, and Resident Assistant on campus. She is looking forward to completing her final clinical rotation at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, New York this summer.

**Zoe and Ian Proctor** are ecstatic to announce the birth of their daughter **Nico** on June 17 8lbs 2oz and 20in. Grandparents, **Patti Whalen and Fletcher Proctor** are equally ecstatic. Welcome, Nico!

**Anya Taylor** and **Caleb Ghia** were inducted into BFUHS's National Honor Society (NHL) last April. Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Character are the pillars of the NHL

**Anya Taylor** is headed for the Maine School of Art and Design, in Portland and **Austin Taylor** will be at Southern Maine Community College studying Fire Science.

**Elijah Ghia** was named to the Dean's List for the spring semester at the University of Vermont.

**Daron Tansley** hiked all 67 mountains above 4000 feet elevation in New England between December 21st 2021 and March 5th, 2022. The winter project included five 4000 footer mountains in Vermont, 48 in New Hampshire, and 14 in Maine, including two peaks on Katahdin. This feat is known as the Single Season Winter New England 67, and is completed between the winter solstice and spring equinox.

**Lynn Twiss** has a new Grandson! **Nicholas Robert Masten** arrived May 24th to **Derek** and **Lauren Masten** of Saco, ME. Mom and baby are doing well. They brought Nicholas home to his big brother, Harrison, who is absolutely enthralled with his baby brother.

**Margaret "Weeze" Bennett** is engaged to Joseph Robinson of Arlington MA. where they currently live.

**Julian Reed Schramm Keil** was born to **Hunter Keil** and **Ellen Schramm** on 4/25 in Easthampton, Ma. Proud grandparents are **Nick** and **Jill Keil** up in North Westminster West as well as Ann and Ron Schramm of Chicago. All are home and doing well, if not a bit sleep deprived.

**From Debbie Bump:** Diane and I went to Washington DC to visit Jesse and Family. **Jesse** continues his work in International Public Health with work in sub Saharan Africa and Thailand and a project for WHO. His son Horatio, age 9, is playing baseball and excited about the game. **Alex** is at work on Carbon Capture and Sequestration. He recently presented talks on 6 projects and met with much interest in his work. I continue to work on sculpture in my studio and to volunteer with Greater Falls Restorative Justice.

Hey folks. As land holders of the **Patch Road swimming hole**, we wanted to reach out and share a few concerns. We have found visitors have been having campfires and burning trash, lots of litter, and someone has been trying to create a clearing just above the waterfall and has cut down all the native erosion protective plants. While we are happy that folks want to keep the trail clear, please don't do cutting or any other clearing. We ask for your help in keeping this a safe and clean place for the community to continue to use. Thanks – Alison and Jennifer Latham, Sarah and Dana Allaire.



Peter Adair has fun when he stacks his fire wood. Do you?

**Drew and Lauren McDowell** and their three boys, Callan, Holden, & Anders, are moving after 15+ years in their beloved renovated schoolhouse in West West. Lauren accepted a job as Director of Songadeewin, a girls' summer camp on Lake Dunmore, near Middlebury, Vermont, and part of the Kee-waydin Foundation. Drew will move his career coaching business, Sounding Line Career & Educational Counseling, to Middlebury. We will deeply miss our friends, colleagues, and community. Please visit if you are up north!

**Nancy Calicchio** is happy to offer horse manure to all gardeners. The manure can be found across the driveway of 198 Church street.

**Daniel Osterholt and Charlotte Karasek** were married on March 17th at the Ruston Chapel in Tacoma, WA. Daniel is working as a Graphic Art & Marketing Specialist and Charlotte as a Document Control Manager. They are living in Enumclaw, Washington.

**Emily (Osterholt) Roth** and her husband, Jason Roth are currently living in Marietta, GA. Emily is an Advancement Supervisor and Jason is a Forensic Accountant.

Welcome **Virginia Doris Bruce Patterson** (aka Ginny Dot, named for her great grandmothers), born May 9th in Providence to her parents, Molly & Tim Bruce Patterson. This summer, they will move up to share the West West Chateau with happy grandma, Liz Bourne. Tim begins teaching at BAMS next fall.

## THE WHISTLE BLOWER continued . . . .

**Pollaidh (Polly) Major** and her husband RJ Adler welcomed their daughter on Wednesday April 20th, **Lilja Bruhn Adler** (Bruhn having been Beverly Major's maiden name).

**Skye Owen Rhomberg** graduated from Colby College on May 22, with a bachelor of arts in Computer Science and Mathematics. He received his degree summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, with distinction in both majors. He is currently residing in Philadelphia, where he is working as a web developer and artist at a radical activist cryptocurrency start-up.

Celebration! **Amelia Fontaine and Guillaume Sparrow Pepin** are getting married on July 16, 2022.

**Patch Farm** had an unusual visitor(s). A bald eagle snatched 4 lambs from their mothers. Now balloons are in place to hopefully scare the eagle(s) off.

### JULY 4TH CONCERT WITH THE SEYMOUR SISTERS

Enjoy a local, outdoor concert and help support the Westminster West Church at the same time!

**The Seymour Sisters:** Beth Spicer, Laura & Betsy Bryant Williams and Kate Wolff, will be **performing on Monday, July 4th, from 5 - 7pm** at Laura and Betsy's house, 1197 Westminster West Rd, Westminster, VT. They will be joined by special guests, Jon and Emma Bliss.



Bring your chair, a cold beverage, a picnic and sun umbrella and enjoy an eclectic mix of Old Time, Folk, Country and Gospel music in a lovely, country setting. Also, **Vermont Shepherd** will be there and have a variety of cheeses and other edibles for sale! Suggested donation of \$10 - 25, all proceeds to support the Westminster West Church. Questions? Contact Betsy or Laura at: [laladust@gmail.com](mailto:laladust@gmail.com), or (802) 387-2765.

### BATCH #3, MILKERS FLOCK VERMONT BLANKETS

These blankets are grown, spun and woven within 30 miles, our local fibershed at work. The result is a lofty, super warm 100% wool blanket all made on vintage machines with love and care.

The wool came from Vermont Shepherd in Westminter West, was spun at Green Mountain Spinnery in Putney, and woven by Peggy Hart in Shelburne Falls, MASS.

The blanket is 48 x 72 and costs \$200. Contact Lauren at [yohevonk@gmail.com](mailto:yohevonk@gmail.com) It makes a wonderful wedding, anniversary, baby, or graduation gift. The gift that keeps giving.

## CABIN FEVER PICNIC DINNER

Saturday, July 16, 2022

Congregational Church of Westminster West

What?? Cabin Fever in July? You heard right. In the spirit of our famous Cabin Fever suppers, we offer an outdoor picnic version this summer. It includes all the famous features: a great meal created by our own Tristan Toleno shared in community and your stories! We will gather outside the church around card tables and enjoy a buffet-style dinner served by masked volunteers. Be prepared to share or listen to stories of life in this area. New this summer: pre-order pick-up option! For the full menu and other details, please see the church's website at <http://westminsterwest.org/>

**If you cannot join us for the meal, but would like to pick-up dinner (4:30-5:15), we ask that you pre-order your meals.**

Email your order by responding to this link:

<https://forms.gle/YFUe2wXKnaN8Ct2t8>

### **PICK-UP MENU:** Entrees: \$13

- Home-Smoked Vermont Pork Sliders - 3 Sliders - (G/F Available)
- Home-Smoked Tofu Sliders - 3 Sliders (Vegan) - (G/F Available)

**Every Entree Includes:** Coleslaw - Olive Oil, Spices, Cider Vinegar (vegan and g/f) and Sweet Corn Salad - Basil and Tomatoes (vegan and g/f)

**Dessert: \$4:** Blueberry Shortcake - Lemon Biscuit, Fresh Blueberries, Ginger Blueberry Sauce and Fresh Whipped Cream. Limited Quantities of G/F Version will be available

### **IN-PERSON MENU: \$20** (no pre-order necessary)

Buffet style - served by masked volunteers 5:30-6:30

Home-Smoked Vermont Pork (g/f)  
Home-Smoked Tofu (vegan and g/f)  
Grilled VT Chicken (Turkish inspired yogurt marinade) - g/f  
Soft Rolls for Sliders (g/f available)

Potato Salad - Smoked Paprika and Dijon (vegan mayo, g/f)  
Coleslaw - Olive Oil, Spices, Cider Vinegar (vegan and g/f)  
Sweet Corn Salad - Basil and Tomatoes (vegan and g/f)

Blueberry Shortcake - Lemon Biscuit, Fresh Blueberries, Ginger Blueberry Sauce and Fresh Whipped Cream  
Limited Quantities of G/F Version will be available

Fresh Squeezed Mint -Lemonade

### **GREATER FALLS PEROGLYPH PROJECT**

**Kchi Pôntegok**

Kick-off Gathering June 23rd, 5-7 pm 20 Mill St, BF, VT

The Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and The Elnu Abenaki Tribe invites you to join our kick-off gathering for the National Park Service-funded Underrepresented Communities Grant that was awarded to the HPC and Elnu in April 2022. We will be giving a summary of the project's motivation, approach, and goals and speaking about the historical and cultural significance of the site to the Abenaki people. We invite the community to bring friends and families to ask questions and learn about the project. Hors d'oeuvres served! If you have any questions please contact Diana Jones at 802-376-2511 or [dianajones339@gmail.com](mailto:dianajones339@gmail.com)

## WESTMINSTER WEST CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday worship begins at 10am  
We are an Open and Affirming Church and fully accessible.  
Come as you are but if you are with us in person  
we ask you to wear a mask.

We are using Facebook Live to stream our weekly services, but you do NOT have to have a Facebook account to join us virtually. Just go on Facebook to the church's page, Congregational Church of Westminster West.,

July 3 Rev Susie Webster-Toleno  
July 10 Adrienne Major  
July 17 Rev Susie Webster-Toleno  
July 24 Karen Blanchard  
July 31 Charlotte Gifford  
Aug 7 Rev Susie Webster-Toleno  
Aug 14 Sue Venman

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Our pastor, Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno, is observing more flexible office hours, not always on-site. That said, she reserves **Thursday** afternoons for visits to people's homes or outdoor walks when requested, and appointments for other times can be made via email to: [susiewt@gmail.com](mailto:susiewt@gmail.com) or phone or text: (802-579-8356). She takes Mondays as her day of Sabbath rest.

BUILDING USE: Tom Griffith 387-5694  
tgriffith@hilltopmontessori.org  
DEACONS: Charlotte Gifford 387-4145  
gifford@languagehead.com  
TRUSTEES: Guy Payne 869-2600  
gpaynevt@gmail.com  
WEB SITE: [www.westminsterwest.org](http://www.westminsterwest.org)

### WEEKLY MID-DAY PRAYER SERVICE

Pastor Susie continues to set time aside for prayers for the community, usually on Thursday afternoons from 1:30-2:00. She is not welcoming prayers in person at the church at that time due to current restrictions on gathering beyond household groups, but most weeks during that time she offers prayers and a brief reflection time via live stream on our church's Facebook page. This can be accessed even by people who don't have Facebook accounts! Join her at that time (or later, as it remains available online) to light a candle and raise the joys and concerns of our community in prayer. If you have prayer concerns that you'd like to include on her list (to be said aloud or held in confidentiality), call or email her and let her know. (See contact info in Church Office Hours.)

### ONLINE PAYMENT OPTION NOW AVAILABLE

Go to our website ([www.westminsterwest.org](http://www.westminsterwest.org))

### VILLAGE HARMONY CONCERT Friday, July 22 7PM

Village Harmony teen group, led by Lysander Jaffe, Carl Linich and Megan Henderson, will have a concert at the Westminster West Congregational Church. Their repertoire includes songs from Greece, Albania and Corsica; traditional and contemporary American shaped-note and a baroque work with instrumental accompaniment. Admission by donation.

## NIGHT PRAYER

Lord, It is night.  
The night is for stillness.  
Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.  
What has been done has been done,  
What has not been done has not been done;  
let it be.

The night is dark,  
Let our fears of the darkness of the world and  
of our own lives rest in you.

The night is quiet.  
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us,  
and all who have no peace.  
The night heralds the dawn.  
Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys,  
new possibilities. In your name we pray.  
Amen.

This prayer is from page 184 in A New Zealand Prayer Book (He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa). It is possibly the best-known, best-loved of the "endemic" prayers in that prayer book.

### FOUR CHANCES TO SHARE OUR BLESSINGS

This spring we had four good opportunities to put our communal strength behind our wish to be a force for compassion in our world. It is not too late to support one or more of these collections. On Palm Sunday we participated in the annual "**One Great Hour of Sharing**," a national interdenominational offering that supports justice missions throughout our country. On Pentecost Sunday we had **two** special offerings: Our church's **Building Fund**, which supports the maintenance of our beautiful church for not only us but also community users (we give offerings twice a year to this fund), and the **Hope Fund of the Vermont Conference (UCC)**, which is an initiative to fund new ministries in our Conference and which we may eventually tap into when we have an appropriate ministry idea that needs funding. (You can read more about the Hope Fund, and watch a video to learn more, [here](#) .(control and click and wait). And finally, every month as part of our local outreach efforts we have a Manna Offering for Our Place in Bellows Falls. Every dollar purchases \$10 worth of food from Vermont Food Bank.

### LET'S WELCOME OUR NEW NEIGHBORS TO WESTMINSTER WEST

From Andrea Capron

As many of you know, we have had a number of new neighbors and families move into our area since the last time we had an in-person fair. Being that they are new to the area, they probably are unaware that we even have a community fair and parade, or that there's a section in the parade set aside just for them to march under the banner Welcome to New Neighbors.

Therefore, if you know of a new neighbor and/or family, let them know about the fair and parade! And, if you can, ask them if they would like to receive The Whistler so they can stay informed about events in our community, and give them a chance to get to know their new neighbors. Email Alison Latham at The Whistler, [aliemae1@outlook.com](mailto:aliemae1@outlook.com), with their names and email addresses so they can get on the list and THANK YOU!

## THE FAIR IS COMING!

Plans are being made for the 32nd annual Community Fair, which will be on Saturday September 10th. Due to Covid we recommend that masks be worn when in a building. While it's too early for you to bake some brownies, it is not too early to think of what goody you have in your garage or attic that you can donate to the Silent Auction. We have decided to have a virtual online Silent Auction again this year. It gives folks who can't be at the fair a chance to bid on the donated auction items. This frees up the community room for people to gather in, especially if it rains See Auction guidelines on next page.

We hope to have the Golden Elephant Tag Sale this year if Covid is still in recession. The Fair Committee doesn't want to see this labor intensive but popular event canceled so we are looking for new volunteers to help. If you want to be a volunteer who saves this event call Laura at 387-2765 or email her at [laladust@gmail.com](mailto:laladust@gmail.com). See guidelines for Golden Elephant Sale on next page.

This year the theme of our parade is "ALWAYS THERE WHEN NEEDED" honoring Tony Coven, the ultimate volunteer. There'll be the usual selection of entertainment and activities from races in the morning to the talent show in the afternoon. In between there is the fabulous chicken BBQ, the ever popular and exclusive "Whack a Corn Cob" and don't forget to view the work of local artists up stairs or the whacky vegetable creations in the foyer of the church.

The raffle will be held again this year. The prizes are a hand-made queen size quilt by Susan Talbot (value: priceless), a painting "Lotus": by Collin Leech (value \$500) and an African drum from the Shaouls (value \$500). Tickets are \$10 each or 6 for \$50, You pick which prize you wish to win. To purchase tickets contact Alison Latham at [aliemae1@outlook.com](mailto:aliemae1@outlook.com).



The sculpted 39-inch-high vintage West African drum is a made of local wood. It was purchased in Abidjan in the Ivory Coast where the Shaouls were living in the early 1980's.

This event is a wonderful opportunity to gather together as friends and neighbors, to honor a member of the community, and have fun and share talents with each other. It also provides a significant financial contribution to the Church's annual budget for keeping our village church and community gathering center in good repair and available for community use.



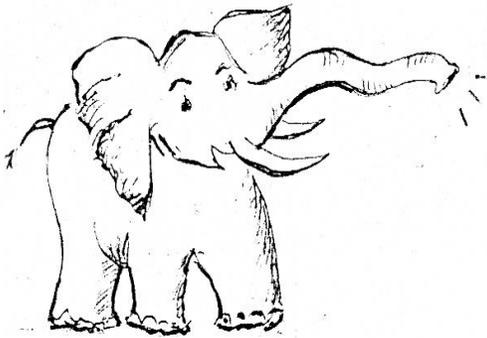
An encaustic painting (pigmented beeswax and resin) with embedded mulberry paper and some linen.

## ONLINE AUCTION GUIDELINES

During July and August, folks need to let Cheryl Charles ([cherylcharles01@gmail.com](mailto:cherylcharles01@gmail.com)), know of possible donations to the silent auction. Please send a photo and description of the item, estimated value, and if there is a minimum bid. Our deadline is August 29th. Ray Huessy, our website guru, will post them on the auction page at the church website ([westminster-west.org](http://westminster-west.org)). The bidding kickoff will be announced via an email, but before Labor Day weekend. Sunday Sep 11th is the last day of bidding. Last bid updates will be posted on the auction website at 1, 2, 3, and 4pm. Bidding closes at 5pm. In the next week, we arrange transport of auction items to the winners.

## GOLDEN ELEPHANT GUIDERLINES

If you have something for the Sale, you can bring it by the week before the fair (5 to 8pm on Tue, Wed and Thur.) or make an appointment for drop off with, Tom Griffith 387-5694 or Laura Williams 387-2765. Please remember, no electronics, furniture, broken toys or broken anything, books or clothes and do follow the Golden Rule for the sale: donate only what you yourself might want to buy that doesn't create more clutter.



**DON'T FORGET THE GOLDEN RULE OF**

**DONATING:**  
Only donate what you would want to add to your household clutter.

## WESTMINSTTER WEST PUBLIC LIBRARY JOINS RICH EARTH'S PEECYCLING PROGRAM

The library is now a part of the Rich Earth Institute's urine recycling program, as seen in the [New York Times](#)! A new urine-diverting toilet is installed in the bathroom, and will enable us to reclaim our urine as a resource. Human urine contains a wealth of vital plant nutrients. When we flush these precious elements downstream, they contribute to nutrient pollution and harmful algal blooms. Instead, this toilet diverts the nutrients at the source and directs them to a tank in the basement. Rich Earth will then come periodically with a truck to pump out the urine, pasteurize it, and provide it as a sustainable fertilizer to local farms. To use the toilet, simply sit to pee (solids will fall in the back half of the divided bowl and be flushed.) This is the only public toilet of its kind in our area - we're excited to hear your thoughts about it! There is a short survey near the bathroom entrance which will take a few minutes to fill out. Rich Earth also offers home installations of these toilets - contact [arthur@richearthinstitute.org](mailto:arthur@richearthinstitute.org) to learn more about that and [info@richearthinstitute.org](mailto:info@richearthinstitute.org) for other questions and inquiries.

## WESTMINSTER GARDEN TOUR JULY 9 AND 10

After two years of event cancellations due to the pandemic, Westminster Cares is excited that our 2022 Garden Tour will be held in July. **The event will be held the weekend of July 9th & 10th; from 10:00am - 3:00pm both days.**

This year's Westminster Garden Tour will again feature the stunning gardens of Gordon and Mary Hayward. Three additional lovely Westminster gardens will be on the self-guided tour: Cheryl Charles and Family, Obe and Lonnie Lisai, and the Westminster Center School's vegetable garden. Attendees will also be able to take a meditative walk in a stone labyrinth and attend demonstrations such as "Container Gardening" and "Saplings: Sculpting, Bending and Weaving".



Tangled arbor at Obe and Lonnie Lisai's garden

Another beautiful quilt has been donated for our Raffle by Ann Ashcroft. The Raffle will have many other wonderful prizes as well. Lunch and refreshments will be available under the tents at the Hayward's. Tickets will go on sale in early June. The Tour is held rain or shine and tickets are good for both days.

Proceeds from this event go to support the programs and services of Westminster Cares whose mission is: Creating opportunities for seniors and adults with disabilities to live with dignity and independence in the community.

To purchase tickets before the event go to: [www.westminster-cares.org](http://www.westminster-cares.org). Tickets are also available for purchase during the event. Like us on Facebook for updates on the Garden Tour. Please support our sponsors who make this event possible: Faith's Toyota/Ford; Mascoma Bank. Silver Forest; 802 Credit Union; Cota and Cota; Savings Bank of Walpole and C & S Wholesale Grocers.



Small pond with lily pads at Cheryl Charles' garden

## THOUGHTS FROM OUR NEIGHBORS

**From Jenny Holan** reports that she took a visitor out to Bemis Hill on 20 May. As the two of them walked in the woods, approaching the WHPA trail, the friend suggested a lunch break next to the stone wall near the top. She stepped off the trail and her foot slipped, sending her pitching forward onto stones and old leaves. As it turned out, she had broken a bone in breaking her fall with her hand, but she and Jenny didn't know at the time how to determine whether there was danger. In an attempt to find a way to obtain an x-ray without registering for a long expensive session in a hospital emergency room, they walked back to the car and set out for the health center in Bellows Falls, to which neither of them had ever been. Despite getting directions by phone, they couldn't find any sign approaching the town that shows what street it's on, or even the name of the street. When they finally found it, the hospital had no staff available to work the x-ray equipment or labs. Jenny then drove them up the street to the medical office where they had stopped to ask for directions, Temple Chiropractic in North Westminster. Even though it was nearly 5 pm on a Friday, Dr. Vernon Temple agreed to assess the lady's condition and take an x-ray of her wrist and forearm, to see if anything obvious would show up. The x-ray confirmed a break above the wrist, and Dr. Temple kindly set the patient up with a splint, an ice pack, computer images of the x-ray, and care instructions to tide her over until she could get to a clinic near her home in New Haven, CT. Having no insurance record on her, she paid a modest bill, and returned to Connecticut by bus and train the next day. The pain was reported to be minimal, the fracture was set without the need for surgery, the cast is due to come off on the 27th, and Jenny now knows where the nearest hospital is. It is a blessing not to have had the need to give it a thought for so many years.

**From Allison Ounanian:** Life is not less busy than a year ago but a bit quieter with focus on different things. I am at home nearly all the time now with all the animals with no need to go to Boston to look in on my dad, who died at age 100.5 years last August. He lived independently until the last 3 months of his life, and my siblings and I were glad to look in on him and see him through. In 101 years of life, my dad did a great job and I cannot complain that he could not "carry on." I am still a bit lonely without my parents. I would assume this is pretty a fairly common sentiment for many people who have experienced similar.

There is more time at home and I have noticed I can work both with more focus and a relaxed frame of mind. I am just getting back to seeing how after 10 years working with the siblings juggling stuff with the parents, I have kind of neglected a few things at home. Here we are; it is a little messy, but I think we can get it sorted.

Things looking good on outdoor terrain. Vegetable garden is wildly overgrown so am only working a small segment until the rest gets ploughed down. I have tomatoes, cukes, cousas, herbs, and peppers. That will do us if I take good care of the plants. The little garden adjacent to the driveway is working well; we had a lush showing of poppies, succulents, sorrel, rosemary, and lavender with just about everybody in the garden cooperating. I am always hearing my mum talking to me about the plants (e.g., "these are too close together!" "these need more water", etc.)

My outlook is quite naive outlook for sure, but I am stunned that so much effort is required to getting used to changes in life. Where have I been? Usually, I am "rolling with the punches" but getting used to life without my mum and dad is a challenge. I am doing it, indeed, but it seems to take a bit of work.

Am not even getting into topics like folks in Ukraine, inflation, fuel costs, and US politics which have been making things rough for everyone all around the world.

So now what? We are heading into a Vermont summer - these are usually pretty rewarding, even as we cope with too much rain, too little rain, too hot, not enough sun, blackflies, mosquitoes. A good summer to all.

**From Ira Wilner:** This summer I am designing lights for the Springfield Community Players production of Gypsy which will be running for 3 weekends in July. See their website for details and cast and crew. I still wear a mask without exception! The pandemic is still upon us and vaccination does not make you immune from infection, just less likely it'll send you to the hospital. You might still end up with Long Covid syndrome. And BTW, catching the latest variant does not protect you from repeat infection!

**From Fred Gray:** Nothing especially newsworthy: we have birthdays, weddings, memorial services, and a week in Provincetown happening this summer. . All will be outdoors or in an open sided tent. I still wear a mask in public indoor spaces. It's been great not having a cold or the flu for two years...first time in my life

**From Annie Quest:** We still wear masks in indoor spaces and are trying to dine outdoors if we go out for a meal. Stay-cation plans as we look towards semi-retirement. Lots of time with our grandkids, YAY!

**From Karen Blanchard:** I returned May 9 from a five-week road trip 'throughout the southeast' visiting godchildren and friends. I am hoping to fly for the first time since COVID to visit friends in Manzanita, OR in August, assuming COVID stays relatively stable. And yes, I do wear a mask in indoor public spaces,

**From Eileen Deutsch:** I still wear a mask in public indoor spaces. Covid numbers are up and I don't want to take chances. The new variant does not give you additional antibodies and therefore, people are catching it multiple times. Long term Covid is still a big issue, and supposedly even a mild case can have long term effects. Wearing a mask also protects others who are unvaccinated (like young children) or those who can't be vaccinated

**From David Deen:** Yes, both Allison and I wear masks. One thing I have noticed when I am out and about doing grocery shopping and the like – it's us old white guys who are wearing the masks more than others.

**From Muffin Acquaviva:** Yes, I wear a mask

**From Mary Scherbatskoy:** I usually wear a mask when I judge the space to be iffy, or when others are masking

**From Alison Latham:** This Whistler is huge, I hope you can read all of it without falling asleep, in fact I dare you to.

## THIS IS THE TIME

From Caitlin Adair

This is the time more than ever that we really need to know that we are all Earthlings before anything else. Our situation is heating up, literally. Unless we wish to be 'boiled frogs', we need to come together in a way we have never before come together, as Earthlings, to not only face Climate Change, but to heal it. Read today's New York Times to learn about the extreme drought and heat conditions in the entire western half of the US. We are in Big Trouble. To get out of that Big Trouble we will have to change our thinking fast so that the power that we humans have developed along with the ability to monitor and measure progress, can all be turned toward the good of all beings. Soil microbes, dairy cows, butterflies, dolphins, algae, everyone has a role. Everyone matters. We have tremendous power for good. We have ponderous antiquated systems of thinking and governing. Transformation is a concept I learned in the 1980s, referring to deep shifts in consciousness of the individual. At this point in our evolution, the transformation must be species-wide. Dolphins and hummingbirds are precious, but it is only human beings who have the capacity to make the changes needed. I hope we can do this. I hope we will do this. Stay tuned.

While you are staying tuned, spend some time pondering what are your best skills and how they might be used for the good of all. Are you a people-person? A healer? Do you love animals? Are you good at figuring things out? I am a plant person and an Earth-lover. Oh, I love humans, too, but my passion is for the good of Earth as a whole, and my knowledge base tends toward growing green things. What do YOU love? Everyone is important. We cannot 'do this' without everyone on board. Start thinking big. Learn to connect with a spiritual source. You'll probably need it.

## TIME TO CLEAN UP YOUR BOOKSHELF



WHY? To free up space for this year's Westminister West Library book sale on September 10th! You end up with new reading material AND you help your local library by donating those books you know you are never going to read again. It's a WIN-WIN situation. Please make sure your books are clean and in readable shape. We do not take text books, encyclopedias, magazines, other reference books, or VHS tapes. Bring your books to the library and leave them in a box by the back door, the library is open Tues, Wed, Fri 1-6 and Sat 10-.2 Have a wonderful summer and please visit the Library. Thank you, Lise Cavanaugh (Librarian) and Emily Weinberg. (Trustee).

## A FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM MIKE MROWICKI

And, Thank you, thank you, thank you, to the good folks of Westminister. As one of your State Representatives, it's been an honor working for you in the Statehouse. I am especially grateful for how many of you made me feel welcomed and appreciated when we could work together for the town, district and our brave, little state of Vermont.

Unfortunately, Reapportionment is moving us apart. The numbers just didn't work to keep many districts in the state the same, especially in Windham County. The reality is that many towns and counties in Vermont lost population, especially the 4 southern counties.

The other reality is that the Windham 4 District and the one right next to us, (Rockingham, et al) started off being short on population going back 10 years and we weren't meeting the requirements for equal Representation, based on population. With other towns losing population as well, it made the Rubik's cube of the Reapportionment Map that much more fluid.

Based on the most recent Census, each representative is required to have 4,280 constituents, or 8,560 for a 2-member district. Windham 4 went into the recent census at only 7,800, and then lost several hundred people from the 2012 Census. Many other towns also lost population, so that put the spotlight on our two Windham County districts, so we had to shift things around.

Some of the criteria we used where we had to make changes in Reapportionment was not splitting towns up, (or making them whole, as in bringing North Westminister back in with the rest of the town) and similar school districts. Since Westminister and Rockingham share a school district for High school, that was another factor to pair Westminister with Rockingham. (And, Putney and Dummerston also share a school district, sending students to Brattleboro)

It's been both an honor and a pleasure to serve the good people of Westminister. There've certainly been highs and lows, especially with the ongoing debacle of Act 46- though I'm so glad Westminister has gotten back to its roots, and has some local control of its town school again.

It's also been a pleasure to see, and work with, the amazing enthusiasm for conservation in Westminister. The ongoing work to make sure we have conserved land for future generations, is simply amazing. As Will Rogers once said, take care of the land you have, cause they ain't making any more. And, Westminister does just that, as well as anyone.

And of course I'll miss walking in the West West Community parade as your State Rep., but look forward to still enjoying the good food and fellowship found there – and the friendly welcome to me, and anyone who shows up.

So, thank you again, for the honor to serve, to work together and create a better today and a brighter future for generations to come.

Mike Mrowicki [www.winhdam4.online](http://www.winhdam4.online)

### SUGGESTED DONATION FOR THE WHISTLER

Basic \$25 Neighborly \$50 Angelic \$100

Send donations to CCWW Whistler

44 Church St, Putney, VT 05346

## IS SLAVERY STILL LEGAL IN VERMONT?

Today we celebrate the abolitionist movement in Vermont and acknowledge the work that is left undone on slavery.

From September 26 through November 8, 2022, Vermonters will vote by mail or in person on Proposal 2, an amendment to the state constitution. A yes vote will amend the state's constitution to fully and clearly ban slavery. Contact your town clerk to request a mail in ballot, Westminster: (802) 722-4091

**The amendment will strike certain current language (see the underlined clause below) and add a clarifying clause (see the clause in bold below):**

Article 1. All persons born free; their natural rights; slavery prohibited: That all persons are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent, and unalienable rights, amongst which are the enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety; therefore no person born in this country, or brought from oversea, ought to beholden by law, to serve any person as a servant, slave or apprentice, after arriving to the age of twenty-one years, unless bound by the person's own consent, after arriving to such age, or bound by law for the payment of debts, damages, fines, costs, or the like **slavery and indentured servitude in any form are prohibited.**

### HELP US PASS PROPOSAL 2

- Attend volunteer training through Vermont Interfaith Action.
- Talk to your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers.
- Organize people from your congregation and/or your community to make phone calls, go door-to-door, and do text banking so that voters are aware of Prop 2.
- Write a letter to the editor or an opinion piece for your local newspaper.
- Post messages in favor of Prop 2 on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.
- Attend community events like parades, farmers' markets, and festivals to hand out cards explaining Prop 2.
- Help Get Out the Vote leading up to the election

Fill out this form [bit.ly/AbolishSlaveryVT](http://bit.ly/AbolishSlaveryVT) to sign up to help the campaign. For more information: Call 802-651-8889. Email [Debbie@viavt.org](mailto:Debbie@viavt.org) or [Melissa@viavt.org](mailto:Melissa@viavt.org)

### YOURS FOR THE TAKING

- or at least for the Looking

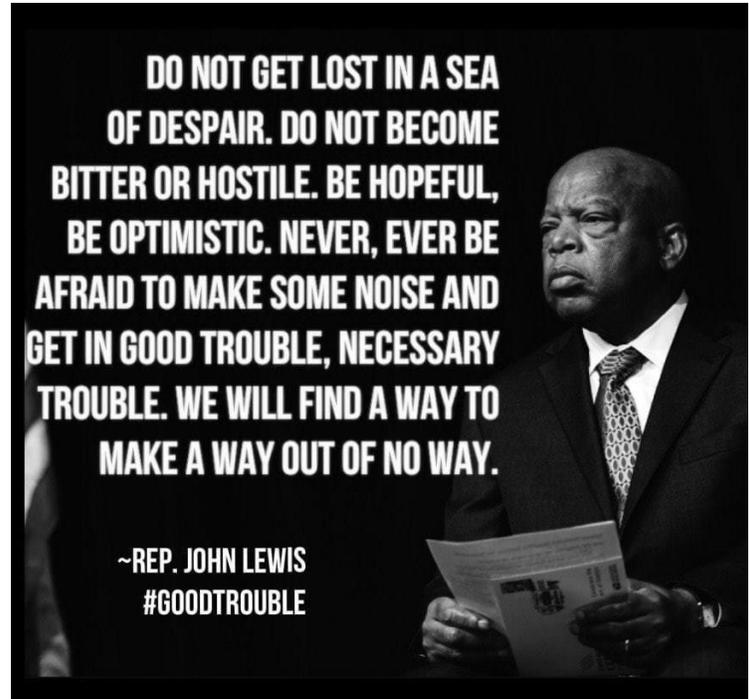
From Mary Scherbatskoy

The WW Library's exhibition "Village Treasure: The West Parish between the Wars 1870 -1910" was visited by nearly 150 people during the Open House in May. Although the 8 display panels are in storage until the next show, a great deal of the WESTORY village archive is open to the public during regular library hours.

Anytime you are in the WW Library, you can browse through more than a dozen binders on topics from the Westminster West School to the 4H club to historic photos and Cemetery records from the Oral History Project of the 1990s. Just look for the grey, white, and red binders in the Westory display area. Also on display are selections from the West Parish Victorian photo albums, and a changing display of maps. Do come and visit WESTORY in the Westminster West Library!

## BLUE STATES USA CROQUET

Come enjoy a whimsical croquet course in Putney Village on July 2nd or 3rd. Fun for ALL ages! Each wicket is created by a local artist and inspired by John Lewis's invitation to get in "good trouble". For more details and signup for "tee times" contact <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044FA4AA29A4F58-blue1> There is no charge for this fun event, but donations will be accepted to further the goals of the Southern VT Sister District Project.



### MAIN STREET ARTS PRESENTS HAMLET

Wild Goose Players continues its first season with John Hadden's production of HAMLET. Having just completed a successful run of INTO THE WOODS at the Bellows Falls Opera House, Wild Goose Players is thrilled to be partnering with Main Street Arts in Saxtons River where the play will be performed.



The play is set in the MADMEN era of corporate giants and rebellious Beats, and staged in a black-box setting that offers some café-table seating for audience members who don't mind becoming confidants of Hamlet and his inner demons.

The performers include a wide range of age and experience, bringing depth and freshness to this most famous of plays. This approach, combined with gender-neutral casting deepens familiar roles David Stern is designing the lights.

Performance dates are June 25 at 7pm,

June 26 at 2pm, July 2 at 7pm, July 3 at 2pm, July 9 at 7pm,  
July 10 at 2pm,  
July 15 at 7pm, and July 16 at 2pm.



## STAND UP FOR FORESTS!

### TELL THE US FOREST SERVICE WHAT YOU THINK

The USFS had a field trip to visit the proposed timber sales in the Early Successional Habitat Creation Project in southern Vermont on June 22nd. Let them know what you think.

This terrible project approved in 2019 (and in part what spurred the creation of our allied group, Standing Trees), authorizes 15,000 acres of clear cuts and similar logging over 15 years. The project targets lands within the White Rocks National Recreation Area (an area Congress protected from logging in 1984 with passage of the Vermont Wilderness Act), eight different inventoried Roadless areas, and other important lands in southern Vermont. For more details, [click here](#).

## WILD EDIBLES EXPLORATION

With Naturalist and wild foods enthusiast Russ Cohen

This event, sponsored by the Nature Museum of Grafton, will happen Saturday July 9th from 1 to 4 pm. Grafton and surrounding towns are home to over 70 species of edible wild plants, some of which are more numerous and/or flavorful than their cultivated counterparts. Join wild edibles enthusiast Russ Cohen, author of the book *Wild Plants I Have known ... and Eaten*, on a three-hour ramble around the Nature Museum grounds and surrounding land to learn about at least two dozen species of edible wild plants. Sliding scale registration is \$20 to \$30. To register go their website: [www.nature-museum.org](http://www.nature-museum.org).



Keys to the identification species will be provided, along with info on edible portion(s), season(s) of availability and preparation methods, as well as guidelines for safe and environmentally responsible foraging.

This program will happen rain or shine. If there is significant hazardous weather and the program needs to be moved to the make-up date, we will contact you. There is a make-up date of the following day (Sunday 07/10) at the same time. Please be sure that you are available for the make-up date and time. We will be meeting at The Nature Museum for the start of this program. We may caravan by car to nearby locations depending on site conditions. We may be hiking in areas with moderate incline, uneven terrain, and muddy/wet conditions. We may be away from facilities for long periods of time.



Until his retirement in June of 2015, Russ Cohen's "day job" was serving as the Rivers Advocate for the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game's Division of Ecological Restoration, where one of his areas of expertise was in riparian vegetation. Now Russ has more time to pursue his passionate avocation, which is connecting to nature via his taste buds. In addition to leading over two dozen wild edibles walks and talks each year at a wide variety of venues throughout the Northeast, Russ is now playing the role of "Johnny Appleseed" for edible native species. He has set up a small nursery (in Weston, MA) where he grows/keeps over 1,000 plants that he propagates from seed (some of which he collected himself), as well as obtain from other sources, such as the Native Plant Trust.

He is then partnering with land trusts, cities and towns, schools and colleges, tribal groups, state and federal agencies, and others to plant plants from his nursery in appropriate places on their properties. Russ has initiated over two dozen such projects in the past five years. You can learn more about Russ and his projects here: <http://users.rcn.com/eatwild/bio.htm>

## WESTMINSTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S SUMMER EXHIBITS AND HOURS

On Saturdays from July 2nd through September 2nd from 2-4pm the William Czar Bradley Law Office and the Town Hall (second floor) exhibit titled "O! Horrid Scene," about the Westminster Massacre will be open for visitors. The 250th anniversary of the Massacre is coming up in 2025, so this is a good time to learn more ahead of the commemoration. 'O! Horrid Scene' sets the Westminster Massacre in the context of the revolutionary ferment that followed the Boston Tea Party. Maps and charters of the town, artifacts from the Meeting House and Courthouse, the actual drum used by the militia during the furious (but nonviolent) uprising that followed the murder of William French, and a display of household objects and tools from the colonial period are all part of this exhibit. Later this year, a separate exhibit will display some of our artifacts from the 13,000-year prior history of the place we call Westminster, which is part of N'dakinna, the homeland of the Western Abenaki people.

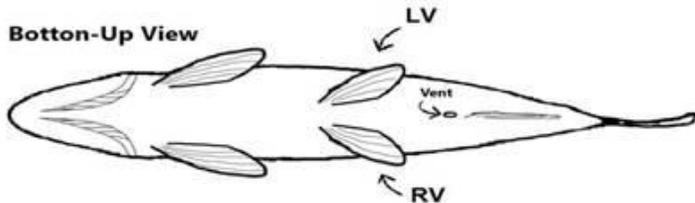
## A NEW TYPE OF TROUT?

### THIS IS A FISHY STORY

From Trout Unlimited (Conn River Valley Chapter)

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is stocking a new strain of rainbow trout this spring and is looking for help from anglers to evaluate its performance. "We are evaluating the new Eagle Lake strain of rainbow trout against our traditionally stocked Erwin-Arlee strain."

The 2 strains are the same species, but genetic differences can impact their behavior and performance. The 2 strains look very similar but can be identified by a clipped ventral fin, the paired fins found on the underside of the fish about halfway along its body. A missing left fin indicates the new Eagle Lake strain while a missing right fin indicates the Erwin-Arlee strain.



|                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>LV: Left-ventral</b>  | <b>RV: Right-ventral</b>  |
| <b>Eagle Lake strain</b> | <b>Erwin-Arlee strain</b> |

"We are asking anglers to report to us the rainbow trout they catch from the waterbodies included in this evaluation. Take a picture of the trout that clearly shows the missing fin. Then submit that picture and catch report on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department website or by using the [Vermont Outdoors app](#) on your smartphone," said Simard.

Locally you might catch one of this new strain in: the Deerfield River, Searsburg and Somerset; the Ottauquechee River, Bridgewater and Woodstock; Lake Raponda, Wilmington; and South Pond, Marlboro. REMEMBER TO TAKE A PHOTO!

Submit your photo showing the clipped fin and report your catch on our online reporting tool. You can also report your catch on your smartphone using our Vermont Outdoors app, available for both Apple and Android devices. Additional information and a complete list of the waterbodies included in the evaluation can be found on Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/rainbow-trout-strain-evaluation>.



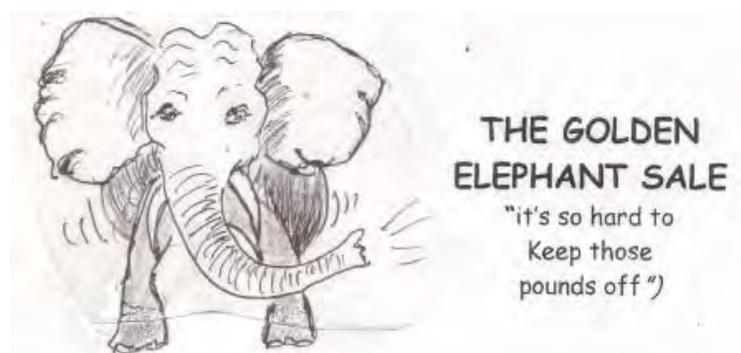
Male yellow warbler. Warblers arrive in Vermont in late April to early May. Photos: PutneyPics/Flickr Creative Commons



For his birthday Peter Adair asked for a pallet of rocks so he could make this amazing fire pit in their garden.

## WESTMINSTER CARE SENDS A THANK YOU

To Peter and Caitlin Adair for opening their gardens on Sunday 6/12 to benefit Westminster Cares. The gardens were truly beautiful and many people visited throughout the day.



## WANTGASTEGOK SACRED SITE PROTECTION

Join us to help protect this exceptional sacred site which is at urgent risk of development and disturbance. It is going on the open market and we need to move quickly! We trust that we can raise \$150,000 from this public campaign, and \$200,000 offline in grant making. For more info, go to our website <https://www.atowi.org/wantastegok-sacred-site-protection>

For thousands of years, the Original People of this region have visited, lived, and been laid to rest at the confluence of the Wantastekw (West River) and Kwenitekw (Connecticut River), in what is now known as Brattleboro, VT. The significance of this place as sacred, both holding balance and exchanging Spirit, is acknowledged by the rare presence of petroglyphs - submerged due to hydro development 100 years ago - and historically documented Indigenous burials.

With the adjacent riverbank now under threat of development and extensive disturbance, Elnu Abenaki Tribe (Vermont state-recognized) with Atowi Project in partnership with Vermont Land Trust, is raising the funds to purchase the 2-acre parcel on the open market. This is a one-time opportunity to return this Land to a vital and reciprocal relationship, and for us to learn together here in community.

## SENIOR SOLUTIONS OFFERS PROGRAMS

For Fresh Farm Produce, Heating Fuel and Pets

Seniors in Westminster may wish to participate in a number of budget-stretching opportunities available in our area through Senior Solutions. Beginning July 1, residents may can receive \$48 worth of coupons to purchase produce at local farmer's markets and farm stands. Local redeemers include the Greater Falls Market (Fridays, 3 pm to 6 pm), the Putney Market (Sundays, 11 am to 2 pm), and Pete's Farm Stand on Route 12 in Walpole. Seniors with an income of \$2,096/month (household of 1) or \$2,823/month (household of 2) are eligible.



Summer is also the time to sign up for Vermont's Seasonal Heating Fuel Assistance Program, which can offset winter heating costs by anywhere from a few hundred to even a few thousand dollars. The income eligibility is the same as the farm coupons above, and the funds can be used to cover costs for oil, electric, kerosene, propane, and even cordwood and wood pellets. Fifty percent of Windham County's eligible seniors do not participate in this program, & are leaving \$\$\$ on the table!

Finally, Senior Solutions is expanding their "Foxy Fund" pet food assistance to Westminster in August. Seniors who need a little extra help caring for and keeping their furry companions will be able to receive once-monthly deliveries of pet food to help offset their expenses, which will be delivered by the same intrepid Westminster Cares drivers who deliver Meals on Wheels. For more information or applications for any of these programs, call the Senior Solutions Help Line at 802-885-2669.

## KOMBUCHA - A CAFFEINE FREE DRINK

From Andrea Capron

I am so excited to be able to offer this to my community! I have been brewing a totally caffeine free, organic, yummy probiotic-filled Kombucha made with Rooibos and Honeybush teas. Both are South African teas that are naturally caffeine free, high in antioxidants, and are also reported to offer other health benefits. I also have been making another probiotic rich, organic drink; naturally fermented ginger ale!

Livewater Farm has agreed to carry some of my Kombucha, and by the time you read this, it will be available to purchase at their farm store. I will also be setting up a dispenser of each flavor, so you can keep your bottle(s) and just bring them back to the store to refill them, and save a few bucks off the original purchase price! Sound good? Great!

So, what are you waiting for? Head on over to Livewater Farm and get yourself some of my yummy Kombucha, with my name on it. Hope you love it as much as I do! Let me know what you think at [andreacapron109@gmail.com](mailto:andreacapron109@gmail.com). Enjoy!

## SCHOOL HIKES ON PINNACLE TRAILS

From teacher Dena Weiss-Tisman:

Fourth graders from Westminster Center School participated in two days of outdoor education in fall 2021. At the end of September, we hiked up to the Pinnacle on the Holden Trail. Students chose "special spots" where they did silent observations that they recorded in their science journals. Further up the trail, we stopped and recorded our observations of the remains of a wolf tree and two old house foundations, connecting these to our social studies work of early settlement in Vermont. Students were excited to reach the summit where we had lunch, played the game Camouflage, and wrote our reflections of the day.

In mid-October, we adventured on the Creature Rock Trail from the end of Ledge Road in Grafton. We enjoyed the late foliage at the summit view, and we explored Creature Rock where we also sketched and wrote our observations. This work connected with our science study of geology and Earth's Processes and the last ice age in Vermont (which left behind a glacial erratic which we examined).



Fourth graders on the Creature Rock Trail.  
Photo: Dena Weiss-Tisman

## THOMAS JEFFERSON'S WORDS OF WISDOM

"THE EARTH BELONGS TO THE LIVING"

Thomas Jefferson wrote this letter to James Madison on September 6, 1789 from Paris. See excerpts below:

"The question Whether one generation of men has a right to bind another, seems never to have been started either on this or our side of the water. Yet it is a question of such consequences as not only to merit decision, but place also, among the fundamental principles of every government. The course of reflection in which we are immersed here on the elementary principles of society has presented this question to my mind; & that no such obligation can be so transmitted I think very capable of proof. I set out on this ground, which I suppose to be self-evident, *'that the earth belongs in usufruct to the living'*: that the dead have neither powers nor rights over it. . . . . On similar ground it may be proved that no society can make a perpetual constitution, or even a perpetual law. The earth belongs always to the living generation. . . . .(it wouldn't matter) If every form of government were so perfectly contrived that the will of the majority could always be obtained fairly & without impediment."

## SUMMER UNPLUGGED

Thanks to the generous support from Great River Hydro, The Nature Museum of Grafton, VT brings free environmental education programming to public libraries and the Bellows Falls Fish Ladder and Visitor Center during the summer months. These engaging free programs highlight topics related to the unique ecology and landscape of Northern New England. Geared toward ages Pre-K through elementary grades, all ages are welcome. Programs will be 45 minutes long with dedicated time for a story reading and any nature-related questions you may have for our expert educators. Questions about these programs contact Jay DeGregorio, [jay@nature-museum.org](mailto:jay@nature-museum.org).

No registration is necessary. Library programs will be outdoors with lots of space for everyone, and inside during inclement weather. Join us to unplug, discover, and learn!

### Week 2 June 29 - July 2

#### Fuzzy, Flying, & Misunderstood: Bats!

Bats often get a bad rap even though they're incredibly important and special, animals. Several species of these night-flying fuzzy mammals call New England home. Come join us to dispel bat myths and learn more about these misunderstood winged wonders. Explore bat biofacts, stick around for a bat story, and join the hunt in a special bat activity!

### Week 3 July 6 - July 9 - All About Black Bears

One of New England's biggest and most popular wildlife creatures is the American black bear. Although often feared, these sizable mammals are intelligent, sneaky, and beautiful. Come activate your inner bear as we learn about the life of black bears, explore black bear biofacts, snuggle up for a story reading, and engage in the black bear experience!

### Week 4 July 13 - July 16

#### World of Owls - What's All the Hoot About?

Owls are magnificent predators that we often think of as hooting birds of the night. But there's more to owls than their distinct calls and nocturnal activity. Come discover how they hunt, which owls call New England home, and why these birds are such amazing creatures. Hear a story, see and touch real owl biofacts, and explore what makes owls unique!

### Week 5 July 20 - July 23

#### Pollinators: The Unsung Heroes!

What is a pollinator? How do they pollinate? Bees are not the only pollinators! Other pollinators include non-honeybees, butterflies, moths, other insects, birds, and even bats! On average, one out of every three to four bites of food we eat or sips of a drink we gulp are made possible by pollinators. Come learn and discover something new about the native pollinator heroes right in our backyards. "Bee" ready to learn, hear a story, and "pollinate!"

### Week 6 July 27 - July 30

#### Magnificent Migrations

Many critters, whether living underwater on land, or flying in the sky, migrate. This includes wildlife that call New England, and our backyards, home! Join us as we explore the different migrations of some of these animal and insect neighbors; get excited to understand why migration is so magnificent! Be ready to be on the move for migration!

### Week 7 August 3 - August 6 Fairy Houses

(Note: this program is one hour instead of 45 minutes)

Calling all Fairies, Elves & Imps! Fire up your imagination by creating your own Fairy Village. We inspire students by teaching them some building basics, showing them some inspiring examples, and reading a fairy story. Then, students take to the outdoors to create fairy houses, parks, gardens, or whatever they're inspired to build! We will look at each other's magical creations, hear what inspired each creator, and explore what they learned in their building process. This collaborative outdoor experience encourages creativity, problem solving, and taking a fresh look at nature's small wonders. Some materials may be provided but bringing your own is encouraged! Note: Fairy houses will be built to remain where they are with natural materials that you bring, and we provide. Please only bring biodegradable and native materials

## SUMMARY OF LOCATIONS AND DATES

### WHITING LIBRARY, CHESTER, VT

Main location and rain location: 117 Main St, Chester, VT  
**Wednesdays** 12:30PM - 1:15PM \*  
06/29, 07/06, 07/13, 07/20, 07/27, 08/03

Contact info: Carry Roy-King, Youth Services Librarian [whitinglibrary3@gmail.com](mailto:whitinglibrary3@gmail.com) 802-875-2277

### SPRINGFIELD TOWN LIBRARY, RIVERSIDE PARK, VT

Main location: Riverside Park, 9 Fairground Rd, Springfield,  
Rain location: Spfd Town Library, 43 Main St, Springfield, VT  
**Wednesdays** 10:00AM - 10:45AM \*  
06/29, 07/06, 07/13, 07/20, 07/27, 08/03

Contact info: Michelle Stinson, Youth Services Librarian  
[springfieldchildrensroom@gmail.com](mailto:springfieldchildrensroom@gmail.com) (802) 885-3108

### SILSBY FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, CHARLESTOWN, NH

Main location and rain location: 226 Railroad St, Charlestown,  
**Thursdays** 10:00AM - 10:45AM \*  
06/30, 07/07, 07/14, 07/21, 07/28, 08/04

Contact: Jennifer Haynes, Library Director & Children & Youth Services Librarian [silsby@charlestown-nh.gov](mailto:silsby@charlestown-nh.gov) 603-826-7793

### LIBRARY OF WALPOLE

Main location and rain location: 48 Main St, Walpole, NH  
**Thursdays** 12:45PM - 1:30PM \*

06/30, 07/07, 07/14, 07/21, 07/28, 08/04

Contact info: Julie Rios, Technology & Children's Librarian  
[jrios@walpoletownlibrary.org](mailto:jrios@walpoletownlibrary.org) 603-756-9806

### BELLOWS FALLS FISH LADDER & VISITOR CENTER

Main location: 17 Bridge St, Bellows Falls, VT

**Fridays** 10:00AM - 10:45AM

07/01, 07/08, 07/15, 07/22, 07/29, 08/05

**Saturdays** 10:00AM - 10:45AM

07/02, 07/09, 07/16, 07/23, 07/30, 08/06

Contact info: Jocelyn Saltzman, Seasonal Environmental Educator [jocelyn@nature-museum.org](mailto:jocelyn@nature-museum.org) Visitor Ctr: 802-460-4664

\* Fairy house program is one hour instead of 45 minutes

# Congregational Church of Westminster West

## THE WEST PARISH WHISTLER

44 Church Street

Putney, VT 05346-9098



We pray for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine

SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR

## SUMMER CALENDAR

### WEEKLY EVENTS:

#### CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of WEST WEST

Church Service 10am but please wear a mask

#### HEALTH AND FITNESS:

For new comers to exercise classes, Westminster Cares needs to determine if the person is appropriate for that class first so they need to call Donna Dawson at Westminster Cares 722- 3607 and she will put them in touch with the instructor.

#### STRONG LIVING is happening by ZOOM

Karen Walter and Ronnie Friedman lead online weight classes on Mondays and Thursdays. Karen's class is at 9:30am, Ronnie's class is at 10:30am. There may be room for more folks and a donation to Westminster Cares is appreciated. To get on Karen's list email her

[Karensww7@gmail.com](mailto:Karensww7@gmail.com). However the Zoom host is Karen

Blanchard, [ren.blanchardreddog@gmail.com](mailto:ren.blanchardreddog@gmail.com)

To get on Ronnie's list email her - [veronicafriedman24@gmail.com](mailto:veronicafriedman24@gmail.com)

#### YOGA is happening by ZOOM

Lisa Nigro leads a class Monday mornings from 10 to 11:15am.

Email Lisa at [lisa.nigro.yoga@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.nigro.yoga@gmail.com)

#### PRE-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Cancelled due to Covid 19

#### WESTMINSTER WEST LIBRARY

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday -1-6pm ^ Saturday 10am-noon

Questions: email Lise Cavanaugh

Masks and social distancing are required

[LiseHCavanaugh@aol.com](mailto:LiseHCavanaugh@aol.com)

#### BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 1 to 6pm Saturday 10:30 to 12:30

The library and institute share a website and Facebook page

website: <https://butterfieldlibraryvt.wordpress.com>

#### SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Secrets of Healthy Aging is happening by phone (WebEx).

To register for this activity, call Donna Dawson 722-3607 and a number will be emailed to you the day before the event.

#### RECYCLING

Recycling Center on Rte 5 - Wed & Sat - 9am - 1pm

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR READING THE WHISTLER

- 1) Open on computer and view all colored photos
- 2) Print (photos in black and white aren't as nice)
- 3) Find comfortable chair and read
- 4) Oh wait, what about all those links
- 5) It might take several sit downs to read

### WEST WEST LIBRARY PLANT SALE REDUX

Emily Weinberg sent this to folks who helped with the sale.

Dear YOU??????

Thank you for donating plants and baked goods to the Library Plant Sale. It was a perfect day for the sale (weather-wise) and the customers were offered a wonderful variety of quality plants. We sold all the plants (as always) and it was a pure success with a fundraising total of \$2,081 all going to the Library. Wow—a record.

I know you donate because you share the love of gardening. We really appreciate it, because our customers love coming and finding interesting, new perennials. It is also a fun community event where friends came and enjoyed themselves. One neighbor said, "This particular event is so idyllic and makes me proud and grateful to be a part of this community." That is a compliment to all of us.

Thank you for helping out. -- Emily Weinberg and the Westminster West Library

AND upon receiving this, Caitlin Adair responded with this:

Emily Weinberg, did ALL the work for the plant sale this year. She is amazing! She contacted gardeners to ask for donations, brought plastic pots to people, picked up plants, helped me change the soil in about 25 pots in case there were jumping worms in it, picked up plants again, set up the sale, took the money, and probably cleaned up. As far as I can tell, the plant part of the event was a one-woman show! And a fundraising success as well. Bravo, Emily!

### LIBRARY READING GROUP READS ON

The library book group meet over Zoom the 3rd Monday every month (from 7-9 pm). The job of presenter and discussion leader is shared among members, with the person who proposed the book under discussion being the leader. New members are welcome. Please call Lise Cavanaugh (387-4682) with your questions and/or to sign up as a participant. Lise will order copies of the books through inter library loan. The last book is July 20: "How Beautiful We Were" by Embolo Mbue

### AMAZING PHOTOS OF LILY POND HIGHLAND AREA

These photos of the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association's latest land acquisition, the Lily Pond Highland area, by Jerry Monkman for the Open Space Institute are absolutely amazing!! Go to the link below. (control and click). <https://openspaceinstitute.canto.com/b/PUB5V> To enlarge these photos just click on a photo. (if it stalls, keep clicking on arrow.)

