



WHISTLER: Alison Latham 387-5711 aliemae1@outlook.com

THE SIXTH MISTAKE OF MAN

*"Attempting to compel others to believe and live as we do."
Marcus Tullius Cicero (106 B.C. – 43 B.C.)*

LEAG FALL PROGRAM with MASTER GARDENER

The Living Earth Action Group (LEAG) will often host programs having broad environmental appeal. In October, Master Gardener Sue Lawrence will speak to us about BioDynamic agriculture and answer any questions we have about our perennial gardens. Sue turned her 3 acres of poor soil near Claremont, New Hampshire into 1 1/3 acres of lush soil following BioDynamic practices. She and her husband Andrew Williams are famous for their many varieties of hosta,

LEAG meets every Friday from 5 to 6:30pm, often at the Westminster West Congregational Church, and sometimes in some one's garden. To get info on meeting place, programs, or to get on Caitlin Adair's newsletter email list, contact Guy Payne at gpaynevt@gmail.com.

REFLECTIONS

"IN A SPIRIT OF ONENESS"

Rev Susie Webster-Tolono
Congregational Church of Westminster West, UCC

Greetings, beloved church and community!

I'm so excited that this Whistler can be one that touts an *in person* Community Fair, after two years of our trying to replicate something of the joy through on-line connection. Similarly, I've been truly moved to see children in my (Brattleboro) neighborhood waiting for the bus as they resume school. You know, *in* school, not via the internet. I've been thinking about traditions that can now resume, as well as about those things that are probably changed forever.

Actually, these thoughts aren't new in this post-isolation era. Throughout the years of my ministry here in West West (an unbelievable twenty years so far as of this October!), I've noticed changes in the role Church plays in our world (with Church meaning pretty much any religious institution, in this instance). One of the obvious and sad aspects is a decline of congregations, with many nearby churches closing their doors so that their members can seek their own life-giving callings in the world in other ways. On the other hand, in places where churches remain vital, the people who are involved are usually *more* deeply engaged than they used to be; no longer do people go to church simply to keep up appearances, but rather they engage deeply in the faith-life of a congregation because something in their heart draws them to worship.

The odd truth is that we seem to be living in an age that is both less religious than it used to be, and also far more spiritually alive and engaged. I see this in the funerals I officiate as well as the weddings, and I hear it from the people who seek me out for spiritual guidance. Though I am emphatically a Christian (a fact that some who fall far to the right of me on the theological/political spectrum might doubt, but I stick to my truth on this one), I find such beauty in the ways I see God-lovers of all stripes connecting with Spirit, walking in love, and living out of their truest selves in ways that don't look at all like church-based Christianity but which I believe make God very happy indeed.

To me, this is exciting! I honor those among us with a traditional and learned faith, but I am thrilled to find that people are finding their way to a deep connection with Spirit in ways some of us may never have dreamed of. I recently officiated at a double baptism for a family I've known in various aspects over the years. The ritual was to be performed in the grandparents' back yard stream, and relatives involved were from varied backgrounds: from deep Guilford roots to island culture, from Greek Orthodoxy (loosely) to Conservative Baptist (not loosely at all), from very religious to not at all religious in any classic sense, and many places in between. So ... what's a minister to do? Insist on the tried-and-true language of the vows about religious participation, knowing that in fact these children are unlikely to be raised in the bosom of a church community, or change the language so that the vows affirmed might be said with sincerity? I opted for the latter, keeping the Trinitarian (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) language of the rite itself, but changing the parental vows. Here's what I asked the four parents of the wee cousins:

**On this day of baptism, do you understand your daughter [name] to be precious in God's sight, and do you vow to raise her to know that to be true?*

**Do you promise to teach [name] to follow the ways of love, compassion, and justice, resisting oppression and evil, as we recognize in the model of Jesus of Nazareth, who fed the hungry, visited the lonesome, healed the sick, spoke truth to power, and offered love wholeheartedly to all of creation?*



Tessila (on the left) and Kaniya (on the right);

We are living in an age where we have choices: to cling to the way things "always" have been whether they are life-giving or not, or to open ourselves to new ways while remaining anchored in the vital truth of our one-ness in God's good creation. As the composer Gustav Mahler wrote (or perhaps quoted a paraphrase of Thomas More), "Tradition is not the worship of ashes, but the preservation of fire." As we move into this changing world, may we in the church be open to hearing how God is leading us in courageous new ways, and may we continue to grow in love and power, serving the full humanity of all of our neighbors in a spirit of Oneness.

In faith, Susie

THE WHISTLE BLOWER



Pia Rabin is having an exhibition of her artwork at the Flat Iron Cafe in Bellows Falls, through Sept. She works in abstract and impressionist forms to seek to express the ineffable. Pia credits Ric Campman and River Gallery School in Brattleboro as her guiding light.

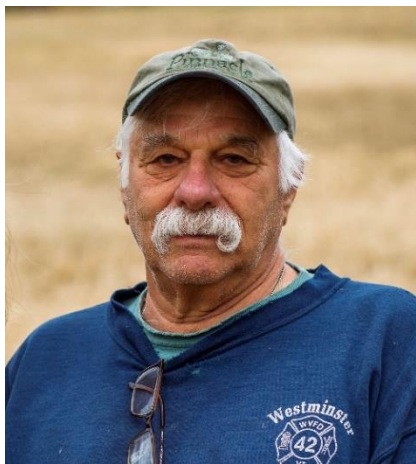
There will be celebration of **Beverly Major's** life and memorial service October 22nd (afternoon) at the Westminster West Congregational Church

Looking for one or **two KITTENS** for the grandkids. Call Caitlin Adair at 802-387-5779

Gordon and Mary Hayward's son **Nate** and his wife **Kati**, who live near Mendocino, California, have just had a baby boy, name yet to be determined. This baby is greeted by his older sisters Ililani and Mehana.

From **George Tarmy**: **Ariane** and I just moved onto Old Codding Rd. with our 7-month-old, Teo - but I grew up in Putney, and much of my family is still here. What a joy to read through The Whistler and see updates on people from my past!

Tony Coven, the ultimate volunteer who is ALWAYS THERE WHEN NEEDED is the Grand Marshal for the 33rd Annual Community Fair Parade Sept 10th. Come and meet your neighbors. Photo: Justin Altman



From **Debbie Bump**: Jesse, Burcu, Horatio (9) and Aurelia (7) came for a few days. We picked blueberries at Green Mountain Orchard. The children and I did projects in my shop. We made a rabbit and a dragon. Lots of fun! Jesse continues at Harvard School of Public Health teaching and working on international public health projects. Burcu continues at the Board of the Federal Reserve in management. They have been in Turkey for several weeks with Burcu's family. Jesse and the kids are fluent in Turkish. Good thing!

Anna Mefferd and Matthew Porter were married August 20th at the Westminster West Congregational Church. Bill Ballard and Cathy Martin provided the music.

Westminster West's cookbook, **Beyond Soup Night**, is available for purchase for \$25 at the Community fair raffle table.

Bidding for the **Online Auction** as part of the 2022 Westminster West Community Fair will open officially at 9am on Saturday, September 3! Go to www.westminsterwest.org. Bid early and often!

Laura and Betsy William's son **Thomas Williams and Felicia Longe** had a healthy baby boy, **Aiden Thomas Williams**, 7 pounds 12 oz on August 19 in Brattleboro. Welcome Aiden!

David Stern: **The Wild Goose Players** announce auditions for "Urinetown" at their space on the Square in Bellows Falls across from the Flat Iron Café on Friday, Sept 9, at 6:30 pm and Saturday, Sept 10 at 11:30 am. More info at wildgoose-players.com

From **Dean Lynch**: TAKE FIVE is back from Maine: a great cruise. With the exception of Cape Hatteras, I have sailed the entire US coast from Maine to the Dry Tortola single handed as well as all the Bahamas. As my father said "Know when to quit." TAKE FIVE is still a great little boat, I am not still a young or even a middle aged man. Therefore, I have decided to sell TAKE FIVE next spring...smooth seas and fair winds...

Don't throw that oversized zucchini on the compost pile, let it grow and enter it in the fair's Vegetable Contest. Encourage your kids or your grand kids or the neighbor's kids or even yourself to use those left over vegetables to create a sculpture. let your imagination run wild, but no garden weeds allowed. You can also make a creative bouquet of the fall flowers around us.

This July, **Rachel Benett (RB) Axtell** completed her PhD in Computer Science, Human Computer Interaction, at the Univ. of Toronto. Her thesis was "Exploring Reminiscence in Multi-modal Digital Spaces." She and her family (wife Ilana Teitelman and kids, Lior and Sophia Lynn) have moved to Montreal for RB's remote post doc with Simon Fraser University (Vancouver, BC). She will be working with preschoolers to design online communication tools that work for them, especially in communicating with family over distance.

Emma Cowan, daughter of Libby McCawley and Rick Cowan, will be married to her Putney School classmate **Caleb Cochrane** in Dorset, VT Saturday Sept 3rd. Emma and Caleb live in Carlisle, MA.

Tyler Harlow, son of Amy Young Harlow and Chris Harlow will be the lead male actor in a Hallmark Movie being aired beginning Sept 3rd.



BOOL DISCUSSION GROUP ORGANIZES

The Westminster West Library book club will be starting up again. The group meets monthly to discuss a book selected by the group and provided to all participants through inter library loan. We are hoping to resume in person meetings and return to the days where tea and snacks were part of the book discussion evenings. We meet to select the books for the year, **Monday September 19 from 7-9pm**. There is no hard commitment for all to attend every single meeting, so if you are just feeling curious about us, the process, or the books we choose, feel free to join us. Communication is through email, so if you want to be alerted to the activities of this group send your email to the librarian, Lise Cavanaugh at LisehCavanaugh@aol.com or call the library at 802-387-4682.



Tyler Harlow
JACK

WESTMINSTER WEST CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday worship begins at 10am

come as you are (but please wear a mask)

We are an Open and Affirming Church, fully accessible

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.

Sept 11 – Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno, Hymn Sing (also known as Fair Recovery Day) music Eric Robinson
Sept 18 – Adrienne Major, music Fred Gray
Sept. 25 – Ray Huessy, music Fred Gray
Oct. 2 – Holy Communion, to be announced
Oct. 9 – Rev Susie Webster-Toleno

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Our pastor, Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno, reserves Thursday afternoons for office hours, which sometimes also means visits to people's homes or outdoor walks when requested. Appointments for other times can be made via email to: 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

FACEBOOK: Congregational Church of Westminster West

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. Sometime during that half-hour, she offers reflections and shares prayers via Facebook Live, which can be found on the church Facebook Page (search under "Congregational Church of Westminster West UCC"). If you have prayer concerns that you'd like to include on her list, call or email her and let her know. Consider setting that same time aside in your busy life, taking a moment to pray, and know that others within the community are also praying at that moment.

MANNA SUNDAY

"If we feed the hungry from God's plenty and satisfy the needs of the wretched, then our light shall rise like dawn out of darkness and our dusk be like noonday. We shall be like a well-watered garden; like a spring whose waters never fail." *Isaiah 58:10-11*

We take up a special offering on the second Sunday of each month. Named for the biblical story of manna falling from heaven, this collection is made in support of Our Place in Belows Falls, for our neighbors in need. It is a freewill offering; a suggested guideline is to give the cost of a meal for one's own household. For those not attending in-person worship, donations can be made online through the website. Click on the DONATE button, and be sure to use "add a note" to show the purpose of the donation. (i.e., Manna Offering)

FALL EQUINOX LABYRINTH WALK

THURSDAY, SEPT 22ND

The church is fortunate to own a gorgeous labyrinth, based on the ancient design in the cathedral of Chartres, France. It is a beautiful pattern, painted purple on canvas, and it rolls out to fill our sanctuary. Traditionally, we have opened the labyrinth each solstice and equinox, to observe the cycles of the natural world, as well as on Ash Wednesday, to open the season of Lent. This month, we will restart our labyrinth walks for the first time since the start of the pandemic.

All are welcome. Beyond the peaceful presence of the labyrinth, there is no particular program. It's very easy to walk the labyrinth: simply come with clean socks and your mask (spares are available at the church), and follow the path at your own pace. We encourage you to try this contemplative practice for yourself. The next scheduled walk will celebrate the fall equinox: Thursday, Sept 22nd. You are welcome to stop by between 7 and 8 pm. Please come!

ABOLISH SLAVERY

A Prop 2 presentation

Vermont Interfaith Action's (VIA) Executive Director, Rev. Debbie Ingram, will conduct a presentation entitled "Abolish Slavery: Educating Our Communities on Prop 2" on **Tuesday, Sept 6th from 7 pm to 8:15 pm on Zoom**. The purpose of this presentation is to explain the Vermont constitution's current language regarding slavery and how it evolved; how this language has influenced the U.S. Constitution and many of our systems and practices; and the proposed amendment, which Vermont voters will have the chance to pass on **November 8, 2022**. Participants will also learn of opportunities to take action to ensure passage of the amendment, and to address the larger question of how to dismantle systemic racism in many forms. The presentation was developed by VIA in partnership with the Vermont Racial Justice Alliance. For more information, contact Mike Mrowicki (mike@viavt.org). Please use this link to register and receive your own unique zoom link.

(https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZ0qcumugDktHte1P_KEHr2YxoXDzpZOPtBB)



The Peace Dove (if only!)



Join us this fall for one of our upcoming events! With cooler temperatures and changing foliage, it's a perfect time to enjoy the trails. Below sunset from the cabin on the Pinnacle.



Saturday September 10th at the Community Fair. We'll have Pinnacle T-shirts and books available for a donation.

Saturday October 8th, 11am Accessibility Day. This is an opportunity for adults who have difficulty walking to get a vehicle ride to a beautiful site on the ridgeline for lunch. This free program's popularity and need for 4-wheel drive type vehicles makes advance registration a must for riders. Hikers do not need to pre-register. Bring water, bag lunch, and dress for chilly weather. Masks are required for the car rides. Meet at the Old Athens Road turnaround by 11:00am. A sign-up sheet will be announced in the newsletter (and online). For information and to register call Tony Coven 802-387-6650.

Sunday, October 9th: Harvest Festival: Visit the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association's table where you can view maps etc. and purchase T-shirts and books in exchange for donations.

Sunday, October 23rd: Bald Hill Hike. 1-3 p.m. Vanessa Stern will lead an autumn walk on Bald Hill along the gorgeous Saxtons River. The 55-acre Bald Hill Reserve (conserved by WHPA) and the adjacent Bellows Falls Union High School Forest and Basin Farm trails total over 300 acres. RSVP to Vanessa Stern, 802-463-4948 or [by email davidand_vanessa@gmail.com](mailto:by_email_davidand_vanessa@gmail.com). Please wear good hiking footwear and bring water. Meet at the 232 Covered Bridge Road kiosk in Westminister, VT.

Saturday, November 5th: Athens Dome Loop Walk. 12:30-4 p.m. Camilla Roberts will lead a fall hike on Athens Dome to explore the historic soapstone quarries complex, including several quarries, cellar holes for the workers and draft animals, the infamous "yellow boarding house," and the pitsaw to prep slabs for transport to Cambridgeport. Meet at the parking lot of the Nature Museum in Grafton, VT, at 12:30 p.m. to carpool to the starting point (where parking is limited). Bring water, snacks, and good hiking footwear. Weather dependent. [Email Camilla Roberts](mailto:Email_Camilla_Roberts) to register, or call her at 802-869-1388.

PINNACLE BOARD and LEADERSHIP CHANGES

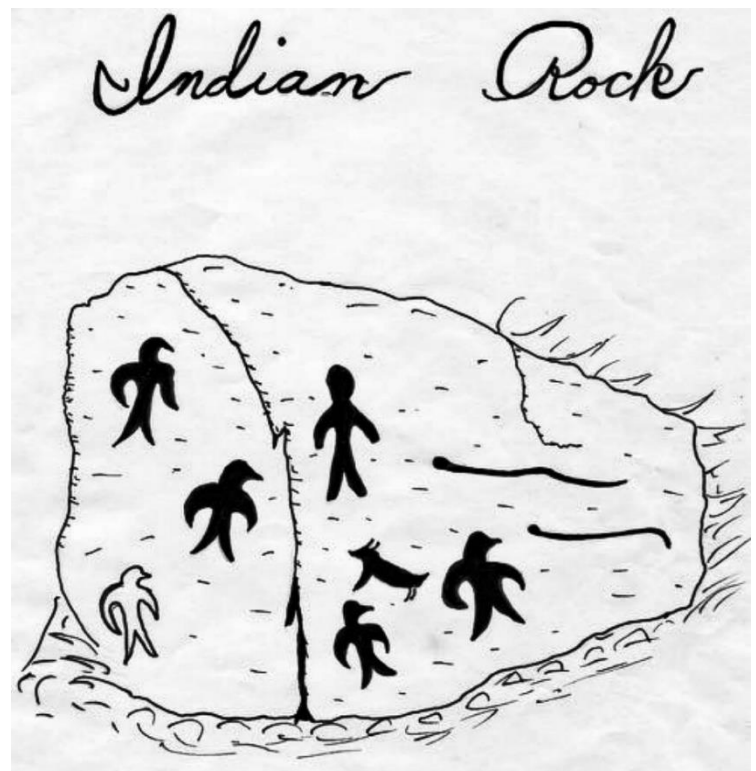
This summer, WHPA was sad to say goodbye to retiring board trustees Nora Gordon and Rosalyn Shaoul. We thank them for their countless hours of work and energy to ensure the fulfillment of our mission of land conservation and education.

We welcome the following new board trustees and are looking forward to working with them to further our work on the Pinnacle Ridgeline, Athens Dome, and the Bald Hill Reserve:

- **Noah Hirschl**, Brookline. *Sociologist, avid adventurer, and lover of nature and the outdoors.*
- **Mike Oster**, Westminister West. *Background in biology and has worked in the field of experiential outdoor education for nearly 20 years.*
- **Laura Swoyer**, Westminister West. *Background in marine biology and environmental education. Works full time as a photographer.*

This summer, Jennifer Latham has taken over as chair of the Pinnacle board from Silos Roberts. Thank you to Silos for his four years of leadership as chair! The vice-chair is now Camilla Roberts, Molly Wilson continues as secretary, Bob Gay continues as treasurer, and Sean Long is now assistant treasurer.

The Pinnacle trails are open for visitors, with the Pinnacle cabin open for day visitors and overnight reservations. Please observe social distancing and other safety measures. People who are not fully vaccinated should wear masks while in the cabin. To reserve the cabin email Valerie Barry at stevalsvt@gmail.com. Check our website for updates on our hikes and other programs this fall at www.windmillhillpinnacle.org.



Sketch of "Indian Rock" at the mouth of the West River, by a young Larkin Mead, later a nationally-known sculptor

SUGGESTED ANNUAL DONATION FOR THE WHISTLER

Basic \$25 Neighborly \$50 Angelic \$100
CCWW, 44 Church Street, Westminister West VT 05346

33rd Annual COMMUNITY FAIR

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10th

FAIR DAY SCHEDULE

- 8:30am Race Registration between Church and Town Hall
Coffee and Bake Sale inside church
- 9:00am Adults 5K Road Race
Golden Elephant Sale opens in Old Town Hall
Local Art Exhibit Opens – Sanctuary
- 10:00am Parade Preparation at the School
Bicycle Decorations and Drumming Rehearsal
- 10:30am Parade begins - Grand Marshall – Tony Coven
who is ALWAYS THERE WHEN NEEDED
- 11am Kids Fun Run – registration in front of Church
- 11:30am Serving of B B Q and other menu items begins
Music by George Ainley & friends on Church lawn
- Noon Deadline for Veggie contest entries
- Noon-2pm Children's activities, Face painting, Whack
the Corn Cob (1-2) and Bean Bag Toss
- 2pm Talent Show begins
- 2:45pm During Talent Show -Drawing of Raffle winners
and announcement of Veggie Contest winners
- 3:00pm Golden Elephant Sale ends

RACES: 5K ROAD RACE: There are 4 classes for men and women in the 5K road Race: Youth (13-17), Open (18-39), Masters (40-59) and Seniors (60 and older). THE KIDS FUN RUN is for ages 12 and under, with age-based classes for boys and girls. Entry fees: 5K race - \$15 adults, \$10 for youth, and \$3 for the Fun Run.

REGISTRATION for the 5K begins at 8:30am and the Race starts at 9am with a mass start. The course is over relatively flat, shady dirt roads, passing through scenic countryside and apple orchards. Registration for the Kids Fun Run starts *right after the parade (at about 10:30am)* in front of the church, as the race starts at 11am. There will be 2 mass starts, one for older and one for younger runners.

PARADE: Westminster West's annual parade will begin at 10:30 at the school and proceeds in its legendary and lovably haphazard manner toward the church. Bike decoration and drumming practice will start at 10am. The parade's Grand Marshal is Tony Coven, the best volunteer any little community could ask for who is ALWAYS THERE WHEN NEEDED.

Perennial favorites include Ladies Against Women and Westminster West's very own Pick-up Drumming Wagon pulled by David Major and his tractor (bring a drum or noise maker if you want to ride with them). All elected officials and candidates for office, stilt walkers, acrobats, clowns, new neighbors, and kids on decorated bikes, are invited to join the parade, everyone is welcome!!! If you play the accordion or want to join the drummers, contact Leslie Turpin or Tom Griffith at 387-5694.

VEGETABLE CONTEST: There are 3 categories for adults and kids, longest zucchini, vegetable sculpture, and artistic flower arrangements. Deadline for entries is noon day of Fair. Winners will be announced during Talent Show. Entries are on display in church foyer.

SILENT AUCTION is online again this year. Go to our website (www.westminsterwest.org) to view items which include art works, crafts, furniture, gourmet foods, services, lessons, collectible items and gift certificates or merchandise from local businesses. Great source of gifts. Email your bid to Cheryl Charles at cherylcharles01@gmail.com. Bidding ends Sunday night, September 11th. Bidding guidelines later in Whistler.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES: Whack the Corn Cob game (1-2pm), Face painting (12-2) and Bean Bag toss. All activities are free, except for face painting. Kids are also encouraged to run in the Fun Run and enter the Veggie Contest and Talent Show.

BARBEQUE DINNERS will be served after the parade until sold out. **BBQ Chicken Dinner for \$15** with a choice of leg quarter (includes leg & thigh) or bone-in breast, **Beyond Sausage Veggie Dinner for \$15**, or **Hot Dog Dinner for \$12**. All dinners include baked beans, coleslaw, corn on the cob and a drink. Ala carte items: hot dog; corn on the cob and a drink—\$2.50. Ice cream available after lunch for \$3.00.

TALENT SHOW: Susie Webster-Toleno is this year's Mistress of Ceremonies. If you have a talent, contact Susie to see if she can fit you in her schedule.

ART SHOW: Local artists and craftspeople are invited to exhibit their work in the sanctuary of the church.

GOLDEN ELEPHANT SALE: Please no clothes, electronics, broken items or junk. Remember the golden rule, donate unto others what you would want to take home with you.

DROP OFF TIMES: 5-8pm Sept 6th - 8th. Please don't just leave things in front of the church at odd hours. With recycling center closed, we face a challenge disposing of left-overs.

RAFFLE: 3 items: oil painting by Collin Leech (value \$500), queen size quilt made by Susan Talbot (value priceless), and an African Drum from the Shaouls travels in Africa (value \$500). Limited tickets sold and you pick the item you wish to win.

ENTERTAINMENT: Old Time Music by George Ainley and Friends on the Church lawn

BENEFIT: Proceeds help fund the community newsletter *The West Parish Whistler*, and help support the community use of the church building and the community suppers.

LOCATION: The fair will be held at the Church on the Westminster West Road - half way between Putney and Saxtons River. People can park along the road.

CONTACTS FOR INFO ABOUT THE FAIR:

Art Show	Julia Jensen and Tom Griffith	802-387-5694
Bake Sale	Karen Blanchard	802-380-4540-
Booth Rental	Betsy Williams	802-387-2765
BBQ Food	Andrea Capron	380-451-6794
Golden Elephant	Laura Williams	802-387-2765
Races	Charlotte Gifford	802-387-4145
Parade	Leslie Turpin	802-387-5694
Silent Auction	Cheryl Charles	802-376-8093
Talent Show	Susie Webster-Toleno	802-579-8356
Vegetable Contest	Alison Latham	802-387-5711

Church Phone – 802- 387-2334

CHURCH WEB SITE: www.westminsterwest.org

HOW THE SILENT AUCTION WORKS

Last year's silent auction online fundraiser for the Westminster West Community Fair proved to be fun and rewarding! Now's your chance to participate this year. You will be helping to support the extended community of the Congregational Church of Westminster West without leaving home! Take a look at the choices, see the minimum bid, and then choose one or more items on which to bid. Holiday gifts, birthday presents, something for yourself you've always wanted? These are great items and wonderful values. You may bid whatever amount you want, as high as you want to go. Remember, these funds help to support the community church as a gathering place, welcoming presence, and calm voice during challenging times.

You can view all auction items at www.westminsterwest.org. Bidding closes at 5pm on Sunday, September 11. Email your

bid to Cheryl Charles at cheryl-charles01@gmail.com for the item or items of your choice. The highest bid for each item will be the winner! Bids are updated daily until the final day, when updates come hourly—and then every 15 minutes, especially exciting for those “hot” items you want to be sure to get. Once all the bids are in, the winners will be notified via email and arrangements will be made to connect you with your treasure. Share this opportunity with friends and neighbors and bid!



Your choices run from \$5 to \$800 – 1,000. Above is **Ruby-throated hummingbird** in display case. Standing case is about 5” tall. Donated by Allison Deen, this is a small rendering of Vermont's only nesting hummingbird. Minimum bid: \$5.



Weekend at Zach Weinberg's Surf Ranch AirBNB, York, Maine. \$800 - \$1000 Value. Two Nights. Minimum bid: \$350. Dates to be arranged. No dogs; sorry.

- ☐ 4 bedroom (one BR closed off after Thanksgiving) in a private woods setting
- ☐ 1/2 mile/15 minute walk/4 minute bike ride to York Beach, Maine

- ☐ 9' dining table, cook's kitchen
- ☐ Fire pit/picnic table; pool table/ping pong

https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/37559597?source_impression_id=p3_1661019834_ZzyZ5A1qtPC96nd4

This gives you a sense of the range of wonderful items! There are music lessons, landscape design, chimney cleaning, chairs, children's strollers, jewelry, art and more!

FUEL ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS

September is here – which means it is 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. Senior Solutions can help you apply for assistance through Vermont's LIHEAP program, which could help lower your bills if you heat with oil, kerosene, propane, electric, coal, wood pellets, or wood.

Half of Vermont seniors who are eligible never even apply with the simple, 1-page application, leaving money on the table. Many others wait until the middle of winter, when the temperature, fuel level in the tank, and bank accounts are all running low. But by waiting until after November, even those found eligible receive only a portion of what they would otherwise be awarded.

This program is income and household-size based. If your income is at or below these levels, you qualify:

Household of 1 – 2,096/month
Household of 2 – 2,823/month
Household of 3 – 3,550/month
Household of 4 – 4,279/month

Benefits are sent directly to your fuel company on your behalf, giving you a credit for the season. In the case of wood, it will either appear on an EBT card containing a cash amount, or could be directly deposited into your bank account.

There are many misconceptions about this program: It doesn't matter if you own your home, or rent, as long as you are incurring a heating cost. It doesn't have an “asset test,” so the value of your vehicles, property, and bank accounts are immaterial.

Call the Senior Solutions HelpLine at 802-885-2669 to obtain an application or receive assistance making an application over the phone, while you are still entitled to full seasonal benefits.

WESTMINSTER CARES CELEBRATION OF AGING

Please Join Us!

Everyone in the community is invited to attend **Westminster Cares' Annual Celebration of Aging on Saturday, September 17th, from 12:00pm to 3:00pm.** This year's event will take place outdoors, on the back lawn of the Westminster Institute. Family, friends, neighbors and community members are all encouraged to attend to honor and celebrate residents of our community who are 90 years and older. Light food and refreshments will be served.

It's not too late! If you or someone you know was born in 1932 or earlier we'd like you to be a guest of honor. Please call Pete Harrison @ 289-3776 to let us know. For more information about the event, call Donna Dawson in the office @ 722-3607. A Rain Date is set for Sunday the 18th; same place and time.

PHOTOS OF FIRST COMMUNITY FAIR IN 1990

From Barbara Rogers



My how the trees have grown or fallen down since 1990



Hayride on a highway to heaven



David Loper is on the right, helping with the Bar-B-Q.



Windham County Cloggers. Les and Millie Ward's daughter, Linda, was a clogger. She may be in the photo. Don Astley is the man in the middle.



The pit and volunteers have changed but the location and time honored method of Bar-B-Q hasn't.

ARCHAEOLOGIST GAIL GOLEC TO SPEAK AT Westminster Historical Society Annual Meeting

This event will be held **October 19th at 7pm at the Westminster Fire Station**. After a short business meeting, archaeologist Gail Golec will give a talk titled "Interpreting Historical Landscapes" which will give us a view of a far deeper time-frame than we are used to thinking about. Lying between Kchi Pontegok (the Great Falls) and Wantastigok (Brattleboro,) Westminster occupies land that was inhabited for over ten thousand years before Europeans ever saw it. Golec is an expert on reading this landscape and understanding history as the entirety of interactions between people and their environment. She's currently working on projects in both Bellows Falls and Brattleboro, and will help us understand the history hidden within this part of the Connecticut Valley, now called Vermont and New Hampshire, but known to the Abenaki people as N'dakinna; Our Land.

Gail was born and raised in the Upper Connecticut River Valley and has been a professional archaeologist in the area for over 20 years, working on sites primarily in New Hampshire and Vermont. Over the years, she has undertaken a number of research projects focusing on local history and with that research, Gail gives public presentations, teaches history classes and also hosts, writes and produces a history podcast about cemeteries called "The Secret Life of Death Podcast". Most recently, she was named co-manager of the "Kchi Pontegok Project", a National Park Service grant awarded to the Town of Rockingham in partnership with the Atowi Project. For more information go to our website, www.westminstervt-history.org or call 802-490-4281.



An 1866 photograph shows the petroglyphs in Brattleboro which are now underwater because of construction of the Vernon Dam.
Photo courtesy of the Vermont Historic

NEW MEMBER SOUGHT to help steer direction of the town

Westminster Town Planning Commission is looking for a new member. Our primary task is to update and complete the town plan. We meet monthly, usually on zoom, and work with shared google docs on each of the chapters of the town plan. Our meetings take place on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 or 7, depending upon the time of year. This is a great opportunity to have input on the direction of the town. If you are interested please contact the commission chair, Bari Shamas, westminstervt.planningcom@gmail.com

BOOK SALE EXTRAVAGANZA

It is another HUGE BOOK SALE to benefit the Westminster West Library. We have books in all categories for you to peruse. So many fantastic, engaging, educational, and entertaining titles to choose from. We have books for both kids and adults in fiction and non-fiction. Please stock up on the books *you want on your shelf, and READ. We have books for artists, teachers, homeschoolers, readers of all genres, and research materials for all interests. Believe me, the selection is HUGE. All books are sold by donation. Come browse books, enjoy the locally filmed theatre shows, complete the scavenger hunt and pick up a prize!*



Cash, check, and credit cards are all accepted; pay what you will, all proceeds will go directly to support the Westminster West Public Library. If you have any questions, you can call the library at 802-387-4682.

ATTENTION ALL RUNNERS The West West 5K is Back!

A highlight of our annual Community Fair is back: the 5K road race on the loop that starts in the village, taking the West Road to Cross Road and then the trail off the Westminster West Road to end on Church St in front of the Church. We are welcoming ALL runners and joggers back to this beautiful event. Come run at *your* pace: maybe you'll be out front and set a new course record, maybe you'll enjoy the familiar and scenic route at a mellow pace. Either way, join us as we restart the West West 5K. Classes include Youth (13-17), Open (18-39), Masters (40-59) and Seniors (60 and older). Entry fees are \$15 adults, \$10 for youth, and prizes typically include local cheese, apples, maple syrup and Putney Co-op gift cards.

Registration for the Kids Fun Run starts *right after the parade (at about 10:40am)* in front of the church, as the race starts at 11am. There will be 2 mass starts, one for older and one for younger runners.

WESTMINSTER CARES PROGRAMS

Gentle Yoga – Mon at 10am via zoom, led by Lisa Nigro. Email her at lisa.nigro.yoga@gmail.com. There is a cost paid directly to Lisa.

Living Strong Classes via zoom. 2 programs: Participants are asked to make a donation to Westminster Cares
Ronnie Friedman Monday & Thursday 10:30-11:30am (veronicafriedman23@gmail.com)
and Karen Walters Monday & Thursday at 9:30-10:30am but email (Karenblanchardreddpg@gmail.com)

Meals on Wheels – available 5 days a week for eligible seniors 60 years old or older and adults with disabilities.

For information or transportation, or to volunteer to deliver meals or give rides to seniors, contact Donna Dawson at Westminster Cares at 722-3607 or wecares@sover.net

Congregational Church of Westminster West
THE WEST PARISH WHISTLER
44 Church Street Putney, VT 05346
Return service requested

If you like The Whistler better on paper,
go ahead and print it.



As winter approaches, we pray for all those who may face a cold winter, not only Ukrainians but Germans and others.

FAIR 2022 NEWSLETTER

FALL CALENDAR

WEEKLY EVENTS:

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of WEST WEST

Church Service - 10am Sunday

HEALTH AND FITNESS

For new comers to exercise classes, Westminster Cares needs to 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. However the Zoom host is Karen Blanchard, ren.blanchardreddog@gmail.com
To get on Ronnie's list email her - 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

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

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 temporarily on hold

RECYCLING

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

Puppets

IN THE GREEN MOUNTAINS

The International Puppet Festival is happening from September 9 through the 18th. During the upcoming festival on Thursday, September 15 at 5:30pm, at the Brattleboro Museum of Art, there will be a showing of the latest Sandglass endeavor *Flushing* and a celebration of Eric and Ines Bass honoring their 40 years of producing, directing and starring in shows that makes us think, laugh, cry and want more. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased online puppetsinthegreenmountains.com.

Patti Whalen says: "We all need a good time, come help us celebrate! The work of Sandglass, the international and national artists performing here, has never failed to elevate me. Universal themes are played out with incredible creativity and talent. Social justice themes, enlightening conversations, the meaning of life, the wonders of a peeled potato, the joys of mud season, bittersweet aging, stories of lives well lived, all performed locally. And they are our neighbors! What kind of joyous wonder is that? It makes me feel lucky, appreciative and grateful. And now is the perfect time to give back and say thank you."

THE WILDFLOWER POLLINATOR PROJECT

There is a crisis in the populations of pollinators in this country and around the world, due to habitat loss, pesticides, invasive species and global warming, creating an urgent need to restore pollinator gardens and habitats. The **Wildflower Pollinator Project** is a small organization in southern Vermont dedicated to supplying resources and education as to how members of a community can work together to repopulate these vital habitats. Local volunteers who become members will receive free **Wild-**



life Nursery Kits that utilize simple gardening methods developed to protect wildflower seeds when sown in late fall and supply everything needed to produce an abundance of seedlings that can

be transplanted into community sites in the spring. One such site is at the Putney Co-op, next to the new deck, that will be expanded next spring.

Besides cultivating wildflower seedlings and creating habitats, members are needed to help secure future funding as a non-profit organization, so that the project can grow, grow and grow some more. Please visit the project's website at www.putneyjanecollister3@gmail.com please email Jane at janecollister3@gmail.com..net/pollinators. To consult with the founding member,

GIVE YOUR HOME A HUG

From Marian Major

Even though it can be hard to think about, winter's coming! Before the cold sneaks in, the Windham & Windsor Housing Trust's Green Mountain Home Repair is a low-cost loan program for income eligible households to address health and safety issues, structural problems, failing mechanical systems, energy efficiency upgrades, and interior and exterior modifications for elderly or disabled homeowners. Find out more: www.homemattershere.org/home-repair/ Stay snug!

NEW TEEN PROGRAM

To build community clay oven in Brattleboro

Bonei Aish Chadash

'Builders of a New Fire'

From Teresa Savel

A **bagel** is a yeasted bread dough, originating in the Jewish communities of Poland, that is first boiled for a short time in water and then baked. **Challah**, literally loaf in the Hebrew language is a special bread of Ashkenazi Jewish origin, usually braided and typically eaten on ceremonial occasions such as **Shabbat**, the day of rest & major Jewish holidays. **Pizza**, we all know what that is and how much teens love to eat it!

Gathering together, appreciating new friendships, and eating these foods, baked in a wood-fired clay oven, built alongside a team of peers are aspects of the new Teen Program: **Bonei Aish Chadash**, (translated as) **'Builders of a New Fire'**, being offered through the Brattleboro Area Jewish Community (BAJC). This program is generously supported by a grant from the Harold Grispoon Foundation. Additional sponsors include Kroka Expeditions and friends like you! The grant's goal is to gather a team of area teens to explore the rich culture of Judaism through 4 events, beginning Oct. 16th.

Bonei Aish Chadash/'Builders of a New Fire' is open to non-Jewish and Jewish teens, ages 13-17 in the Windham and Bennington Counties of Vermont. We also welcome teens from Keene, NH and Western Massachusetts.

Bonei Aish Chadash will offer four dynamic and social team building activities/events to enliven and inspire our group of teen leaders. Program start date is October 16th, when the group will field trip to the Amherst Jewish Community garden and clay oven to learn from Sam Coates-Finke, master clay oven builder (<https://backyardbread.com/>), about cooking, baking and building a clay oven. In the spring of 2023, the teen team will gather again at the BAJC site in Brattleboro to build an outdoor oven for future community collaborations. Required high school community service hours can be received through this program. The year will culminate with a pizza making and dance celebration.

Our Teen Program Mentors, Hyim Savel of West West and Natasha Diamondstone-Kohout of Dummerston come from a wealth of outdoor, creative and educational experience. Each is connected with Judaism and jazzed about working with our teen group. Together with Sam, they will guide teens through an exciting and rich program that builds connection.

If you are a teen or know a teen interested in participating in **'Builders of a New Fire'**, send an email to teenprogram-bajc@gmail.com to receive registration info. Program fees are based on a sliding scale, no teen will be turned away for lack of funds. Inquire about scholarships. Sign-up by Sept 30th.

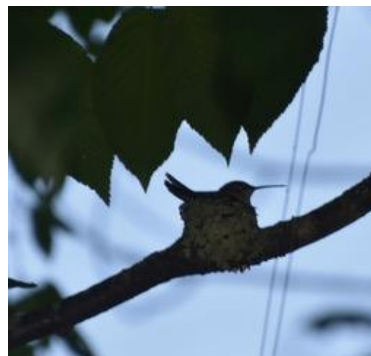


FAIRY HOUSE FESTIVAL

Walk the Fairy House Trail at the Annual Fairy House Festival on September 24th and 25th and discover a magical village full of fairy schools, libraries, playgrounds, and delightful surprises. Since 2007, The Nature Museum in Grafton, Vermont has been welcoming visitors from across New England to its wondrous Fairy House Festival, a family-friendly celebration of nature, creativity, inspiration, and community. This magical Grafton tradition will appear on Saturday, September 24th and Sunday, September 25th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Registration to become a Builder is open on the website, and every year groups -of families, friends, and businesses come together for a uniquely collaborative and creative project. There's nothing quite like coming together to build a fairy house to bring a sense of wonder and life-long memories.

Visit their website at nature-museum.org to register as a Builder or event Volunteer, to read all about the event and plan your day. Tickets can be purchased online beginning mid-August, and limited tickets are available the day of the event. Adults are \$15, and kids 3-17 are \$5, under 2 are free.



YOUNG AT HEART Videos and games at Library Book Sale

Come and enjoy 1990s videos of yourself, friends, neighbors (and even your parents!) at the Westminster West Library during the Westminster West Community Fair on September 10.

The Westminster West 4H Club organized many children's drama productions in those years led by Elena Dodd and others. Come see excerpts of *The Little Prince*, *Heidi*, the *Full Moon Circus* and the pageant *History of Westminster*. Video will run continuously during the day (9am - 3pm) at the Library. FLASH! The DVD "Westminster West Presents" will be available at the Library by donation - the ideal memento!

Also on view will be pages from the unique Children's Almanac from the Westminster West School, displays of children's photos from the WESTORY collection, and history from the Congregational Church archive. There will be a special activity for young people, the Village Research Game - find out the answers to 10 questions and win a prize!

Photo above: Hummingbird nest in Cheryl Charles's tree.



Boys on the run, Photo by Cheryl Charles

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

By Allison Ounanian

Summer rushing by and we are appreciating every bit of it as we can, paddling around lakes in our tubes, fishing, and kayaking, attending outdoor concerts in our immediate area.

Dry weather has not given our vegetation everything they need to flourish thoroughly, but we have cheered our plants, veggies, and flowers on, bringing them in at dusk for appreciation and a cool drink from a vase. Even though I am full to the brim, I will *never, ever* say I am tired of my cukes or tomatoes — no way. I will keep eating them until tomato seeds come out of my ears, or else putting them by. They are big part of my life here (does my life sounds dull?).

We got past the one-year anniversary of my dad's death. I feel okay but do miss my dad, and dream about my parents just about every night; there is invariably some scenario or other where we are in downtown Boston or New York City, and I lose track of my mother only to find her close by waiting somewhere nearby like the hotel lobby because she has gotten tired and wanted to sit down. She doesn't say anything, but I am glad to have gotten track of her. I wish my dream scenario would change up a little bit.

Not ready to tear into Fall but will appreciate the Vermont Fall when it gets here.



Parade preparations at the school before the parade at 10:30

BULB SALE AT CHESTER FALL FESTIVAL

On September 17 and 18 Chester Townscape volunteers will again be selling spring-flowering bulbs at Chester's Fall Festival at a location between the Hearse House and the Information Booth. All bulbs are top quality, hardy, easy care, shunned by deer and voles, and expected to return year after year when grown in full or part sun and in well-drained locations. The different varieties of narcissus offered this year include early, mid, and late bloomers with a variety of colors and heights. The 2022 Bulb order form describing the Queen's Day, Mount Hood, and Sun Disc daffodil offers may be downloaded from www.chestervt.gov/chester-townscape.

Bulbs will be sold Cash and Carry from 10 AM–4 PM on Saturday and Sunday September 17 and 18. Bulbs may also be ordered in advance by September 12 for pick-up at the Fall Festival by making a check out to CCA with CT Bulbs in the memo line and sending the completed order form and check to Chester Townscape, PO Box 561, Chester, VT 05143. For additional information or for those who must make alternative pick-up arrangements, contact Polly Montgomery at 802-875-5446 or montgomerypolly@yahoo.com.

At the bulb table, Townscape's free brochures for the Main Street and the Stone Village/Depot walking tours will be available. Volunteers will also be raffling a garden pot for 2023 display in some lucky person's front yard. All sales help support Chester Townscape's seasonal floral displays which will be changed later this fall to display pumpkins, flowering kale, and corn stalks at public locations around town. These decorations beautify Chester and make it a handsome place in which to live and visit. Chester Townscape is a committee of Chester Community Alliance, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. For info contact Lillian Willis, lbwillisct@comcast.net, 802-875-1340.



Eshagh Shaoul at the piano during talent show

Covid 19 Antigen tests and N95 masks are available to older adults in our community. Contact Donna Dawson at Westminster Cares office at 802-722-3607.