



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

The truth may be stretched thin, but it never breaks,
and it always surfaces above lies,
as oil floats on water."

— Don Quixote, Miguel de Cervantes



The cabin at the top of the Holden trail on the Windmill Hill Pinnacle ridgeline. Sorry folks the cabin is still closed as well as the Holden trailhead parking lot. To find other interesting walks on Pinnacle land visit our website: www.windmillhillpinnacle.org

REFLECTIONS

"THE FORWARD LOOK"

Rev Susie Webster-Tolono

Congregational Church of Westminster West, UCC

Greetings, beloved community,

I'm writing this reflection in mid-September, which is something I've never done. Always in this past, this would have been completed in late August, in time for our beautiful and much missed Community Fair. This year is just plain different, in so many ways.

But though the Fair cannot be the topic of my writing, the emphasis on community and connectedness is, if anything, more crucial this year. We do not know what the path forward looks like, or when we will be able to gather regularly for worship, meals, and other outings. We do not know what lies ahead in terms of politics or the well-being of a number of community institutions that are vulnerable to financial strains and stresses. At times like this, it can feel like safety requires us to cling to the past like a life-raft – to paint a rosy picture of how things have always been done, and to wish ever so fervently to return to old, familiar ways.

What I know about myself is that my own wishing to cling to what was once good, though, is that it is generally a symptom of a lack of trust on my part. At my best, I can be grounded in faith and stride forward in confidence, but I'm not always at my best. It's easy for me to forget that our God is a God of change. Jesus himself was always up and on the move. We are called into a future that we can't control; called to enter that future fearlessly, relying on Love to guide us and protect us, and knowing that that love is not just for us but for all of Creation.

In his book Deep Is the Hunger, the prophetic preacher and theologian Howard Thurman wrote a powerful prayer entitled "I Need Thy Sense of Time." The closing stanza speaks to me in this uncertain time, and hopefully will speak to you, too:

"I need Thy sense of the Future.
Teach me to know that life is ever
on the side of the future.
Keep alive in me the forward look, the high hope,
the onward surge. Let me not be frozen
either by the past or the present.
Grant me, O patient Father, thy sense of the future
without which all life would sicken and die."

We don't know where things are headed, but we do know that we are in this together ... even when not face to face. May we do all that we can to strengthen our community ties, to trust in the Love that walks with us, and share that love with everyone we encounter.

In faith,
Susie

SAILING HIGH

By Pia Rabin

The hawks grab hold and hug the wind,
the wind takes them on her strong wings,
they soar with joy, they circle, gliding down
and up again like lazy angels
out for a bit of fun.

THE WHISTLE BLOWER

Jeanne Zammataro's daughter, **Sarah Zuckerman**, was married on June 27th to Kevin Cass. The ceremony, live streamed to family and friends across the country, was held in the late afternoon in a lovely park in Lincoln, NE, with a small group of friends attending while being appropriately socially distanced. The bride and groom then shared a zoom toast with her parents and his mother. Sarah is an Assistant Professor of Educational Administration starting her tenure review year at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Kevin is the communication manager for the mayor of Lincoln. Sarah and Kevin met through mutual politically active friends, and occasionally attend First Plymouth Congregational Church, UCC in Lincoln.

Jim Jordan just flew to Rwanda to spend a few months with **Beth Kaplin**, who has been there since 2016 working at the National University of Rwanda launching a Center of Excellence in Biodiversity & Natural Resource Management. While Beth does make visits back and forth, due to the pandemic, and the nature of her contract, she was not able to fly back to USA to visit her family in her usual schedule. The flight for Jim was of course not at all the same in the time of Covid 19. Letters to Beth & Jim are welcome: BP 512 Huye, Rwanda. Rwanda has been very systematic and controlled about managing the pandemic, and we feel very safe here. Stay well all.

Guy Payne sent this little Covid 19 song in hopes that it will brighten your day. Trust me, it will.

<https://enchantmentathamilton.org/20200601ForTheLongestTime.mp4> (to hear it, control and click to follow link)

From **Daron Tansley**: "I had a great time in Maine. I had around 36 moose sightings during the week, including a moose cow with her calf for a few days. Some of the moose were up close, like 30 to 50 feet away and others up to half a mile away. I took lots of photos and videos. Also, the diversity of birds was amazing. Whip-poor-wills sang from dusk to dawn every day. I woke up every morning around 3:30am to listen to the birds start singing around 3:40am. I did a little hiking through woods and out to ponds, but most of the trails in Baxter State Park didn't open until July 1st, so I couldn't hike Katahdin this time. I'll go back later this year."

Liz Bourne has retired after 33 years as a librarian in the Windham Northeast school district, 31 at the Westminster Center and West Schools, and more recently at Grafton Elementary. Last fall the combined school board for Westminster/Grafton budgeted for only one librarian, so Liz felt it was a good time to retire. Mandy Walsh, who has job shared with Liz for many years, will continue as the librarian for both schools. Liz will now bring her librarian skills to the volunteers automating the Westminster West Library catalog, getting it online. The library hopes the book sale on September 12th will begin funding this project, though more contributions and grants are sought

Rebecca Walsh has written and illustrated her 4th Children's book - "Amadou's Zoo!" It will be available through Amazon in September.

Earlier this summer, **Lil Hamilton** was hanging up her laundry in her back yard when she heard a ruckus. It was a fight between a mother deer and a bobcat. The deer defended herself by kicking at the bobcat. Finally, the bobcat gave up and ran off. The mother deer then began calling to her fawn, who was luckily hidden in the opposite direction.

From Pastor Susie: "We are so pleased to celebrate with our friend and neighbor **Rev. Dr. Lise Sparrow**, who has retired from active ministry at Guilford Community Church UCC. Throughout her tenure there, she has been a beacon in fields of interfaith work, racial and environmental justice, and youth ministry, as well as offering transformative preaching and pastoral care to her flock and the townsfolk of Guilford. She has also been a wonderful colleague to work with! We know she will continue to make a difference in our corner of the world and beyond, and we are deeply grateful. Way to go, Lise!"

Our sympathy to the family of **Frank Cuomo** who died at the age of 95 on June 21st at his home.

Claire Goodell died June 23rd at the age of 76. The Goodell Farm was the source of wonderful cider and provided space for the Westminster West School to have special events. Our condolences to her family, especially her sons John & Steven.



Bill Lyon died unexpectedly at 71 this past July. Bill came to Vermont as an art student at Windham College. He returned to Vermont around 2015, living a very simple life in his unusual abode where he enjoyed collecting, especially old books and tools. Bill's mode of year 'round transportation was by bicycle, and he was a well-known sight on the Westminster/Rockingham roads.

LIVING EARTH ACTION GROUP NEWS

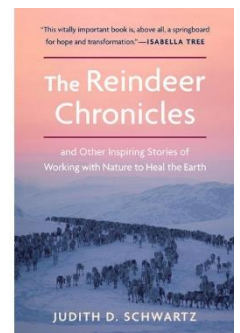
The Planning/Founders group of LEAG has continued to meet throughout Pandemic Time, every Friday, usually on Zoom, but lately we have met in members' gardens. ☺We have continued to present programs to the public, e.g. Maya van Rossum gave an amazing talk on **The Green Amendment for the Generations**, of which she is the founder. Please take a look at the website, www.forthegenerations.org to get a sense of this dynamic movement. On their website they describe the Green Amendment as **"the constitutional change we need to protect our priceless natural resources."** A Green Amendment was introduced into the Vermont legislature last winter. LEAG will be helping to move it forward.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: LEAG FALL PROGRAM

We are currently working on speakers and dates for our fall presentations on Zoom. Here is a preview: Author and Vermonter **Judith Schwartz** has recently come out with her third book on regenerating the Earth, **The Reindeer Chronicles**. We are hoping for a date soon for Judith's talk. Other fall programs:

Seed Saving, Healing the Earth One Garden at a Time, Wantastegok: the new/old name for Brattleboro, and one of two Non-Violent Communication's (NVC) free intros to their upcoming workshop will be at a LEAG meeting September 25th from 5-6:30pm. See article on NVC on another Whistler page to find out how to get on zoom for this program.

Stay tuned! To get involved in any of the LEAG programs, join the mailing list of Living Earth News by emailing pcadair@sover.net



8 STEPS TO REWILD AMERICA

From Smithsonian's 50th Anniversary issue

Fed up with invasive species and sterile landscapes, ecologist Douglas Tallamy of Pennsylvania urges Americans to go native and go natural --- and remake every backyard, office park and traffic island. Basically every square foot of land not paved or farmed. He wants to see it replanted with native North American flora, supporting a healthy array of native North American butterflies, moths and other arthropods, providing food for a robust population of songbirds, small mammals and reptiles. The intention is to unite fragments of land scattered across the country into a network of habitat. To Tallamy, the nation's backyards are more than ripe for a makeover. Here are some of his suggestions to help rejuvenators hit the ground running.

1) Shrink your lawn. Tallamy recommends halving the area devoted to lawns in the country--- reducing water, pesticide and fertilizer use. Replace grass with plants that sustain more animal life. He says: "Every little bit of habitat helps."

2) Remove invasive plants. Introduced plants sustain less animal diversity than natives do. Worse, some exotics crowd out indigenous flora. Notable offenders: Japanese honeysuckle, Oriental bittersweet, multiflora rose and kudzu.

3) Create no-mow zones. Native caterpillars drop from a tree's canopy to the ground to complete their life cycle. Put mulch or a native ground cover such as Virginia creeper (not English ivy) around the base of a tree to accommodate the insects. Birds will benefit, as well as moths and butterflies.

4) Equip outdoor lights with motions sensors. White lights blazing all night can disturb animal behavior LED devices use less energy, and yellow light attracts fewer flying insects,

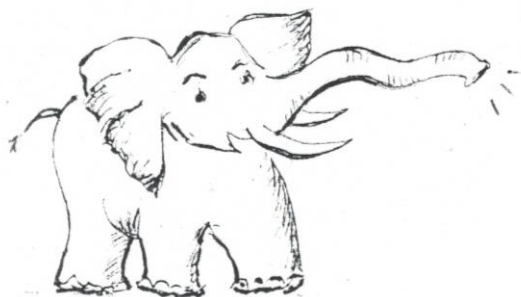
5) Plant keystone species. Among native plants, some contribute more to the food web than others. Native oak, cherry cottonwood, willow and birch are several of the best tree choices. Flower choices include joe-pye weed, aster, marsh marigold, skunk cabbage, clover, wax myrtle and snakeroot.

6) Welcome pollinators. Goldenrod, native willow, asters, sunflowers, evening primrose and violets are among the plants that support beleaguered native bees,

7) Fight mosquitoes with bacteria. Inexpensive packets containing *Bacillus thuringiensis* can be placed in drains and other wet sites where mosquitoes hatch. Unlike pesticide sprays, the bacteria inhibit mosquitoes but not other insects.

8) Avoid harsh chemicals. Dig up or torch weeds on hardscaping, or douse with vinegar. Discourage crabgrass by mowing lawn 3 inches high. Don't use glyphosate (Round Up.)

This article is brought to you by the Living Earth Action Group



"IT'S NOT FAIR" says the sad white elephant



On the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Holden trail is this very green savanna---doesn't seem affected by drought. Photo: Tony Coven

UPDATE on FILLING THE GAP

As we all know, a casualty of the Covid-19 Pandemic has been the cancellation of many community fairs across the state, including our little Westminster West Community Fair that typically happens on the Saturday after Labor Day. Not only does this mean a missed opportunity to gather as a community and enjoy food and entertainment together with friends and neighbors, but it also means a significant loss of revenue to keep the Westminster West Congregational Church maintained and open for community use.

Over the course of the year there are numerous fundraisers including the fair that all contribute to the support of the church, usually raising about \$18,000. annually. So far this year our fund raisers have raised \$8,217: including over \$2,000 from both concerts and \$3,000 from the BBQ dinner.

A huge thank you to the Seymour Sisters and the Bluebird Orchestra, who performed at 2 outdoor concerts at the home of Betsy & Laura Bryant Williams and to Tristan Toleno who, on his birthday no less, prepared a fantastic curbside-pick-up BBQ dinner. And last but not least, we also thank the community members who helped organize and work at these events, and to all of those who came, listened, donated, ordered food and helped make these events such a success!!

SO WHAT'S COMING NEXT? The upcoming Online Fund-raiser in lieu of our Silent Auction (see article on another page of Whistler) and another take-out dinner prepared by Tristan Toleno on October 10th, featuring autumnal comfort foods. Charlotte Gifford is getting her hand knit hats ready for a holiday sale. A cookbook including favorite soup recipes is in the works. And there will be more! In the meantime, you may always make a contribution directly to the Congregational Church of Westminster West, with checks payable to CCWW, 44 Church Street, Westminster West, VT 05346.

THE CHURCH IS OPEN BUT THE BUILDING IS CLOSED

WESTMINSTER WEST CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday worship begins at 10am – via ZOOM

To access zoom go to our website, www.westminsterwest.org and it's at the top of the homepage. Password is 05346

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Due to our church building being closed for the time being, 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 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

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 always at the church at that time, but always lights a candle and raises the joys and concerns of the community in prayer. If you have prayer concerns that you'd like to include on her list, call or email her and let her know. If you'd like to join her in prayer, let her know where you'll be, and she'll try to be there, too! Or, if that's not possible, 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.



Item for the Online Silent Auction: Evie Lovett has donated a reproduction side table in good condition. Minimum bid: **TBD**. Visit the church website to view more early entries.



We miss being reminded of the importance of pursuing Peace

A WELCOMING NEW WALKWAY TO CHURCH

Before winter sets in, the front walkway to the church will be landscaped to prevent ice buildups at the entrance to the church. A wider entrance way will have been designed, the stone blocks from the old church foundation will be inlaid along the walkway, and then flaring at the roadside to represent our openness.

AMERICA AT HUNGER'S EDGE

New York Times Sept 2, 2020

"In the pandemic economy, nearly one in eight US households doesn't have enough to eat. The lockdown has shown that the struggle to make food last long enough, and to get food that's healthful is a persistent one for millions of Americans."

How you can help: by contributing to the Vermont Foodbank or to Our Place, either directly or through a Manna offering through the Westminster West Congregational Church.

The "Vermont Foodbank" is the **ONLY** food bank in *all* of Vermont (and they are not a state or government agency), receiving much of their funding from generous individual donations. They are a 501(c)(3) organization, so your donations are tax deductible. Visit their website vermontfoodbank.org.

They are the mother ship to all the "food shelves", "food pantries" (senior centers, meal sites shelters, after school programs etc.) supplying as much as 70% of their food, much as C&S Warehouse supplies super markets. Also, whereas annually 25% of Vermonters may avail themselves of their services (through our 230 member agencies), they are, at present running at 160% of capacity and feeding (not just occasionally supplementing) 30% of the state. (Ouch.)

MANNA OFFERING or HUNGER SUNDAY

The Second Sunday of each month is Hunger Sunday at the church. On this day we receive our monthly Manna Offering benefiting Our Place in Bellows Falls. Each dollar that is given can be used by them to purchase \$10 worth of food from the Vermont Food Bank. The deacons suggest that people consider offering the cost of one meal for their household. Donations can be made out to CCWW, with "Manna Offering for Our Place" in the memo line, and mailed to the church, 44 Church Street, Putney, VT 05346.

NON-VIOLENT COMMUNICATION COURSE

Join us for a FREE INTRO to a workshop in Non-Violent Communication (NVC), taught by Karen Fogliatti, experienced educator, mediator, and counselor. The intro gives an excellent overview of the workshop and an opportunity to ask questions. You may decide after the Intro whether you would like to sign up for the 8 week workshop. Two intros are offered online: Friday September 25th from 5 - 6:30pm and Tuesday, September 29th from 6:30- 8:30pm.

The optional 8-week workshop is an experiential course covering the basics of Dr. Marshall Rosenberg's work in NVC skills include empathy, self-expression, the "dance," transforming anger, and appreciations. Skills are presented at a comfortable pace allowing discussion and practice. classes will meet weekly on Tuesdays October 6th through November 24th, from 6 to 8:30pm.

Dr. Marshall Rosenberg, founder of NVC describes NVC: "You can enjoy powerful and satisfying relationships . . . in all areas of your life. Most of us have been educated from birth to compete, judge, demand, diagnose – to think and communicate in terms of what is "right" and "wrong" with people. . . NVC shows us how to reach beneath the surface and discover what is alive and vital within us, and how all of our actions are based on human needs that we are seeking to meet."

For more information, go to Karen's website, www.HeartConsciouCommunication.com. To register and receive the zoom link for the intros, contact Karen at karenmf@mindspring.com or 412-773-8303 several days before the date She will send handouts for you to use in the intro,

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP RESUMES THIS FALL. PLANNING MEETING SEP 28 FROM 7-9 OVER ZOOM

The Westminster West Library book club will be starting up again. The group meets monthly over zoom to discuss a book selected by the group and provided to all participants through inter library loan. Communication is through email, so if you want to be alerted to the activities of this group send your email to the librarian, at LiseHCavanaugh@aol.com or call the library 387-4682. We are meeting on zoom Sep 28 to bring suggestions to the group for this year's reading and a subsequent vote for our final selections. Please join us. New folks are always welcome.

LIBRARY CONTEST ON REDUCING TRASH

Congratulations to the winner of the contest - the Leary-Jones family and thank you to the many who participated in this challenge and all who strive to reduce their footprint on this beautiful planet. If you are interested in joining a buying club, contact Margaret Clark at mcbclark@gmail.com. Here is their answer:

1. Grow and Preserve your own food.
2. Compost
3. Buy in bulk through buying club (see info above)
4. Buy whole foods instead of prepackaged foods
5. Buy directly from family farms.
6. Repurpose EVERYTHING
7. Use resources such as Freecycle Antiques stores, second hand stores and borrowing from friends instead of purchasing new products, especially tools for single use.

31ST ANNUAL COMMUNITY FAIR **CANCELLED**

But wait wait

DONATIONS NEEDED

FOR THE WESTMINSTER WEST COMMUNITY FAIR ONLINE FUNDRAISER!

We all know this year is DIFFERENT!

Did you know? There will be no in-person community fair this year!!!! The **Westminster West Community Fair** is our largest fundraiser annually for the Congregational Church of Westminster West, a sanctuary and gathering place for people of all ages, in times of joy and sorrow, celebration and contemplation, rest and renewal.

No community fair this year means no silent auction! No raffle! No golden elephant sale of stuff large and small!
But the church needs us!

So let's fix this. Look in your closets, barns, and under the bed! Find treasures small and large that you could part with for a great cause: Here's what you do:

- Find something valuable to donate.
- Take a digital picture of it. (If you don't have the equipment to take a picture, contact Cheryl Charles for help arranging for someone to take it for you.)
- Send the photo via email to Cheryl Charles before Thursday, October 1st with 1) a one sentence description; 2) estimated value; 3) minimum bid

Donors names will be listed with the auction item unless you request otherwise.

Cheryl's contact information: cherylcharles01@gmail.com; 802-376-8093 or text to 505-603-4607.

We will put all the donation photos and descriptions into an online fundraiser flyer to send out via email, and will also post the information on the church website, with instructions for bidding. People may submit ONE BID for each item. The HIGHEST BID gets the item. But we can't start the bidding process until we have wonderful items to offer!

So, find something, take a picture, and send it in! Let us hear from you by **October 1st** with your photo, description, value and minimum bid. The results and "winners" will be announced by Indigenous Peoples Weekend (October 10 – 12, 2020).

Thank you!!!

Members of the Westminster West Community Fair Online Auction Fundraising Committee:

Karen Blanchard, Cheryl Charles, Nick Keil, Alison Latham, Adrienne Major, David Mulholland, Laura Bryant-Williams and Betsy Williams

ONE NEIGHBOR'S REFLECTION

From Allison Ounanian

We are absolutely blessed with some delightful weather this exceptional Labor Day weekend. Our garden, 'though overtaken by weeds, has been productive. During the pandemic we had, like many other gardeners, time to devote to planning, planting, and getting an early start. Garlic, cougars, (summer squash), Swiss chard, cucumbers, and tomatoes very impressive. My least favorite - kale - is thriving like mad.

Other things happened as well; I lost my dear mum in February after a long fight with Alzheimer's Disease. My job has been busy with a project on COVID-19 and pandemic response modeling, and I visit my dad frequently out of state.

I practice what I learned as a child; that respect, consideration, and kindness to elders is an essential value and offers the reward that you have given someone a hand. (At this point, I am getting to be an elder myself.) Coming from a middle eastern home, my siblings and I learned from the start to help our grandparents; stay in contact with them, and volunteer to help them; whether this was convenient to us or not was moot. Right now, I am involved with care for my dad who will be 100 years old in a few months. I routinely shop, help him sort paperwork, and do errands. He is a distance away so I need to pack up and stay for a few days. He asks me what we are having for dinner, critiques aspects of my meal preparation, and scolds me for paying too much for something at the grocery store when he has just learned from a newspaper flyer that price for same is ten percent less expensive elsewhere. He saves the Boston Globe crossword for me, and in the evenings we settle down to meals at our tray tables cruising for a movie from the 1940's on film channels. We have gotten stuck now and then with Hallmark romance movies to which my dad will offer color commentary (e.g., "Interesting sweaters they have on..."; "I think he is playing both ends against the middle and should get the heck out of there": and (my favorite) "how much cocoa can that broad drink in one day?" (which applies only to the holiday movies) and is far more entertaining than any of the film dialogue.

I am not suggesting other cultures don't espouse gracious care for elders; many of my neighbors and community members probably have identical stories to tell about parents, grandparents, and older neighbors. Whatever you do for them, keep on doing it. Thanks for listening to this!

GOOD MORNING AMERICA

FUTURE IN YOUR HANDS VOTE LOVE

I.N. HALE 9-11-2020 (aka Dean Lynch)

On the road of life
Different roads
Difficult journeys
It's complicated
Alone with fear
Together
Find the way
With love
Better everyway
Everyday
Destination
Smiling; laughing
Loving each other
And our country

MAKE AMERICA GENEROUS AGAIN

WESTMINSTER INSTITUTE'S ELM TREE



After the Pinnacle Assoc. met under the trees at the back of the Westminster Institute earlier this summer, many wondered about the identity of the magnificent tree. So Susan Roman asked Jim Massey and he replied: "That elm is indeed magnificent, and its David Wright's legacy. Restoring American Elms, which used to line many if not most villages in the east and Midwest, was one of his passions. He had systems that inoculated that tree and the ones in his yard next-door with a fungicide to try and stave off Dutch Elm Disease, and while it might have looked a little weird when in place (kind of like an ICU for trees with IVs hooked up) it just might have worked. He also planted and inoculated one between the cemetery and the road at the north end of the village and thus far it is growing well."

For your information: "Dutch Elm Disease must be treated. proactively before the disease is present in the tree. The disease spreads so quickly that treatment on diseased trees may not be effective. A trunk injection of **Propizol Fungicide** as a proactive treatment, or else at the earliest stages of infection, is recommended." Photo by Don Dawson

VOTING INFORMATION

The state will be sending mail in ballots in the last week of September to everyone who was registered to vote as of September 2nd. If you registered after September 2nd or your address changed, you will have to request a mail in ballot. To register to vote, call the town hall (722-4091) to arrange getting a form. The polls will be open on Tuesday November 3rd, but the open hours haven't been determined yet. You can always bring your mail in ballot to the polling place. If you have a mail in ballot, it is important to **VOTE AND MAIL IT IN EARLY.**

"DRIVE BY" CELEBRATION OF AGING

Saturday, Sept. 26th

Traditionally on the first weekend in November Westminster Cares invites the community to honor those residents in our town who are 90 years and older.

This year however, nothing is traditional. A crowded indoor gathering is not allowed and certainly not safe. Yet, Westminster Cares could not cancel this important event! How could we acknowledge and celebrate our town's elders while also safeguarding the health of our guests of honor and those who would come out to honor them? Westminster Cares has planned a "drive-by" celebration and parade and everyone is invited to participate.

On Saturday, September 26th, from 2:00 – 2:45pm the community is invited to a Drive-By Celebration and Parade honoring residents in town who are 90 years and older. Guests of honor will be lined up (in their cars) along the back parking lot of the Westminster Institute stretching to the parking lot of the Fire Station.

Westminster currently has thirteen residents who are 90 years of age or older. Dot Allen, Phyllis Anderson, Charlotte Kurkul, Judith Berkley, Jo(anne) Crocker, Bob Gay, Ben Hutchins, Barbara Holton (lives in Florida), Lee MacDuffie, Libby Mills, Ruth Morse, Lois Woodard, and joining this esteemed group are Pauline Kissell and Bill Smidutz.

We couldn't decorate inside the Fire House, but you can decorate your car! Add balloons, streamers, or make signs to send greetings to our town's elders. Although it's fine to slow down your car to greet each guest of honor, we are asking that everyone remain in their cars. If you need to exit your car for any reason, remember that masks are required.

At 2:45pm, following the Drive-By, the guests of Honor will be led in a short Parade down Main Street, making a loop in their cars as they head south on Rte 5, back up to School Street, turning around in the WCS parking lot and returning back to Main Street. Those residents who live along Main and School Streets are encouraged to come out, wave and give a shout-out. If you park in a lot and stand along a street to wave, please wear a mask and keep proper six-foot social distance.

In order not to interfere with traffic along Route 5, if you arrive early please line up in the parking lot of the First Congregational Church on Route 5. Please try not to arrive early. The Westminster Institute parking lot will be closed from 1:00-2:00pm for set-up.

Help us spread the word – tell your family, friends and neighbors about this event. In case of bad weather, the rain date is Sunday, September 27th. If you have questions, please call the Westminster Cares office at (802) 722-3607.



AUCTION ITEM: HJC motorcycle helmet (never used) adult size small with its original cloth storage bag.

WHEN I AM AMONG THE TREES]

Mary Oliver

When I am among the trees,
especially the willows and the honey locust,
equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,
they give off such hints of gladness.

I would almost say that they save me, and daily.
I am so distant from the hope of myself,
in which I have goodness, discernment,
and never hurry through the world
but walk slowly, and bow often.

Around me the trees stir in their leaves
and call out, "Stay awhile."
The light flows from their branches.

And they call again, "It's simple," they say,
"and you too have come
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled
with light, and to shine."

DON QUIXOTE CELEBRATED

The Sarasa Ensemble performed "Don Quxiote, Knight Errant" Sept 18th. Performed on historical instruments with Christina Day Martinson, Jesse Irons, violins; Jenny Stirling, viola; Jennifer Morsches, Timothy Merton, cellos; Michael Leopold, Baroque guitar and theorbo; Julian Loida, percussion. Sarasa will present two one-hour concerts of 18th-century compositions based on the tales of Don Quichotte with works by Teleman, Boismortier and Francesco Conti, including readings from Cervantes' text. Watch for info on second performance.



"On the Fringe" celebrates world literature's original anti-establishment hero, Don Quixote. This unforgettable character, created by Miguel de Cervantes (Part I in 1605 and Part II in 1615), embarks on a journey in search of chivalrous adventures, such as saving damsels in distress, combatting giants in the guise of windmills, and in general righting wrongs. In his quest to overcome his own limitations, Don Quixote dreams to be what he is not—and does not give up. The great theatrical aspect of his heroic exploits with his trusty and patient squire, Sancho Panza, and overextended horse, Rocinante, inspired many musical interpretations

WOMENS RIGHT TO VOTE CELEBRATED

August 18th was the 100-year anniversary of the Women's Right to Vote in this country. A group of young ladies wrote a poem for the occasion and, after a small celebratory parade through the town, performed it at the Westminster West Library. The ratification of the 19th amendment was celebrated with masks, social distancing, and joy.



SHE HAS NOT FORGOTTEN

By Jasmine Cavanaugh, Emma Paris, Jessica Pierce

In her canary yellow dress,
She sits, hands folded into paper swallows.
Her spine, a telephone line that holds tired wings.
Straight and symmetric despite her ogled curves and ...
un-straightness...
Everything about her is birdlike.
Her feathered voice, reaching heart...
The way she flutters and drifts around a cage,
Kept in by this system.

She has not forgotten
She will not forget

I have not forgotten
I will not forget

Going to school in my thigh tight shorts and tank top on a 95
degree day.
Having the catcalls bounce through the hallways,
Slapping my confidence and putting me down sends me to
the office because
I'm too distracting.
It's my fault I get catcalled,
It's my fault I can't walk downtown without
a contraband of whistlers sounding on every corner.
My fault I'm too scared
to walk alone at night,
My fault.

She has not forgotten
She will not forget

I have not forgotten
I will not forget

But I am not meek
not weak
not an object for your desire.
I do not walk and talk to satiate your ardor,
Eroticism is not my intent when I brush past.
I am merely crossing paths.

I have not forgotten
I will not forget

She has not forgotten
She will not forget

I look upon her face, scarred by the effort of her time.
The rights supposed to be given to all was ripped from her,
like feathers being torn from a wing,
Leaving the skin raw and stinging,
And yet she stands tall,
eyes unwavering,
chin pointed to the sky,
like the dream pushing at her soul.

She has not forgotten

That she was put besides a murderer,
her gift of flight chained to the floor for choosing
to help an innocent young girl not become a mother.
And how she watched the murderer walk out of the cell to
fresh air before she herself had served half her sentence.

She has not forgotten

The fact that she works just as hard as the young man to
her right,
with her back bent and face dripping with sweat,
but still she is given less of the cold coins that so easily
slide through her fingers

She has not forgotten

That backs turned toward her call when her world was
shattered,
when she was hurt by those she had once thought cared.

She has not forgotten

That a man looked at her as an object for his own use and
pleasure,
and how he had looked at her sister and mother the same
way.
How it happened all the time,
and yet change still stayed away.

She has not forgotten

The time she was rejected from an education,
not because she wasn't smart or nice,
but because she was a woman,
because her clothes did not look how they thought they
should.
Because she was too distracting.

She has not forgotten
She will not forget

I have not forgotten
I will not forget

WESTMINSTER PLANNING COMMISSION

Join Us in Planning for a Vibrant and Resilient Future!

The 5-member Westminister Planning Commission (WPC) is engaged in creating a new town plan to be adopted by 2023 to help guide us and our children toward a positive future in which we may all thrive. The town has many resources including talented and hard-working people, active businesses, productive farms, extensive forestlands, and biodiverse wetlands, to name only a few. WPC has begun the process of collecting information and drafting chapters of the plan, which is designed to harmonize with the Windham Regional Plan as well as the State Plan, yet be tailored to the needs of our particulate situation and residents. Over the next 18 months, you will be asked to participate in surveys, task forces, public meetings, on social media, and through other activities, such as the BioBlitz to help WPC gather the best information and to make your opinions known regarding envisioning the future. We plan to keep you up-to-date on our activities through monthly articles in the Westminister Gazette as well as the Whistler. The Planning Commissioners include: Kathy Kingston, Chair, Michelle Chmelar, Vice-Chair, Seroya Crouch, Secretary, Bari Shamas, and Russell Lazarek. WPC meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:45 pm. Check the location with the Town Hall as it is subject to change due to COVID-19 restrictions

WE ARE NOW ON INSTAGRAM! WPC has created a new Instagram page (@Westminstervt_planning) to reach out in our town about the planning process in Westminister and to solicit public input on various topics. If you would like to share the beauty and awesomeness of this town, please follow this page and like posts.

We need your help to get things going so please share your pride in our town, its villages and countryside by hash-tagging it whenever possible. Help Westminister get on the social media map by **hash-tagging your photos and posts** on Instagram with #WestministerVT. Then also **follow #WestministerVT to stay in touch** with what is going on in the town.

WESTMINSTER CARES AWARDED GRANTS

Westminister Cares is thrilled to announce that they are the recipients of two recent grants; a \$1,500.00 grant from the United Way of Windham County's COVID-19 Response Fund and a \$2,000 Community Action Grant from AARP Vermont.

United Way's Director of Development and Community Impact, Ruben Garza, stated in the award letter, "for your dedication and commitment to creating hope and for making Windham County an awe-inspiring place to live and work". The funds may be used to best suit the organization's needs and were given to ensure that our critical mission can continue throughout the pandemic. Lori Larue, Board President noted, "The support of United Way is especially impactful given our difficult decision to cancel this year's Garden Tour and other fundraising events scheduled for this fall. This grant will help us continue to adapt to safety recommendations and provide critical services such as Meals-on-Wheels and our Community Nurse without interruption this year"

AARP Vermont selected seven small organizations with big plans to receive Community Action Grants in support of their efforts to make their communities more livable as they respond to the many impacts of COVID-19. Especially the rapidly aging Vermont demographic shift that creates challenges in housing, mobility, nutritional needs and community engagement.

WESTMINSTER BioBLITZ

Report Your Nature Observations and contribute to Science!

By Seroya Crouch

Westminister VT has a surprisingly rich diversity of animals, plants, birds and insects, reptiles and amphibians. However, we would like to know more and gain a better understanding of just how biodiverse our area is. We have created the Westminister BioBLITZ- a project on www.iNaturalist.org that anyone interested in nature can contribute to. If you have a camera and can take a picture, or record a sound, you can post an observation to www.iNaturalist.org. If it is located within the town limits (most photos are automatically geo-tagged, or you can write it in) it will automatically be collected into the BioBLITZ.

You may propose an identification, and if two other members agree with you it becomes a research-grade observation



that can be used by scientists in their research. We already have some very active naturalists posting, and don't worry- you can post older photos you have if you know the date and location.

Photo of newt by Seroya Crouch

The BioBLITZ helps the Planning Commission, local science teachers, naturalists and hunters, to gain a better understanding of our natural world. You can even post about roadkill, scat, or distinctive feathers- especially for difficult to see animals and birds. Photos of road crossings of bears, moose, bobcat and lynx can be posted, as well as sound recordings of moose, fishers, foxes, coyotes, owls, birds, frogs and other creatures.

HOW DO I JOIN?

It's really easy! **Just go to www.iNaturalist.org and sign up for free!** Then you can start posting your photos and sound recordings. A phone app allows for photos to be submitted right from your phone. The site is maintained by the California Academy of Sciences and is world-wide so you can even post when you go on vacation to far-flung lands (post- pandemic of course). **To join the Westminister BioBLITZ** look under the Projects tab, type in Westminister VT and our project will come up and you can join it. This will let you see who is posting and what is being posted, and inspire you to help fill in the gaps

WESTMINSTER CARES THANKS ITS SUPPORTERS

Westminister Cares (WC) is truly grateful for community collaborations like the United Way's COVID Response Fund and AARP Vermont's Community Action Grants and for the many donations and wonderful support they have received from individuals, businesses and private foundations since March. These include: The George A. Dascomb Charitable Trust; The Woodtiger Fund; Chroma Technology; and American Wealth Administration Group, LLC. Donna Dawson, WC Director, commented, "the AARP grant will allow WC to purchase 50 new insulated meal delivery bags which will expand the distance WC can deliver hot and cold meals and ensure the food arrives at a safe temperature."

