



WHISTLER: Alison Latham 387-5711 aliemae@juno.com

*"My special place. It's a place no amount of hurt or anger
Can deface. I put things back together there,
It all falls right in place - In my special space.
My special place." Joni Mitchell*



The Westminster Conservation Commission (WCC) held a Pollinator event Sept. 9th. The session featured the observation of our fascinating local pollinator population such as honeybees, bumblebees and other native bees, butterflies and more. For information on the work of the WCC or the value of pollinators call Rachael Shaw at [802-869-3184](tel:802-869-3184).



REFLECTIONS

"REST FOR THE WEARY"

Rev Susie Webster-Tolono

Congregational Church of Westminster West, UCC

Greetings!

I write this reflection on the day before my annual two-week vacation begins. I note this, because this only the second year in the history of my nearly-19 years serving this church that I have managed to write my pre-Fair Whistler reflection *before* the start of my vacation. There's something very American about heading off for vacation with lingering work responsibilities, and I'm pleased as punch to be avoiding that this time around.

This may sound like mindless whining on my part, but in fact, it's tied in with my reflection this time around. That's right, what's on my mind right now is fatigue ~ mine, but also *yours*.

Look around your life, at the people in your home or your workplace. How many people do you know who aren't exhausted? I can't name very many from my world. Life in our culture that (over) values busyness and productivity has always been exhausting, but when you add the impacts of global pandemic, societal tensions, and political divisiveness, things are more tiring than ever.

I read an article today about our deep human need for rest, and according to the article, that doesn't just mean physical rest. Sure, we all need adequate physical rest that comes either passively (through sleep) or actively (through practices such as yoga). But did you know there are six other types of rest? The article names these types of rest: mental, sensory, creative, emotional, social, and spiritual rest. And even before I read the whole article, I was sure it was true.

As I grow older, I'm aware that especially emotional, social, and spiritual rest are critical to my sense of well-being. One thing I note is that, unlike the physical rest of a good night's sleep, the need for these other types of rest cannot be met entirely on my own. I find social/emotional rest in deep connection with a few friends with whom I feel total trust and emotional honesty, and spiritual rest in my connection with the Divine, accessed through my individual spiritual practices but also in communal worship with so many of you. One of my favorite Gospel phrases comes from John, where Jesus says, "Come unto me, all you who labor and are heavily laden, and I will give you rest." There's something about that that calls to me, and welcomes me home.

Where do you find rest these chaotic and troubling days? How can our community help to foster emotional honesty, trust, peace, and the other aspects of true rest so that we can all be well enough and strong enough to impact the world through compassion and courage?

As we dive back into the post-Summer world, I invite you to join us in worship whenever you're able (truly all are welcome in our little church, and though we follow a Christian path, there's no requirement that folks who worship with us identify as Christian). And I would love to hear from you with emails telling me where you find rest, and how our community's Church can be a source of rest for you. And whether any of this resonates for you or not, I pray you will know deep, healing rest.

Yours in peace and joy,
Susie

THE WHISTLE BLOWER

Gabrielle (Gabby) Amster who grew up in Westminster West, lived on Patch Road with her family Mary Amster, Jo-Ann Golden, and Eva Mondon—Attended Westminster West school often known as Claire's Academy as well as the Westminster Center school and The Middle School in Bellows Falls—has accepted a job with the Annenberg Foundation in Los Angeles, California – she has worked for years with nonprofits and was “headhunted” by the foundation. The Annenberg Foundation provides money and support for nonprofits in the United States and around the world. Gabrielle looks forward to continuing the good work of the foundation and has fond memories of her childhood in Westminster West

Wilder David Murray arrived a bit early but with much fanfare on June 23. His parents are Meghan and Galen Murray, Grandparents are Nick and Jill Keil, & Deborah Murray. He joins his brothers: Silas and Joah. All are doing well, if not a little tired.

Greer Cowan, daughter of former West residents Libby McCawley and Rick Cowan, has begun a master's program at UCLA's Department of Urban Planning. For the previous 3 years, she served as Research Manager at the Bay Area Council Economic Institute in San Francisco. Greer received a B.S. in Community Development and Applied Economics from the University of Vermont. A job in the Public Policy department at Airbnb brought her to California. Prior to that she completed an Urban Planning and Development Fellowship at the Massachusetts Port Authority in Boston. (photo below.)



Our condolences to the family of **Larry Lanata** who died in July of injuries suffered in a recent fall.

Westminster's property taxes are due September 10th.

On Sept 18, 30 members of The Oregon Hardy Plant Society will be visiting Mary and Gordon Hayward's garden. They're on a tour of private gardens in Vermont, New Hampshire and Northern Massachusetts.

I was not on the Road to Damascus but I met 3 good Samaritans last month. The policeman who only gave me a warning instead of a ticket. The unknown person who cleared the fallen tree from my driveway. When I had a flat tire, Kora Skeelee and her husband Joe Urquhart, came to the rescue. We are so lucky to be living in a caring community. Alison Latham



Pia Rabin is offering a free lease on her registered Tennessee Walking Horse, a 5-year-old mare, she is green broke and gentle.

If interested email pjrabin@gmail.com. Located in Westminster.

BOOK SALE EXTRAVAGANZA

The Westminster West Public Library is holding its annual book sale Saturday, September 11th, from 9 AM to 3 PM. The sale will begin in front of the library and extend up the hill to the Westminster West Grange. Come browse books and enjoy freshly baked goods and coffee!

There will be CDs, DVDs, and audio books as well as hundreds of printed books sorted by subject. Board members and other volunteers will be on hand to answer any questions and help carry books to your car. 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 387-4682.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP RESUMES THIS FALL

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. 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 387-4682.



From Caitlin Adair.

THE 13th FAIRY HOUSE FESTIVAL

This imaginative, nature-based tradition will be held in the woods of The Nature Museum, Grafton, Vermont on September 25th and 26th from 10 am - 4 pm. Adults are \$15, kids are \$5, and under 2 are free. This event takes place rain or shine. For tickets and information visit their website at nature-museum.org. Participants will follow a woodland path sprinkled with dozens of charming fairy houses for a magical experience of the natural world. Other offerings: unique crafts, a wishing tunnel, face painting, bubbles, and delicious food, all add to a lasting sense of wonder.

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 12 – Hymn Sing (also known as Fair Recovery Day)

Sept 19 – Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno

after the service, at 11:15 the winning lottery tickets will be drawn by Susie Webster Toleno.

Sept. 26 – Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno

Oct. 3 – Holy Communion, Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno

Oct. 10: Jenny Holan

Oct. 17 – Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno

Oct. 25 – Ray Huessy

Oct. 31 – Sue Venman

Nov. 7 – All Saints' Day, Holy Communion, Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Due to the delta variant of Covid, 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

FACEBOOK: Congregational Church of Westminster West

SUNDAY SILENT MEDITATION

We are restarting our meditation offering this fall. Our sanctuary will be open for a half hour of simple silent meditation on Sundays from 5:30-6:00 p.m. If you ever find that your spirit would benefit from shared silence, please come. Bring your mask; spares are available. Weather permitting, the meditation may be held outdoors.

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. 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.

SUGGESTED ANNUAL DONATION FOR THE WHISTLER

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

CCWW, 44 Church Street, Westminster West VT 05346

FALL EQUINOX LABYRINTH WALK

WEDNESDAY, 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: Wednesday, Sept 22nd. You are welcome to stop by between 7 and 8 pm. Please come!

COMMUNITY CHURCH BUILDING USE

The church is currently open for community use, with some sensible guidelines in place, for everyone's safety. Please contact Tom Griffith, (email: tgriffith@hilltopmontessori.org) our building use coordinator and the keeper of the calendar, for use guidelines and information on fees, and to reserve the space. Building use information is also on the church website: westminsterwest.org. under heading RENT OUR SPACE.



From 2019 Community Fair parade: Patti Whalen and Re Gorham hold a sign honoring the road crew. Photo: Ira Wilner

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 Bel-lows 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)

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER CENTER SCHOOL

From Principal Elizabeth Harty

Westminster Center School's first day of school is Tuesday, September 7th. WCS will welcome 160 students from kindergarten through 6th grade. After learning so much last year about teaching during COVID, we are optimistic that we are able to mitigate any pandemic-related challenges while providing quality instruction for all of our learners. This year, all students and staff are required to wear masks while in the building. We will optimize our outdoor space by continuing our learning in our school garden and eating both Snack and Lunch outside. We will welcome our new and returning staff on Tuesday, August 31st. We are thrilled to continue to build our famously strong school community! Photo below is the school's garden taken by Elizabeth Harty.



CALIFORNIA SAGA:

excerpt from VERMONT BICYCLE DIARIES
from Stephen Belczak

Geary Street splits left into the financial district. Stop signs are meaningless until they aren't.

My friend once reported that he follows cycling strangers at random when he is cycling in the city.

"Where do they take you?"

"Do they know you're following them?" I inquired

"Do you ever introduce yourself?" I said.

I said I was concerned such an activity could be interpreted as creepy or anti-social.

"Eventually we get to meet everyone anyway after a few billion lifetimes" my friend said. "No one is actually a stranger."

Riding alone is a misinterpretation with no set of introductions for this mind to ponder. What to know is half the battle.

On Mission people are intent and on the street. There's an oil slick I just missed and negotiating the trolley rail pothole situation is an ordeal. I run over some works** and decide to stop and fuel up at a fried chicken place. A friendly drunken black man smoking Camels says "nice bike." He wants my bike but I tell him I need it to "get back home." "No problem", he says.

** Works is slang for hypodermic needle.

It's 9 in the morning.

After some spicy chicken I'm on the Golden Gate and into the Marin hills for a two-hour climb. At the top of this ridge there is some rain.

The descent is dangerous and I don't know the turns. An hour on my of sun left and tonight it's camping on the beach and there's a welcome campfire made by some unknown hand. No one to be seen. I don't sleep because of the crashing waves but I'm feeling good.

Next day, before the turn to Tamalpais, I encounter a small immigrant community. They harvest everything from cannabis to cabbages. 16 year old Miguel accompanied me for a mile on his bike while also transporting a basketball under his arm. He stopped at the local basketball court where he started shooting baskets. His friends showed up and they started a half-court game. They invited me to play but I declined. But before I left, Miguel tossed me the ball and I made it from half court. Everyone cheered.

This climb was within reason I thought. The Tam uphill is no spiritual quest. No inward shift. Just climb and the breath will fill in all the places where there's a pain. All the modifications of language and the body. That's where all the faith went. All the belief in this and that. A two-day trek around the mountain just for fun and then climb.

Maximum approach is at 15 % and some hairpin turns. There was sand and silt and I came to a standstill after spinning my wheel and flopped on the ground. This road has become built up. An elderly couple living in a rundown ranch house took me in and let me stay in their home overnight. The old man was religious with his coffee and fixed up some tacos, beans and scrambled eggs. Given some encouragement I began climbing the next morning. It was not a torturous climb like I anticipated and I'm almost disappointed.

At the top of the climb the fog enclosing the city exposes the spires of the financial district buildings. A shroud on the city and the sun was still shining. Ravens are making a fuss again.

Today there was no snow forecast for the mountains although clouds are moving in and it will be getting almost too dark for the descent. No shadow cyclist today.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

In partnership with the Nulhegan Abenaki, [Stowe Vibrancy](#) will celebrate the 2nd Annual Indigenous Peoples' Day Saturday October 9th at Mayo Fields in Stowe from 10:30am - 2:30pm. (Rain date is October 10th) It is a free daylong event of culture, education, and music, including a welcoming by Chief of the Nulhegan Abenaki Tribe, performances by the Nulhegan Abenaki drummers, Abenaki preservationists, exhibitors, storytellers and demonstrations, Indigenous artisan and food vendors. You have to buy tickets to the Rock Concert which runs from 3:30 - 6:30pm. Music by Blues Hall of Fame Inductee and Blues Music Award Winner Joe Louis Walker, Dave Keller, Vermont Jazz Trio and Bella Sances.



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.

Sun., Sept. 26, 2021: West Hill Grinder. A biking fundraiser for WHPA organized by West Hill Shop in Putney, VT. This event is a thank you to WHPA for their 25-mile trail system. Bike gravel roads and forest trails through Putney, Dummerston, Brookline, Athens, Westminster, and Brattleboro, distances vary from 19 - 39 miles. All routes begin at High Meadows Farm. Find more details visit their website: www.westhillshop.com, events, group rides or call 802-387-5718.

Mid October, 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 at the Old Athens Road turnaround. A sign-up sheet will be announced in the newsletter (and online). For information call Tony Coven 802-387-6650.

Sun., Oct. 24, 2021: Athens Dome Loop Walk. 12:30-4:30 p.m. Meet at 12:30 at the Nature Museum parking lot in Grafton Village for carpooling, as parking is limited at Turner Hill. Bring water and snacks, good hiking footwear. Weather dependent. Contact Camilla Roberts to register: camil@vermontel.net, or call 802-869-1388. This loop is an estimated 4 miles, from Turner Hill in Grafton. It starts and ends at the Turner Hill old homestead area. We start up the Bear Hill trail (steep) then head east on the Pinnacle Athens Dome trail, through varied woods including the spruce swamp area in the more remote area of Athens Dome, along an outcrop of the oldest geologic rock with Umbilicarium (Tripe) lichen, to old Kidder Hill Road. We turn south there to the height of the road and site of the legendary "Yellow House," then follow an old woods road west from there back to the Turner Hill homestead area. This is a long and beautiful fall walk after the leaves have fallen, to be able to see deeply into the forested terrain, no bugs, and cooler temperatures.

Sun., Nov. 7, 2021: Bald Hill Hike. 1-3 p.m. Vanessa Stern will lead a woodland hike on Bald Hill. Meet at the Covered Bridge Road kiosk in Westminster. We will be joined by Roger Haydock, a local geology enthusiast, to learn about the geology of Twin Falls, one of the sites we'll visit. RSVP to Vanessa Stern, by email davidandvanessa@gmail.com or call 802-463-4948. Please include your phone number in case plans change due to weather. Don't forget to check your watch, because Daylight Savings ends on Nov. 7 this year.

Harvest Festival: Visit the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association's table at the [Harvest Festival](#) on **Sun., Oct. 10** at The Putney School. We'll have Pinnacle T-shirts and books available in exchange for donations.



Fall view from the Pinnacle cabin

For more information about the events, access maps, and/or further directions, visit WHPA's website www.windmillhillpinnacle.org and visit current events.

NEWS FROM COLORADO

This osprey nest is just down the road from here and there is a fellow who must spend hours with his fabulous camera watching their comings and goings. So he gets amazing photos and posts them on our little neighborhood community web page. I particularly think this one is a winner and worth sharing. Sent by Jenny Eddy from Longmont (just north of Boulder.)



WHISTLE BLOWER continued . . .

Rachael Barber, daughter of longtime West residents Lois and George Barber, gave birth to a daughter, Lola Beatriz Gil de Real, in Granada, Spain on September 8. Rachael and her husband Francisco Gil de Real have been teaching English in the Andalusian city for the past 3 years.

From **Kathy Leo** to Caitlin Adair: "Dear Caitlin, I just want to say that I so appreciate your (LEAG) newsletter. I'm always grateful to find it in my inbox. Thank you. ...

These are such trying times, so full of mystery and unknown. Every day is another opportunity to remember our resources, try to stay balanced and present with whatever comes our way. There are so many challenges and so much grief and wonder, gratitude and worry. It seems so essential to offer each other hope at this time, to reach into the heart of the community any way we can, without depleting ourselves, and to know we are not in this alone. Perhaps we chose to be here at precisely this time to be part of what could be an amazing time of change on the planet we love and within our own human spirit. Speaking of Hope, here's a wonderful quote that a friend sent me yesterday....you might appreciate it as well. (Quote is below photo.) Thank you for all you do." —Kathy Leo



"The kind of hope I often think about I understand above all as a state of mind, not a state of the world. Either we have hope within us or we don't; it is a dimension of the soul; it's not essentially dependent on some particular observation of the world or estimate of the situation. Hope is not prognostication. It is an orientation of the spirit, an orientation of the heart; it transcends the world that is immediately experienced, and is anchored somewhere beyond its horizons. Hope, in this deep and powerful sense, is not the same as joy that things are going well, or willingness to invest in enterprises that are obviously heading for success, but, rather, an ability to work for something that is good, not just because it stands a chance to succeed. The more unpropitious the situation in which we demonstrate hope, the deeper the hope is. Hope is definitely not the same thing as optimism. It is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out. In short, I think that the deepest and most important form of hope, the only one that can keep us above water and urge us to good works, and the only true source of the breathtaking dimension of the human spirit and its efforts, is something we get, as it were, from "elsewhere". It is also this hope, above all, which gives us the strength to live and continually to try new things, even in conditions that seem hopeless as ours do, here and now." - **Vaclav Havel, Disturbing the Peace.** (He was the last Czech President.)

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:
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)

Secrets of Healthy Aging – 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 11:30am
This is happening now by phone via WebEx. To register for this program call Donna Dawson at 722-3607 and a phone number will be emailed to you the day before the event.

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

WESTMINSTER SCHOOLS UPDATE

The Westminster School Board submitted its report to the state Board of Education on September 8, outlining fulfillment of the requirements issued by the state Board on April 21. The state Board will meet on September 15 to consider the results and associated request. Here is a quick summary of the major elements of the report

Election of School Board Members. The Secretary of State called a special election for June 29 at which the Westminster School District voters elected school board members Cheryl Charles, Charles Hutchison, and David Major.

Negotiation of Financial Agreement. The Westminster School Board and the Windham Northeast Union Elementary School Board (WNUESD) negotiated and finalized the proposed financial details of Westminster's withdrawal from the union district. More than 90% of those voting on August 31 in each of the three towns (Athens, Grafton and Westminster) approved the terms.

On September 15 the state Board will be asked to consider the following request: **Authorize the Westminster School Board to be seated as voting members of the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union Board during the period from September 15 forward.** The state Board may also consider whether or not to grant Westminster authority to operate its school district in advance of July 1, 2022. No Westminster residents or voters are currently serving as voting members on the SU Board during a critical period in the SU's responsibilities which include:

- 1) Re-opening schools during a continuing pandemic;
 - 2) Filling leadership roles with the recent resignation of the SU's superintendent and assistant superintendent;
 - 3) Applying for, managing and being accountable for nearly \$18MM in federal ESSER funds; and
 - 4) Developing the budgets for the 2022-2023 school year.
- These matters are best addressed with full representation for Westminster voters on the SU board during this critical period of transition.

Respectfully,
Cheryl Charles, Ph.D., Chair, Westminster School Board
Charles Hutchison, Vice Chair and Clerk
David Major, Member
Jack Bryar, Chair, WNUESD

COMMUNITY FUN FOR A GOOD CAUSE!

We thought we could, and then we couldn't. After the pandemic led to cancellation of last year's Westminster West Community Fair in person, we thought Vermont's great vaccination rate would allow us to return this year. Nope, the surge of cases with the variant has us creating alternatives—from curbside pickup of fabulous take-out Bar-b-q to a raffle to our second-ever online auction! Most events take place the weekend of September 10 – 12.

Last year's silent auction online fundraiser for the Westminster West Community Church 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 12. Email your bid to Cheryl Charles at cherylcharles01@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. Winners will be notified within 24 hours. That's it!! Share this opportunity with friends and neighbors, and bid!

All the raffle tickets have been sold. Because we want Pastor Susie to do the drawing, we are waiting until after her vacation ends. The drawing will be held after church on Sunday, Sept. 19th, you can either come to church and stay for the drawing at 11:15 am, or watch the event live-streamed on Facebook at home. A link to that will be sent out earlier in the week. The raffle offerings are: a beautiful seascape painting by select board member Toby Young; \$200 gift certificate for any AirBnB rental anywhere, any time; or a weekend at Surf Ranch AirBnB in York, Maine.

Westminster West's cookbook, *Beyond Soup Night*, is available for purchase at \$25 at the BBQ pickup. You can also email: aliemae1@outlook.com to order a book..

Last but not least is a Bar-b-q chicken dinner for those who pre-ordered. A few tables and chairs will be set up at the church in case there are a few who want to linger, listen to music and watch a juggler while they eat. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped prepare the food and to all the businesses that donated: Vermont Shepherd, Collins Tree Farm, Harlow's Farm, Green Mountain Orchards, Shaws, and Tristan Toleno. WHAT A COMMUNITY WE LIVE IN!

All of the proceeds will benefit the Westminster West Community Church and community center.

For additional information: <https://www.westminsterwest.org>; AND

<https://www.facebook.com/Congregational-Church-of-Westminster-West-VT-United-Church-of-Christ-157494337598610>.



Bev Major being wheeled by Stephen Major at the 2019 Community Fair. She's enjoying the lyrics of the Ladies latest song. Below the Ladies in full throat. Photos by Ira Wilner.





Grand Marshalls of 2019 Fair – The town road crew.

And by the way, thank you for the tremendous job you did cleaning up after that July storm.

Below: Drummers in the Fair parade. Some of the drummers are: Jan Thompson (far corner), Julian Gerstin (standing), Tom Griffith (with a hat) and in the foreground Oona and Esme Puchiarello. Photos by Ira Wilner



If you like The Whistler better on paper,
go ahead and print it.
The church copier stopped working

FAIR 2021 NEWSLETTER

F A L L C A L E N D A R

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 (9:30am) and Ronnie Friedman (10:30am) lead online weight classes on Mondays and Thursdays. To get on Karen's list email her Karensww7@gmail.com, the Zoom host is Karen Blanchard, karen.blanchardreddog@gmail.com To get on Ronnie's list email her - veroncafriedman24@gmail.com

YOGA is happening by ZOOM

Lisa Nigro leads a class Monday mornings from 10 to 11:15.
Email Lisa at lisa.nigro.yoga@gmail.com

PRE-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Cancelled due to Covid 19

WESTMINSTER WEST LIBRARY

Mon 7-9pm * Tue & Wed 2-6pm * Thur 10am-noon
Sat 10am - noon

BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY

The Institute and the library are now open. For service, contact their website: <https://butterfieldlibraryvt.wordpress.com/>.
The Institute & the Library share a Facebook page

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



ITEM # 62 IN THE VIRTUAL SILENT AUCTION
Hand-made "fairy house," built in exceptional detail; it's about 3 feet tall and 2 feet wide. **Estimated value: \$60.**
Current high bid: \$25.

CELEBRATION OF AGING

Westminster Cares will be holding the **Annual Celebration of Aging** this Fall. Help us locate residents of our community who are 90 years or older. If you were born in 1931 or before, we'd like to honor you! Let us know by calling Pete Harrison at 289-3776 or call Donna Dawson at Westminster Cares 722-3607.

LEAG FALL PROGRAMS

LEAG meets every Friday from 5 to 6:30pm via zoom. To get a zoom invitation, contact Guy Payne to give him your email address: gpaynevt@gmail.com.

September 17th – The topic of our community circle will be "How are you thriving during Covid?"

In October, Master Gardener Sue Lawrence will speak to us on zoom 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 3 acres of lush soil following BioDynamic practices. She and her husband Andrew are famous for their many varieties of hosta.

November 5 (tentative) a speaking event with Rich Holschuh, co-sponsored with LEAG, the Pinnacle Assoc, Putney Mountain Assoc, and Earth Bridge Land Trust.

November 19th – Damian Costello (who spoke to a huge crowd earlier about Black Elk Speaks) will speak on Abenaki and other Native Americans Thanksgiving traditions.

