

WESTMINSTER CARES HONORS VOLUNTEERS

Westminster Cares held its annual Volunteer Appreciation event on Thursday, October 24th with 40 volunteers and board members attending. This year's event was held in the North Room of the Westminster Institute and guests enjoyed appetizers, refreshments and looking through photo albums and scrapbooks of Westminster Cares 31 year history.

There was quite the span of volunteers present, from brand new volunteers to a few who have served the organization for over 20 years! Board President, Lori Larue, welcomed the volunteers on behalf of the Board of Directors and expressed appreciation for all the varied ways volunteers support the organization: delivering meals-on-Wheels, giving rides; making friendly visits; having their garden on the Garden Tour; volunteering at a fundraising event; making or donating raffle prizes; baking or cooking for an event; and doing an errand or house chore.

She emphasized that, "Westminster Cares wouldn't exist without our volunteers; you are the reason we can continue to offer our programs and services. You have enabled us to achieve our mission to serve seniors and adults with disabilities, and to support living with dignity and independence in the community".

Karen Walter, one of the founding members of Westminster Cares and Director from 1988-2000, (and still an instructor, Board Member Emerita and volunteer), was present; as was Ronnie Friedman, Director from 2001-2013, (and still an in-



structor and volunteer). Donna Dawson, current Director read a quote by Winston Churchill that was given to volunteers as part of their gift: "You make a living by what you get, you make a life by what you give." She thanked volunteers for giving their time to touch the lives of so many people and helping to make Westminster a wonderful community.

THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL: WHAT SETS US APART IS WHAT BRINGS US TOGETHER



By Alexandra Bodel

It's a typical Thursday morning in October and The Grammar School is humming with activity. Second graders are getting ready for their turkey vulture debate. They have prepared arguments in favor of and against the position that turkey vultures are raptors. They have researched the habitat, prey, and life cycles of these birds, culminating with a hike up Putney Mountain to join hawk watchers for the annual migration counts.

On the other side of the building, the fourth and fifth grade is deep in their study of refugees as part of this year's GET, or Global Education Theme. In addition to exploring general concepts of refuge and emigration, each student is researching a country with a refugee population in Vermont, from Rwanda to Nepal and Vietnam. Later today, Francie Marbury, a volunteer with CASP (Community Asylum Seekers Project) will spend the afternoon working with these students to delve further into the issues facing asylees.

Stepping outside, our 60-acre campus is buzzing

with energy. Preschoolers are crowded around an unusual caterpillar discovered in the outdoor "kitchen." Third grade students venture onto the extensive TGS trails for a nature walk, with journal and pencil in hand. Seventh graders are checking on their tree plots in the TGS woods, identifying tree species and documenting changes in the canopy and ground cover.

Visit our campus and you will quickly see that learning at The Grammar School is active, engaging, contextual, and fun. It has always been this way. "From its inception almost 60 years ago, The Grammar School has understood the academic benefits of combining play and observation in the woods with traditional, in-class learning," explains Head of School, Nick Perry. "We believe that students learn best when their interests are piqued, their ideas are heard, and their creativity and passions are supported and encouraged."

With this foundation in mind, The Grammar School's curriculum is designed to teach content alongside the essential skills of critical thinking, empathy, communication, collaboration, and a sense of purpose.



Subjects are not taught in a vacuum. They are placed into a broader context through a project-based approach. For example, after reading the novels *Hatchet* and *My Side of the Mountain* and discussing one character's attempt to start a fire in the wilderness with only a hatchet as a tool, the fifth grade class attempted the same feat, outside in the snow! Working in teams, they had to problem-solve, collaborate, and communicate effectively to succeed. This hands-on project not only provided a fun outdoor experience but also brought essential elements from these books to life.

If this is the kind of learning that excites you, please consider a visit to the The Grammar School! Approximately two thirds of our families receive financial aid to make a TGS education possible. There are also three bus routes serving the area, including one to Westminster.

Alex Bodel is Director of Admissions and Marketing at The Grammar School, 69 Hickory Ridge Road South, in Putney, Vt. For more information, please call (802) 387-5364 or visit online at thegrammarschool.org.

KURN HATTIN HOMES WELCOMES NEW TRUSTEE AND INCORPORATORS AT ANNUAL MEETING

On October 2nd, New England Kurn Hattin Homes held its Annual Meeting of Trustees and Incorporators. The Board re-elected nine Incorporators for terms of three years; Michael Blau (Hudson, NH), Mark Bodin (Chester, VT), Christopher Hackett (Westminster, VT), James Lynch (Walpole, NH), Bruce Martin (Walpole, NH), Rhonda Nolan (Danbury, CT), William Scarlett IV (Saxtons River, VT), Sheldon Scott (Bellows Falls, VT), and Greg Worden (Brattleboro, VT).

Jerry Bardwell (Middleboro, MA), Mark Bodin (Chester, VT), Christopher Hackett (Westminster, VT), Bruce Martin (Walpole, NH) and Greg Worden (Brattleboro, VT) were re-elected as Trustees for a term of three years.

The Board elected seven new Incorporators for a term of three years: Cheryl Gay-Sherwin (North Walpole, NH), Stephen Peterson (North Haven, CT), Kelley Cota Tully (Bellows Falls, VT), Eric Velto (Bartonsville, VT), Cliff Wood (Putney, VT), Wylene Wood (Putney, VT), and John Zimmerman (Cape Porpoise, ME). Eric Velto was also elected to fill a Trustee vacancy for a term of three years.

Re-elected as officers and members of the Executive Committee for a term of one year were: President, Mark Bodin (Chester, VT), Vice President, Christopher Hackett (Westminster, VT), 2nd Vice President, James Lynch (Walpole, NH), Treasurer, Janet Wilson (Walpole, NH), and Secretary, Diane Bazin (Westminster, VT). Non-Officers Jerry Bardwell (Middleboro, MA) and Sheldon Scott (Bellows Falls, VT) were both re-elected as Members At Large.

President Mark Bodin gave the President's Message highlighting the importance of meeting the needs and expectations of the children and families served. Executive Director's remarks about the organization's 125 years of service were given by Stephen Harrison and Financial Manager Steve Fitch presented the financial report. Director of Residential Services, Nancy Richardson, shared a "Day in Residential Life" video which highlighted the children's life from waking up to turning in at night. School Principal Sergio

Simunovic spoke about accomplishments at the school, such as achieving a 1:1 Chromebook to student ratio in grades 2-8, installing interactive SMART boards in all the classrooms, and a new Literacy program. Keri Newton, Dean of Students, discussed how implanting PBiS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) at the School and Residential Services has resulted in some dramatic positive changes in student behavior.

A musical performance by the Kurn Hattin Children's Choir, a social hour and dinner were also the highlights of the annual event.

Since 1894, Kurn Hattin Homes for Children has helped thousands of children and their families by offering a safe home and quality education in a nurturing environment. Its mission: Kurn Hattin transforms the lives of children and their families forever.



Above, new Kurn Hattin Homes' Trustee and Incorporators stand together after the Annual Meeting on October 2nd. Pictured from left to right are Eric Velto, Cliff Wood, Wylene Wood, and Stephen Peterson. Missing from photo are Cheryl Gay-Sherwin, Kelly Cota Tully, and John Zimmerman.

Our Monthly Community Newspaper November 2019 Vol. 15 No. 11

Westminster Gazette

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“WHAT’S UP AT THE TOWN HALL” -

LAND FOR SALE: The Town has 19.1 acres of land for sale off Pine Banks Road. If you are interested, please contact the Town Hall or Buffum Realty. This is a great opportunity at a great price.

ZONING IN OUR TOWN: Please remember that any exterior home improvements in the Historic Village needs a permit such as window replacement, removing trees, sheds, etc. The other Zoning Districts require a permit for any out building or addition equal to or greater than 150 sq. ft., which includes swimming pools and the deck. If you have questions please feel free to call us. We are here to help not hinder your home improvement requests.

WANTED: The Selectboard is requesting your help. We are trying to form a committee to research the feasibility of Senior Housing/Assisted Living in Westminster. The Board recognizes that research has been done before but new incentives have been issued by the State for such endeavors. If you are interested in joining this committee, please call the Town Manager at the Town Hall and get your name on the list. Thank you in advance for your help. The Board is trying to get meeting started next month so again please contact the Town Hall as soon as possible.

TOWN HALL: The Town Hall outside work is nearly finished. It has a new paved parking lot with proper drainage, a new flag pole, a new bench, and a new message board with handout racks. The bench was donated by Phyllis Anderson and the new plants/shrubs that were planted were donated by Allen Brothers Farm. Thank you Phyllis, Tim and Stacy for these kind gestures. We will be dressing up the lawn areas and adding bark mulch either late fall or early spring. The inside work is slated to begin November/December.

FOOD SCRAPS: Ruggiero Trash Removal is accepting individual contracts for food waste as per our mandate from the State of Vermont. The mandate starts January 1st, 2020. If you don't compost and need this service, the Town's Hauler (Ruggiero) will create a program for you according to your needs. The cost of this service will depend on your individual needs. You can contact Ruggiero directly by calling (802) 869-2235.

After Hour Appointments: Please feel free, if you have the need to make an appointment for either the Town Manager, Zoning Administrator, or the Town Clerk after or before normal business hours. Both Alison Bigwood and Russell Hodgkins are willing to make these arrangements with you if needed. Please feel free to call us and we will set up your meeting.

As always, please feel free to call the Town Manager's Office regarding concerns, issues or comments.

WESTMINSTER CARES 12th CELEBRATION OF AGING & ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd, 2019
12:30 PM TO 3:00 PM

WESTMINSTER FIREHOUSE
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**OUR HONORED GUESTS WILL BE
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PLEASE JOIN US FOR:
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SHARING AND APPRECIATIONS**

For questions, call Pete Harrison at 289-3776
or Donna Dawson at 722-3607.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER CARES

The Westminster Cares, Inc. Board of Directors met October 3rd at the Westminster Institute with President Lori Larue presiding.

The following board members attended: Regina Borden, Heidi Anderson, Miriam Lanata, Don Dawson, Pat Goodell, Pete Harrison and Director Donna Dawson. Doug Oftedahl was unable to attend.

Westminster Cares creates opportunities for seniors and adults with disabilities to live with independence and dignity in the community. Anyone interested in learning more about Westminster Cares, volunteering to deliver meals on wheels or driving neighbors to doctor appointments, working on a committee, making a contribution or attending a workshop may contact Donna Dawson at 722-3607 or by e-mail at wecares@sover.net. Check us out on the web @ www.westminstercares.org and like us on Facebook.

Programs & Services Provided: September 2019

Meals-on-Wheels: In September, WC volunteers delivered meals five days a week to 17 different people. Several new clients were added. In addition, two frozen entrees were delivered each Friday to 10 people for weekend meals (20 total weekend meals).

Transportation: During the month, 22 rides were provided by six volunteers who drove seniors to/from the Healthy Aging Group; BF Senior Center; grocery shopping; the bank; medical appointments and an accountant.

Healthy Aging Programs: Two Secrets of Healthy Aging group, four Gentle Yoga classes, 22 Strength Training classes, four Artist in Each of Us classes; four Chair Yoga classes; four Beginner Tai Chi classes and four Intermediate Tai Chi classes.

Assistance and Referrals: In September, several intakes for Meals-On-Wheels clients were updated as per Senior Solutions request.

Medical Equipment – In September we loaned out 14 pieces of equipment; several pieces of equipment were returned to us and three pieces of equipment were donated to us.

Community Nurse Program – In September our Nurse made home visits and saw an additional clients at the Blood Pressure Clinic during Senior Lunch.

Workshops Held: An Advanced Directive Planning presentation held on Tuesday, September 24th at the Institute. There were 18 participants in attendance. Don Freeman of Taking Steps Brattleboro was the presenter.

Westminster Cares welcomes donations throughout the year from anyone wishing to remember or honor a loved one or a friend.

Donations in October 2019: In memory of Bill and Betty Holton from Bill Smidutz. In memory of Joan Smidutz from David and Mary Jo Robbin. In memory of Mary Robling and in honor of her 89th birthday from Debbie and Fred Robling II.



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Pages 2-3 - approx. 4"x5" \$275 a year - \$30 for one month
Pages 4-7 - approx. 4.7"x6.8" \$525 a year - \$80 for one month
Page 8 - approx. 2.5"x3.25" - \$175 a year

New Sections Introductory Rates:

A&E Events Section \$50 a month
New & Seasonal Businesses Section \$200 for 3 months

Underwriting Support is a donation of at least \$300 annually and does not include advertising. Underwriters are listed in the box on page 6 each month.

We also welcome article submissions that would be of interest to the community. We ask for a maximum size limit of 500 words, and reserve the right to edit for content and length. Thank you!

On-line at: www.westminstervt.org

Happy Thanksgiving

We thank you for the opportunity to work together and for making us feel at home in our community.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Getting My Houseplants Ready for the Holidays

by Alma Beals, Vermont Master Gardener and Naturalist

Houseplants in the late fall and winter mean as much to me as wildflowers and other outdoor plants do in the spring and summer. You have to devote a little more effort growing them, but it's worthwhile for many of us who need greenery and light.

In the spring, my house plants go outside to the gazebo where they happily live all summer. Because of the screened gazebo, the plants are free of insects. How well I remember the days before the gazebo of checking all the plants for insects before they came inside. This was a major job because I always had at least 50 plants. As the temperatures cool down, I slowly bring them back in to crowd every flat surface with a sunny window.

Many of us associate amaryllis, Christmas cactus and Poinsettias with the holidays. We enjoy watching the amaryllis grow and look forward to our Christmas cacti blossoming. How we need the color of poinsettias to brighten up our gray, late fall days.

I usually purchase three or four amaryllis bulbs in October. They can be purchased as individual bulbs but I find it easier to buy them in a box that contains the bulb, dirt and the pot with instructions. Place the pot with the bulb in a warm and light area. Be patient. It takes quite awhile for the roots to develop. Do not water again until it starts growing. Remember there aren't any holes in the bottom of the pot, so be careful not to over-water. Amaryllis bulbs are usually red, pink or white. Some gardeners save the bulbs for the following year. I have done this with some luck but I find it easier to buy new bulbs each season.

My bedroom isn't heated and the door kept closed to keep my cat out (allergies, mine not hers). The west window is perfect for my Thanksgiving cactus and my Christmas cactus to set up buds. By September, my Thanksgiving cactus goes on the windowsill and by Oc-



tober, the Christmas cactus joins it. To form buds, they need cool temperature, little water and daylight hours with no artificial light in morning or evening. Some of my flower books give instructions to put a cactus in a dark closet overnight and take it out in the morning. It's a lot simpler to put it in a spare room where no artificial light will reach it.

Do you know how to tell if you have a Thanksgiving cactus or a Christmas cactus? A Thanksgiving cactus has sharp edges and a Christmas cactus has round edges. There is also an Easter cactus which has star-shaped blossoms that come in many different colors. Think of how many of us have a huge plant that has been in the family for years. They can be pruned back to keep them smaller. If a branch gets broken off, just put it in water or wet soil and it will root for a new plant.

I usually purchase one or two poinsettias in December. They come in red, pink, white and yellow. When buying plants, look for dark green foliage that is lush and not yellow. If the temperature is cold when you take them from the store, be sure to wrap them in plastic or a paper bag because they cannot stand the cold. They can be saved and planted outdoors but I keep mine for a couple months and then toss them.

After the holidays are over, I bring out my grow lights. I use an old set-up of two fluorescent tubes that I place over the growing plants. One tube is cool white and the other is warm white which will satisfy the needs of both flowering and foliage plants. As much as my plants flourish, the extra light is for me. Now onto the arriving catalogs to daydream.

A WESTMINSTER SAMPLER: OUR EVOLVING TOWN HALL

We're beginning a series profiling Historical Society members' favorite objects in the collection. To kick it off, here's a look at the Town Hall, the building we've occupied since 1966—longer than the town officers!

Westminster's first meetinghouse (we would call it a church) was built in 1769-70, and stood in the middle of the King's Highway, on a line with the present Town Hall. In 1783 the legislature met in Westminster and authorized towns to build meetinghouses and support the preaching of the gospel by taxation. Separation of church and state wasn't a thing yet. All property owners were obliged to contribute to the support of the church.

In 1784 the meetinghouse was moved to the site of the present town hall, a bell tower was added, and Stephen Rowe Bradley paid for a bell. In 1788 Westminster voted to take over the meetinghouse provided its original proprietors paid off all outstanding debts. A tax of ten cents on the pound on the grand list was assessed to complete the meetinghouse, which was still unpainted, and lacked sufficient pews and glass windows. The windows weren't glazed until 1798.

This often uncomfortable space served for worship and civic meetings until 1888. Following a church schism in 1835, the new church was built, and the meetinghouse remained in the hands of "liberal"—i.e. Unitarian—worshippers for several years. Later it was remodeled to be used as a school. Throughout, it hosted town meetings for 118 years.

On June 6, 1888, lightning struck the spire, burning

the meetinghouse to the ground along with a neighboring house and barn. The Ladies' Aid Society had considered meeting there that evening but met instead at a private home. Had they met at the meetinghouse, many lives might have been lost. (Two more lightning-strikes in the next two years proved to local satisfaction that lightning sometimes does strike twice!)

It took many special meetings, committees, and votes before Westminster rebuilt with financial help from former townies Joel Holton and Dana O. Wiley. Henry A. Willard, a cousin of the hotelier, was the contractor. The building was designed in the "Victorian eclectic" style by architect of W.P. Wentworth of Bellows Falls. It fits the exact footprint of the original meetinghouse, forty-two by fifty-six feet. The compass points and weather vane of the old meetinghouse were salvaged and placed on the cupola.

The town hall occupies the footprint of the old meetinghouse, but the form of the building was meant to evoke the old Court House, which had long-since been torn down and recycled into local houses and barns. For this reason the town hall has been the location for re-enactments of the Westminster Massacre, even though it is not in the right place.

The new town hall was dedicated in 1890 with 700 people attending. With a kitchen, excellent dance floor, a stage, and a piano, it was an entertainment venue as well as a meeting space. One travelling troupe of actors painted the curtain which now graces the stage. The Kurn Hattin boys sheltered overnight there in 1907 when the main

building burned to the ground, sleeping on the benches (ouch!).

After serving as the social center for 25 years, hosting dances, Ladies Aid meetings, plays, and suppers, the town hall was nearly doomed. The Institute was more up to date, the town clerk and treasurer worked out of their homes, and with town meeting rotating between the Center, North Westminster and Westminster West, the hall was used only once every three years. By the 1930s it was used mostly for storage, and there was talk of tearing it down.

That didn't happen, and the hall was renovated in 1966. The former kitchen space was converted to a museum for the Historical Society. By 1975 the Historical Society had moved upstairs, just in time for the Bicentennial celebration. The town clerk and treasurer arrived in the 1970s, the town manager in 1981. The lists also used the space. After more talk of abandoning the Hall in the 1990s, another round of remodeling, including reconfiguring the vault, allowed the building to continue to serve.

In 2019 the building was renovated again. An accessible bathroom and a lift to the upstairs were added, reducing the amount of space for the Historical Society but affording it year-round heat and cooling. With accessibility comes complications. The exhibits must be reconfigured for wheelchairs. Meanwhile town employees can testify that using the lift is not yet second nature to Westminster citizens. But we'll get there!

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE

The Westminster Fire and Rescue Department holds their monthly meetings at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month and a combined drill on the third Tuesday of every month. Rescue training is the second Tuesday of the month.

Next association meeting November 5 at 7 p.m. The Prudential Committee normally meets once or twice a month. A warning will be posted 48 hours prior to each meeting.

Number of calls in September: 36
Number of calls through October 25th: 32
Number of calls calendar year to Date: 343
Number of calls fiscal year to date: 145

Association Meeting: The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association met for their regular meeting October 1st with President Greg Holton presiding. There were 23 members present and four members excused. Nick Streeter was voted in as a junior member having turned 16 in September.

Emergency responses: We have had another busy month in October with 31 total calls by the 24th. The breakdown goes like this: 19 rescue/medical calls; three motor vehicle accidents; three alarm activations; four tree on wires; one mutual aid call to Walpole; one person stuck in an elevator.

Fire Prevention Open House: Friday October 11th was a fun filled day. Around 220 kids were present from the Center School K through 6. Squeaky Sneakers pre-school brought 10, six home school students were present as well as 17 from Kurn Hattin. Next year will be the 20th year for the open house so look for additions to the festivities. By the way, Smokey the Bear turned 75 this year.

Tips for coming into winter: Outside faucets should be shut off and drained properly to prevent freezing and breaking. Window A/C should be removed and stored inside a warm building. Leaving the A/C in a window causes a lot of heat loss. Try to keep leaves cleaned out of rain

gutters to avoid snow backup that may cause damage to the house. Close or install storm windows. I always remove my screens on the side of the house facing the sun to get maximum solar through the windows. The screens can filter out an amazing amount of heat if left in. And by all means, have your chimneys cleaned and inspected before you start a wood fire in the stoves and furnaces.

It's always a good idea to put new batteries in the smoke alarms and CO detectors and double check to be sure they are operating properly.

Walking outside in the dark: In a few days we will fall back to standard time and it will be getting dark much earlier. We want everyone to be more alert, walkers and drivers alike. There have been several fatal pedestrian accidents in the area lately, and we want to remind those who walk to be extra cautious.

We are not trying to say that the walker is at fault, but there are precautionary measures that can be taken. And just because you have the right of way in a cross walk, don't just assume the vehicle will respect that. Keep your eye on those vehicles when crossing. They may not see you, or guess what, someone could be texting. Also, reflective vests work very well when walking at night. Always walk facing traffic, which means on the left side of the road. We still see many people walking on the right side of the street or road with the flow of traffic. This is very dangerous and has often resulted in fatal injuries to the pedestrian. And don't be listening to a headset. You need to be able to hear the traffic to be safe.

VENTS: Bathroom exhaust vents, kitchen stove hood vents and dryer vents should be checked and cleaned periodically to prevent buildup of dirt and foreign matter. Clogged or dirty vents could affect efficiency and could cause a fire. Recently two young boys from Vermont died in a fire which started in the laundry room.

Halloween Open House: The fire house will be open Halloween evening, Thursday the 31st, to hand out candy

and pop corn from 5 p.m. until around 8.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS FOR SALE: Anyone want to buy a fire extinguisher? We have them for sale and there are four sizes available. See the Chief or stop by the fire station for more information if interested.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: From time to time there is a need for food to be brought to the Fire House, like the one mentioned in the previous paragraph. During calls when the fire fighters are out for an extended period of time, having something to eat and drink when they return is a huge compliment. Also, once in a great while there are special events which require feeding a large number of people. If you are available and are willing to be on a call list for these occasions or if you just want more information, call Chief Cole Streeter or June Streeter or any one of the members you may know and let them know. This is a great way to help the people who help the community in so many ways. Thanks in advance.

The Westminster Fire & Rescue Association welcomes donations throughout the year from anyone wishing to remember a loved one or a friend.

We are always looking for new members: Anyone interested in volunteering their time to help the community in a time of need, please contact Chief Cole Streeter at 722-3178 or stop by the Firehouse any Sunday morning and pick up an application.

We would like to have additional volunteers from the Westminster West area. There is a Fire House, an engine and a rescue vehicle located in Westminster West and more help is always welcome to utilize that equipment during calls.

As always, we would like to thank the members of the community for its continued support of the fire department. Check us out on our web-site at www.westminsterfireandrescue.org.

The Westminster Fire and Rescue Association, Inc. operates independently from Westminster Fire District #3.

Aged in Vermont

Westminster Cares, Inc.

WHAT IS THE "SECRETS OF HEALTHY AGING" GROUP?

By Cheryl Richards

So, what is this Secrets of Healthy Aging group? Originally created in 2002 by Westminster Cares to bring area seniors together for friendly social connections as they explore perceptions and experiences of aging in today's world and share delicious, healthful lunches; the Secrets of Healthy Aging group continues to thrive.

I've been the facilitator of this amazing group of individuals since the beginning, and what a wild ride it's been! Some of the original members are still coming, with most of them attending for five years or more. Our most recent member has been coming for three months. Recently I asked the group why they were so dedicated to showing up. Here's what they said:

Audrey (one of the originals) was the first to pipe up, "It's lots of fun and we talk about everything! Nothing is off limits." Pat, who has been coming for a couple years added, "we're a social gathering with depth, we talk about things that matter."

People in this group come from all walks of life – natives and not. Perhaps because of this hodgepodge, there has always been non-judgmental acceptance of others' view points. According to Verna (a 14ish year attendee), "there's an acceptance here of opposing views and the way we are." "It shows the power of open, friendly conversation," added Audrey.

Pat is drawn to the generosity of spirit, "We support each other through thick and thin." "But there are no pity parties" Verna chimed in. "There's sharing and caring as we discuss how we're getting through the 'golden' years." Yeah, another laughed, "we share 'fix it' infor-

mation on all kinds of things."

"I live alone, so coming here is an outlet for my thoughts and feelings," one member thoughtfully considered, "it's very therapeutic."

Alice commented, "It feels good to be with people and have the companionship of others my own age. I can spill the beans," and know they'll treat it with respect and confidentiality.

"Oh yes," Lucille added, "it feels like home. We can laugh and cry, people here give a damn."

"It's a link with others in the same boat," Alice continued. All agreed, coming to this group twice a month (or as often as they can make it) connects them with their daily ups and downs.

"I get the most out of the laughter," Susan commented. "It makes me feel good the rest of the afternoon." Barb laughingly added, "Yeah, it's better than TV!" "Right, I like the entertainment," Ken grinned. At that, everyone laughed and yelled, "He comes for the food!" "But seriously," Barb continued, "the friendliness of the people is awesome. The first time I walked in, people welcomed me with smiles and encouraged me to the table."

When I asked them what they would want potential new members to know, they eagerly cried out, "Come and make new friends!" "Rides are available for those who need them." "Make us your new hobby!" "Come for Verna's desserts!" "I can't wait for the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month." And best of all, "Come check us out, we're not just another meeting!"

You heard (read) the lady, come check us out! You won't be sorry.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS: VOLUNTEER FOR SEVCA'S FREE TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Southeastern Vermont Community Action and Granite United Way of NH are partnering to offer the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program in upper Windham County and Windsor County.

VITA helps low to moderate income households by providing free federal and state income tax return preparation services. SEVCA is now recruiting volunteers for the upcoming 2019 tax filing season to help as many families as possible claim the tax credits and refunds available to them.

We are looking for individuals who are willing and able to commit 3 to 4 hours per week from the end of January through April 15, 2020. Prior tax preparation experience is not necessary, but a commitment to training and certification is required.

You'll receive specialized training from a certified VITA instructor, plus IRS online courses. SEVCA provides all needed materials and software, along with a very supportive training structure. Continuing on-site training and supervision is provided during the tax season.

SEVCA operates VITA sites in:

Westminster – SEVCA's offices at 91 Buck Drive,

White River Junction – St Paul's Episcopal Church, 749 Hartford Ave, White River Junction, VT

Windsor – The Windsor Resource Center, 1 Railroad Ave, Windsor, VT 05089

We can meet your schedule and needs! We are most in need of volunteers in Westminster but could use more volunteers at any of the sites.

There are two volunteer positions. Both work under the supervision of a local Site Coordinator. Our specific needs are for:

Intake Specialists—Greet tax filers, conduct an intake review to make sure all documents are present for a complete and accurate tax return, and offer resources for other financial needs filers may have.

Tax Preparers—Interview taxpayers using standardized IRS forms and prepare and submit relevant returns. No previous tax or finance experience necessary, just general computer aptitude and a willingness to learn.

To learn how you can make a difference in your community by becoming a VITA volunteer please contact Leslie Wood at (802) 722-4575, ext. 199 or lwood@sevca.org. Please put VITA VOLUNTEER in the subject line of your e-mail.

WRITER DISCUSSES VERMONT AND 'THE HIPPIE INVASION'

The Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission will sponsor a program on *The Counterculture's Impact on Vermont and Vermont's Influence on the Counterculture Generation* on Saturday, Nov. 2, at noon at the Rockingham Free Public Library.

Author Yvonne Daley will discuss her most recent book, "Going Up the Country: When the Hippies, Dreamers, Freaks and Radicals Moved to Vermont."

In the late 1960s and '70s, thousands of young migrants, largely from the cities and suburbs of New York and Massachusetts, turned their backs on the establishment of the 1950s and moved to the back woods, small towns and cities of rural Vermont, spawning a revolution that altered the state's politics, agriculture, education, business practices and culture.

While the movement brought hippies, organic farmers, political radicals and free thinkers to what was then one of the nation's most conservative states, the new-

comers were in turn influenced by longtime residents and their practical lessons in rural living.

The result of this collaboration of cultures remains evident today, making Vermont a state that blends progressive and conservative values and ideas.

Daley, a former journalist with the Rutland Herald and the Boston Globe, is the author of six nonfiction books, including "An Independent Man (with the late Sen. James Jeffords)," "Vermont Writers: A State of Mind" and "Octavia Boulevard." She lived for 17 years between San Francisco, where she taught journalism and nonfiction writing at San Francisco State University, and Vermont, where she founded and directs the Green Mountain Writers Conference, now in its 22nd year.

Light refreshments will be served. The library is at 65 Westminster St. and is handicapped accessible. Information: clg@rockbf.org or www.rockbf.org.

HOLIDAY SEASON EVENTS AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

November begins Holiday Season at the First Congregational Church of Westminster located at 3470 Route 5.

On Saturday, Nov. 9, The Church will host their annual Chicken and Biscuit Supper. There will be two family style settings, one at 5 p.m. and one at 6:15. The menu includes chicken and biscuits, mashed potatoes, gravy, winter squash, green beans, cranberry sauce, cole slaw and choice of cakes for dessert. The cost is \$12 for adults, \$6 for children 5-12 and under 5 eat free. Since this is Veteran's Day Weekend, all Veterans eat at half price.

The Women's Fellowship will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 23, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Church. The Christmas Shop will be open and will include crafts, gifts, handmade items, collectibles, and homemade baked goods.

At 11 a.m. Santa will visit! Children of all ages are invited to do a craft project and take a photo with Santa.

LOCAL DISCOVERY & NATIVE ARTIFACTS AT FUNDRAISING EVENT

There will be a presentation by Annette Spaulding at the Bellows Falls Opera House on Thursday, Nov. 14 starting at 5 p.m., of a recent scuba diving discovery she made in the Connecticut River just south of the Adams Grist Mill Museum in Bellows Falls and the Westminster/Walpole bridge. The event will include

thousands of dollars of donated silent auction items to raise money for museum repairs.

In addition, 92 year old retired Vermont State archeologist Gordon Crandall will display a portion of his vast Native American artifact collection, seen for the first time in more than 30 years.

REMEMBRANCES

MARILYN J. KISSELL, 86: JAN. 1933 – SEPT. 2019
STANLEY E. SMART JR., 67: 1952 - OCT. 2019

NEWS FROM THE TOWN GARAGE



Hey Neighbors,

The wind and rain has seemed to have removed most of the leaves getting us a little closer to winter. We will be out with back pack blowers and the tractor blower cleaning out culverts and road sides to help with drainage. Please do not blow leaves in the road and we will not blow them on your lawn.

Westminster West road has been paved and the state has put us on the list for line striping, but can't guarantee it will happen before spring so in the meantime we will put up reflectors to help keep you in the road. The Back Westminster road paving got put off until next spring due to unforeseen circumstances.

Act 64 work will resume on Morse Brook Road as weather permits along with brush and tree cutting throughout town to improve visibility, sunlight and the removal of blow down hazards.

We have removed the fluorescent bulbs in the old section of the town garage and replaced them with a new LED retrofit kit that eliminates the old ballast but utilizes the existing light fixture. We were able to replace them all in one rainy day, and have applied for a rebate from Efficiency Vermont to help offset the cost.

The Patch Road, School Street and sections of the Westminster West Road have been crack sealed to help prolong the life of the asphalt by eliminating surface water in the cracks which freezes, expands and breaks the asphalt. This compromises the road base with water.

Thank you for your continued support!

Chuck and Crew

AROUND THE WORLD IN 50 YEARS

Elyne Clift will read from and discuss her 13th book, *Around the World in Fifty Years: Travel Tales from a Not So Innocent Abroad* (a collection of selected stories about her global travels told in prose and poetry) at Rockingham Library on Saturday, Nov. 9.

Clift will also offer an Armchair Journeys Writing Workshop on Saturday, Nov. 16 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Library. Clift will offer suggestions and techniques for writing fiction, poetry and creative nonfiction that is derived from travel and journeys real and imagined. Feel free to bring a brown bag lunch.

Clift has visited almost 100 countries on every continent for both work and pleasure. Unlike *Fodor's Guide*, this collection shares personal stories, photographs and postscripts that range from poignant to hilarious.

There are scenes from Indian railway stations to rural Romanian villages. Along the way readers meet the people who made travel special, ranging from a professor in Jordan to a desert driver in Dubai to an elderly artist in France.

One reviewer called the book "a treasure of armchair travel." Clift will offer a related writing workshop Armchair Journeys on the following Saturday, Nov. 16 from 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Rockingham Library. Please contact the library for more information (see below.)

The Library is located at 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls and is wheelchair accessible. For more information, call 463-4270, email programming@rockinghamlibrary.org or go to rockinghamlibrary.org

ST. LUKE'S WREATH DECORATING WORKSHOP

Early-Bird Discount by Nov. 12 for Holiday Wreath-Decorating Workshops on Nov. 21-23. Open to the public, the workshops will take place in Willard Hall at St. Luke's Church at 313 Main Street (Route 11 West) in Chester, and will once again benefit both the church and the Chester Conservation Committee's youth environmental-camp scholarships.

Get ready for the holidays by decorating a pre-made evergreen wreath with specially collected greens, natural materials, bows, and other embellishments, plus all the wire, glue guns, and equipment necessary to make the decorating fun and successful.

Space is limited, so participants must pre-register and are encouraged to bring clippers and glue guns if they have them. Choose from four different workshop sessions: Thursday evening Nov. 21, 6:30 to 8 p.m.; Friday Nov. 22, 9 to 10:30 a.m. or 1 to 2:30 p.m., and Saturday Nov. 23, 9 to 10:30 a.m.

A \$5 early-bird discount on the fee of \$45 per wreath will apply to those who preregister and pay by Tuesday November 12.

Checks should be made out to St. Luke's Church, designated in the memo line for the wreath workshop, and mailed to Lillian Willis at PO Box 318, Chester, VT 05143.

For additional information and registration, contact Lillian Willis, 875-1340, lbwillisct@comcast.net.

WESTMINSTER HAPPENINGS

Activities

Scottish Country Dance Classes

Every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Westminster Center School Gym. All skill levels welcome. Contact Michael Daley for more information at 387-2601. No charge.

Putney Contra Dance

Last Saturday of every month at Pierce Hall on East Putney Falls Road, off Rt. 5 in East Putney. A beginner's workshop is taught at 8 p.m., and the regular dance goes from 8:30 to 11. A donation at the door will benefit the Pierce's Hall Building Fund. For more information call 387-5985.

Senior Potluck Lunch

Every 2nd Thursday of the month at noon. All Westminster seniors are invited to attend a potluck lunch at the First Congregational Church on Route 5.

Secrets of Healthy Aging

A facilitated discussion group and pot-luck. The 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at the Westminster Fire Station from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 for more information.

Contra Dance

Every 3rd Saturday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall in Walpole, N.H.

Gentle Yoga

Every Monday at 10 a.m. at the Westminster Institute. Call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 for more information.

Chair Yoga

Every Friday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the First Congregational Church in Westminster. Call Westminster Cares at 722-3607 for more information.

Living Strong Classes

Mondays and Thursdays: at the First Congregational Church in Westminster from 9-10 a.m.; at the Westminster West Church from 6-7 p.m.; or at Greater Rock Fitness in Bellows Falls from 11-12. Call Westminster Cares for more information at 722-3607.

Knitting Together

Join us every Wednesday, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Village Square Booksellers, downtown Bellows Falls. Bring your knitting needles, we have the yarn and casual instruction if needed to knit hats, mittens and sweaters for area kids.

All our yarn is from community donation and we distribute our completed work to all area schools and Parks Place. More knitters at all skill levels are wanted and we can promise you an enjoyable experience. For details or to donate yarn contact Caroline at 463-4653.

Westminster West Book Group

The Westminster West Library has a book group meeting every third Monday from 7-9. Call the library if you are interested in getting a list of the books we are reading. Contact Lise Cavanaugh at 387-4682.

Tai Chi Classes

Wednesday's at the Institute Beginner Class 9:45-10:45 a.m. Intermediate Class 11 a.m. - noon

The Living Earth Action Group meets most Fridays at 5 p.m. at the Westminster West Congregational Church. For actual schedule e-mail Caitlin Adair at pcadair@sover.net.

FRED MARPLE IN WALPOLE WITH HIS HUMOROUS GUIDE TO NEW ENGLAND

The Walpole Historical Society will present Yankee humorist Fred Marple and his Guide to New England "for locals and people from away" on Friday, November 8, at 7 pm in the Walpole Town Hall

Fred will discuss Yankee food, including why we think baked beans and vegetables boiled with a piece of corned beef are fine cooking. He'll examine Yankee fashion, from the ever-present flannel to rummage sale ensembles.

Fred will also explain life in a small town, where everyone knows your business - often before you do -and he'll describe the people who live there, from the cheapskate native to the affluent transplant.

Fred Marple has appeared on New Hampshire Chronicle, on radio, and in the pages of Yankee Magazine and New Hampshire Magazine. His book Welcome to Frost Heaves was recently published by Islandport Press. He has been called "hilarious," "a hoot," and "really smart for a guy his age." His Yoga for Yankees has been viewed over 6 million times on-line.

He is also known as author and songwriter Ken Sheldon from Peterborough.

The event is free and open to all. Refreshments will be served. (www.walpole-history.com) .

POETRY OPEN MIC AT RFPL NOV. 4TH

Calling all poetry lovers. It's time to get ready for Rockingham Library's Autumn Poetry Open Mic Night on Monday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m.. Rustle up some poems by a favorite author. Dig out some poems you've penned over the years. Or sharpen your pencils (and your wits) to write some original poetry.

Readers should come prepared to read up to five poems. To begin, each person will read one poem. Depending on the number of participants, a second, third, fourth and even fifth round of reading will follow.

For more information, go to rockinghamlibrary.org, call 463-4270, email programming@rockinghamlibrary.org or stop by the Library.



Faith Community

The First Congregational Church of Westminster

Rev. Sami Jones McRae, Pastor. 3470 Route 5, Westminster, 722-4148. The church is handicapped accessible. Sunday School is available; call to register your children. We are an Open and Affirming church; all welcome. Sunday, November 3, 10 a.m., Worship and Communion. Tuesday, November 5, 11 a.m. - Women's Fellowship. Bring a sandwich. Our hostess will serve beverage and dessert. Saturday, November 9, 5 and 6:15 p.m., Chicken Biscuit Supper (see article for details). Sunday, November 10, 10 a.m., Worship. Sunday, November 17, 10 a.m., Worship. Saturday, November 23, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Christmas Bazaar (see article for more details). Sunday, November 24, 10 a.m., Worship. Thanksgiving Sunday.

The Congregational Church of Westminster West

The Congregational Church of Westminster West worships every Sunday at 10 a.m. The pick-up choir meets most Sundays at 9 to rehearse. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month, and on the Second Sunday the church collects a special offering that goes to Our Place in Bellows Falls to help fund their food shelf.

The church building is wheelchair accessible, and the congregation is Open and Affirming. Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno is the pastor. She currently holds office hours on Monday and Thursday afternoons, and people are welcome to drop by. She can be reached at 387-2334, via cell phone at 579-8356 or e-mail susiewt@gmail.com.

Walpole Bible Church

The Grace Bible Fellowship holds its Sunday Worship Service at 9:15 a.m. at 38 Elm Street in Walpole, NH. More information at www.walpolebiblechurch.org.

Walpole Unitarian Church

The corner of Union and Main Streets, Walpole, NH Services begin at 10:am with Rev. Elaine Bomford. First Sunday of each month is Circle Sunday with visiting presenters. www.walpoleunitarian.org.

Meetings

Selectboard 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Planning Commission 2nd Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Conservation Commission meets every 4th Thursday at Town Hall at 7:15

Westminster Activities Commission 2nd Monday of the Month at 6 p.m. at the Westminster Institute.

Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association 3rd Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Westminster West Congregational Church.

Westminster West Public Library Board 2nd Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Westminster West Public Library.

Development Review Board 1st Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Community Improvement Program Committee meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Westminster Cares Board - 1st Wednesday of every month, at the Westminster Institute at 4:30 p.m.

911 Committee as needed.

The Westminster Fire and Rescue Dept. holds their monthly meetings on the 1st Tuesday of every month, at 7 p.m. and a combined drill on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Westminster Fire Station.

Westminster Historical Society 2nd Tuesday at 7 p.m. on the second floor of the Westminster Town Hall..

Westminster Gazette Meeting Monday Nov. 25th at 5 p.m. at the Rockingham Library.

Westminster Institute Board will meet on Tuesday, at 7 p.m. in the Institute.

WESTMINSTER GAZETTE

Editor: Robert Smith
Board of Directors:
Charmion Handy - Chairwoman
Donna Dawson
Alma Beals
Joyce Sullivan

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westminsternews@gmail.com

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- Westminster Cares
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- Burtco Inc.
- The Dascomb Trust
- K Beebe Inc.

Please Note:
Due to the late Thanksgiving Holiday this year, the **Deadline for the December Issue of the Westminster Gazette is Wednesday, Nov. 27.**

Publication Date is Wednesday, Dec. 4th.

To Contact the Westminster Gazette E-mail: westminsternews@gmail.com

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“HISTORY IS OUR GREATEST ASSET”

by Kevin J. Hughes

CEO-Chairman American Wealth Administration Group, LLC.

History is my office, and the house my wife Michelle and I own in Westminster has plenty of it. Over 200 years of it that we know of, and we would not change a thing about it.

I started my career at the height of the Savings and Loan disaster in 1989 with Ernst and Young International, at the time, the largest accounting firm in the U.S.

Over 1,000 banks in the U.S. went under, even the venerated Rockefeller Center, went bankrupt. Considered by many to be the most valuable real estate in New York City at the time. Stock holders in its stock were wiped out. Most people have forgotten this. I have not.

When I began my own company after over 25 years working in finance, my partners and I agreed it was time to bring back the “Global Strategist” as an homage to my professional hero, Barton Biggs, a legendary figure at Morgan Stanley, a historic firm in its own right.

I had a pinch me moment in 1998 when I joined Morgan Stanley at its 2 World Trade office, on the 73rd floor of the South tower in Manhattan.

I spent six years reading and listening to Biggs, who had a profound respect for history, especially the rule that history repeats itself. I could not wait for the strategist digest to come out to hear what Barton Biggs wrote. Always cautious and skeptical of the salesman. I believe that’s what made him so successful.

I spent 26 years in Manhattan. There too, Michelle and I appreciated all the incredible history of the city, living in an apartment just an eight minute walk from the Cloisters, the Medieval Museum of the New York City Metropolitan Museum of Art System. I walked its beautiful gardens for 20 years.

Located at Fort Tryon, The Cloisters sits upon the site of the Battle of Fort Washington, the site of the worst military defeat of the American Army in the Revolutionary War. General George Washington ordered a retreat, But American Colonel Magaw decided to stay. Nearly 2900 Americans were captured and 60 died there.

History never ceases to amaze me. Michelle found our home in Westminster, in the Fall of 1999, and on Memorial day 2000, we moved in. On August 15th, of 2001 our only child arrived, Maureen.

On September 11th, 2001, I got a very late start for work that day thanks to my infant daughter being up all night and left Fort Washington for my office located at 2 World Trade Center, 73rd floor (South Tower), 15 miles due south, but on the same island.

Over my 25 year career in finance now, my concept of risk has changed, especially since that day, and I am unapologetic about it.

Risk, by its very definition, is “the uncertainty of outcome.” History, as its recorded gives us the advantage of the reported outcome already. What we do with that information, in my opinion, can be critical to improving our future outcomes involving risk. It is an indispensable tool for controlling risk, not managing it. I, humbly do not believe you can manage risk. Not anymore.

In my profession, the one attribute we respect most is history and amongst our peers, we still call this old fashioned “Experience”.

Risk control is what we attempt do for others now in all parts of their lives. History is the primary tool in helping us to try to achieve that goal for those who place their trust in us. A tough example follows:

In 1993, the World Trade Center, suffered a crippling bomb attack, that by 2001 most people had already forgotten. 6 people died in the 1993 bombing. In response, security was tightened, soft points of the campus at the towers were shored up and Law Enforcement and our Fire Fighters were given another crucible of courage to prepare for.

Rick Rescorla, was the World Trade Center Security Chief for Morgan Stanley, the Financial Firm I was working for on 9/11/2001, and the largest tenant in the buildings. If you don’t know the history of Rick Rescorla, you should read about him.

Money, houses, cars, educations can all be replaced (they are trivial), the lives of our loved ones and friends cannot be, and it is not my intent to conflate the two.

Rescorla was a highly decorated military veteran who never forgot the attack of 1993 on the World Trade Center, and spent most of time pleading with Morgan Stanley Management to move the offices out of the World trade Center. I did not know him, nor can I speak for him.

Morgan Stanley had 3700 employees in the buildings at World Trade Center. I was on my way still 3 miles away, but I know today, thanks to history, that Rick was thinking of all us that day. He is credited with getting 2687 Morgan Stanley employees off campus to safety during the attacks.

Six Morgan Stanley employees, including Rick who was still getting the folks he was responsible for out of the building, were never seen again.

Rick Rescorla applied historic variables and his experience in confronting risk to complete his task every day. Despite his herculean efforts to remind his superiors of the history of the risk associated with the position they had chose, they thought they could manage the risk. Mr. Rescorla knew by his actions that Risk Control means moving the offices out completely, and that is the difference.

Today, I am a Global Strategist with my own firm. A title we use to honor the incredible lessons of history and experience we have learned and a homage to folks like Barton Biggs and Rick Rescorla.

There is nothing more dangerous than those who ignore history and do not learn from it, in my humble opinion. In everything we do.

We defy the inexperienced and the arrogant. I love our little town nestled upon the Connecticut river and its self reliance, its “historic” resilience to risk. A town and its people that have thrived for 300 years is something you seek, it does not seek you.

The old house we love so much reminds me every day of why history is our greatest asset. It has stood for over two centuries, in defiance of the risk posed to it by wind, rain, snow, lighting, felled trees, fire, neglect, flood, earthquake, insects, politicians, war and especially time. It’s a constant reminder of a solid structure that defies risk. Firmly on solid ground, built with materials that are meant to last and proven over time.

“ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE”

BOOK DISCUSSION AT RFPL

Pick up a copy of the Pulitzer Prize winning *All the Light We Cannot See*, by Anthony Doerr at the Rockingham Library’s front desk, then join the book discussion on Monday, November 4 at 3 p.m.

This stunningly beautiful novel tells the story of a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

Author Anthony Doerr has won numerous prizes in the United States and overseas, including four O. Henry Prizes, three Pushcart Prizes, the National Magazine Award for fiction and a Guggenheim Fellowship. Raised in Cleveland,

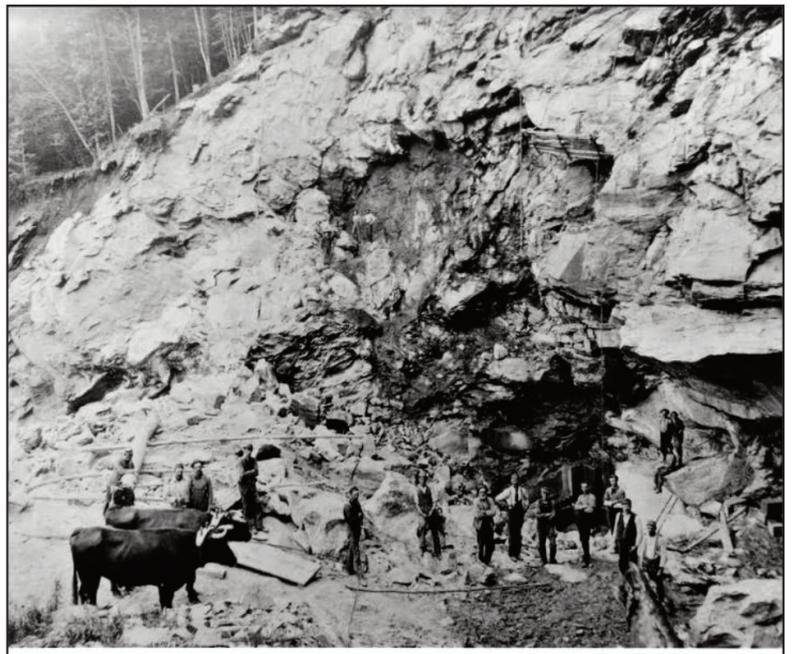
Doerr lives in Boise, Idaho with his wife and two sons.

For more information go to rockinghamlibrary.org, call 463-4270, e-mail programming@rockinghamlibrary.org or stop by the Library at 65 Westminster St., Bellows Falls, VT.

Everyone is welcome to join in. The book club regularly meets on the first Monday of the month at 3 p.m., except when there’s a holiday.

ABCDEFGHI

WINDMILL HILL PINNACLE ASSOCIATION’S WALK TO HISTORIC SITES NOV. 2ND



On November 2, from 12:30-3:30, Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association will be leading a walk to the historic sites on WHPA properties in Athens and Grafton.

These historic sites connected with the mining of soapstone include the remains of a mill, slag heap, boarding house for the workers, barn for the oxen, and multiple quarries cut into the land. While mining there ceased in the early 1900s, there is interesting evidence remaining of this historic industry. Early Grafton pioneers first discovered and quarried this deposit of soapstone in 1784, carving pieces into household items such as foot and hand warmers, ink wells, and hearthstones.

On the hike, see the remains of the historic Goodridge and Smith Soapstone quarries, quarry pools, cellar holes, mill foundation, and old roads. This area, which is adjacent to the Turner Hill Wildlife Management Area, has significant wildlife habitat including wetlands and very productive beech/oak/cherry mast stands.

The hike is moderate, there may be some water in the old roads depending on previous weather, watertight boots recommended. The walk will begin at Athens Pond in Athens on Route 35 (6 1/2 miles north of Townshend or 3 1/2 miles south of Cambridgeport on Route 35). Hike leaders are Camil Roberts and Andrew Toepfer. Please register with Andy Toepfer at 802-869-3379 or by email: a.l.toepfer@gmail.com.

For more information about Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association and upcoming events, visit their website at windmillhillpinnacle.org.

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- Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Is it BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

We meet most Thursdays, 7:30 a.m. at Kurn Hattin School in the Mayo Center, Westminster, Vermont.
New members welcome.

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**NOVEMBER BUSINESS OF THE MONTH:
 RUGGIERO TRASH REMOVAL**



Ruggiero Trash Removal is a locally owned and operated family business, with more than 20 years in the trash hauling and recycling business.

Three generations of Ruggiero's work together to meet the recycling and trash needs of Southern Vermont and New Hampshire for both commercial and residential customers.

As long-term members of the community, we are invested in providing quality services. Our processing facility allows for safe and proper handling of an extensive variety of trash and recycling. We offer curbside services as well as containers ranging from 2 to 40 yards. These containers can be used for trash or for the recycling of paper, plastic, cardboard, masonry, wood, and metal.

Pick up services can be offered weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly. Our rates at Ruggiero Trash Removal are reasonable and straightforward. We do NOT burden our customers with diesel sur-charges, rental fees, or hidden costs. We are dedicated to keeping costs low, while providing the highest quality services to keep our community clean.

Starting in July 2020 we will start picking up compost. There will be more information to come as we get closer to July. Remember there is no job too big or too small for Ruggiero Trash Removal. Remember if you chuck it, we truck it. Call (802) 869-2235 to talk to one of our friendly and courteous staff members.

We have had a tough year with a tremendous loss within our family and would like to thank all our loyal customers and the community for their kindness and support. Vincenzo was caring, compassionate and determined. He had so much life in him and will be the force that keeps us and many more pushing forward.

Thank you all and we would like to wish everyone Happy, Healthy Holidays. We extend our best wishes to you and yours as the New Year approaches.

Always in our hearts - Vincenzo James Ruggiero.

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