

# REDDING SENTINEL

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## ARPA grant to enhance learning support at Redding Elementary School

By Rob Sample

Redding Elementary School (RES) has received an \$83,000 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant that will provide enhanced support services to students and teachers as they work towards addressing the impacts that Covid shutdowns have had on children's education and development.

The grant project is known by the acronym "LOTS," which stands for "life-long learning, ongoing assessment, teacher training, and safe spaces". LOTS complements the school's existing Bridges program, which is offered through the school's department of special services and provides emotional, social, and learning support services to those children who require them.

Tanya Beyer, a consultant and teacher in the Bridges program, explained that when students returned to full-time, in-person learning at RES after the Covid shutdowns, teachers throughout the school noticed a definite uptick in the need for educational support services.

"During the shutdown, kids as young as preschool weren't having the same kinds of social-development experiences out in the world because they were being kept at home," said Beyer. "They weren't having play dates. They weren't going out to parks. They weren't going out to eat in restaurants with their parents. Through these activities, children learn social skills incidentally." As a result, Beyer and her colleagues saw that many young students returning to elementary classrooms had difficulty with their ability to focus and learn in a structured setting.

While some households through the pandemic were able to set up online environments which modeled the classroom, with a sufficient dose of monitoring to keep kids on track, many children and parents struggled to keep up with the demands of online coursework.

Some parents had to juggle their roles as *ad hoc* teachers with full-time, at-home work. What's more, for most kids and parents, this was uncharted territory: Covid sparked a large uptick in at-home telecommuters as well as online grade-school students.

"As a result of Covid, we had an influx of kids who needed to be taught how to be self-regulated learners in the classroom," said Beyer.

As it is designed, LOTS will serve kids through different levels of support. The first, most intensive level of support will be provided to a group of approximately eight children who

*Continued on page 7*



Photo by Jessie Wright

The Redding Gazebo and Parade Path were decorated on Friday, November 11 in honor of Veterans Day. Congress first passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance of the end of World War I. The annual commemoration became a national holiday in 1938 and was changed to honor all American veterans in 1954.

## REDDING'S BIG OUTDOORS

### Three Holiday Hikes

By Jeanne Ammermuller



Photo by Jeanne Ammermuller  
Hikers at the Rock Lot

With ten issues of the Redding Sentinel already complete, this marks the 11th Big Outdoors article since the paper's launch. Readers may be wondering, "Why the Big Outdoors?" As with many stories of the 2020s, this one began with the pandemic. Redding residents were spending increasing amounts of time on the trails around town as shutdowns continued. With all the attention and appreciation of these outdoor spaces, the Redding Land Trust began looking for a new way to celebrate Redding's unique resources.

A brainstorm led to the slogan "Small Town, Big Outdoors," that was featured on signs around town, and resonated with residents who believed it summed up Redding's unique place in Fairfield County. While the slogan was new, the concept of preserving and sharing Redding's woods, meadows, and vistas has been the mission of the Redding Land Trust since it was formed in 1965.

Through the decades, the

guard towers, past the memorial obelisk honoring the soldiers who wintered there, and into a wooded loop trail. The trail features beautiful moss-covered rocks, some wetlands, and plenty of peace and quiet. Well-controlled dogs on leashes are welcome.

**Boxing Day Hike, December 26, 11:00 a.m.:** Saugatuck Trail. Meet near 56 Deer Hill Road (don't park on the grass, please). This lesser-known trail starts with a short connector trail from Deer Hill Road, connecting to the Saugatuck trail in the Centennial Watershed. The trail makes a slow and mostly downhill decline toward Newtown Turnpike and the Reservoir. Be sure to conserve your energy because the return trip features an equally steady incline. The two-mile round trip can be extended by crossing Newtown Turnpike and meandering along the shores of the reservoir, which looks very different after this summer's drought. Since most of the hike is on Centennial Watershed land, no dogs are allowed.

**New Year's Day Hike, January 1, 11:00 a.m.:** Rock Lot / Scott Preserve. Meet on Peaceable Street near the power station. Limited off-street parking is available. Featured in the September 9 issue of the Redding Sentinel, The Rock Lot/Scott Preserve offers the most challenging hike of the three, but it is still a pleasant outing that features abundant rocky terrain, including the beautiful whaleback formation. Well-controlled dogs on leash are welcome.

For more information, e-mail [info@reddingctlandtrust.org](mailto:info@reddingctlandtrust.org) and look for the Land Trust's annual appeal postcard in your mailbox in the next few weeks. ■

Jeanne Ammermuller is a member of the Redding Land Trust Board of Trustees

## Is Redding a bellwether? We picked every winner in recent mid-terms

By Susan Clark

Redding voters turned out in significant numbers for the 2022 mid-term elections on November 8. We bested our 2018 turnout slightly — 68.19% to 68.1%. Forty-seven residents took advantage of election day registration to be able to cast their votes. About 13% of those voting — 586 — cast an absentee ballot of one sort or another.

Redding is a fairly Blue town, meaning we have more Democratic voters than any other group, and tend to vote for Democratic candidates. Forty percent of voters are registered Democrats, 24% are registered Republicans and 36% are Unaffiliated or Other. Interestingly, we are both more Democratic than the State of Connecticut, and also more Republican. This is because more of us have chosen to affiliate with a major party than voters in the rest of the State. Of active Connecticut voters, 36% are registered Democrats, 21% are registered Republicans, and 43% are registered as Unaffiliated or Other.

In the November 8 elections, Redding voters delivered majority votes to the winners in every race. In addition, in almost every race we outperformed the statewide results for the winning candidates. For governor, for example, incumbent Ned Lamont (D) won with 55.9% of the vote. In Redding, he achieved 63.7%. On the early voting ballot question, we voted 67% to approve. The measure won statewide with a vote of 60%.

The one contest where Redding's vote for the winner was slightly less than the candidate's total achieved vote was the race for State Senate 26, between Cici Maher (D) and Toni Boucher (R). This race did not have an incumbent running. It was to fill the seat of incumbent Will Haskell (D) who chose not to run. While Maher won Redding's vote with 56.7% to Boucher's 43.3%, the total race percentages across the 26th district were slightly higher for Maher at 56.9% and lower for Boucher at 43.1%.

It appears that Unaffiliated voters in Redding broke more for Democratic candidates than for Republicans, which may be in keeping with the fact that there are more registered Democrats in town than Republicans.

Overall, it was a good election for Redding. Turnout was high, and the day went off with out a hitch. Thank you to the Town Clerk's office, the Registrars of Voters, and the many poll workers who make our elections accurate, safe and secure. And a big thank you to the Redding League of Women Voters, whose membership worked so hard to educate us about the candidates and the issues, and to turn out the vote. Election day in Redding is always a good time to meet members of the Redding community in the tents for each political party, and to catch up with friends and neighbors. ■

### Index

Big Outdoors	1	Real Estate Report	8	The Natural World	11
Editorial	2	Book Review	10	Business Spotlight	12
Sports	4	Library Corner	10	Calendar of Events	13



1 96852 05801 3

## EDITORIAL

By Jessie Wright

One of the most important ways we as citizens can create change is to use the power of our vote. Last week's mid-terms showcased a strong voter turnout in Redding and a civil, smooth process for local voters to have their say on candidates, their platforms, and one ballot issue. The importance of these mid-terms had been (and still is) widely discussed, with get-out-the-vote initiatives and campaign events filling local, state, and federal calendars for months.

While the outcomes of these mid-terms will certainly affect our lives in many ways, there is another, even more immediate, avenue available to us to participate in our government. With a new budget year approaching and local elections scheduled for 2023, we now turn our attention to the work of the government in our own backyards, to the people and systems in the Town of Redding that govern this place we call home.

Residents new to town may not realize that, by law, all meetings of Redding's various Boards and Commissions are open to the public. These groups determine much about what daily life looks like here, including the Town's administration, finance, land use, and education. The Sentinel doesn't publish these meeting dates and times in our Event Calendar each week just to fill up space – *you are invited to every meeting.*

Just this week, groups working on water pollution, natural resource conservation, our schools, the Gilbert and Bennett Wire Mill site, ARPA funds, and historic preservation are convening. As a resident of Redding, you have a seat at the table if you wish to attend and hear first-hand how these areas are being thought about, prioritized, and funded. There are opportunities for public comment at almost every meeting.

Agendas, minutes, and many times recorded videos of these meetings are all available at [townofreddingct.org/agendas-minutes](http://townofreddingct.org/agendas-minutes). See if anything piques your interest and makes you want to dig a little deeper. Democracy doesn't have to be something you are invited to participate in once every one, two, or four years. In a small town, you can get involved long before heading to the ballot box.

## Housing working group seeks input and participants

By Susan Clark

The recently appointed Economic Development Committee (EDC) is a seven-member advisory committee to the Board of Selectmen. Its purpose is to help town officials prioritize and advance community-supported actions to promote economic development in the short and longer term. The Committee will engage the community at large in its work and coordinate regularly with relevant Town of Redding officials, commissions, and committees, including the Gilbert and Bennett Advisory Committee. The committee will conduct its initial outreach to the community through *ad hoc* working groups to surface priorities for consideration at the Committee's monthly meetings the 1st Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the Town Hall.

Four of the five *ad hoc* working groups have been assigned leads from the EDC. I am the lead of the Housing working group.

Our remit is to tackle the question of how to ensure **Housing that Meets the Needs of Redding's Residents and Workforce, including Workers from Home.**

The workplan, still in draft, will look something like this.

a. Develop scenarios to support affordable housing that meet our environmental stewardship obligations.

b. Explore the housing mix desired for the Georgetown Historic District and the costs and

benefits of different governance scenarios for achieving it, such as creation of a housing authority.

c. Work with State legislators to exclude proposed high-density land use projects from the public water supply watersheds.

d. Study how use of Incentive Housing Zones under the Connecticut Housing Program for Economic Growth could foster Affordable Housing consistent with other planning priorities of the town.

e. Examine the potential for non-profit development on Town-owned land to assure maximum affordability and minimum environmental risk.

f. Survey Existing Lower-Cost Housing Units to obtain the accurate number of dwelling units for rent or sale in Redding, that meet the cost-of-housing standards of the State of Connecticut's Affordable Housing programs.

I am looking for Redding residents who are interested in the subject of housing and who have the time and inclination to get involved with the working group. E-mail me at [housing@phineus.com](mailto:housing@phineus.com) to volunteer or ask any questions.

I look forward to your expressions of interest. ■

*Please note that although I am the Publisher of the Redding Sentinel, this work on the EDC and the housing working group have nothing to do with the Sentinel.*

### A NOTE ON NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE:

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, subscribers will receive next week's Sentinel on Wednesday, November 23. Please submit any event information by Saturday, November 19 and letters to the editor by Sunday, November 20.



Photo submitted by Kate Perry

Papu the parrot loves the Sentinel too and thanks you for helping out the town!

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*We welcome Letters to the Editor. Please be clear, civil and concise. Publication preference will be given to letters that suggest solutions to challenges identified.*

### To the Editor,

We woke to a wild and blustery Election Day. Would our election play out as many feared, with disruptions and threats to the process that is at the heart of our democracy?

As I walked to the gym to vote, the sun was shining and people were streaming into the polls in great numbers. Volunteers checked in voters and handed out ballots as the registrars looked on to make sure Election Day went smoothly. Smiling volunteers greeted people passing by the Democrats' tent, welcoming them in for coffee, donut holes, and other traditional Election Day fare.

I drove off feeling, once again, how lucky it is to live in a town like Redding—and grateful to all the people who gave their time to make Election Day a model of how to choose our representatives.

*Tina Miller  
Seventy Acre Road*

### To the Editor,

New Pond Farm Education Center is celebrating the start of the holiday season with an exciting performance of Joe Landry's classic "It's a Wonderful Life". On November 19, at 7:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall of Sacred Heart Church in Georgetown, eight talented actors will bring this favorite story to life as a 1940s Radio Play. We hope that Sentinel readers will join us!

These amazing actors, all members of the Education Center, are donating their time and talents for this entertaining fundraiser in support of our educational programs.

Director Nancy Ponturo is the inspiration behind New Pond's traditions of live radio plays. She also directed our Summer Shakespeare programs for many years. Nancy will be joined by her husband Bob, also an actor, neighbors Martin Robinson (Sesame Street actor and puppeteer) and his wife Annie Evans (actor and author), Julia Levo (actor and former Education Director for the American Globe Theatre), Cooper Smithers (a one-time actor in our Summer Shakespeare program), and Katy Dobbs (author). Katy's husband, Fred Newman, will double as an actor and sound effects artist. Fred has provided sound effects for Garrison Keillor's *Prairie Home Companion* for many years in addition to numerous films and television shows. David Morgan, renowned musician and owner of The Music Shed in Redding, will add his special accompaniment to the performance.

For more information about the performance please read Pamela Brown's article in the November 3 issue of the Sentinel.

*Ann Taylor  
Executive Director, New Pond Farm Education Center  
Marchant Road*

### To the Editor,

The Redding Garden Club would like to take this opportunity to thank those members who have gone above and beyond. Ruth Moran with help from Chris Decker gave us the **Pumpkins on the Green** and let Redding shine for Halloween. Andrea Brundage, Co-President, along with club members helped me start the holidays with our **Holiday Boutique** offering unique handmade items. Pat Nelson gave us a delightful Holiday Luncheon and memorable presentation by Michael Derouin. It has been a busy fall even as the gardens wind down.

I would also like to thank all the Redding citizens who came out and supported the Club.

Please consider joining a great community of men and women who are making Redding grow again.

*Karen de Friesse  
Co-President, Redding Garden Club  
Mountain Road*

### To the Editor,

Fifty years ago, Richard Nixon was President; the Vietnam War was waging; the Watergate scandal began; median cost of a new house in the U.S. was \$27,600; gas was 36 cents per gallon; and at the Mark Twain Library – an Art Show was held.

And it has been held every year since.

The Art Show began as, and still is, a place for local artists as well as some from all over New England to exhibit and sell their art – a win for them, and for the library, as the celebrated event is a major fundraiser. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the art goes directly to help keep the library functioning.

Efforts behind the scenes to produce the show each year – and the dazzling Preview reception which marks the official opening – are herculean. But the result is a most impressive gallery-among-the-stacks, and Redding's signature party of the year.

I encourage you to join us in celebrating our 50th Anniversary: The Golden Jubilee! A collective toast to five decades of creative dedication on behalf of the legacy Twain gave to Redding.

*Michael Shinall,  
President, Mark Twain Library Board of Trustees  
Redding Ridge*

### To the Editor,

We want to give a "shout out" to the Mark Twain Library for providing an ongoing series of fascinating, useful, engaging, and entertaining programs. Last Thursday we attended a delightful talk on daily life in 17th Century Holland (The Netherlands, more properly) by Laura Conley. Both well qualified as Dutch born and the daughter of a distinguished university historian, she brought the added advantage of being a docent at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Laura used the Met's rich store of Dutch paintings and engravings to illustrate her talk and gave us a chance to look deeply into the art to find clues to the mind-set and attitudes of the Dutch public long ago as well as amusing and informative details of how they lived.

Your readers are missing a lot if they don't get onto a library mailing list, or at least check in online to the basic website and look under Programs to learn what's available. Just scanning November's offerings, I found programs on folklore, women and finance, world affairs, cupcake decorating, knitting, and more. Library Director Erin Dummeyer, and Program Coordinators Elaine Sanders and Maggie McIntyre give us a cornucopia of programs for the mind, the eye, and the tummy week after week – and they're all FREE.

Grateful thanks to founder Mark Twain (who knew 100 years ago that a library offers more than books to a community) and to the current staff of his library,

*Bob Morton  
Poverty Hollow Road*

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## SPORTS

Falcons advance in Class L tournament | *By Rocco Valluzzo*

Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High's Libby Grob, left, goes up for a kill while Platt's Olivia Long attempts to block during the state Class L girls quarterfinal volleyball match on Saturday, November 12. Barlow won 3-0.

Having disposed of the competition in one post-season tournament, the Joel Barlow High girls varsity volleyball team is in the midst of doing likewise in

another.

The undefeated Falcons, who won the South-West Conference championship earlier this month, are advancing in the state Class L

tournament with victories in their first two matches. Two more wins would bring them to their first state title since 2018.

Sweeping 17th-ranked Ellington 3-0 (25-12, 25-8, 25-7), in the second round last Thursday, November 10, top-seeded Barlow then hosted Platt of Meriden in the quarterfinals two days later. The Falcons' strong play at the net proved too much for the visitors to handle in another 3-0 (25-16, 25-18, 25-10) win.

The eighth-ranked Panthers proved to be a scrappy opponent. A one or two-point affair for much of the way, the first set featured eight ties and seven lead changes. Both sides struggled in serving, each faulting five times.

With things tied at 14-14, Mackenzie Sickinger's kill put the Falcons back out in front. A kill and subsequent block by Elyssa Kalamaras helped put Barlow up by four, as Platt called a timeout to try to stop the momentum.

Eva Dudley's kill won back the serve for Platt but the Panthers were frequently out of position,

prompting precise kills from Barlow's Emmy Asplund and Libby Grob to put their team up 22-15 before the set was done.

Both sides also battled for supremacy for much of the second set. Three straight service points by Kat Czerkawski and a kill by Sickinger put the Falcons up 8-4, only to have Platt come back to tie the score on three occasions.

The score was 11-11 when Platt suffered a setback, as senior Arian Soto left the match with an ankle injury. The Panthers never recovered after that.

"It's sad to see one of their players go down in their final game," said Barlow head coach Carol Asplund. "I hate to see that happen."

Strong net play by Czerkawski, Grob, and Emmy Asplund helped increase Barlow's lead to 22-16. Platt was out of position a couple of times in the remainder of the set, providing the Falcons with a few more points courtesy of some well-placed kills.

By the time the third set got underway the momentum

belonged to Barlow, which jumped out to a 9-3 lead, again forcing the Panthers to call a timeout. It did little to help their cause, however, as Barlow remained dominant at the net, closing out the set 25-10 to advance to the semi-finals.

Sickinger had a strong net game with six kills. She also had six blocks.

"Mackenzie played great tonight," said Asplund. "She blocked really well. She did a great job executing. So did our setter Amanda Meschi."

Czerkawski had nine kills. She also had six digs, and Grob had five. Asplund had three kills and 26 assists. Sarah Mauro had six digs and Kalamaras had two blocks.

Should the Falcons defeat 12th-ranked Woodstock Academy in the semifinals this week, they will face the winner of the Bristol Central/East Lyme match for the championship on Saturday, November 19 at East Haven High at a time to be determined. ■

Wave washes over Barlow for a win | *By Rocco Valluzzo*

Photo by Mike Mitchell

The formidable Barlow offensive linemen (left to right) Andy Zaia, Colin Furrer, Kyler Cartmel, Pierce Counter, and Tristan Counter block while quarterback Danny Shaban hands off the ball to Scott Romano in the torren-

Between some wet weather and a tough opponent, the Joel Barlow High varsity football team had its hands full when it visited New Milford.

The Falcons also had a few miscues of their own on Friday, Nov. 11. The Green Wave, fighting for a chance for a spot in the state Class L playoffs, often took advantage of these opportunities and also created some of its own

to remain out of reach for a 31-21 win in a constant rain.

Moving closer to securing a spot in the state Class SS playoffs, the Falcons struck first in the opening quarter. A 60-yard run by Scott Romano help set up Barlow's first score, getting his team to the New Milford nine yard line. An option play to Dylan Taylor got the visitors into the end zone and with Cooper Zuccerella kicking

the extra point the visitors led 7-0 at the 6:05 mark.

The Green Wave stalled on its next series, giving the Falcons the ball near midfield. A key fourth-down conversion got them to the Milford 26 just before the first quarter ended. Quarterback Danny Shaban's 13-yard jaunt got them into the red zone before Cole Peterson scored from three yards out. Although the extra point attempt failed the Falcons led 13-0 with 10:38 left in the half.

A number of big plays helped the Green Wave along, including one on its next series. On first down quarterback Darnell Cicero-Bronson connected with Alfredo Nevarez for a 45-yard touchdown pass. The extra point made it 13-7 and remained that way until halftime.

Starting the second half with another big play, the Green Wave returned the opening kickoff for a touchdown and was soon up 14-13. It then took advantage of a Barlow fumble on first down to get the ball back. Three plays later, Cicero-Brown again connected

with Nevarez, this time for a 31-yard touchdown pass and a 21-13 lead with 10:14 left in the third quarter.

"They played hard," said Barlow head coach T. J. Cavaliere. "They made big plays at big times and we didn't and they deserve to win because of it."

Barlow however was far from finished. It immediately embarked on a 60-yard scoring drive that ate up more than six minutes off the clock. Making use of key runs by Shaban and Peterson, it marched downfield. Faced with a fourth down and four situation on the New Milford 18, the Falcons came up big when Mason Leavitt scored and with the two-point conversion by Shaban it was tied 21-21 with just less than four minutes left in the third quarter.

Those ended up being Barlow's last points for the game. New Milford got back on top on its next series again with the help of a big pass from Cicero-Brown to Nevarez to get inside the Barlow 10 and set up another touchdown to make it 28-21.

New Milford's short kickoff gave the Falcons decent position at midfield. They made progress, reaching the New Milford four but fumbled in the end zone, giving the Green Wave the ball on their own 20 early in the fourth quarter.

The hosts settled for a 29-yard field goal with 5 columns 23 left to play, giving them a 10-point advantage. Barlow failed to convert on fourth down on its own 45 but managed to get the ball back once more, getting as far as the New Milford 35 before time expired.

"They are a very good team but a lot of this was us doing it to ourselves, whether it was penalties, turnovers or silly plays on special teams," said Cavaliere.

Shaban led Barlow in rushing with 114 yards. Romano had 94 and Peterson had 49.

Although the loss hurt Barlow chances for a home game in the first round of the state

Class SS tournament, it can still qualify for the post-season with a win over Weston in the annual Thanksgiving game on Wednesday at home at 4:30. ■

Falcons finish season in first round of state tournament | *By Rocco Valluzzo*

Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow High's Chloe Elton, left, contends with Masuk's Erin Davis during the first round of the state Class L girls soccer tournament on Tuesday, November 8. Barlow lost 5-1 to end the season.

A familiar foe awaited the Joel Barlow High girls varsity soccer team in the first round of the state Class L tournament.

One of seven South-West Conference teams in the tournament, the 21st-seeded Falcons had their hands full when they traveled to Monroe on Tuesday, November 8. A tough second-half put them in a hole against host Masuk for a 5-1 loss at Benedict Field to end the season.

The 12th-seeded Panthers controlled most of the play in the first half, which featured a number of shots on goal. Frustrating the Falcons defenders in particular was Masuk sophomore Samantha

Dube, who netted three goals that afternoon.

Her first came a little more than seven minutes into the action from about ten yards out. Not long after, Dube managed to get past the defense to an open goal before getting off a shot that went wide left.

For the remainder of the half, Masuk continued to test Barlow goalie Olivia Taylor, who made a key save on a shot by Dube from ten yards out with 6:50 left. Dube, however, would not be denied, and three minutes later she beat a defender and scored on a header to give her team a 2-0 advantage going into halftime.

Masuk did not let up when play resumed. At 3:41 into the action, Dube took advantage of a defensive lapse on Barlow's part to net her third goal.

The Panthers scored another two before the game was done. At the 23:43 mark Brianna Van Derheyden's shot from the right side found the back of the net.

Less than a minute later, midfielder Hannah Dorney broke through to give her team a 5-0 advantage.

"It's tough," said Barlow head coach Ben Weiss, noting a bit of

a mental lapse on his team's part. "Nine kids know it's possibly their last game (in high school). "Emotions get the better of you sometimes."

Barlow would not be shut out, however. It managed to get a last word in when Sydney Keenan's free kick found Allie Ogden, who managed a shot in front of the net with 16:50 left.

"I was very proud of the girls," said Weiss, looking back on the season. "They came up with two or three really big results."

Among those was a tie against

Brookfield, who reached the SWC finals and a win over Weston, the first in at least four years.

The Falcons were also without the services of their starting goalkeeper for the post-season. After Drew Williams suffered a torn ACL in the regular-season finale, Taylor and Lauren Klein Wassink filled in.

"I give them all the credit in the world for stepping up for the team," said Weiss. "They played hard for not being goalkeepers."

Barlow finished the season at 6-7-3 overall. ■

Barlow swim team takes eighth in Class M championship | *By Rocco Valluzzo*

It was more about quality than quantity for the Joel Barlow High girls swim team at the state Class M championship on Monday, November 14.

The Falcons had only eight swimmers compete in the meet, but they combined to score 258 points, which was good enough for eighth overall in a field of 20 teams at Southern Connecticut State University.

South-West Conference champ Pomperaug was way out in front with 707.5 to win the team title. Guilford was a distant second with 564.5 and Wethersfield Took third with 458.

Besides earning points, the Falcons often surpassed their

qualifying times in a number of events. Such was the case in the opening event, the 200-yard medley relay. Brooke Serlin, Zoe Skidell, Audrey Gil, and Brookley Gil combined to post a time of 1:57.38, taking seventh overall.

Two scored for Barlow in the 200 free. A time of 2:06.34 got Serlin 13th. Two places later was Grace Bujdud with 2:07.93.

Audrey Gil went on to capture two gold medals that evening. She had the speed to win the 50-yard freestyle, with a time of 24 seconds, 0.35 second ahead of Wethersfield's Sabrina Schuster. She followed that victory with a gold in the 100 free in 52.59, beating Brookfield's Mia Hatzis

by 0.14 seconds. Also scoring in the event, Brookley Gil beat the one-minute mark in 59.86 for 20th.

Going the distance in the 500 free, Serlin was tenth in 5:31.88, beating her seed time by more than six seconds. Bujdud was 17th in 5:40.91, beating her seed time as well.

Barlow's best relay finish was in the 200 free. Audrey Gil, Brookley Gil, Bujdud, and Serlin swam a 1:43.16, good for fifth.

Slidell represented Barlow in the 100 breaststroke, taking 14th in 1:15.64. Completing the scoring for Barlow, Bonoff, Grace Blawie, Sofia Sannella, and Bujdud formed the 400 free relay team that took 13th in 4:18.23. ■

## Barlow Beat | *By Griffin Ellis*



*Photo by Suzanne Nolan*

Sonya Chamroy (left) and Abby Nolan (right) enjoying the Homecoming festivities at Barlow.

The Joel Barlow school year is divided into two semesters and four quarters. On November 7, the first quarter of school concluded, which tends to be the busiest time of year for students as they get settled into classes and enjoy a host of fall activities.

The first quarter was topped off by the Homecoming dance and

game which took place during the first weekend of November. This was the first time a Homecoming dance was held since 2019, and hundreds of students showed up to dance and have fun. The following day, the Joel Barlow football team swept Bethel in the Homecoming game by a score of 49-0. It was the football and cheerleading teams'



*Photo by Suzanne Nolan*

Homecoming weekend at Barlow was a huge success. 540 kids attended the dance on Friday night, and 450 attended the Homecoming football game vs. Bethel on Saturday. Many also participated in the celebratory bonfire after the game.

Senior Night and many students attended the game, some of whom held cardboard cut-outs of senior players to cheer them on. During halftime, a new class of Barlow alumni were inducted into the Barlow sports hall of fame. After the game, a bonfire was held at the

school complete with food trucks and live music. Later that night, the girls volleyball team beat Newtown to win the South-West Conference Tournament by a score of three sets to one. It was a solid day for Barlow to say the least. The following week, the

musical "Oklahoma!" was performed at Barlow. Produced by Matt Farina and Erin Pinsky, "Oklahoma!" was an enthralling performance. The acting, singing, and overall execution was superb. As a current student myself, I did not realize how much theatrical talent Barlow has. It was evident from the perfecting of the southern accents to the creation of excellent stage props how much time and effort the cast and crew put into the musical. There was a great showing too, and those involved are thankful for everyone who attended.

Homecoming weekend and the "Oklahoma!" musical are both featured on the recent episode of "The Nest" which, if you don't know, is Barlow's news and entertainment show. It is co-hosted by Jackson Bennett and myself. "The Nest" is accessible through Instagram and Youtube. Tune into recent episodes or look for the Barlow Beat next month in the Sentinel to stay up-to-date with Barlow achievements and events.

*Griffin Ellis is a Senior at Joel Barlow High School*

## Redding Elementary School honors veterans with special assembly

*By Jessie Wright*



*Photos by Jessie Wright*

Mario DePalma shows photographs from his time as a service member in WWII.



Edwin Zorrilla, Richard Sills, Devon Calazzo, and Warren Bornholz chat before the annual Veterans Day assembly.

"I think it's just great that they do this," said Richard Sills, breaking off to wave at his grandson, Jonah, who was excitedly peeking into the staff lounge at Redding Elementary School and had caught his attention. Jonah's second grade class continued past on their way to the Big Gym, which was filling up with students for the Veterans Day program, the first assembly of the school year. Sills, a veteran of the Army National Guard from 1968-1973, was one of several veterans who had been invited by family members, friends, and neighbors to be honored at the annual school assembly and presentation on Friday, November 11.

The guests of honor filled the RES staff lounge before the program, enjoying breakfast provided by the RES PTA and conversation with each other, members of the school board, and school staff. Dressed in fatigues,

dress uniforms, and jackets, they represented almost every branch of the military, with time served in conflicts ranging from WWII to Afghanistan.

Mario DePalma, a WWII veteran and grandfather to RES first grader Giada Todaro, pulled out two, worn photographs, showing him at seventeen years old and when he was deployed in Frankfurt, Germany. "I couldn't resist bringing them," he said.

Following breakfast, the group walked down several hallways covered in student-created decorations, including an enormous American flag made from colorful paper handprints. They entered the gymnasium to exuberant applause from the entire student body.

Members of the fourth-grade student council led the assembly, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance, and continuing with presentations on the history of Veterans Day and the branches

of the military, with musical interludes including "America the Beautiful", "This Land is Your Land", and a medley of military songs. RES Principal Melissa Labroschiano and Vice Principal Kim Roy read each veteran's name and military history aloud while the guests' proud "student ambassadors" sat next to and in front of them.

After another celebratory round of applause, the students, many of whom were dressed head-to-toe in red, white, and blue, returned to their classrooms, stopping to take photos in front of some of the decorations they had prepared. One display featured letters written from the children to all veterans. "Thank you for being brave," one read. "Thank you for our freedom." ■



Fourth-grade student council member Jack Correa welcomes the group to the Veterans Day assembly.



Students and veterans walk down the hallways of RES, which were decorated by the students in honor of Veterans Day.

## The County Assemblies' 2023 Charity Balls

*Registration closing soon*

*By Jessie Wright*

Following a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, The County Assemblies, Inc. will sponsor the County Assembly Charity Ball for high school juniors and the Red & White Charity Ball for high school seniors again in 2023.

Students from the Class of 2024 and Class of 2023 at Joel Barlow High School or who reside in Redding or Easton but attend another school are invited to register for the two balls. The price is \$185 per couple, as each student attends with a guest or escort. Registration is online at: [www.thecountyassemblies.org](http://www.thecountyassemblies.org) and closes on Sunday, November 20,

2022.

The County Assembly Charity Ball for high school juniors will be Friday, January 27, 2023, and the Red & White Charity Ball for high school seniors will be Saturday, February 4, 2023. Both events will be hosted at The Stamford Marriott Hotel.

The County Assemblies Inc. is a non-profit that promotes "inter town friendliness" in Connecticut and will be celebrating its 85th anniversary with the charity balls next year. All net proceeds from the events are donated to charities in Fairfield County that serve children and teens. ■



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# The Ridgefield Theater Barn looks to raise \$2 million

Plans in place to build new performance space, classrooms, and more | By Justin Reynolds



All photos courtesy of Ridgefield Theater Barn Staff, volunteers, and board members break ground on the Ridgefield Theater Barn's expansion project.



The organization's current facility, housed in a converted dairy barn.



The Ridgefield Theater Barn's recent performance of Peter and the Starcatcher.

The Ridgefield Theater Barn – a non-profit community theater tucked away on Halpin Lane in Ridgefield – has been delighting residents from Fairfield County and beyond with plays, musicals, stand-up comedy shows, and other artistic events since 1965.

Now, the theater is writing a new chapter in its story as it begins to build a new, ADA-compliant structure on its property that will include a black box performance space, two classrooms, a meeting room, a new lobby, six new bathrooms, a new concession stand, office space, and a warming kitchen for catered events and functions.

To cover the costs of this expansion, the organization – which is housed in a converted dairy barn – is seeking to raise close to \$2 million.

“The Ridgefield Theater Barn is a mission-focused, artistic-respected community theater in the middle of a massive expansion,” said Pamme Jones, the theater’s

Executive Director since 2017. “Our theater is by the community, for the community. Our goal is to make our property as community-accessible as possible.”

This expansion is driven by two major factors.

First, after living through the pandemic, Jones and the Theater Barn’s board members realized that the need for human interaction is perhaps more heightened than ever before.

“What we found is that, more than ever, people need a place to come to express themselves, work with something artistically, and reconnect with humanity on a face-to-face level,” Jones said. “After living through this terrible thing, it totally cemented we were on the right path and it was time for us to expand.”

Second, members of the community had been asking for all different types of workshops and classes over the years. Due to the building’s cozy footprint, it just wasn’t possible to hold two

different events at the same time.

“That’s one of the challenges of our current space,” Jones said. “With the expansion, someone can be rehearsing on the main stage while someone else is rehearsing in the black box. We’ll be able to open up our programming and address the needs of the community that we haven’t been able to before.”

Planning an expansion amidst pandemic-fueled supply chain issues hasn’t made the job easy. For example, the HVAC system they had originally planned for the project is no longer being made.

Even so, the show must go on.

By the time this article is published, the foundation for the new structure will likely have been poured. According to Jones, the theater will be closed in January and February for construction, and then will reopen in March for an evening of one-act plays.

While the Theater Barn has raised a large percentage of their goal already, they are still seeking funding for the project. If you’re

interested in donating to the cause, Jones wants to meet you somewhere for coffee – and is even willing to drive to your house.

“I’m really passionate about this,” Jones said. “I would love anyone to come here, take a tour, see a show, and find out what’s going on here. This is a very, very special place.”

Due to the theater’s robust community of supporters – and the area’s support for the arts in general – Jones isn’t worried about meeting their fundraising goals.

“I am 100% confident we will raise the money,” Jones said. “If there’s any lag, we’ll do the work in phases.”

In addition to shows held over the years, the Ridgefield Theater Barn also offers workshops for kids and teens that last all year, including through the summer.

“We have a very robust children’s program,” Jones said. “With the expansion, we’re going to expand children’s programming as well.”

If you’ve enjoyed the theater in its current configuration, you’ll be happy to know that the intimate space that exists today will remain, even after the expansion project. You may want to swing by to experience it at their upcoming holiday show, which runs from December 2 to December 18 on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

Ultimately, the theater wants to become a true “community hub,” Jones said.

“If we keep focusing on that mission and moving forward, it will never serve us wrong,” she said. “We couldn’t be prouder or more excited about what the future holds.”

To learn more about Ridgefield Theater Barn’s upcoming events or how to donate to the expansion project, visit <https://ridgefieldtheaterbarn.org/>

# There’s something buzzing in Redding

Meet Jan Stranik, local beekeeper | By Justin Reynolds



Photo by David Blocher  
Jan Stranik inspecting a queen bee



Photo by David Blocher  
Jan Stranik with a frame of bees from his hives



Photo by Jan Stranik  
Raw liquid and creamed honey

When Jan Stranik moved to Redding from New York City in 2014, he immediately noticed how different the lifestyle was away from the urban hustle and bustle. After settling in, he began searching for ways to fill his newfound spare time.

“I was looking for a hobby,” Stranik said. “And I discovered the bees.”

After deciding to try his hand at beekeeping, Stranik joined the Back Yard Beekeepers Association, a group based in Weston dedicated to spreading knowledge about beekeeping and educating the public about the benefits bees bring to local environments.

“I started attending their meetings, learned the basics about beekeeping, and got two hives,” Stranik said. “Since then, I’ve been expanding.”

Initially, Stranik had his hives set up at home. As he continued increasing the size of his beekeeping footprint, he eventually ended up with “too

many around the house.”

At this point, Stranik went on Facebook and asked whether anyone wanted hives on their properties. “I got so many offers,” he said. “People are aware of the need for pollination and the value the honeybees offer. A lot of people are interested in the bees. But many people don’t want to do it on their own.”

Today, Stranik has over 20 hives scattered across Redding. Collectively, the hives produce a significant amount of honey – more than his household can consume. Stranik’s excess honey is for sale at the Redding Ridge Market and Bloom Breads in Georgetown under the brand Redding Raw Honey.

“This is a hobby, not a business,” said Stranik, a software developer by trade. “The proceeds from the honey – all of which is made from bees that live in Redding – cover my expenses.”

There can be significant health benefits to consuming local honey, Stranik noted.

“People with allergies can increase their immunity to the pollen in the area by consuming the local honey,” he explained. “When you consume it, your body becomes used to the pollen, so the allergic reaction is suppressed or smaller.”

Bees also play a significant role in maintaining our environment; when trees bloom, they need to be cross-pollinated. “Pollinators are essential for any successful crop,” Stranik explained. “The bees and other insects are the primary source of pollination. They fly from one tree to another, taking pollen from one and spreading it. If you pollinate the tree, you get the fruit. If pollination doesn’t occur, you don’t.”

In addition to the health and environmental benefits, keeping bees can be less labor intensive than other household or backyard pets, according to Stranik.

“You can spend as much time with the bees as you want,” Stranik continued. “You can go to the hives every day or every week – or as little as possible. You can skip seeing them for a month if you want.”

Beekeeping is not without its challenges, however. One of the hardest things about beekeeping is keeping them alive during the winter – and surprisingly, that’s not because they freeze to death.

“[The bees] live throughout the winter and pretty much maintain the temperature of 100 degrees in the hive,” Stranik said. “They get together and flap their wings, which creates heat. As long as the

bees are healthy and have enough food, the cold shouldn’t harm them.”

Keeping the bees healthy during the cold-weather months, on the other hand, can be difficult.

“There are parasites, similar to ticks, that latch onto bees,” Stranik said. “They spread worldwide from Asia and are not native to the United States. They weaken the hive to the point that, if they have mites, the bees can’t survive the winter.” As such, a beekeeper’s main concern is keeping hives as mite-free as possible.

And of course, nobody likes being stung, including Stranik, who says the fear of being stung is encoded in our DNA – much the same way most people are afraid of snakes.

“I started beekeeping because it seemed challenging,” Stranik said. “I was afraid of being stung. But I thought, ‘If I start beekeeping, I’ll get used to it.’”

And that’s exactly what happened. When most people get stung by a bee, two things usually happen: there is pain, and the skin begins to swell. But after dealing with bees for so many years, Stranik has become accustomed to the irritation.

“Your body gets used to it very quickly,” he said. “Now, when I get stung, there isn’t any swelling. Just a small pinch of pain for a second, and that’s it.”

Spending so much time with bees, Stranik also realized that the insects aren’t that interested in stinging anyone in the first place.

“Stinging is only a defensive

mechanism for the bees,” Stranik said. “As long as you treat the bees calmly, they don’t have a tendency to sting.”

When he first started beekeeping, Stranik wore the “entire beekeeping suit.”

“Now when I do the bees, I pretty much don’t wear gloves anymore,” he said. “Sometimes, I wear the hood. But most of the time I don’t need it.”

For someone who’s in front of a computer all day writing code, beekeeping is a nice change of pace for Stranik.

“It helps you spend time outside,” he said. “It’s a very good source of relaxation. If you go on a nice day in the spring, you hear all the buzzing, and you’ve got to be calm and relaxed to truly enjoy the moment.”

If you have any interest in becoming a beekeeper yourself, Stranik recommends attending a Back Yard Beekeepers Association meeting. According to the group’s website, they meet the “last Tuesday of most months” at 7:30 p.m. at Norfield Congregational Church in Weston.

“It’s a wonderful resource with over 400 members,” Stranik said. “Starting beekeeping is not easy. This is a warm, welcoming community that offers mentorships. When I started years ago, I had mentors. Now, I am mentoring myself to help others get started.”

For more information on the Back Yard Beekeepers Association, visit <https://backyardbeekeepers.com/>

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# New committee forms to protect Redding's historic cemeteries

By Donna Christopher



Photo by Jessie Wright

Redding Center Cemetery off Cross Highway and Hill Road.

Burial places, specifically cemeteries, are among the most visible public remnants of a community's history. As public documents of human life, cemeteries serve as records of a community's roots. They not only embody the community's history, but also can be proof of town residents' pride of place.

The newly formed Redding Historic Cemetery Committee (RHCC) will steward these important places and manage some of the logistical challenges historic burial sites can present.

"It's a value to the town to make sure those people who were buried, some of them that fought in the Revolutionary War, are in a sacred place that needs to be maintained," said Sean McNamara, one of the RHCC's elected officers.

The mission of the RHCC is "to establish a formal organizational paradigm for the maintenance, operations, protection, preservation, restoration, and perpetual care of the historic cemeteries in the Town of Redding. The RHCC's further mission is to research grave identification of those interred and grave marker

identification, repair, and recovery. To provide administrative assistance and advice to the Office of the Selectman as to laws and regulations pertaining to Town historic cemeteries."

The RHCC will oversee seven historic cemeteries which are closed for future interments: Redding Center, Gould, Limekiln, Lonetown, Old Cemetery, Sanford Cemetery, and Ferry Cemetery.

Initial plans are to make certain repairs, including a gate at a cemetery on Sport Hill Road where a car crashed into it, and "tree issues" at some of the various sites.

"They've kind of been left in limbo for a number of years," McNamara explained. "The Town is responsible for mowing and costs come up for trees needing pruning. If trees fall, we want to manage them better. We want to set policies in place."

In addition to maintaining the cemeteries and providing oversight to protect them on behalf of the Town of Redding, the committee will preside over the locations to ensure they are protected as places for "respectful visiting,

ancestral or historic research, and to build appreciation for those who came before, and their efforts in building the country, and for appreciating Redding as one of the strategic keystone locations in the Revolutionary War."

Burial plots with particular historic significance are The Barlow Family Memorial, Captain Zalmon Read, The Hill Family, and The Sanford Family.

There is also an initiative among members of the committee to document and preserve the graves' histories for future generations.

"It really comes down to perpetual care for these historic sites," Joe Bonomo, Chair of the RHCC and President of the Redding Historical Society, said.

A previous cemetery association that formed in the early 1990s and served this function had disbanded when members died, moved away, or retired, according to Bonomo. "The new committee is an important way to preserve town history," he continued.

Protecting these burial places is not without its challenges, however.

Although the cemeteries that the RHCC will oversee are closed, there are still cases when families have a deed or writ of legacy burial for a family burial plot. The RHCC will help the family and the Town navigate the many steps that must happen before an interment there can occur.

Provenance must first be determined in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) regarding burial in a historic cemetery. Then, they must ensure that the plot the family wants is truly empty, through a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) study of the plot and/or a detailed search of records. The family must also ensure that all proper Town and State paperwork (death certificate,



Photo courtesy of Joe Bonomo

Joe Bonomo, Chair of the newly formed Redding Historic Cemetery Committee.

deeds or writs) is straight with the Town Clerk. They must work through a local State Licensed Funeral Home and keep the RHCC advised as to these proceedings.

"The problem is if you go into a historic cemetery a lot of people were buried 200 years ago in coffins made of wood or limestone that disintegrate," Bonomo explained. "You can't just go in with a bucket truck to open a grave."

"This is one of the reasons the Committee was reformed. Opening an occupied grave (whether you are aware of the presence of previously interred remains there or not) is a felony," he said.

There are also instances when well-meaning residents and visitors will move or interfere with the historical sites. There have been times when someone will prop a fallen gravestone against a stone wall or leave it by the barn at the Redding Historical Society, leaving historians unable to match the stone to a grave.

If someone finds a fallen gravestone and moves it, "We



Photo by Joe Bonomo

The gravestone of Samuel Barlow in Great Pasture Road Cemetery.

don't know where it goes," Bonomo said. Instead, he explains, contact someone from the RHCC through the First Selectman's Office.

Grave rubbing and headstone washing can also negatively impact historic cemeteries. Both activities harm the older stones particularly. Rubbings damage gravestones especially if the stones are made of limestone or another soft stone. Even granite can deteriorate if enough people are rubbing on it, according to Bonomo.

"We're here to make sure the cemeteries don't get loved to death," Bonomo said. "You don't want people thinking they're doing good when they might be doing more damage." ■

*Members of the RHCC are appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Its members include Joe Bonomo (Chair), Bruce Nelson (Vice Chair), Sean McNamara, and Janice Dimon (Secretary). The RHCC next meets on Thursday, November 17 at 9:00 a.m. at Lonetown Cemetery.*

## Georgetown Fire Department eyes energy efficiency projects

By Rob Sample



Photo by Jessie Wright

The Georgetown Fire Department has begun working on several projects to improve energy efficiency at its firehouse – and slash both its utility bills and carbon emissions in the process.

The first project to get underway is replacing two aging boilers that provide heat and hot water during the cold-weather months. They'll be replaced with two low-mass cold-start boilers.

The term "low mass" refers to a boiler manufactured from metals that transfer heat quickly

– such as aluminum, copper, and stainless steel. This enables such units to perform more efficiently. Additionally, "cold start" means the boiler produces hot water on demand instead of needing to be kept on a constant low flame, which is the case with conventional boilers. This design saves energy and money.

"We estimate that we can trim our oil bills by about 40 percent during the winter months, which could be a pretty nice savings for the department," said Steve Santa,

Second Assistant Chief for the Georgetown Fire Department and Director at local fuel company Santa Energy. The money saved by cutting energy expenses will help the Georgetown Volunteer Fire Department cover the costs of other necessary items, including outfitting new firefighters in turn-out gear.

Many local businesses and community organizations have contributed towards the expected \$56,000 price of the new boilers under the auspices of the Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act. The Neighborhood Assistance Act is a tax-credit program run by the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services (DRS) that is designed to provide funding for municipal and tax-exempt organizations. Businesses can receive a credit of 100 percent for energy conservation programs that are approved by the DRS.

Meadow Ridge, the continuing care retirement community located in Redding, announced a \$10,000 donation to the Georgetown Fire Department on November 1, 2022. "We have a tight-knit community here in Redding, and our local businesses lean on each

other for support," said Chris Barstein, Executive Director of Meadow Ridge, upon announcing his organization's donation. "Community helping community is what it is all about for us."

"Other local companies have made contributions as well," said Santa. "These include Anconas Wines, which donated \$500; Eversource, which made an \$8,000 donation; and Santa Energy, which donated \$20,000."

Santa added that not all companies who have made such donations have released the information publicly at this time. A complete rundown of donors is expected to come out during the second week of December.

In addition to the boilers, the Georgetown Fire Department is eyeing yet another energy-efficiency project: the installation of solar panels on the firehouse roof. Earlier in 2022, the Department submitted a proposal for a \$119,980 grant through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

That proposal will be studied by the town's ARPA Working Group in the upcoming weeks. If it earns that group's nod, it will

go to the Board of Selectmen and, ultimately, Redding voters for final approval.

"We have not solicited any official bids yet, but we did obtain several preliminary quotes – which gave us an idea of how much to request in the form of a grant," said Santa. "If we can go ahead with that project, it will be a huge money saver for us."

The Georgetown Volunteer Fire Department dates to 1928, when a group of concerned residents recognized the need for fire protection in the area.

"Today, the men and women of the Georgetown Volunteer Fire Department are just as dedicated to the preservation of life and property as those who started this organization," said Sandy Clark, also Second Assistant Chief. "In 2020, the Department responded to 766 emergency calls. Our jobs today include not only firefighting, fire prevention, and emergency medical service, but also hazardous material situations, vehicle extrication, rope, and cold-water rescue, just to name a few." ■

## ARPA grant to enhance learning support at Redding Elementary School | Continued from page 1

are in self-contained classrooms at RES. The next level will serve twelve more students who are in general classrooms but have been identified as requiring additional support for learning skills.

The largest group – about 25 students – consists of children who require occasional assistance. This might involve moving the student to a quieter space to enable them to better focus on a reading lesson. Additionally, the LOTS program will purchase headphones that students can use to drown out classroom noise, facilitating improved focus and better reading comprehension.

"It's important not to view this program as being for a 'subset' of

students," noted Angela Caes, who is co-president of the RES PTA along with Meredith Schuchard. "Every teacher at the school will have training in the LOTS program and all 500 RES students will have access to it."

Beyer, Caes, and Schuchard wrote and submitted the proposal for the ARPA grant. All three were involved in two previous grants, the first of which was awarded to the Bridges program from a Redding parent. "All of that aligned perfectly with the ARPA program, which addressed the needs coming out of the Covid pandemic," said Caes.

The largest share of the ARPA grant money – \$38,000 – will go

toward facilities improvements. These will include retrofitting a conference room to become a sensory room, adapting a teacher's office and bathroom into a regulation room with a grey space (a retrofitted room for physical safety), and removing cabinets and sinks. Changes also include building an area for occupational therapy (OT) and turning a non-functional restroom into a closet.

Another \$18,000 of the grant money will go toward educational materials and training, including curricula, while \$15,000 will be for technology tools to keep track of student progress.

The final \$12,000 will be allocated towards student learning

tools. This category encompasses some things that can best be described as making learning fun: gym mats, vibration boards, and chairs and tables for learning outdoors. Beyer pointed out that for many students, a brief session of physical activity can mitigate stress and enhance concentration and performance.

Redding voters approved the ARPA grant for LOTS at a special town meeting on October 20, 2022, so the school is at the very beginning stages of making these enhancements, particularly those involving facilities improvements. Ultimately, LOTS will expand these services to the entire student body and instructional staff –

wherever and whenever they are needed.

Beyer couldn't say exactly when RES might be able to report hard data on the beneficial impact the program will have on kids. However, she noted that there is a strong demand for it. The two previous grants towards the Bridges program got things started, she said, but those funds have been exhausted. The ARPA grant fills a much-needed gap, she noted.

"As a result of LOTS, our teachers and students will feel much more supported," said Beyer. "And LOTS enables our program to continue to grow. That is half the battle." ■

# Real estate report

## A look at trends in the local housing market

By John Talley and Bill Whitehead

Even with a far less chaotic market from one year ago, Redding homes continue to sell through on an average of 50 to 70 days and inventories remain at historic lows. Redding saw 18 home closings in October, a 38% increase from last month and third highest among the seven towns surveyed.

While “Days on Market” (DOM) is often seen as predictive of the market’s strength, they vary greatly depending on a number of individual factors on a house-by-house basis. In October, DOM ranged from one to as many as 339. Individual sales performance in any market begins when price and perceived value are closely aligned with one another.

Redding Sold - October	Sale Price	List Price	% / List Price	Days on Market
39 Portland Hill Rd	\$550,000	\$550,000	0%	1
38 Meeker Hill Rd	\$575,000	\$649,000	-11%	31
10 Little River Ln	\$660,000	\$668,000	-1%	88
45 Deacon Abbott Rd	\$675,000	\$639,000	6%	29
82 Drummer Ln	\$675,000	\$675,000	0%	53
10 Peaceable St	\$695,000	\$689,000	1%	17
95 Great Oak Ln	\$727,000	\$789,000	-8%	109
12 Dayton Rd	\$800,000	\$833,500	-4%	77
307 Newtown Tpke	\$805,000	\$799,900	1%	1
28 Rockledge Rd	\$820,000	\$810,000	1%	17
2 Mine Hill Rd	\$868,000	\$875,000	-1%	34
110 Black Rock Tpke	\$885,000	\$885,000	0%	102
393 Rock House Rd	\$925,000	\$949,000	-3%	76
8 Kimberly Dr	\$957,500	\$985,000	-3%	55
400 Black Rock Tpke	\$1,050,000	\$999,000	5%	339
15 Dayton Rd	\$1,110,000	\$1,095,000	1%	81
196 Lonetown Rd	\$1,310,000	\$1,250,000	5%	32
166 Sunset Hill Rd	\$1,675,000	\$1,795,000	-7%	96
<b>Average</b>	<b>\$875,694</b>	<b>\$885,300</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>69</b>

### October 2022

Town	Current Inventory	Homes Sold		Average Days on Market		Average List Price		Average Sale Price		Percent Sale Price >< List Price		Average Price/SqFt	
	As of November 8	October	YTD	October	YTD	October	YTD	October	YTD	October	YTD	October	YTD
Redding	26	18	126	69	51	\$885,300	\$883,494	\$875,694	\$891,954	-1.09%	0.96%	\$285	\$298
Ridgefield	47	25	327	44	46	\$1,056,702	\$968,960	\$1,049,760	\$994,847	-0.66%	2.67%	\$338	\$336
Weston	29	8	178	30	55	\$845,613	\$1,275,592	\$880,589	\$1,328,113	4.14%	4.12%	\$361	\$309
Wilton	28	17	224	54	46	\$986,971	\$1,109,805	\$998,585	\$1,170,633	1.18%	5.48%	\$321	\$351
Easton	26	3	89	56	60	\$841,333	\$928,282	\$795,000	\$957,181	-5.51%	3.11%	\$241	\$267
Bethel	15	14	124	37	42	\$537,929	\$497,823	\$533,071	\$509,502	-0.90%	2.35%	\$260	\$247
Newtown	42	32	289	57	54	\$585,072	\$566,377	\$575,248	\$579,439	-1.68%	2.31%	\$260	\$247
Average	30	17	194	49	50	\$819,846	\$890,048	\$815,421	\$918,810	-0.65%	3.00%	\$295	\$294

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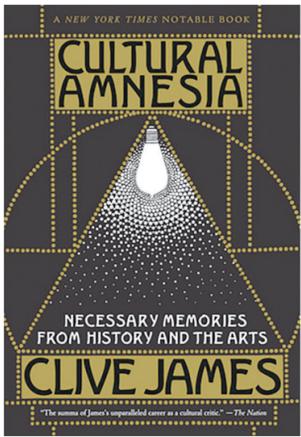
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## BOOK REVIEW

# Cultural Amnesia

By Clive James | 876 pp. Norton. \$35.00



*Cultural Amnesia: Necessary Memories from History and the Arts*, by Clive James, tries to identify our current cultural absence by the presence of what once was. In over one hundred essays on notable figures in art and literature, James gives their ideas renewed attention. Artists, writers, poets, politicians, polemicists, and figures of history are known again through thumbnail explication. Their names are arranged alphabetically for easy browsing.

The book was written incrementally over 40 years. Published to combat what James calls “the epidemic Philistinism of today”, he insists that cultural literacy is the best antidote for uncouth apprehensions. *Cultural Amnesia* insists that insights of the brightest minds in our collective past count for something important: they clarify reality. Comprehensive thinking brings meaning to purpose and reason to nonsense.

And who can argue against this? If the purpose of education is to make a person educable throughout life, *Cultural Amnesia*, and other books like it, will become familiar references. The essays are bite-size but provocative, and function as incentives for further inquiry. If

one were contemplating Proust’s *A la recherche du temps perdu*, for example, James suggests books and authors to help with interpretation, but concerning its structure warns that, “It might have one, but only in the sense that we think we have learned something about the structure of the universe when we are told that space is curved.” Art is long and life is short (as Joseph Conrad wrote), insight indeterminate, and choices ambiguous, but we soldier on, in books and in life.

In addition to familiar names, James memorializes ideas of forgotten luminaries. He quotes Alfred Polgar, a mid-century exemplar of German prose: “It is the destiny of the immigrant that the foreign land does not become his homeland: his homeland becomes foreign.” And with sharpened elucidation: “When everything has left you, you are alone. When you have left everything, you are lonely.” These lines inspire reflexive thought the way an interesting photograph does.

The value of *Cultural Amnesia* is precisely that its tantalizing facts generate curiosity to know more, which leads to healthy inquiry. To explain in his words why James offers us richness even if it were merely a collection of critical essays — “It is, of course, much more than that: but one of the reasons it is much more than that is that it is never less.”

Books like *Cultural Amnesia* strengthen our references to reality by expanding cultural literacy, which means a deeper appreciation of heritage. Knowledge is the foundation of identity; it enables choice, an intrinsic ability to say “no” to a bad idea and “yes” to a good one, with a conviction that knows the difference. ■

Review by Tom Casey  
Tom is the author of *Human Error* and *Strangers’ Gate*

## LIBRARY CORNER

By Erin Shea Dummeyer

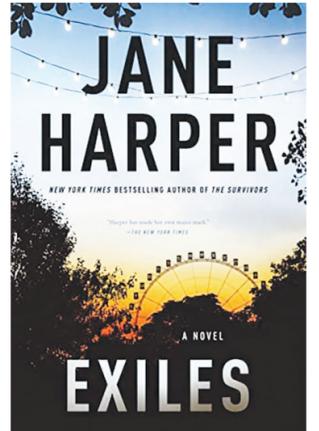
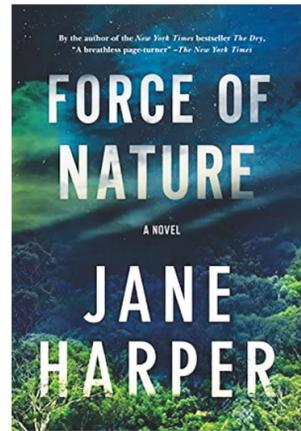
How do you define a favorite book? Is it a book that changed how you think about the world? Or is it a book that found you at the right time and place? This year has been a challenging year in reading for me. My mind has felt pulled in all different directions and as a result, I can rarely finish a book. Most astonishing of all, sometimes I will only have fifty pages left and still abandon it. Nothing holds my attention. If you can relate to this at all, may I suggest the following... pick up an old favorite. Last week,

I re-read Lily King’s brilliant 2020 novel *Writers & Lovers*. This book is narrated by Casey, who, at 31, is renting a glorified potting shed on her brother’s friend’s property. She has been writing her novel by day for years and waitressing in an upscale restaurant in Boston by night. Meanwhile, her student debt keeps piling up while her own health remains on the back burner. I’m not sure that this plot would have appealed to me back in 2020 if it weren’t for all the buzz about it amongst my friends.

But I loved it when I read it, and there was something comforting in picking it up again knowing how it would end. So if you find yourself in a reading rut, may I recommend the following: pick up one of your favorites and dive in for a re-read. You may be surprised at what you pick up on the second time around and find comfort in it all over again. ■

Erin Shea Dummeyer  
is Director, Mark Twain Library

## Good books for good readers | By Margi Esten



I always anxiously await the next book from the surprisingly unknown (in the U.S.) Australian author Jane Harper. All her books are character-driven set pieces rich in detail and landscape. They open a window into the Australian outback – a part of the world many of us in this country know little about.

Her debut mystery novel (the first in a series of three), *The Dry*, was published in 2016 and introduces federal investigator Aaron Falk, who visits his hometown of Kiewarra during the worst drought ever experienced and ends up investigating the murder of

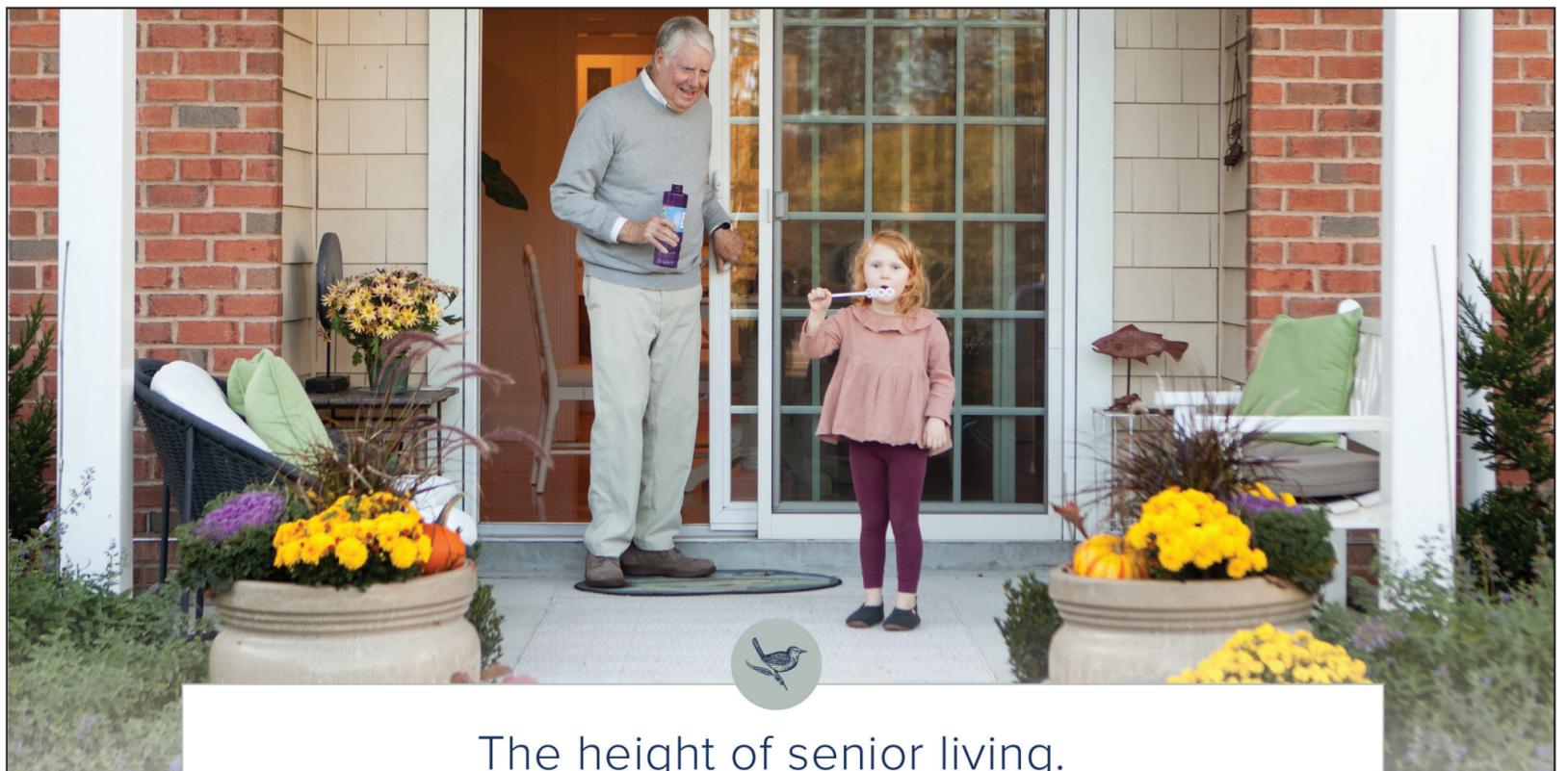
a childhood friend. A motion picture adaptation of *The Dry* starring Eric Bana premiered in 2020.

Her second book featuring Falk, *Force of Nature*, follows his search for a missing hiker and the tangled web of personal and professional friendships, suspicions, and betrayals he encounters. This, too, is soon to be a movie.

The third and final book in the series, *Exiles*, is due to be published in January 2023.

Harper’s other two novels, *The Lost Man* and *The Survivors*, are both stand-alone mysteries but once again take place, along with

fascinating detail and description, in different remote areas of the Australian outback. Harper has won numerous awards including the Gold Dagger Award for Best Crime Fiction Novel and the British Book Awards Crime and Thriller Book of the Year. The New York Times Book Review says, “all at once enthralling...book by book [Harper is] creating her own vivid and complex account of the outback.” The Sunday Times referred to her as “queen of outback noir”. Jane Harper is not to be missed! ■



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# THE NATURAL WORLD

## Man's other best friend:

*Horses and their history of human companionship* | By Elizabeth Jensen



Photo by Elizabeth Jensen



Photo by Elizabeth Jensen



Photo by Andrew Benenson

Winston Churchill has been quoted as saying, "There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man." Apparently, many Connecticut residents would agree with him, as our state holds approximately 43,000 horses and 500 equine related facilities, according to the University of Connecticut's Agricultural Extension. Horses have appeared in cave art as far back as 17,000 years ago, and modern studies abound illustrating their health benefits for the human body and spirit.

But unfortunately, even our much-loved horses face challenges.

In American culture, horses occupy a place somewhere between companion animal (like dogs and cats) and livestock (like cows). Our laws governing their welfare mostly fall into the latter category, causing situations that would not be tolerated with our closer

animal companions. Although horse slaughter was banned in this country in 2005, according to the Humane Society of the United States, over 23,000 horses were shipped to Canada and Mexico for slaughter and consumption in 2021. Ninety-two percent of those animals were deemed to be healthy and could have lived out a happy life if alternative solutions had been brought to bear.

Out West, the Bureau of Land Management rounds up and auctions off wild horses to manage their impact on the leased grazing lands of ranchers. Modern horses are often considered non-native, having been introduced to North America in the 1400's by the Spanish, spurring much governmental intervention on their wild existence. However, in the publication *Live Science*, Jay F. Kirkpatrick explains that horses originated in North America around four million years ago and spread to Eurasia (presumably

by crossing the Bering land bridge), then later were re-introduced to North America by the Conquistadors. So although wild horses in the United States are labeled non-native by most federal and state agencies, a solid argument can be made that they are in fact a native species, and should enjoy protection as a form of native wildlife.

Here in Redding, the love of horses is certainly represented. A few community highlights include:

**Whimsy Brook Farm** on Giles Hill Road. They have been in business since 1972 and are an official Pony Club center, offering lessons for people of all ages. Pony Club promotes sportsmanship and leadership through the discipline of horsemanship.

**Farm Jibe -iT** on Sunset Hill Road. This local spot offers trail rides on easy-going Icelandic horses, allowing you to experience their unique gait – the 'tolt' – while immersing yourself in local

scenery.

Award-winning movie director **Cindy Meehl** calls Redding home. Her film *Buck* is a 2011 American documentary that highlights the work and philosophy of the real-life "horse whisperer" Buck Brannaman.

Even better news for our town's horse lovers is that our Redding zoning ordinances are fairly horse-friendly. Rules state that most residents can have up to two horses on their property, and an additional horse per every 0.8 acres (if you are interested, check Town zoning guidelines for more specifics).

My own adopted Standardbred horses, Elmer and Music, were former harness racers that both found themselves homeless after their racing careers ended. Elmer was on the verge of being shipped to slaughter until volunteers paid his 'bail' in the nick of time. Now, Music and Elmer spend most of their days nibbling hay,

rolling in grass, and snoring in their stalls. Their primary jobs now are simply letting the insides of them be good for the inside of me. They do their jobs well. ■

### Horse Resources

<https://whimsybrookfarm.com>  
<https://www.facebook.com/JibeIT>  
<https://www.humanesociety.org/animals/horses>  
<https://www.adoptahorse.org>  
<https://cedarcreekmedia.com/buck>

### Additional Local Resources

<https://www.risingstarrhorserescue.org>  
<http://www.sunsethillfarmct.com>

## You're no fun: *Finding balance in the midst of a wallow-fest*

By Lisa Tancredi

I call one of my spiritual teachers the other day and say, "I feel like I'm not allowed to have any fun." I'm looking for words of comfort. Things like, "Oh, that's too bad. What a shame that you have been brought to feel this way from the horrible events of your earlier life and now you can't have any fun. Booooo. Poor you." But that's not what he says.

Instead of that beautiful hymn of sympathy, agreement, and compassion, he says, "That's great!"

Hmmm, I think, sometimes I really don't like him very much.

Ignoring him, I plow on to plead my case: I'm feeling drawn to deepen my study of Reiki, an energy healing therapy, and I had signed up for the master class. As I was thinking about my enjoyment in taking the class, however, I started to feel anxious, scared, ungrounded – like I was about to get blind-sided. Like something

was about to fall apart. Like I used to feel as a child.

And he says to me, "That's even better."

Now I'm on tilt. One shock to the system I could handle, but two? I can't get ahold of myself.

The truth was, I had already jumped off the cliff of misery before I even called him. Now in free fall, all I want to do is prove all the ways I have been wronged, and how I am not responsible for my pain, and that I'm a good person, and and and...

He doesn't let me get very far. "Why do you want to have fun?" he asks, and then waits for an answer. In my increasingly unstable state, I can't even guess how to answer that. Isn't fun a basic joy of life? What is your problem? I say nothing. We sit in silence. Well, he sits. I pout.

He breaks in, "Why do you want to do this course? To have fun? Is that the reason? Then it's

the wrong reason. Looking for joy to come from external factors – like work or people or events – will eventually lead to feeling misery due to those same external factors.

The outside world is always changing. Always in a cycle. Reversing itself from one moment to the next."

"True joy doesn't come from the outside, but the inside," he continues. "True joy sees all things as perfectly leading you to your true path and purpose. There is no 'wrong' or 'bad'. Sometimes you get the diamond ring. Sometimes you get the crap sandwich. It is all the same because your true joy is not dependent on it. If you make your joy dependent on the outside world, then your inner world, your true power, will be subject to the whims of external events. The pendulum must swing. So, don't do something because it brings you joy, be in joy without conditions."

Agh! I think. I know he's right. This has been part of the practice for so long: just maintaining inner peace and balance no matter what. I've experienced this on so many levels and have even taught this to my students, clients, and friends. Yet today, I want someone to feel sorry for me. I don't want to be strong. I don't want to be powerful. I want solace. And I haven't quite given up on getting it yet.

"So why do I do things at all?" I ask. "Why even try? Why even have goals?"

And he says, "You have to make sure that you're in touch with your motivation. The goal has to come from beauty. Do it because it feels right. Because it feels true. Because it feels aligned with your path and your purpose. Or because it feels like the right path for you to be of service. But, fun? No. Not for fun, joy, beauty, or harmony. These things, you

already have access to within you."

I say nothing, suspended in mid-air. Now what? I think.

"Now bring it back. Bring yourself back into balance. When you lose your peace and poise, you lose your power, because you've lost your connection to your inner guidance. Only when you're in balance can you access the guidance that can tell you whether a path or goal or idea is the right next one for you. When the path is clear, take a step in that direction and reconnect with your guidance. You have to test it. Experiment with it all along the way. No conclusions, just try it out and see what happens. So right now, take a deep breath and look again at this course. If it feels like the right fit for you, do it. No matter what difficulty it may bring."

And that's how I ended up completing my Reiki Master level. ■

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## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

### A microbakery comes to Georgetown

*Bloom Breads serves up handmade, organic artisanal loaves*

By Justin Reynolds



Photo by Taylor Miller

Mark Rosenbloom, Owner of Bloom Breads, opened the bakery's new storefront in Georgetown on November 9, 2022.

Fans of artisanal sourdough and yeasted breads will be delighted that there's a new microbakery in Georgetown committed to serving up tasty, handmade, high-quality loaves — along with specialty muffins, scones, and other bakery items.

Bloom Breads celebrated its grand opening on November 9, 2022 at a 500-square-foot space at 8 Main Street in Georgetown.

"All of my bread is mixed, shaped, and folded by hand in a labor-intensive process," said Mark Rosenbloom, owner of

Bloom Breads. "My goal is to make bread as good as it can be, without cutting any corners. I won't do anything to compromise the quality. I just want to be proud of every loaf."

All the flours used at Bloom Breads are organic, stoneground, and grown in the Northeast. Rosenbloom also makes some breads with honey from bees in Redding.

For as long as he can remember, Rosenbloom has always wanted to own his own business. He's also always loved baking but became more passionate about it over the last few years.

"I was heavy into breadmaking during the pandemic," Rosenbloom said, adding that he lived in the Bay Area at the time and completed the baking course at the renowned San Francisco Baking Institute. "I started doing it for fun, at home, for myself. Then I had too much bread to feed my household, so I started giving it out to my neighbors."

Those neighbors enjoyed the bread so much that they offered to buy it. Rosenbloom figured he was onto something.

A little over a year ago, Rosenbloom, who is originally from Litchfield County, moved to Redding.

"My grandparents are from Redding, and I've always had ties here," Rosenbloom said. "I've always loved Redding, and part of the reason I'm so excited to be doing this here is that it feels awesome to be working in the community I live in."

When he arrived in Redding, Rosenbloom started up the same home-based bread business he had

started in California.

"It went really well and was really successful," he explained. But soon, he started outgrowing the space. "Eventually, it became too hard for me to do from home."

At this point, Rosenbloom put his dreams of having a breadmaking business on pause and got a 9 to 5 job. It wasn't long, however, before he realized his passion remained in the kitchen.

"I realized I hadn't been fulfilled or happy in my professional life except when I was baking bread at home," Rosenbloom said. "People seem to really love good bread here. So, I decided to make the leap and open up my own shop."

Since Rosenbloom is a one-man team and refuses to compromise on his breadmaking process—none of which is automated—it is difficult to scale his company as a normal bakery would. As such, most of his bread will be for sale on site at his new bakery. Customers may also be able to find some at Old Mill Market in Georgetown and, perhaps one day, at local restaurants and grocery stores.

Rosenbloom is proud to be a part of the vibrant Georgetown business community.

"It's been great getting to know the community of small businesses in Georgetown," Rosenbloom said. "Everyone's been really supportive; it's been an eye-opening experience for me."

He believes that the village is undergoing a transformation and is excited to see what the future holds.

"I think there's a lot happening here," he said. "It feels to me that Georgetown is in the midst of a renaissance of sorts. There's

certainly room for improvement, but I feel like that's already happening."

Ultimately, Rosenbloom couldn't be happier with his new venture.

"I'm really excited I get to devote all my days to doing something I'm passionate about."

Bloom Breads is open Wednesday through Saturday, from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and on Sunday from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 8 Main Street. If you're keen on trying a loaf, Rosenbloom suggests ordering ahead of time through his website, particularly if you want to pick up special varieties. For more information on Bloom Breads, visit bloom-breads.com ■

*Editor's note: Rosenbloom is the grandson of Redding Sentinel Publisher Susan Clark.*



Photo by Taylor Miller

### The Stand-Up Comedy Spectacular

*Enjoy food, drink, and laughter at Milestone each month*

By Justin Reynolds

Join local comics led by local legend TRISH GERNERT for a few hearty guffaws!

First Wednesday of the Month

Trish Gernert has always loved to laugh. Even though she was voted class clown when she was a student at Ridgefield High School, she never viewed herself as a comic. But that all changed Christmas 2018 when her sister gave her a gift card to

The Ridgefield Playhouse for one sole reason: to enroll in Christine O'Leary's stand-up comedy class.

"I was definitely nervous but signed up and performed stand-up for the first time in June 2019," Gernert said. "I was hooked and took the class two more times."

Fast-forward to today, and Gernert has not only performed sets across Connecticut and in New York City, she's also the host of The Stand-Up Comedy Spectacular, a once-a-month comedy show at Milestone in Georgetown. The show is held the first Wednesday of the month (except January) and starts at 8:00 p.m.

"It's a great evening for everyone to enjoy friends, families, spouses, coworkers, and comics," Gernert said. "It's something I absolutely love doing and am proud and grateful that Milestone is providing us the opportunity and a place for everyone to unwind and laugh."

Gernert is the show's master of ceremonies, a role she loves. Each month, six comics perform, mostly on a rotating basis. Folks come out to Milestone, get dinner and drinks, and share some laughs. The restaurant tacks on a \$5 entertainment fee to each check, and the comics also rely on tips and donations.

In the summer of 2021, Gernert's brother and sister-in-law had just moved to Weston, and they all met at Milestone for a bite to eat. "We heard about their awesome burgers," Gernert explained. After striking up a conversation with one of the bartenders, Gernert's sister-in-law asked if they ever thought about doing a comedy night.

"They already had live music nights, so it wasn't out of left field," Gernert said. After the

bartender said she'd pass along the suggestion to the owner, they exchanged contact information. In January 2022, Milestone owner Peter Fine called Gernert telling her that the restaurant was indeed interested. The first show was held in March.

Most of the comics that perform at Milestone are either funny people Gernert has met over the years or folks referred to her by other comics. She's also received inquiries from new performers through Milestone.

"I'll usually watch a bit or two of the referred comics," Gernert said. "If I like it or I think it fits the Milestone vibe, I will definitely give people a spot. I just want to put on the best show."

Typically, the comics that participate are seasoned performers and each has their own way of preparing for shows. Gernert tries to meet with the comics at least once prior to each show to have dinner, share ideas, and go over sets if the comics feel like it.

"It really helps me when I know what comics will be talking about," Gernert said. "I can share some experiences and observations of my own that relate as I go between performers as emcee."

Looking ahead, Gernert plans to incorporate aspiring stand-up comics who are 15 and younger into some of these events in a segment of the show called "Kid Bits." Youngsters interested in participating are encouraged to

reach out to Gernert.

Does Gernert have any last words for fence-sitters who are ambivalent about attending?

"Give it a shot," she said. "You won't be disappointed."

If you're interested in checking the next show out, swing by Milestone at 2 Main Street in Georgetown on Wednesday, December 7 for a night of food, drink, and laughter. Want to join in on the fun and do a set yourself? Send inquiries to Milestone or contact Gernert via e-mail at pgernt@gmail.com ■



### Ninth annual Great Turkey Escape Race

*to take place on Thanksgiving*

By Jessie Wright

A Thanksgiving tradition returns to Redding on Thursday, November 24 with the Great Turkey Escape Race. Seasoned and novice runners alike can sign up to run either a 3/4-mile or 5K course, beginning and ending at the Redding Community Center.

The 3/4-mile race will begin at 8:00 a.m., and the 5K runners will start at 8:30 a.m.

In addition to working up an appetite for their Thanksgiving meals, runners will receive a long sleeve shirt, an embroidered winter hat, embroidered running gloves,

and a finisher's medal. Awards will also be given for the top three finishers in several age brackets.

The race often sells out and day-of registrations are not available — so if you are interested in running, sign up sooner rather than later. Registration fees are

\$25 for the 3/4-mile race and \$40 for the 5K, with all proceeds raised this year going to the RES PTA and Joel Barlow High School Robotics Club.

Additional information and online registration is available at [runsignup.com/Race/CT/Redding/](https://runsignup.com/Race/CT/Redding/)

The Great Turkey Escape. The race start at Redding Community Center is located at 37 Lonetown Road. ■

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\$ = fee applies  
R = registration required

## ARTS

## Saturday, Nov. 19

**Short Short Story Film Festival**  
12:30 p.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m.  
and 8:00 p.m.  
Greenwood Features  
269 Greenwood Ave.  
Bethel  
greenwoodfeatures.com  
\$

## Wednesday, Nov. 30

**Gallery Talk, Landscape in Art:  
From Delight to Alert**  
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Visual & Performing Arts Center  
43 Lake Avenue Extension  
Danbury  
wcsu.edu

Friday, Dec. 2 —  
Sunday, Dec. 11

**50th Anniversary Mark Twain  
Library Art Show**  
Consult the MTL website for  
times and events  
Mark Twain Library  
439 Redding Road  
marktwainlibrary.org  
R

## Saturday, Dec. 3

**Lyrics Coffeehouse —  
David Morgan**  
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.  
Redding Community Center  
37 Lonetown Rd.  
townofreddingct.org  
\$

## CHILDREN, TEENS

## Sunday, Nov. 20

**Robotics Workshop: Make an  
Art Bot!**  
Grades 4-6, In-Person  
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
Mark Twain Library  
439 Redding Road  
marktwainlibrary.org  
R

## Sunday, Nov. 20

**Open House at Georgetown  
Granite Church**  
1:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.  
Food, local vendors, kids activi-  
ties, Wall of Sound!  
5 North Main St.  
Georgetown  
Contact granitechurch@befoun-  
dation.org

## CRAFTS

## Friday, Nov. 18

**The Collective @MTL - A  
Community Pop Up Market**  
4:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.  
In-Person  
Mark Twain Library  
439 Redding Road  
marktwainlibrary.org

## Sunday, Nov. 27

**Newtown Holiday Craft Festival**  
11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Edmond Town Hall  
45 Main St.  
Newtown  
edmondtownhall.org

## Saturday, Dec. 10

**Redding Artisan Holiday Fair**  
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
John Read Middle School  
486 Redding Road

## HOLIDAY

Thursday, Nov. 17 —  
Friday, Dec. 18

**Keeler Tavern Holiday Boutique  
in the Barn**  
Thursdays – Sundays,  
11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Keeler Tavern Museum and  
History Center  
152 Main Street  
Ridgefield  
keelertavernmuseum.org

Friday, Nov. 18 —  
Sunday, Nov. 20

**Ann's Place 20th Annual  
Festival of Trees**  
Friday, 12:00 p.m.  
— Sunday, 5:00 p.m.  
The Summit at Danbury  
100 Reserve Road  
Danbury  
annspplace.org  
\$

## Saturday, Nov. 19

**10th Annual Turkey Drive**  
Featuring Redding-based Kurt &  
Helen Band  
11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
(Kurt & Helen Band plays from  
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)  
4 Seabright Ave.  
Bridgeport

## Saturday, Nov. 19

**It's a Wonderful Life: A Live  
Radio Play**  
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
Sacred Heart Church  
30 Church Street  
Redding  
newpondfarm.org  
\$, R

## Thursday, Nov. 24

**The Great Turkey Escape**  
8:00 a.m. (3/4 mile) 8:30 a.m.  
(5K)  
Redding Community Center  
37 Lonetown Rd  
https://runsignup.com/Race/CT/  
Redding/TheGreatTurkeyEscape  
\$, R

## Thursday, Nov. 24

**41st Annual Thanksgiving Day  
5K Turkey Trot**  
8:00 a.m. (Kids Fun Run)  
8:30 a.m. (5K)  
Boys & Girls Club of Ridgefield  
41 Governor St.  
Ridgefield  
bgcridgefield.org  
\$, R

## Friday, Nov. 25

**Bethel Winterfest**  
1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
A celebration of the season  
for all ages  
Downtown Bethel

## Friday, Nov. 25

**Ridgefield Holiday Tree  
Lighting**  
6:00 p.m.  
Donnelly Plaza  
400 Main St.  
Ridgefield  
ridgefieldct.org

Friday, Nov. 25 —  
Saturday, Dec. 31

**A Holiday Wonderland at the  
Mansion**  
Lockwood-Mathews Mansion  
Museum  
(Wed.—Fri.) 12 p.m., 1 p.m.,  
2 p.m., 3 p.m.  
(Sat.—Sun.) 12 p.m., 12:30 p.m.,  
1 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2 p.m., 2:30  
p.m.  
295 West Avenue  
Norwalk  
See website for times  
lockwoodmathewsmansion.com  
\$

## Saturday, Nov. 26

**Holiday Village**  
Foundation of Hope  
12:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.  
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel  
789 Connecticut Avenue  
Norwalk  
foundationofhope.us  
\$

## Friday, Dec. 2

**Holiday Tree Lighting**  
4:30 p.m. — 6:00 p.m.  
Wakeman Town Farm  
134 Cross Highway  
Westport  
wakemantownfarm.org

Friday, Dec. 2 —  
Saturday, Dec. 3

**Ridgefield Holiday Stroll**  
Ridgefield Holiday Stroll  
400 Main Street  
Ridgefield  
ridgefieldct.org

## Saturday, Dec. 3

**Troop 306 Holiday Fair &  
Redding Town Tree Lighting**  
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Redding Town Green  
Hill Road / Rt. 107

## Sunday, Dec. 4

**Redding Historical Society  
Holiday Open House**  
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Lonetown Farm Museum  
Tour the 1786 farmhouse, enjoy  
refreshments, and browse gifts  
for sale.  
43 Lonetown Rd.  
Redding

## Sunday, Dec. 11

**Holiday Pops**  
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Holiday music, treats  
Visual & Performing Arts Center  
43 Lake Ave. Ext.  
Danbury  
wcsu.edu  
\$

## Sunday, Dec. 18

**Stew Leonard's Menorah  
Lighting**  
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
With Rabbi Yehoshua Hecht of  
Beth Israel Chabad of Westport/  
Norwalk  
Followed by live music, kosher  
refreshments  
100 Westport Avenue  
Norwalk  
stewleonards.com

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## Thursday, Nov. 17

**Queer & Questioning: A Panel  
Discussion**  
5:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.  
The Norwalk Art Space  
Norwalk Art Space and  
Art Space Café  
455 West Ave.  
Norwalk  
thenorwalkartspace.org  
R

## Thursday, Nov. 17

**Modern Calligraphy Workshop**  
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
Mark Twain Library  
439 Redding Road  
marktwainlibrary.org  
R

## Monday, Nov. 21

**World Affairs Forum:  
The Role of Sanctions  
as a Tool in  
Foreign Policy**  
7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Mark Twain Library  
439 Redding Road  
marktwainlibrary.org  
R

## Saturday, Dec. 3

**Winter Walk sponsored by  
Friends and Neighbors of  
Putnam Park**  
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Interpretive guide leads group on  
an historical and archeological  
tour of the Park  
Putnam Memorial State Park  
499 Black Rock Turnpike

## MEETINGS

## Thursday, Nov. 17

**ARPA Funds Working Group**  
5:00 p.m.  
Zoom  
townofreddingct.org

## Thursday, Nov. 17

**Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill  
Advisory Committee**  
6:00 p.m.  
Town Hall Conference Room and  
Zoom  
100 Hill Road  
townofreddingct.org

## Thursday, Nov. 17

**Democratic Town Committee**  
7:30 p.m.  
Town Hall / Hearing Room  
100 Hill Road  
townofreddingct.org

## Friday, Nov. 18

**ER9 Boards of Education Policy  
Committee**  
9:00 a.m.  
Zoom or live  
ER9 Boards of Education Central  
Office  
645 Morehouse Road, Easton  
er9.org

## Monday, Nov. 21

**Board of Selectmen**  
7:30 p.m.  
Town Hall / Hearing Room  
100 Hill Road  
townofreddingct.org

## Tuesday, Nov. 22

**Planning Commission**  
7:30 p.m.  
Subject to change to virtual or  
hybrid  
Town Hall / Hearing Room  
100 Hill Road  
townofreddingct.org

## Monday, Nov. 28

**OPEB Trust Board Special  
Meeting**  
5:30 p.m.  
Zoom  
townofreddingct.org

## Thursday, Dec. 1

**Redding Safety Committee**  
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Zoom  
townofreddingct.org

## Friday, Dec. 2

**Er9 Boards of Education Policy  
Committee**  
9:00 a.m.  
Er9 Boards of Education Office  
654 Morehouse Road  
Easton  
er9.org



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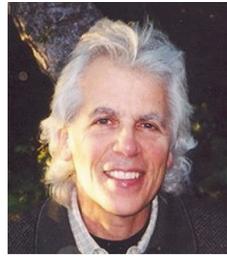
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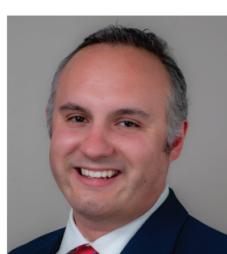
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