### The Monadnock

The Original Keene Shopper – "The Weekly with a Heart" – 66th Year of Community Service / February 7-13, 2024

### Keene Jazz Orchestra Holds Big Band C.M. Minkler ~ Your Local Dance Saturday, February 17th



Keene Jazz Orchestra

The Keene Jazz Orchestra (KJO) invites everyone to come out and enjoy the Valentine spirit with the classic sounds of an authentic big-band dance on Saturday, February 17th at 7:30 pm. at The Best Western Plus in Keene.

Celebrate and enjoy the brilliance of a 17-piece band fronted by dynamic vocalist Bella (Rebecca) Holtz, sharing the music of Count Basie, Glenn Miller, and Benny Goodman. Bar and food service will be available through Tempesta's restaurant on site.

The group is comprised of the Monadnock Region's finest instrumentalists, educators, and students, and boasts a résumé of performances and collaborations with some of the greatest living performers and repertoire in keenejazzorchestra.org. jazz and big band music.

Founded by Scott Mullett, the Keene Jazz Orchestra's mission is to perform, propagate, and provide education for American Big Band music. Mullett was the KJO music director until his untimely death in January 2018. In February of that year, KJO started the Scott Mullett Fund for Jazz Education, which has the mission to advance the jazz educational opportunities of the community and for individuals seeking to further their jazz education. Today the fund offers guest artist clinics in the Spring and helps fund people to attend jazz camps such as the Vermont Jazz Center's Jazz Workshop.

Tickets for the event are on sale at Toadstool Bookshop and Prime Roast, both in Keene, as well as online at www.

### **Painting Specialists** Think Mink!



Elee Hull of C.M. Minkler is pictured making some paint touch-ups. This veteran-owned, local painting contractor based out of Keene provides quality residential and commercial interior and exterior painting solutions to homeowners.

### **Art Collection Silent Auction To Benefit Dublin Community Center**



**Robert Collier Pastel** 

The Dublin Community Center will present the Monaghan Art Collection Silent Auction, beginning with an open reception on Friday, February 9th from 5 to 7 p.m. and continuing until noon on Saturday, February 17th. Hours differ for various days. This is the third time that the Community Center has mounted a silent auction of an art collection contributed by a Dublin resident.

Sharron and Denny Monaghan, residents of Dublin since 1972, have been ardent supporters of Monadnock area artists. This interest led them over the years to accumulate a significant collection of original paintings, including works by Sue Callahan, Robert Collier, David Dodge, Chris Reid, John Sirois, and Dan Thibeault, among others. Thirty-seven of these works will be the feature of the exhibit and silent auction.

All are welcome. Bidders will need to register on site for a bidding number.

The Dublin Community Center is located at 1123 Main Street in Dublin.

For more details, contact the center at info@dublincommunitycenter. org.



John Sirois Oil

#### By Lori Catozzi Cook

Painting the interior of a home leaves the walls clean and refreshed, looks aesthetically pleasing, helps to personalize a space, and can even increase the value of a home. But painting the interior of a home can also be stressful if you don't have the right experience or equipment needed. The painting process can also be messy and tricky, which is why it's a great idea to ask the pros at C.M. Minkler Paving & Painting, LLC for help.

C.M. MINKLER, page 4

#### Winter Gala Will Support House Of Hope

A Winter Gala Live Auction and Worship Concert will be held on Saturday, February 10th at 6:30 p.m., as a fundraiser for House of Hope NH, a faith-based, six to eight month residential program providing hope for women overcoming addiction.

The evening will feature live music with The Cashmans and special guest, 1 King Worship, and a live auction. Dessert-style appetizers and mocktails will be served with coffee provided by

Identity Coffee Lab.

House of Hope NH is a sanctuary of healing, restoration, and transformation located in the Monadnock Region. Since January 2019, 79 women and 52 children have been helped.

Tickets are \$25 each and seating is limited. Reserve online at www. HouseOfHopeNH.org. The gala will be held at Hidden Hills Banquet Hall at 18 Lisa Drive, off Route 202, in Rindge.

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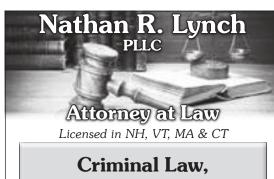
#### PET OF THE WEEK from THE MONADNOCK HUMANE SOCIETY

### Winston



Hello there, I'm Winston! You might not notice me at first glance, as I tend to keep to myself and observe from the sidelines. Some might call me shy, but I prefer to think of myself as a cautious observer. Loud noises and sudden movements tend to startle me, so I appreciate a calm and quiet environment where I can feel safe and would do best in a home with older children. While others are winding down for the day, I come alive in the nighttime hours. That's when I'm most inclined to play and enjoy a good meal. So if you're looking for a companion to keep you company during those late-night hours, I'm your guy. Winston is a male domestic shorthair, brown and grey, five years old.

The Adoption Center is located at 101 West Swanzey Road on Route 10 South. Currently, the adoption center is open to the public Thursdays through Sundays 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. More details, visit www. monadnockhumanesociety.org.



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### **Aldworth Manor Has Two Special February Dinners Planned**

Aldworth Manor in Harrisville has options are available for the ceviche two special dinner events planned, one and main course. A glass of prosecco for Lunar New Year and the other for or wine is included. Valentine's Day. Advanced reservaor both of these events can be purchased

menu will offer crispy veggie rolls, are not included. chicken and mushroom dumplings, pork dumplings, roasted orange pork, soba peanut noodles, garlic bok choy, and a traditional festive dessert. There they are seated. are vegetarian and gluten free options and a tofu option is available for the roasted pork.

On Wednesday, February 14th, a romantic dinner menu includes crispy sun-dried tomato arancini, citrusy shrimp ceviche, orange duck confit with whipped potatoes and glazed carrots, and tiramisu for dessert. Vegetarian tions@aldworthmanor.com.

The online price per person for the tions are required and tickets for either Lunar New Year dinner is \$46.35, and \$77.25 per person for the Valentine's dinner. A three-percent processing fee On Saturday, February 10th, the is included. Taxes, tips, and beverages

Doors will open at 6 p.m. Guests are asked to arrive between 6 and 7 p.m. and food service will begin as soon as

Aldworth Manor is located at 184 Aldworth Manor Road off Chesham Road. To purchase tickets for February 10th, visit www.aldworthmanor. com/events/lunar and for February 14th, visit www.aldworthmanor.com/ events/valentines2024.

For more details, email reserva-

#### Valentine Italian Supper In Westmoreland

The Westmoreland United Church will hold a Valentine Italian Supper at the Westmoreland Town Hall, Route 63, on Saturday, February 10th from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

The all-you-can-eat menu includes

spaghetti, lasagna, salad, bread, des-

sert, and beverage. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children 10 years old and under. Take out is available by calling Jo Ann LaBarre at 603-399-9028.



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#### Make And Take Valentines With Archie The Pig

Everyone is invited to meet adorable Archie the Pig from The Amazing Grace Animal Sanctuary, and create Make & Take Valentines at the Dublin Community Center on Sunday, February 11th. Arts and crafts supplies will be provided for folks to drop in anytime between 1 and 3 p.m. to make valentines to give to someone special.

People are also invited to make some valentines that will be delivered to the animals back at the Amazing Grace Sanctuary, including Buddy the Goat, the horses, sheep, llamas, and Gronk and Henrietta, two pigs who fell in love. A story about how they met and married will be read throughout the afternoon, and books about Gronk and Henrietta will be available for purchase just in time for Valentine gift giving. Proceeds from book sales will benefit the animals. All are invited to come spread the love.

The Dublin Community Center is located at 1123 Main Street in Dublin.

### **Your Local Painting Specialists**

C.M. MINKLER, Continued from page 1

C.M. Minkler was established in 2019 and has quickly become the go-to company for not only your paving needs but also interior and exterior painting. Their reputation can be seen in the recognition received from the community in The Monadnock Shopper News Best of Monadnock Reader's Choice Awards – winning Gold the last three years under the "Painting" category.

The business also received recognition from the Keene Sentinel Choice Awards for "Best Painting" for 2021 and 2023.

And then there are the personal kudos:

"I was impressed with the teamwork I saw led by Chris," says Dan Ortiz. "It is a strong statement to watch the owner of a company work alongside his employees. He stands behind his work and his follow-through was as expected. My experience with C.M. Minkler was positive."

Beth Hollenbeck says, about her experience with C.M. Minkler: "They were fabulous from start to finish. We recommend them highly.'

"We needed a good taper and painter and Chris Minkler came through with flying colors," says Walter Hagedorn. "His crew was efficient and did a fantastic job at a reasonable price. We are definitely going to use his services again and recommend him to others."

The C.M. Minkler crew strives to give high-quality services, paying close attention to details and producing dramatic results at the best cost possible. Competitive pricing, experienced crews, and guaranteed satisfaction separate them from the competition.

These professionals know what it takes to get the job done right and efficiently. Preparing the job properly ensures a better end result. They have the right equipment to get the job done, and the skills and experience to produce a finish that looks phenomenal. These pros also have the know-how to select the right product for their customers' specific needs - ensuring that the paint lasts longer and looks its best.

And for those looking ahead to having the exterior of their home painted to boost its curb appeal, look no further as C.M. Minkler is the perfect solution. The team will help transform the exterior of a home to make it look brand new, using high-quality paints and superior painting techniques so the home will have a long-lasting finish to withstand New England

Besides painting services, C.M. Minkler also paves driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, roads, and more; hard pack; patch work; oil and stone; seal coating; line striping; rumble strips; cold patch; site work; grading; drainage work; and asphalt removal - which they crush and reuse.

C.M. Minkler is a veteran-owned, local painting contractor based out of Keene. They provide quality residential and commercial interior and exterior painting solutions to homeowners and businesses in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts.

"Our company is unique in many ways," says owner Chris Minkler. "We put customer satisfaction at the very top of our priority list. We answer your calls and provide a timely estimate at a fair cost."

He continues by saying that they understand all too well the difficulties many homeowners face when it comes to completing projects, so utilizing the services of C.M. Minkler means that the job will be completed in the expected time frame.

"And we go the extra mile to make our customers smile," he adds.

C.M. Minkler offers discounts to all veterans and anyone currently serving in the military. They also offer a discount to first responders, police officers, EMTs, and firefighters. "We feel very strongly about giving back to anyone who has already given so much to help us," Minkler says.

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### A Great Way To Brighten Your Winter

Winter is the best time to buy seeds for your gardens. Don't let the cold, possibly snowy days of winter get you down. Brighten your day with seed catalogs or look online and start picking out what you want in your garden. There's something special about looking at photos of colorful flowers and vegetables on a cold, winter day that makes me smile. And, you'd be surprised how many plants can be started from seed indoors. It's not complicated and can give you something to look forward to each day, watching the seedlings grow and planning on where you want to plant them in your garden.

### Voods and with Rose Kowaliw

There are many garden plants such as annual flowers, veggies, and herbs that can be started from seeds while it's still cold and snowy outside. The trick, of course, is to sow them indoors and then transplant them into your garden once the soil has warmed up again in spring.

First, decide which garden seeds to buy; figuring out how much room you have for growing them will help you narrow down the choices. For example, if you have a small garden or will only be growing in containers on a deck, compact varieties of plants are the way to go. Some vegetables and flowers are available in space-saving varieties. Choose the best seed variety to maximize every inch of growing space you have.

When picking out vegetable seeds to grow, think about the produce your family enjoys eating most. If you love spicy food, try growing a few hot pepper plants along with sweet bell peppers. Or maybe you want to be able to harvest salad greens for several weeks so a mesclun seed would be a better choice rather than a type of head lettuce.

Garden plants vary in how long it takes for them to mature, so you'll want to choose seed selections best suited for your climate. Start by checking the 'days to maturity' information on the seed packets and calculating if your growing season is long enough to grow the flowers or vegetables you want to grow. If you live in a northern climate, like New Hampshire, the growing season is shorter. Look for disease-resistant varieties when shopping for garden seeds, especially if you have had problems in your garden previously.

When purchasing tomato seeds, look for varieties labeled with a VFN designation after their name. This means the variety is resistant to verticillium and fusarium wilt diseases (fungi) that commonly plague tomatoes, as well as damage from nematodes (round worms) in the soil.



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#### **Pollinators**

Many annual flowers like African marigold, nasturtium, and sunflowers are easy to grow from seeds sown directly in the garden after your last frost date. Not only do they add bright colors, they'll also help attract pollinators that can improve the yield from several types of crops such as squash. There are also pollinating insects that are predators of plant pests, so they do double duty for your garden. There is a 'Save The Monarchs Seed Collection' that might be fun to plant. Annuals, perennials and herbs provide important food sources for insect pollinators, especially in the heat of summer. Consider planting sunflowers, zinnias, marigolds, and cosmos in or near the vegetable garden. Herbs such as lavender, basil, borage, dill, fennel, oregano, and catnip will also attract many pollinators.

The Abelia shrub, also known as the 'bee bush,' has a lovely scented white flower that is a favorite of bumblebees and honeybees. It's rich in nectar and pollen, blooming from June to October and also attracts

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1. Bee Balm (Monarda spp.)

- 2. White wild indigo (Baptisia alba)
- 3. Purple coneflower (Echinacea purpurea)
- 4. Black-eyed susan (Rudbeckia hirta)
- 5. Joe-pye weed (Eutrochium purpureum)
- 6. Marsh blazing star (*Liatris spicata*)
- 7. Wrinkleleaf golden rod (Solidago rugosa)

I can almost smell the

gardens blooming... and hear the buzzing bumble-

Rose Kowaliw has enjoyed gardening for over 40 years and also has as a variety of houseplants, including a few she's had for over 20 years.







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### A Pleasant, Peculiar People Recently we farmers hosted a birding event. We

prepared by reading our bird notebook, with its 20 years of birds we've identified here on the farm. Plus there are records of early frosts, and July hail, and lots of animal sightings.

"Remember the loon flying overhead?" we said. "Remember the bobcat? Remember the first time we saw the pileated woodpecker? Remember the bear, and the moose? Remember the yellow-rumped myrtle warbler by the pond?"

We are amateur birders at best, but we had a pretty good list to read to our visitors, in case there weren't any real birds out and about at the end of January. Plus we had our mammal and amphibian lists: even more diversion for birders not seeing birds.

The event, sponsored by the Cheshire and Windham County Conservation Districts, attracted a good group. We had the farmers, the conservationists, and experienced and brand-new birders, coming from Vermont and New Hampshire.

Now birders are a pleasant, interested, interesting people. Individually, they are eager to tell you their birding stories and to listen to your farm stories. Collectively, they are a bit more peculiar.

But we had been warned: In the middle of the most fascinating remarks on small sustainable farming and its wonderful effects on bird populations and diversity, suddenly one birder would point at the sky, and the whole group would swing up their binoculars and turn as one to gaze at a tiny flying speck. Then there would be a long pregnant pause, followed by a spirited discussion of the speck. Then the crowd would turn smiling back to the farmer or conservationist that had been mid-speech.



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There was only one point during the tour that there were no arms pointing or binoculars lifted. That was when we visited four really big birds in the barnyard: four draft horses, two of which ambled over for petting, and two of which kept eating their morning hay.

After we talked about our nice horses and our nice heavy use protection area grant in the barnyard, we went on to the garden. Suddenly the birders were all a-twitter! There were red crossbills, calling and flying! The farmers were all a-twitter too: We had never seen or knowingly heard a crossbill on our farm!



There was an evening grosbeak on top of a pine tree, a beautiful golden bird that sometimes visits our bird feeder, and who was a first for some of the birders. There were two red-tailed hawks. There were purple finches, New Hampshire's state bird. By then, some of the birders were in bird-list bliss.

At each stopping point we farmers told a bird story: The red-tailed hawk that had gotten caught in our former mesh garden fence, and how glad we were to set it free, and how glad we were for another conservation grant that allowed us to put up a metal fence that didn't catch birds. All the birders nodded happily.

We talked about how birds benefit from the farm's crop diversity, mulch, cover-crops, and low-till agriculture. We mentioned the tree swallows' lovely liquid call as they swoop around our garden catching bugs. We pointed to all the wild, bird-friendly edges of the garden.

We went on to the pond, the mushroom yard, and the fields, where the birders showed their mammal mettle by identifying possum, rabbit, and deer tracks. We talked about pasture conservation projects, and one birder said maybe we could see flocks of nightjars migrating if we stood on the edge of our biggest field at dusk in September.

We liked that idea, especially since the only nightjar we've heard on our farm was identified by a visitor. We're not even sure that hearing a bird counts for your bird list, but as I say, we are amateur birders, so we'll take everything we can get. That day we got 18 different species, and we got a nice bunch of birders on a warmish day in January, loving birds and loving farms.

Kim Peavey farms and writes from southwestern New Hampshire. She and her family, as well as two teams of draft horses, grow vegetables biodynamically for 100 local families through a CSA garden. See www.hillsidespringsfarm.com for more information on the horse- and hand-powered farm, CSA garden, or Kim's writing.

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#### **At Homestead Thrift** Shop, Donated Goods **Support Communities**

The Homestead Thrift Shop located in Marlborough is a volunteer organization that recycles quality donated goods for funds to support the wellbeing of Marlborough and surrounding communities. They donated over \$63,000 in 2023 to Marlborough and other Cheshire County community nonprofits. Since our opening in June 2021, they have donated a total of over \$164,000.

These donations helped support programs that feed families, children, and seniors; and address housing concerns, as well as several other services that support the residents of these communities. Three Marlborough town departments are also supported.

The Homestead Thrift Shop is located at 221 Main Street in Marlborough, the former home of Homestead Books, located conveniently off 101 next to Doug's Dogs. Its hours are Wednesday to Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Donations of clean home furnishings, adult clothing, shoes, jewelry, and craft items in good condition are accepted until 3 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and until noon on Saturday or at the discretion of volunteers.

For more details or to volunteer, call 603-876-3415.

#### Darwin And The Beagle Are Subject Of Talk

A program called "Charles Darwin, The Beagle and Captain Fitzroy: An Ex-structor, pieces together how the tremely Unlikely Trio" will take place suicide of the ship's first captain, the Saturday, February 10th at 1 p.m. at Heberton Hall at the Keene Public Library.

The program will discuss how Darwin came to serve as the "naturalist" aboard H.M.S. Beagle, a position usually reserved for the ship's doctor? Darwin had no degree in science, had never of life aboard the Beagle and the fates been to sea, and was a civilian, hence of those involved. not a member of her majesty's navy.

Marc Koolen, retired biology intheft of a lifeboat in South America, the capture of three natives from Tierra Del Fuego, and a deep fear that haunted Captain Fitzroy led to Darwin's appointment. Using models and slides for illustration, Koolen tells the story

### **Federated Church of Marlborough**

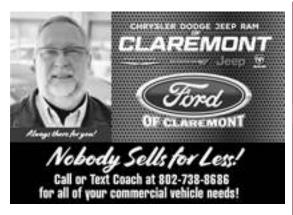


journey, the journey that offers an opportunity for us to reflect on ourselves, our world, and how we stand in it. Together we'll remember that our lives are always shaped with mercy.

#### Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14th · 6:30 pm We'll mark the beginning of the Lenten

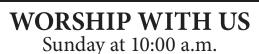


Rev. Dr. Dana Mann, Pastor 16 Pleasant Street (603) 876-3863 www.federatedchurchmarlborough.org











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#### STOCK WATCH

Listings At Close of Market February 2, 2024 • Courtesy of RBC Wealth Management Dow Jones Closed 38,654.42 +544.99 • Prime Rate 8.50% +0.00

	Close	Week's Change		Close	Week's Change
Honeywell (Allied Signal)	196.11	-4.43	Danaher Corp. (Kollmorgen)	246.33	13.33
Becton Dickinson (C.R. Bard)	237.19	0.54	Merck (Hubbard Farms)	126.41	5.59
Toronto Dominion Bank (TD Bank)	60.26	-0.89	Deluxe (NEBS)	20.80	0.79
PC Connection	66.17	0.27	Teleflex (Jaffrey)	245.74	7.16
Bank Of America (Fleet)	33.47	0.04	Timken (MPB Corp.)	85.92	4.49
Corning Inc.	32.35	1.39	M&T Bank Corp. (People's United)	133.49	-8.03
Ametek, Inc. (Precitech)	167.44	3.92	Dover Corp. (Markem)	158.75	8.81

PRECIOUS METALS	Close	Week's Change	COMMODITIES	Close	Week's Change
Silver (\$ per ounce)	22.77	-0.25	Wheat (cents per bushel)	602.00	0.00
Gold (\$ per ounce)	2055.20	33.70	Corn (cents per bushel)	442.75	-3.75
Platinum (\$ per ounce)	901.60	-18.50	Soybeans (cents per bushel)	1,188.00	-21.00
_			Cattle (cents per pound)	184.00	3.00
			Crude (\$ per barrel)	72.34	6.53

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#### Teatotaller's \$100 Court Win Costs Meta Immunity

**By Damien Fisher** 

The tech giant behind Facebook and Instagram potentially lost more than \$100 when it lost the small they do not owe users anything. You are making a claims lawsuit brought by Emmett Soldati, owner of Teatotaller's Cafe.

Mark Zuckerberg's Meta also lost immunity under Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, the law frequently used to shield social media companies from legal consequences.

This judgment is definitive that Facebook is not immune," Soldati told InDepthNH.org.

Soldati's been fighting Meta for years since the company deleted Teatotaller's Instagram page without any reason. He went up against Meta's high-priced lawyers and represented himself in court, even taking the case to the New Hampshire Supreme Court.

The result of his labors was Dover District Court Judge Sawako Gardner's ruling this month that states the company did have a contract with Teatotaller's.

Gardner's ruling finds the terms of service agreement users sign when they create their social media accounts on Instagram have the legal force of contracts. When Meta deleted Teatotaller's account in violation of the terms, it was breaking its contract with Soldati's business.

This represents a major legal change to the way Meta is used to operating, according to Soldati.



"Meta counsel tried to claim it's a free service and promise to provide this account, absolutely this is a contract," Soldati said.

The other big change for Meta in Gardner's ruling is that the company cannot avoid certain lawsuits using the federal Decency in Communications Act.

Section 230 of the Decency in Communications Act has been used to protect social media companies from getting sued when users post defamatory content, Gardner found that Meta could not use Section 230's protections to stop Soldati's lawsuit.

"Social media companies have used Section 230 to dismiss case after case after case," he said.

Teatotaller's Instagram account was deleted without notice in 2018. Soldati said his business never violated any of Meta's terms of service which would result in a deletion, and he never got an explanation from the company.

Soldati was able to create a new account five days later, but he lost the follower base he had spent years building on the social media platform. Soldati used the Instagram page as a digital storefront for Teatotaller's and the loss of his original account hurt his bottom line, he said.

Meta did not respond to a request for comment. According to court documents, the company offered no explanation for the deletion, and representatives told the court it did not need a reason.

Teatotaller's business is known for its progressive embrace of social issues, including its celebration of the LGBTQ+ community. The business was targeted last year by neo-Nazi's when it hosted a drag queen story hour. The New Hampshire Attorney General's Office is seeking Civil Rights violation charges against members of neo-Nazi group NSC-131 for the incident.

Soldati does not think his business's pro-LGBTQ+ position is behind the deletion. He blames incom-

"I don't believe that to be the case. I think it's more likely Facebook's technology failed," he said.

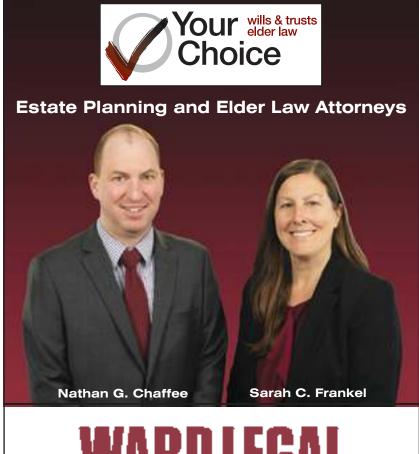
Gardner's ruling awards Soldati \$100 in damages plus \$145 in court costs. He's currently seeking a clarification order, as he's spent a lot more than \$245 with Meta. But, his case was about more than the money, it was about forcing the company to admit it was in the wrong.

"It's always been about standing up for something so simple," Šoldati said.



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### **Valentine Treats**

COOKING, Continued from page 9

#### Chocolate **Truffles**

You may be tempted to save these chocolate truffles for a special occasion, such as Valentine's Day. But with just a few ingredients, this truffle recipe is also easy to make anytime. Use a variety of the coatings for fun. (Use dark chocolate chips if preferred.)

**Îngredients:** 

3 cups semisweet chocolate chips (worth extra \$\$ to use high-quality chocolate chips here) 1 can (14 ounces) sweet-

ened condensed milk 1 tablespoon vanilla ex-

Optional coatings: Choc-

olate sprinkles, Dutch cocoa, espresso powder and cacao nibs In a microwave, melt

chocolate chips and milk; stir until smooth. Stir in vanilla. Refrigerate, covered, two hours or until firm enough to roll. Shape into one-inch balls. Roll in various coatings as desired and place into miniature muffin cup or candy cup holders.

Nancy Adams is a native of Peterborough and resides in Hancock. She and her husband, Bud, have raised four sons. She has been featured as one of Yankee Magazine's great New England cooks. Nancy welcomes suggestions - send them to: Nancy P. Adams, 22 Birch Road, Hancock, NH 03449.

#### **Valentine Treats For The Sweet**

The water is wide, I cannot cross o'er Neither have I the wings to fly. Build me a boat that can carry two, And both shall row, my Love and I. -from an American Folk Song

A Valentine dinner should be an easy meal, prepared with love and attention to details. Set the table with lots of votive candles and a lovely bowl of flowers or lemons. Put on some soft music, serve up a special meal and count your blessings with someone dear to you. Cooking Corner this week offers some suggestions for your Valentine's Day pleasure, whether you share a meal or just some snacks with someone who is your favorite 'sweetie.'

# Cooking



#### Salad Nicoise for 2

Here's a slightly modified version of the famous French Salad Nicoise. This salad has all the classic elements - green beans, potatoes, tuna, eggs and olives - but with a few updates to perk it up for a winter meal for two.

**Ingredients:** 

- Vinaigrette:
- 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon minced shallot
- 1 teaspoon minced fresh thyme (or 1/4 teaspoon dried)
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 2 anchovies, minced (or 1 teaspoon anchovy paste from a tube) salt and freshly ground black pepper

Whisk all ingredients together in a

small bowl; set aside For the Salad:

6 or 8 grape tomatoes, halved length-

pinch each of sugar and salt

- 6 small red potatoes, cooked until tender (no need to peel)
- 6 oz. green beans, trimmed, cooked just until tender, drained well
- 2-3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil 3 large eggs, hard cooked 8 minutes for a 'jammy' texture
- 1 (5-7 oz.) can or jar olive-oil packed tuna, broken into bite-size with fork 6-8 Nicoise olives

#### 1-2 tablespoons capers

Stir together tomatoes, sugar and salt in a small bowl; set aside to macerate. Flatten cooked potatoes gently with 1 green onion, cut in julienne side of a chef's knife to 1/2 to 3/4-inch thick (okay if some crumble). Heat oil in a skillet over medium-high heat. Add potatoes and cook until lightly crisped on both sides, two to three minutes per side. Drain potatoes on some paper towels and season to taste with salt and pepper. Assemble all ingredients on tomatoes, fried potatoes, cook green warm, crisp-fried potatoes between as steam is hot. plates. Drizzle each salad with two tablespoons vinaigrette and sprinkle with olives and capers. Serve, passing extra vinaigrette.

#### **Steak Board Dinner for** Two

Consider this a classic steakhouse dinner that's served on a board, accompanied by optional chilled shrimp with cocktail sauce, an iceberg wedge salad, and oven roasted potatoes. To prepare the board, here's a few tips but feel free experiment:

 $Perfect\,Pan\text{-}Seared\,Tenderloin\,-\,get$ a cast iron skillet nice and hot. Prepare two (4-6 oz.) tenderloin steaks (or other favorite cut) by wiping dry with paper towels and seasoning with salt and pepper. Then sear the steaks for a caramelized flavorful crust on both sides, two to three minutes. Pop pan into a preheated

400 degree oven for about four to five minutes per side for medium-rare. You may have to vary the time depending on the thickness of the steaks. Let steaks rest for five minutes before serving. If desired, add a knob of

butter to the hot pan; add about 1/2 cup wine or broth to pan and boil to reduce to about half; serve in a small pitcher on the side.

Roasted Baby Potatoes - toss desired number of baby potatoes for two in some olive oil; season to taste with salt and pepper. Roast in preheated 425 degree oven for 15-20 minutes, until browned and tender.( If preferred, serve baked potatoes with butter or sour cream instead.)

Wedge Salad with Blue Cheese Dressing – wash, dry and slice two wedges of iceberg lettuce. Prepare or purchase blue cheese dressing, sprinkling on some crumbled blue cheese when served.

To prepare serving board (or large platter) - load the hot food (steak and potatoes) onto a serving board; place it on a larger one holding the cold items. Cold items might include some cooked, chilled shrimp and cocktail sauce, the wedge salad and steak sauce.

#### Salmon Fillet in **Parchment**

An easy way to prepare a meal for two (or more if desired). Serve with a side dish of rice to catch any of the packet juices and fruit or green salad. Ingredients: (for each single serving) 4 to 6 oz. salmon fillet

1 tablespoon lemon juice

salt and freshly ground black pepper

1/2 carrot, cut in julienne

teaspoon dill weed

Fold a piece of parchment paper (or foil) in half; cut into half a heart, leaving the fold; open. Place salmon on one half of parchment. Top with remaining ingredients. Fold over parchment and make a thin fold all around the edges to seal in juice. Place packets on a bakthe work counter: reserved vinaigrette, ing sheet. (Packets can be refrigerated up to five hours before baking at this beans, hard cooked eggs, tuna, olives, point; bring to room temperature when and capers. Onto each of two plates, ready to bake). Bake fish at 350 degrees divide evenly the tomatoes, tuna, and for about 15 minutes, or until fish tests beans. Peel hard cooked eggs and place done. Transfer individual packets to three halves on each plate. Divide serving plates and slit open carefully

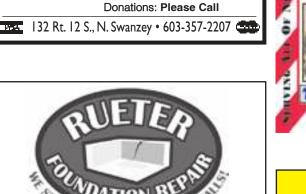
COOKING, page 8





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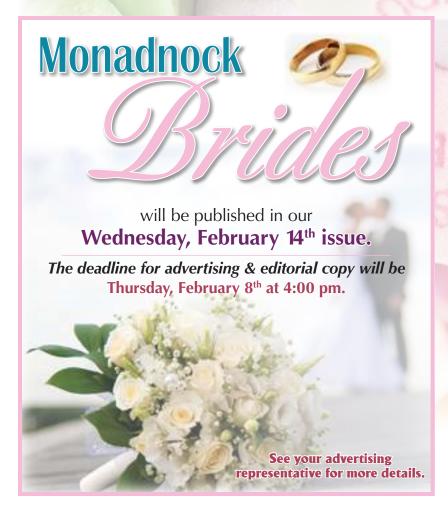
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# Valentine's Day Wednesday 14th February 14th

#### Monadnock Food Co-op Hosts Local Love Sample Night

The Monadnock Food Co-op at 34 Cypress Street will be raffled off during the event. in Keene will hold a Local Love Sample Night on Friday, February 9th from 4 to 6 p.m.

The Local Love Sample Night features local and regional vendors that offer products perfect for a Valentine's Day gift or a delicious compliment to a Valentine's Day meal. Local producers Northeast Wine Co., Saxy Chef, Frisky Cow Gelato, and Shire's will demo their products.

A basket of locally loved products sold at the co-op

The event will also feature a DIY Herb-Infused Body Oil workshop hosted by Stephanie Sutch from The Preserved Garden. Attendees will indulge in self-love and learn how to care for their skin with natural body oils infused with herbs and take home their own oil infusion. The workshop is free to attend. Those interested can RSVP at www.monadnockfood. coop/event/diyoils.





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### 101 Ways to Say "I Love You"

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# Valentine's Day

### Singing Valentines – A Twist On Love



UpGray'd Quartet poses with the exuberant Luca Paris after he receives a Singing Valentine in 2023.

UpGray'd Quartet from the Keene Cheshiremen/ Chapter features: (L-R) John Devlin, tenor, of Dublin; Steve Salamin, lead, of Keene; Mark Brosseau, baritone, of Sullivan, and Craig Fischer, bass, of Surry. Visit them at https://www.upgrayedquartet.

One of the most unique ways to show you care for someone might be to send a "singing telegram" for Valentines Day 2024.

Sung in four-part harmony by a handsomely dressed Cheshiremen quartet, the message arrives at the specified location - it can be anywhere on Valentine's Day – surprising your sweetheart, and spontaneously! These four men will appear unannounced

and sing two love songs to an often red-faced, sometimes tearful, recipient. The quartet presents her (or him!) with a beautiful fresh red rose, a sweet "gift," and then captures the moment with a picture. The picture is later e-mailed to the recipient and/or the sender as a keepsake of that special delivery.

Singing Valentines will be performed live by a Barbershop Quartet from the Cheshiremen Chorus to anyone in Keene and the greater Monadnock region on Valentine's Day, Wednesday, February 14th.

They will surprise sweethearts, mothers or fathers, grandmothers or grandfathers, daughters or sons, friends, bosses, co-workers, doctors, teachers – any special person – with the gift of a Singing Valentine. The quartets will show up at homes, workplaces, hospitals, schools, nursing homes, restaurants wherever they are sent. And wherever they appear, they'll draw a crowd and often a few tears. These dedicated quartets will be delivering in the morning, afternoon, and evening.

This is a major fundraising event for the Cheshiremen Chorus, the 72-year community arts nonprofit musical organization and the Keene chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, the international singing organization of men and women, of all ages, from all walks of life, who love to sing this four-part harmony, together. They meet weekly on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the United Church of Christ in Keene.

To learn more about the Singing Valentine program, visit the Cheshiremen www.cheshiremen.org. There, people can place an order online and easily pay securely with any credit card or PayPal. They'll call back soon after, directly, to confirm all the details. People may also call them toll free at 1-877-31B-SHOP and leave a message.



Valentine's Dance Bella Holtz, vocalist

Date: Saturday, Feb 17 · 7:30pm Place: Best Western Plus, Keene

> Tickets \$15, \$12 students, available at Keenejazzorchestra.org, Toadstool Keene, and Prime Roast





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Dessert Gulab Jamun - Strawberry Mousse - Carrot Halwa Mixed Kulfi - Mango Kheer



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outdoor discoveries with the kids. One such activity that can involve making a lot of discoveries is taking the family out into the woods or a local park to identify animal tracks. Fresh snow can show tracks of a variety of animals in this area, like rabbits, squirrels, foxes, and deer - to name a few. Take a cell phone or camera along to snap photos of the different tracks that you come across. Older children might enjoy drawing the tracks in a journal to identify them later. Try to guess what animal made the tracks, where it was going, and what it might have been doing. When back home, identify the animal tracks at www.naturetracking.com or try the iTrack

Sometimes we need a push to go outside in the winter. But for our family's health, getting out into

the fresh air to get some exercise is just what we need.

And winter is the perfect time to make some exciting

Wildlife app. Also on this trail exploration, keep an eye out for animal scat (poop). You might be able to determine what kind of animal belongs to your discovery. Are there bones or fur visible? Then that scat would be from a carnivore. Animal scat with seeds in it could be from a bird. Take a picture of it to identify later: www.icwdm.org/identification/feces/scat-id. Note: This track/scat identifying can go on throughout the winter. Following each snow, venture out to see if you can add to your animal discoveries.

It gets dark so early in the winter, so why not consider going on a night hike with the kids? Give each child a flashlight or headlamp and head out on a well-known trail around dusk. What do you see? Perhaps you notice how bright the stars are in the winter sky. What do you hear? The hoot of an owl or the scurrying of animals.

Take the family drey hunting. Dreys are those cool squirrel nests that look like large messy balls of leaves high in trees. Although the leaves look like they got stuck in crooks of branches during leaf shedding in the fall, these leaves are placed there by squirrels. Once you start spotting them, you'll see them everywhere.

Scavenger hunts are always fun to go on. Why not go on a nature winter hunt? Some items that might be on your list could include a pinecone, a leaf clinging to a tree, a squirrel, an icicle, a snowflake, animal tracks, cardinals, an evergreen branch, or winter berries.



There's nothing like a cozy winter bonfire (check with your fire department to see if you need a permit!). Ask your neighbors, grandparents, or friends to join you. Don't forget hot drinks, and have something to cook over the fire, like hot dogs, marshmallows, or popcorn. Don't forget blankets, roasting sticks, and a arge thermos for keeping the hot drink hot.

One way to stay warm outside is to keep moving. So, why not set up a winter obstacle course? Use cones or natural obstacles to zigzag around. Create a hurdle to jump over, something to climb, a balance beam to cross, or a tunnel to crawl through.

We don't realize all the colors that make up nature until we really look for them. Grab a variety of paint chips from a paint store and head out to match the colors. Even reds and oranges can be found in the great outdoors.

Speaking of color, why not get your little artists outdoors to create art in the snow. Each child gets a spray bottle filled with water. They then add a few drops of food coloring of their choice and shake it up. Head outside, find a big patch of snow for a canvas, and create a masterpiece.

Winter is the perfect time to encourage your children's curiosity and engage them in learning about nature and all its wonders.

Lori Catozzi Cook is the assistant editor and a feature writer for The Monadnock Shopper News.





**Making Outdoor Winter Discoveries** 

from HANNAFORD'S SUPERMARKETS

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and **DINING** 

#### February 4, 2024

Luke Skywalker James, son of Melinda & Christopher James, Jaffrey, 4

#### February 8, 2023

Talia Jade Durgin, daughter of Jade & Travis Durgin, Bennington, 3

#### February 11, 2023

Lane Daniel Baker, son of Justin & Whitney Baker,

Submit your Birthday Kids' entry online at: ShopperNews.com/Community



This Week's Winners





Talia Jade Durgin, Bennington, 3 Lane Daniel Baker, Swanzey, 1

### **Keene's Premier Winter Dining Destination!** for Daily Specials! Tuesday – Sunday 131 Winchester St. Keene 352-3135

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### Thursday, Feb. 8

Conant Generations: Families Who Graduated From Conant High School 7pm. Jaffrey Civic Center, 40 Main St., Jaffrey. Free and open to all. 603-598-0120.

to utter even a single word? With an option to leave your

phone at the Phone Check and non-optional directive to

observe silence, the Silent Reading Club might be just

what you need to eliminate distractions and dig into a book!

Al-Anon Meeting 12-1pm. United Church of Christ, 2nd floor, 23 Central Square, Keene. Help and hope for friends and families of alcoholics. In person and on-line. For questions call or e-mail 603-369-6930. district7@nhal-anon. org. www.nhal-anon.org

#### Friday, Feb. 9 ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Sacred Circle Dance 6pm. Peterborough Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Main St. All dances are taught. Beginners are welcome. No partner is necessary. Please wear comfortable shoes. The program is free. Donations are appreciated and will benefit "End 68 Hours of Hunger." lucy@ poetryofthedance.com.

Music Technology Immersion 6-9pm. Alumni Recital Hall, Redfern Arts Center, Keene State College. A 3-day immersion in the field of music technology, featuring sessions on Audio Recording, Sound Design, and Live Re cording. Free. 603-358-2168.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Monaghan Art Collection Benefit Silent Auction Dublin Community Center, 1123 Main St., Dublin. Various hours. Runs through Saturday, Feb. 17th.

Local Love Sample Night 4-6pm. Monadnock Food Coop, 34 Cypress St., Keene. Local and regional products perfect for Valentine's Day. www.monadnockfood.coop.

### Saturday, Feb. 10 ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Winter Gala Live Auction and Worship Concert: Live Music with The Cashmans 6:30pm. Hidden Hills Banquet Hall, 18 Lisa Drive, Rindge. Dessert-style appetizers and mocktails. \$25 each, limited seating. Fundraiser to benefit House of Hope. www.houseofhopenh.org.

Monadnock Tri-State Dance Club: Valentine's Party Dance 7-10:30pm. ELMM Community Center, 21 Durkee St., Winchester. Live music by "Champaign Jam". Everyone welcome. \$10 Members/\$12 Nonmembers. Rich: 603-

Starlight Lounge (Retro Jazz): Josh Evans' Trio 7-9:30pm. Dublin Community Center, 1123 Main St., Dublin. \$15 per person.

Music Technology Immersion 10am-4pm. Alumni Recital Hall, Redfern Arts Center, Keene State College. A 3-day immersion in the field of music technology, featuring sessions on Audio Recording, Sound Design, and Live Recording. Free. 603-358-2168.



#### The Starlight Lounge Retro Jazz With The Josh Evans' Trio In Dublin

On Saturday, February 10th from 7 to 9:30 p.m., the DubHub will be transformed into the Starlight Lounge, a retro jazz club celebrating the smooth, smokin', sultry sounds of the 1930s, '40s and '50s as played by the Josh Evans' Trio.

Attendees are invited to dress up in fancy duds and dance the night away, or simply come as the music transports listeners into a bygone era. The music of Sinatra, Bennett, Martin, and others will be featured. Some surprise guest vocalists will join the band.

The DubHub will provide the appetizers, sweets, and aesthetic. Attendees are welcome to byob. Tickets, which are expected to go fast at \$15 pp at the door, can be reserved by contacting info@dublincommunitycenter.org

The DubHub is located at 1123 Main Street in Dublin.

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#### "Yoga For Your Feet" Class At Aloha



Josephine Russell often teaches Yoga for the Feet. Afterwards the comment is often, "I did not even know that my feet needed the attention."

In her workshop, attendees will stretch the four arches of the feet and the toes, and rejuvenate and relax a part of the body that works daily. The event will take place Saturday, February 10th at Aloha on Court Street from 10:30 a.m. until noon. The cost is \$30.

Register vagaro.com/alohakeene or call

Josephine Russell, at left, will teach class participants to stretch the four arches of the feet and the toes, and rejuvenate and relax a part of the body that works daily.

#### Multi-Media Presentation On Ella Fitzgerald

trepreneur Nanette Perrotte will lead 150 Old Homestead Highway. a free Multi-Media Presentation, Ella

On Thursday, February 15th at 6 Fitzgerald: the Queen of Swing, at the p.m., jazz vocalist, educator, and en-Richmond Veterans Memorial Hall at

### Monadnock Food Co-op Holds **Community Book Club**

Community Book Club in the Community Room on Monday, February 12th at 6 p.m.

will read and discuss The 1619 Project: coop. A New Origin Story. The group will also

Monadnock Food Co-op at 34 listen to the podcast Unreformed: the Cypress Street in Keene will hold its Story of the Alabama Industrial School for Negro Children.Learn more about The 1619 Project at www.1619books.com.

For more details, email Megan at For February and March, the group marketingsupport@monadnockfood.

#### portation. \$55 per person. 603-357-2933. Saturday, Feb. 10 www.advlimo.com. **DINING PLEASURES**

Meatball Madness as Take Out Only 5-6pm. Fitzwilliam Community Church, 85 Route 119 West. Selections are Italian, Swedish, and Italian turkey meatballs. Prices are \$12 per quart and \$8 per pint. Place orders by Tuesday, February 6th by calling Roberta at 603-585-3407 between 9 AM and 6 PM or by e-mail to fccnh@yahoo.

Westmoreland United Church Valentine Italian Supper 5-6:30pm. Town Hall, 780 Rte. 63, Westmoreland. Spaghetti, lasagna, bread, salad, dessert, beverages. Adults/\$12, Children 10 and under/\$5. All you can eat. Take out available. Jo Ann La-Barre: 603-399-9028.

Winter Dinners: Lunar New Year 6-9pm. Aldworth Manor, 184 Aldworth Manor Rd, Harrisville. Doors open at 6 and food service begins once you are seated. \$45 per ticket for food. Tickets and more info available at www.aldworthmanor.com/events.

#### **LECTURES & WORKSHOPS**

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#### MISCELLANEOUS

Your Way Adventure Limousine & Transportation. \$79 per person. **603-357-2933**. www.advlimo.com.

Darwin, The Beagle, and Captain Fitzroy: An Extremely Unlikely Trio 1pm. Keene Public Library, Heberton Hall, 60 Winter St., Keene. Using models and slides for illustration, Marc Koolen tells the story of life aboard the Beagle and the fates of those involved. Free to the public. 603-352-0157.

### Sunday, Feb. 11 ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Music Technology Immersion 1-4pm. Alumni Recital Hall, Redfern Arts Center, Keene State College. A 3-day immersion in the field of music technology, featuring sessions on Audio Recording, Sound Design, and Live Recording. Free. 603-358-2168.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

February Adventure Bus Trips: Boston Your Way Adventure Limousine & Trans-

Make & Take Valentines: With Archie the Pig 1-3pm. Dublin Community Center, 1123 Main St., Dublin.

#### Monday, Feb. 12 **MISCELLANEOUS**

The Monadnock Food Co-op Community Book Club 6pm. Monadnock Food Co-op, Community Room. For February and March the group will read and discuss, The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story Megan Lafaso Hercher: 603-355-8008. www.monadnockfood.coop/event/bookclub.

Al-anon Zoom Meeting 12-1pm. Keene. Check out Al-Anon's free service to friends and families who suffer from the impact of a loved one's drinking. Meeting ID: 825 6820 3953. Passcode: Keene. To join by phone use same ID and password 480560 and dial 646-876-9923.

#### Wednesday, Feb. 14 **DINING PLEASURES**

Valentines Dinner: "Love is in the Orchard" Alyson's Orchard, Orchard Tavern. 57 Alvson's Lane. Walpole. Tickets in advance. See ad in Valentines section of this issue

February Adventure Bus Trips: NYC/ Winter Dinners: Valentine's Day 6-9pm. Aldworth Manor, 184 Aldworth Manor Rd, Harrisville Doors open at 6 and food service begins once you are seated. \$75 per ticket for food and a glass of prosecco or wine. Tickets and more info available at www.aldworthmanor.com/events.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

February Adventure Bus Trips: Foxwoods Adventure Limousine & Transportation. \$49 per person. 603-357-2933. www. advlimo.com.

#### RELIGIOUS

Ash Wednesday Service 7pm. St. James Episcopal Church, 44 West St., Keene. All are welcome. www.stjameskeene.com. Ashes To Go 8-9am. St. James Episcopal

Church, 44 West St., Keene. The Rev Elsa Worth will be present to offer a quick praver and the administration of ashes to anyone who would like them. Find this event on the sidewalk in front of St. James - rain, snow or shine. www.stjameskeene.com.









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#### **Make and Take Valentines** with Archie the Pig

Sunday, Feb. 11 • 1:00-3:00pm

#### **DubHub Coffee House** & Open Mic

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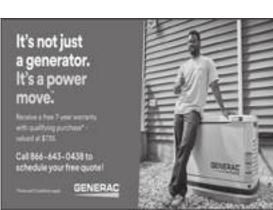
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### The Letter Project

I am enrolled in an End-of-Life Doula program Consequently, the blood flow is not as strong, so you through the University of Vermont. It has many elements of meditation throughout the program. I have you can observe your feelings and emotions versus learned about The Stanford Letter Project and would like to share with you how it invites all of us to reflect deeply on people from the past and those who are a part of our present lives.

The Letter Project originated from Stanford University in 2015 and has grown in popularity to the point that it is now in eight languages and can be downloaded for free. The goal is to help empower

and support all adults to prepare for their future and take the initiative to talk to their doctors and their friends and family about what matters most to them at life's end. But it does not stop there. The life review becomes a way of acknowledging important people in your life and can assist in your desire to say things

to those who matter.

The project offers letter templates, which help guide you along the way on different subjects. The subjects explored are deep and heartfelt. This is where the practice of paying attention to the breath can be helpful in processing the results of your exploration. Sometimes it is hard to allow one's feelings to flow out and at times opening can feel overwhelming. When you pause to pay attention to the breath, it can help to lower your blood pressure and your pulse.

reacting to them. Perspective

find yourself more at ease. In this more relaxed state,



Writing these letters is no easy task. But wouldn't it be nice to be able to express to those you love how you feel about them? I wrote one letter to those who I appreciate in my life. There are four so far. I cried my eyes out and felt emotionally drained. But afterward I felt clearer. These letters can be given to your loved ones now, or they can be tucked aside for them to see after you are gone.

The templates, as a reminder, cannot be completed in one sitting. The letters have topics and examples. There are seven tasks of life review. They have the potential to bring up old memories that are not always pleasant ones. On the other hand, a letter can bring out the deep love you feel for someone in your life.

The template process starts out with naming key people in your life, then expressing your pride in their achievements. Another template talks about remembering treasured moments and expressing gratitude for all the love you received. It involves thanking them for their concern at trying times in your life. Another talks about forgiveness to those who have hurt you and for those you have hurt. And the last one is saying goodbye. For many, this is the hardest.

I encourage you to look up the Stanford Letter Project. It may not be for you, but it may bring some ideas to you that you prefer to talk over with those you love now instead of writing. And it may help you to look at tying up loose ends. All of this could be very gratifying.

A reminder to those of you who have created your advance directive: You have established your wishes. I encourage you to look at these templates to see if you covered all areas with your PCP. This is where your voice and end of life decisions can be heard. Too many times, family members do not agree. Your written letter can help to clarify your wishes. Many of you may have a close therapeutic relationship with your physician or primary care person. But many may not. You may think advance directives are not for you. Being in the healthcare field, I am a strong advocate of advance directives because they are your personally expressed wishes.

For questions about Mindfulness Meditation, visit www.mindfulnesskeene.org.

Aylene Wozmak has been practicing meditation for over 15 years. She worked as a hospice nurse for nearly three decades in Cheshire County. Her training in mindfulness comes from Harvard Medical School Dept of Continuing Education. She is the chairperson and a facilitator at The Monadnock Mindfulness Practice Center.





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