



NINA RITSON

NORFOLK NOW

Volume VI Issue 3

From the Icebox of Connecticut

March 2008

VIEW FROM THE GREEN

A Nod to Isabella Eldridge

By Lloyd Garrison

With the town fast approaching its 250th anniversary, the annual play performed last month in the library by women of the Isabella Eldridge Club (the "Isabellas,") took on new meaning.

As the stage manager in Jack O'Malley's adaptation of Thornton Wilder's "Our Town," Betsy Gill's task was to set the scene and convey what Norfolk was like in the time of Isabella Eldridge in the 1880s. With the name of the play changed to "Bella," Gill told the audience: "This is the way we were: in our growing up and in our marrying and in our living and in our dying."

Before composing "Bella," O'Malley delved deeply into Wilder's portrayal of the fictional New England town of Grover's Corners in the same time period. He pondered whether the character of Isabella Eldridge, who was such a dominant figure in the life of Norfolk, had any relevance to the present. His conclusion: the values espoused by Eldridge have evolved and still define the essence of Norfolk today.

O'Malley's research also led him to believe that the women who performed in "Bella" are themselves an extension of a purposeful ??? whose passion was the library, which she and her sister gave to the town. Eldridge saw to it that the library became a focal point for volunteer activity of all sorts, and especially in pursuit of the arts, culture and intellectual discourse. Eldridge would be pleased that the club bearing her name continues this tradition at monthly meetings in which members take turns addressing a variety of subjects, from what is new in contemporary painting to what is new in China.

Ann Havemeyer, "Bella's" director, was very conscious of the political implications of the original play, in which Wilder sanctified the innate goodness of the individual at a time of grave global uncertainty.

When "Our Town" appeared in theatres in 1938, the depression had put millions of Americans out of work. World War II was

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Hollywood Comes to Norfolk

Independent film starts shooting this month

By Lindsey Pizzica Rotolo

Writer and director Lee Krieger begins shooting his screenplay, "The Vicious Kind," on Monday, March 10 in and around Norfolk. Krieger and his producers have been in town for over four weeks, scouting the area and setting up a temporary home for over 50 cast and crew members.

The mostly Los Angeles based group seems undaunted by the extremes of New England weather they have experienced since their arrival in late January. One of the producers described the weather to a friend back in L.A., "It's freezing here, like eighteen degrees or something. It's beautiful."

The entire cast and crew are staying in town, renting over a dozen private homes. The producers have acquired office space at 10 Station Place and are hoping a Norfolk

caterer will prepare their meals during the production.

When asked why Norfolk was chosen, Krieger said, "We were looking for a small town that was very New England, but most importantly we wanted a town that would be open to the presence of filmmakers. Norfolk hit all three."



PHOTO BY MIKE RUSSELL

Director Lee Krieger (far right) and crew scouting Norfolk locations for shooting the feature film "The Vicious Kind"

One of the producers is a friend of Grady Cooley of Falls Village, who first recommended Norfolk for the film. "Cooley and

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Norfolk Picks Obama and McCain in Primary

Norfolk voters in both parties turn out in record numbers

By Linda Childs

February 5 dawned dark and dreary, with blustery winds and cold rain, a day altogether befitting an icebox. Undaunted by a bit of inclement weather, an impressive number of voters made their way to town hall to cast their ballots in the presidential primary.

By the time the polls closed at 8 p.m., the rain had stopped and 384 votes had been cast, smashing the previous record turnout for a presidential primary. Democrats out polled Republicans by a nearly three to one margin, 252 to 81.

Barack Obama prevailed over Hillary Clinton by an almost 2:1 ratio, 162 to 88. John Edwards gleaned only three votes.

Norfolk's Republicans favored John

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VIEW FROM THE GREEN*Continued from page 1*

imminent. Politics were rent by the warring ideologies of capitalism, fascism and communism.

In the "Our Town" of '38, the stage manager muted those anxieties by stating that our town and our world "...is straining away, straining away all the time to make something of itself."

In "Bella" of 2008, the Reverend Joseph Eldridge says the same but differently: "...love one another! I go now, and I say to you: The greatest strength is a tenderness of spirit."

That would seem to epitomize the way in which Norfolkiens get together to sort out how to celebrate their 250 years of existence, while also divining a town plan for the future. And as detailed elsewhere in this issue, it is a tenderness of spirit that impels the Lions Club to hold a spaghetti dinner to benefit Meadowbrook, or Stefanie Hinman to take a not so usual spring break to assist children orphaned by war in Uganda.

Meanwhile, the library, with its books and its exhibits and its "Bella," is still a focal point for the community as Eldridge envisioned it. "Norfolk has always been a yearning town, always working to better itself," says O'Malley. "And that is the core value that continues right through to today." ■

PRIMARY*Continued from page 1*

McCain by a slight margin over Mitt Romney, 39 to 28, with Mike Huckabee getting 11 votes and Rudy Giuliani and Ron Paul gaining three each.

Democratic voter participation across the state hit a new record of over 53 per cent. Norfolk did even better, with a record 64 percent turnout, almost doubling the previous record of 34 percent set in 2004.

Similarly, Republican turnout here reached 41 percent, compared with 38 percent statewide.

According to Madelyn Falk, Deputy Democratic registrar, more than a dozen unaffiliated voters showed up at town hall only to be turned away because they were not previously registered in either party. One long term Republican left without voting when she was told she was not on the Democratic roll.

Voter apathy seems a thing of the past. In the previous 20 months, more than 34,000 new voters registered in Connecticut. Since last November, when the presidential primary campaign began to heat up, Democratic registration outpaced Republican registration 11,139 to 4,608. There was another surge in the final four weeks before February 5, when 7,552 new voters registered as Democrats and 2,751 signed up as Republicans. ■

HOLLYWOOD*Continued from page 1*

Star Childs in particular have opened the doors for us," says Krieger, "but everyone here has welcomed us, and that makes a big difference, especially on a small film like ours."

The producers also considered Rhode Island, but after just one day of scouting that location, they all looked at each other and said, "I like Norfolk better."

"The Vicious Kind" is a contemporary drama that focuses on a few days in the lives of a disparate family living in Rhode Island. Peter Sinclair, a junior in college, comes home for Thanksgiving break with his new girlfriend, Emma, who encounters his obsessive older brother, Caleb, and emotionally void father, Donald. Emma's presence in these three men's lives dredges up a past that Donald and Caleb previously shielded from Peter.

The role of Peter will be played by Alex Frost, who starred in the Gus Van Sant film, Elephant and will play opposite Owen Wilson in the upcoming film, Drillbit Taylor. Caleb will be played by Adam Scott, who is best known for his role as Palek in "Tell Me You Love Me," the HBO drama which aired this fall. J.K. Simmons, whose most recent role was Mac MacGuff in "Juno," will play Donald. Brittany Snow, who played Amber von Tussle in "Hairspray," has been cast as Emma.

The producers are renting a Queen Anne style house on Laurel Way to serve as the Sinclair home. Much of the movie will be filmed inside the house and on the grounds of the property. The script also calls for scenes in a bowling alley, a bar and a grocery store. These scenes will require the use of extras that could draw on Norfolk residents.

There will also be some shots of Collin's Diner in Canaan and a 250 year-old colonial on Greenwoods Road East that will serve as Emma's parents' house. Half of the 22 days of shooting will take place at night.

Everyone involved with the project is hoping Norfolk remains a winter wonderland for the duration of the filming.

At least a few people in town aren't hoping for an early spring. ■

Corrections

In the story in the February issue reporting the late Dorothy Battistoni's bequests to various town organizations, it should be noted that additional bequests were also made to the Congregational Church and the Norfolk Center Cemetery Association.

The name in the photo caption on p. 15 in the February issue should read Jacob Renkert, not Tenkert.

NORFOLK NOW

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Deadline for ads and items for Calendar and Community News is the 15th of the month.

The Big "BD" Plant in Canaan That Most Never See

Maker of medical devices is the area's biggest employer

By Bob Bumcrot

Whenever you get a vaccination or have blood drawn, there's a good chance that the syringe used originated at the Becton Dickinson plant on Route 7 in Canaan. It is one of the biggest employers in Litchfield County, with a work force of over 500. But the "BD" plant, as it is called locally, is so discreetly shielded from view by planting along Route 7 that many driving by are unaware it exists.

Norfolk's emergency service technicians are among those all too familiar with the company. "We use BD venal catheters, but not the new Integra model," says Norfolk Ambulance Deputy Chief Christopher Little.

"I use a BD syringe for my own diabetes treatment," says EMT Suzanne Funchion, a trained EMT. In fact, the first syringe made specifically for insulin injection was manufactured by BD in 1924.

Headquartered in New Jersey, BD is a leading global medical technology company that manufactures and sells medical devices, instrument systems and reagents to healthcare institutions, laboratories and the general public. With well over \$6 billion in annual sales, the company has approximately 28,000 employees in 50 countries around the world. It was founded in 1897 with a handshake agreement between Maxwell Becton and Fairleigh Dickinsen. Dickinson was the principal benefactor of Fairleigh Dickinson University, which was founded in 1942.

The company entered the "Fortune 500" list in 1970, fought off an unfriendly takeover attempt by Sun Oil in 1978, and went on to open plants in England, Spain and Singapore. Since 2005 it has been recognized each year

by Fortune magazine as one of "America's Most Admired Companies." Recent acquisitions include GeneOhm, a pioneer in molecular diagnostic testing for the rapid detection of bacterial organisms.

In 1961, BD introduced its wholly disposable Plastipak syringe and opened the facility in Canaan dedicated to its production. The plant operates around the clock, turning out as many as six million syringes a day. Syringes are made in many sizes and designs, including the Integra model mentioned by Little in which the needle snaps back into its tube



A large earth-covered structure attached to the plant shields the area in which packaged syringes are sterilized by ebeam.

PHOTO BY LLOYD GARRISON

by human hands" he says as he begins leading a tour of the plant. The count at the end of the tour: zero.

The manufacturing process begins with railroad cars arriving full of polypropylene beads from Texas. These are pumped into the molding area where large injection molders form the barrels and plungers for the syringes. Heat generated by this process requires that the plant be air conditioned year-round.

The newly formed parts are autoloading into small cartons which travel on an overhead rail system throughout the plant. Next, the barrels are printed with a scale showing levels of material to be injected. Air is blown through each barrel to make sure it is clean, and rubber stoppers are fitted on the plunger, coated with silicone, and inserted in the barrel.

Needles from a BD plant in Nebraska are then inserted.

The individually packaged syringes are loaded into cardboard boxes and the sealed boxes are stacked onto pallets. At this surprisingly late stage the syringes are sterilized using modern electron beam technology. The boxed syringes are then reassembled on the pallets, wrapped in plastic and shipped to BD distribution centers in New Jersey,

Indiana and California.

The North Canaan plant also makes polystyrene labware, including a variety of test tubes. "Our full catalog lists almost 180 products," says Todd Zeller, the plant's manager who came from Milwaukee to Canaan last year. The labware section is smaller than the syringe operation and is not as fully automated.

One machine can be seen screwing caps onto 50cc graduated tubes at dizzying speed. "We made a huge number of these in connection with research on mad cow disease," says Tighe. The labware section is soon to be moved to a new BD plant in North Carolina.

Although many Norfolkiens have worked for BD in the past, the only currently employed Norfolk resident is Deb Wuori, who has been in the labware department for 18 years. "It's a good company to work for," says Wuori. Says Zeller: "We're always looking for good people, both professional and hourly." ■



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Library to Exhibit the Paintings of Norfolk's Ron Sloan

By Robin Yuran

During the month of March, the Norfolk Library is showcasing the artistic genius of Ron Sloan, who has been attacking the canvas with primary colors that are representative of his agonized view of the human condition since 1965. "I can feel the screams of everybody that have been hurt in this world," says the Norfolk artist, who just received a grant from the Connecticut Commission of the Arts.

The faces in Sloan's large works scream to the viewer from hellish backdrops where red is often prevalent, their expressions palpable with pain and passion. Smaller, calmer renderings are accompanied by snatches of poetry, which speak of love and loss.

The soft-spoken retired art teacher holds a curriculum vita the length of a novella. During his career he acquired three graduate degrees and fellowships

and grants from the Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center and the National Endowment for the Arts. His most recent grant by the Connecticut Commission of the Arts was given for the second time. "I miss teaching so much," he admits, "But I don't miss the people in charge."

Sloan now devotes himself full-time to painting. "It is the same as breathing," he says. "It's my life."

His art reflects his life; images have such titles as "Sitting and Crying," "Susan's Father

in a Nursing Home," and "Jim, Combing His Hair on the Beach."

A constant observer, he often picks up interesting objects during his daily walks which he later incorporates into his unique creations. "I am always affected by things



PHOTO BY SUSAN SLOAN

Ron Sloan has been attacking the canvas with primary colors since 1965.

around me," he says, "whether it be a butterfly or the events on nine-eleven."

His work hangs in many permanent collections, including the Provincetown Museum in Cape Cod and the Mattatuck Museum on Waterbury. He is currently represented by Beverly Kaye Gallery of Woodbridge, Connecticut. His work may also be viewed and purchased through his website: www.rawwork.com.

The opening reception for the artist will be held in the library on March 2 at 4 to 6 p.m. ■



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Stefanie Hinman to spend spring break in Uganda

By Colleen Gundlach

When peace talks began in 2006, the country of Uganda had been embroiled in a civil war for 21 years. As a result, 1.8 million people now live in camps for internally displaced persons, and 2 million children have been orphaned.

It doesn't sound like a locale in high demand for college students during spring break. Nonetheless, from March 13-25, while many fellow students bask in the sun in Miami and Palm Beach, Norfolk native Stefanie Hinman and her college roommate, Elizabeth Durante, will be opening their hearts and sharing their skills with needy Ugandans.

Hinman became an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) two years ago, while a high school senior. She worked on the Norfolk Ambulance, and helped to organize an emergency medical services program at Connecticut College, where she is a sophomore. For her, it was natural to look for an opportunity to apply her EMT skills to serve more people, and she decided to look in the direction of Africa.

"We found a posting on the National Collegiate Emergency Medical Services Web site," says Hinman. "It was from Jaquie Law, a student at Vassar, who said she was leading this trip and looking for EMTs to join her. We signed up."

This trip is not the first such project for Hinman. She has traveled with a group of youth from around the country to Biloxi, Mississippi on a mission trip to help those less fortunate than herself. She currently runs an after school program for children at a homeless shelter.

When she and Durante take off on March 13, they will travel to Kaberamaido, Uganda, where they will work in a hospital, a clinic,

and an orphanage, all operated by a charity called Asayo's Wish. Hinman and Durante will be joining six Vassar College EMTs, two physicians, and a public relations person. They will provide medical care and supplies, and teach first aid and sanitation practices.

As a result of the civil war, Uganda's children are at extreme risk. According to Amnesty International, between 20 and 65 thousand children were abducted and used as child soldiers by the rebel Lord's Resistance Army. The country's infrastructure and education system has been seriously eroded, and

access to healthcare has been severely compromised. "The children need simple things such as basic healthcare, water, food, shelter and love," says Hinman. "These people never know what we identify as 'human rights'."

Hinman is paying all her airfare and travel expenses, but has

done some fundraising to purchase medical supplies. Fellow Norfolk residents have been most supportive. To date, she has received donations of \$500 from the Church of Christ, \$500 from the Lions Club and \$150 in contributions from individuals. In addition, she and Durante raised \$500 from a benefit concert they organized at Connecticut College.

Combined with money raised by the Vassar group and donations from many medical service providers, the group will be taking thousands of pounds of medical supplies to Uganda. "These supplies include things like gauze and IV (intravenous) items that we take for granted in the United States," says Hinman. "Indeed, there are many things we discard here after one use because it isn't worth it to clean them. In rural Uganda, they could save a life." ■

For more information or to donate to this project, go to www.asayowish.com.



College sophomore Stefanie Hinman has served as a lifeguard at Tobey pond.

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Norfolk Forming CERT Team

Volunteers Sought for Emergency Service

Hartford has received funds through Homeland Security for a new program called CERT, short for Citizens Emergency Response Team.

CERT teams are based in their own communities and have already joined in search and rescue operations.

Kitty Hillson, a certified instructor in emergency management, is looking for 20 good volunteers in Norfolk to undergo 20 hours of intensive training over two weekends. Once certified, Norfolk's volunteers will work under Richard Burn, the town's Emergency Management Director, who has endorsed the program.

Instruction will include CPR and other skills to help provide backup to EMT's, police and firemen.

For details, call Kitty Hillson at 542-7004, or 781-504-6190. ■

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Zone 4 Spring Planting Choices

By Mark A. Tonan

Spring is soon to be upon us, and plants are on a lot of people's minds. Annuals, perennials, woody plants, ground covers, and edibles are all well suited to spring planting and will become widely available as the weather warms. These plants come in many forms and have certain signs to be aware of when making a choice.

Annuals are most often sold in multi packs or in individual pots. In either case, select plants that appear healthy and are preferably not in flower. Look to see that all cells in a multi pack are evenly moist. Weak, light colored or elongated growth will need cutting back or feeding once planted in the proper light for that plant.

Perennials are most often sold potted. Look for strong growth with a comparatively large crown where the plant meets the surface of the soil. Roots that are visible near the bottom drain holes are a good sign that the plant has an adequate root system. Again, select plants that are less in flower.

The flowers can be removed to reduce planting stress, usually delaying bloom slightly, but not preventing eventual blooming. For example, if I know that the days immediately following planting will be hot and dry, I will remove all the flowering buds on geraniums being planted, especially if I know I can't keep watering them.

Roses do their best when planted in the spring. They are sold either potted or bare-root. Most roses are grafted, meaning the root system is one species of rose, while the top is

another, more desirable species. Check the graft for any dead or brown areas. All growth or swollen buds should be from above this graft. Any growth from below that point should be removed.

Look for brown or black splotches on the stems indicating fungal growth or rot. I usually do not worry about leaf spots, as nurseries and garden centers are notorious for overhead watering, which often causes sun discoloration. These leaves will grow in again.

Most roses start bare root, even the potted ones at the garden centers, so early spring is not the time to try tipping their pots to check their root systems. If a rose is bought bare-root, avoid those with dried out roots.

Shrubs and trees have the same characteristics to look for, whether grown in a container or wrapped in burlap. Check for a strong, well defined trunk system. A three-stem birch with one stem wrapped around another could quickly become a one-stem birch.

Another important area to check on the trunk is the flare, which is the point where the trunk widens right above the natural soil line. A plant that is planted too deeply will never thrive. Any small roots growing out above the natural soil level on a trunk is a red flag warning. Avoid plants with girdling roots. These must be removed or they could choke the plant and weaken it. On bigger plants, look for mechanical damage to the trunk from mishandling, or splitting bark from winter sun.

Once the snow begins to melt, half the fun is looking around at all the choices. Take your time and enjoy the coming season. ■



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Special Needs Program at Botelle Benefits All Students

By Timothy Lee

Botelle School is home to the Intensive Education Program, or IEP, that serves the educational needs of severely disabled students who range in age from six to 16 and present a variety of challenges in the areas of mobility, communication and self-care. They are typically in wheelchairs and require adult support in the form of specialized teaching, nursing, and transport.

Botelle currently serves three IEP students from Winsted and Region 7. According to IEP teacher Rob Atkinson, the program benefits both the students with special needs and the school's "mainstream" population. "The program is great for our kids because they can be in a small, caring and

stimulating environment," says Atkinson. "Botelle students gain exposure to severely disabled people that otherwise they might not have."

The lessons of accepting differences are not lost on Botelle students, many of whom volunteer to read to IEP students during their recess time. The program at Botelle is operat-



A student in the Intensive Education Program plays a drum with encouragement from Laurie Harris, LPN.

ed by Shared Services, a regional agency that provides special education services to local school districts. ■

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Men's Breakfast

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This month, on March 8, former ambassador Ted Briggs will talk about events in Cuba.

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MILESTONES

Born: David Karl DeCerbo on January 25, to his parents Ann & Josh and his sister Ginevra. A healthy baby boy, he weighed 7 lb 14 oz.

It's Only Natural My Cedar Waxwing

By John G. Funchion

Along with the beauty of each welcomed sunrise, my daily morning three mile walk is often punctuated by sightings of fox, coyotes, deer, and elusive pileated woodpeckers, beavers, bears, a bobcat and an occasional pheasant.

Suffused in this splendid canvas of nature on Mountain Road is a family of crows awaiting my arrival and the cornucopia of scraps I feed them. Down the road, where Mountain Road crosses Westside Drive, a covey of robins with confused intentions fly about as aberrant reminders of spring.

Most interesting is the graceful cedar waxwing (*Bombicilla cedrorum*). It is a sleek, crested brown bird with a signature yellow band on its tail and red wingtips. Along with those oddball robins, they silently flock in undulating waves to feast upon winter's reserve of leftover berries on the invasive buckthorn trees on Westside Drive.

One cold, snow-covered January morning, with the temperature around five degrees, a rare ice bow appeared over the Norfolk sky as the rising sun dissected prisms of ice crystals into a spectrum of glorious color. And there on the side of the road was a grounded cedar waxwing, quivering in the snow.

My impulse was to pick up the tiny bird and ask, "What's wrong with my little friend?" As I did, it instinctively flew from my gloved hand to alight on a nearby branch. There it perched precariously among the glimmering snow puffs, its black eyes reflect-

ing the bright morning sun.

I continued my walk up Westside Drive to the gate of the former Hutterite enclave and made my turn homeward. Lamentably, on my return, my friend was laying belly-

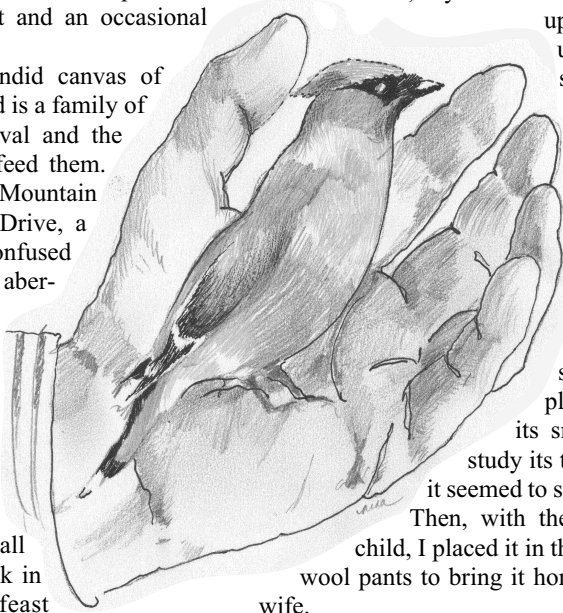
up in the snow under the bush, stiff and lifeless, its ebony eyes fixed open.

Thoughts of my own mortality merged with wonder at the little bird's sudden death. I plucked it out of its snowy coffin to study its tufted beauty as it seemed to stare back at me.

Then, with the impulse of a child, I placed it in the pocket of my wool pants to bring it home to show my wife.

On the way, I later stopped at the Corner Store for coffee and my daily newspapers. I showed the little bird to my morning cohorts; some were saddened, one was aghast, one laughed. Putting the waxwing back in my pocket, I headed home and placed it on a paper towel on the kitchen counter and awaited my wife's reaction: "Oh great, a dead bird on my counter!"

Finally, reflecting on the alpha and omega birth of that ice bow in the heavens and the death of my feathered friend, I took it outside and gently placed it back in the snow, face up, among the maples, tulip and hemlock trees. There, in accordance with the lasting laws of nature, it remains. ■



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Definition of a Chautauqua: an old time series of popular talks, music and artistic performance intended to edify, entertain, improve the mind and bring culture and enlightenment to the ears and mind of the hearer.

Chautauquas spread over the country in the late 1800's and early 1900's, going from town to town. Theodore Roosevelt called them “the most American thing in America.”

'Bella', a Play Based on 'Our Town' Comes to Life at the Library



PHOTOS BY ALEXA DANN



Left picture: Louise Davis and Chris Hanley.
Center: Cay Fields. Right picture: Phyllis Diggle.

The annual play performed by the women of the Isabella Eldridge Club at the library had the look of a costume party. Jack O'Malley's deftly written script of "Bella" used Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" as a template to reflect on life in Norfolk in the late 1800's. Directed by Ann Havemeyer, the cast and extras of "Bella" included all members of the club and many of their children. An overflow audience responded with a standing ovation.

Grant Applications Invited From Area Artists and Writers

A newly incorporated foundation based in Norfolk and known as AWED, is now accepting grant applications from visual artists and nonfiction writers who live in Barkhamsted, Canaan, Colebrook, Norfolk, North Canaan and Winsted. The foundation name is an acronym for Artists and Writers Education and Development. Grants to be awarded in 2008 will range from \$1,000 to \$20,000.

AWED, whose founder wishes to remain anonymous, states that applicants should demonstrate talent, economic hardship that is constraining creative expression, and a plan to use grant money to modify their situation. Unconventional proposals, such as those that assist with debt repayment, travel expenses, equipment needs and childcare costs, are welcome. Application forms are available by writing to AWED, P.O. Box 581, Norfolk, CT 06058. Interviews will be held in April and awards will be made soon after. ■

Letters

One Way Street? Not So Fast, Please

As a resident of downtown Norfolk, I have been following the town's planning for commercial development with considerable interest. I live in a single family residence at the north end of Station Place, where it is still John J. Curtiss Rd., and as it meets Shepard Rd., Emerson St., and Mills Way in a five-way intersection. The suggestion made at the January town plan meeting of P&Z that Station Place become a one-way street, funneling ALL traffic back onto Rt. 44 through our primarily residential neighborhood, hit me too close to HOME.

I understand the need to make re-entry from Station Place onto Rt.44 safer; turning left onto 44 east against traffic in front of The Pub is perilous. The sight line west is often blocked by parked vehicles. However, the sight lines at my intersection are even more problematic. The old mill on the west corner, where Marie Isabelle houses her M.I. Media business, is an impediment to a left turn onto Shepard Rd., as Shepard climbs a steep grade at that intersection, making it very hard to see traffic approaching up the hill.

With the exception of M.I. Media, this is a residential neighborhood of private homes. I cringe to imagine the motorcycle clubs roaring past my front gate every weekend of the summer and fall.

If what we are addressing is a safety issue, it occurs to me that the easiest way to make re-entry onto Rt. 44 from Station Place truly safe, is to convert the caution light up the hill on 44 and 272 to a full stop light. Since this light is visible from the Station Place intersection, it would enable traffic to exit Station Place safely in either direction.

An afterthought re: parking for the anticipated throngs of out-of-town visitors enroute to Infinity Hall. Has Meadowbrook ever been approached with an offer to lease some space in their mostly empty parking lot?

Linda Childs

Wanted

House or apartment to rent long-term in Norfolk. Father with two beautiful daughters seeking to remain town residents. Able to caretake, do home repair, etc. References available. Please call Greg Farr at 542-5806.



Selectman's Corner

Appraising the Cost of Antiques and the Town Budget

By Sue Dyer

Mark your calendars for Friday, May 2, the date our 250th anniversary committee has gotten an antique appraiser to come to Norfolk to appraise our treasures. For \$25 an item you can find out if your piece should be prominently displayed at home, or perhaps sold, or better left in the attic.

The space is limited to 50 items, so be sure to get your application on line at norfolkct.org or contact Ayreslea Denny at 542-5025. If you don't have a treasure to be appraised, you may attend the event for \$10 per person, which should provide you with enough entertainment and informa-

tion that could send you home searching your closets.

The committee has planned an art auction to be held in June, the date to be determined. That should also be interesting and fun.

The Board of Finance, the Board of Selectmen and the Boards of Education are pulling their information together to begin the budget talks for the fiscal year 2008/2009. Road maintenance has been costly so far this season. With winter starting early and our storms ranging from snow, sleet to freezing rain, we can only hope spring is just around the corner. ■

Norfolk's January Weather

Of sun dogs and ice bows

By Russell Russ

Here is a summary of January's weather as recorded at Norfolk's National Weather Service Cooperative Weather Observer Station, Norfolk 2 SW, by the Great Mountain Forest Corporation.

The month's low temperature of 5 degrees below zero was observed on January 3, with a wind chill of minus 26 degrees. There was a high of 57 degrees on January 8. The average temperature this month was 25 degrees, which was 4.7 degrees above normal for January.

The month saw several records broken. The low of 5 degrees below zero on January 3 tied a record for that date set in 1981. Four days later, on January 7, a high of 52 degrees tied the same high temperature recorded in 1946. The 57 degrees observed on January 8 set a record high for that date, beating the last record high of 52 degrees set back in 1937.

Total precipitation for the month was 2.37 inches., which was 1.64 inches below normal. Interestingly, December's total precipitation was exactly 1.64 inches above normal.

January's snowfall totaled 19.2 inches, which was 2.5 inches below normal. The snowstorm that began during the late evening of January 13 and ended during the day on January 14 was by far the biggest, dumping a

total of almost 10 inches at the station. As in December, there was snow cover on the ground at the station every day of January.

A beautiful ice bow was observed on the morning of January 3 and to a lesser extent on January 22. An ice bow is a phenomenon similar to a rainbow, except it is formed by the refraction of sunlight through cloud-suspended ice crystals, instead of raindrops suspended in the air. When the air temperature is very cold and there are high thin clouds, the light from the low sun refracts through the ice crystals in the clouds, resulting in a band, or bow, of color.

When the air temperature is very cold and there are high thin clouds, the light from the low sun refracts through the ice crystals in the clouds, resulting in a band, or bow, of color

An ice bow is a phenomenon similar to a rainbow, except it is formed by the refraction of sunlight through cloud-suspended ice crystals, instead of raindrops suspended in the air. A parhelion, or sun dog, was seen on seven days of the month. It is formed under somewhat similar circumstances, but only appears as a colored luminous spot to either side of the sun. When conditions are right a parhelion can form on both sides of the sun. ■

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Charles Fidler to Lead Torrington Symphony in Pops Concert March 15

Hartford-born musician came from a musical family

By John G. Funchion

A lifetime of music for Norfolk's Charles Fidler has taken him on a journey that ranged from singing and directing in world capitals to his current positions as choral director at Regional 7 and music director of the Torrington Symphony.

Fidler, a resident of Norfolk since taking his job at Regional 7 over 10 years ago, came by conducting almost naturally as a result of growing up with his musical parents in West Hartford.

"I come from a family of musicians and always felt comfortable around orchestras," he says.

His father, Willfred, was a concert violinist who toured the country with his pianist brother Paul. His mother, Dorothy, played principal cello for many years with the Hartford

Symphony and was a professor of cello and ensemble at the Hartt School of Music. She was known as an "emotional, golden tone player," Fidler recalls, "while my father, who was an adjunct professor at Hartt and music instructor for the Hartford public high schools, usually did orchestrations."

Aware of the financial risks of becoming a musician, Fidler's mother often

told him: "Don't be a musician, be a banker and then buy the orchestra."

Fidler's dream of becoming a violinist like his father was shattered when, at the age of 16, he

Under the baton of Charles Fidler, the Torrington Symphony's next performance will be the popular cabaret style "Pops 'n Jazz" concert at the Cornucopia Banquet Hall, 371 Pinewoods Road, Torrington, on March 15 at 8 p.m. There will be a cash bar and food. Tickets are \$15 and available at the door or call 542-5298.

nearly severed his left hand, which broke through a window he was cleaning at his parent's summer music camp in Maine. To compensate for the loss, he became active in the Loomis High School Glee Club before graduating in 1957 to attend Cornell University.

He spent his first two years at Cornell studying chemistry and then switched to an English major with a minor in French. It is what he did outside of the classroom that set the foundation for his musical career. He sang in a multiple of Cornell choral groups and studied voice with Dame Isobel Baillie and Sir Keith Faulkner.

He went on to earn his Master's degree in conducting at the New England Conservatory of Music. Upon graduation, he was named assistant conductor of the Rhode Island Philharmonic and director of choral activities at Brown University. During summers in the late 1960s, Fidler was known to perform 81 straight nights at Cape Cod's Compass Lounge with the "Funtastics," a group of singing waiters and waitresses.

In 1979 he moved to California for doctoral studies at Stanford University punctuated by conducting and singing stints with the Carmel Bach Festival and the American Bach Soloists. While there he met and married his wife, Marilyn and



PHOTOS BY JOHN G. FUNCHION

Charles Fidler, mentor of young musical talent.

raised three children, Marilyn, Will and Elsa. The family remained in California for 17 years during which time he served as assistant to Vance George, conductor of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus.

Fidler, who is known for his brilliant recall of music history and his colorful theatrics during rehearsals, considers the Torrington Symphony as "a great bridge for young people to other orchestras." He is constantly recruiting talented instrumentalists and choral singers from area schools, often integrating them into productions with the orchestra. He is especially proud of two graduates of his Regional 7 choral program. Maura Valenti is now at Julliard and Allie Lurie is a professional singer with "Concora," a Connecticut based choral group. ■

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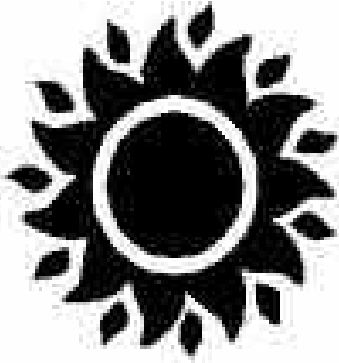
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Another Check for the Gazebo



Lions Club vice president Charles Yard (far right) presents a symbolic Lions Club check of \$1,500 to Bob Bachman, Dorothy Smith and Jim Hotchkiss, committee members of the Meadowbrook Gazebo Fund.

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MONTHLY PUBLICATIONS

Tri-Corner Real Estate (LJ Publication)
LCT Magazine
Fairfield County Times
Homes & Land
The Real Estate Book
Columbia Home Buyers Guide
Unique Homes
The Country and Abroad
Upstate House
Northeast Farm & Ranch
Avenue Magazine
Berkshire Home Buyers Guide

***This does not include all the publications
Elyse Harney Real Estate advertises in.***

WEEKLY PUBLICATIONS

Lakeville Journal
Litchfield County Times
Wall Street Journal - Friday edition
New York Times - Sunday Edition
New York Observer
Voices (New Preston)
The Independent (Millerton)
Foothills Trader (Norfolk)
Shoppers Guide

QUARTERLY / OTHER

Passport Magazine (LCT Publication)
Passport for Education
Real Estate Guide - (LCT Spring/Fall)
Estate & Homes
Community Event Programs

MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICES

CT - Litchfield County Board of Realtors
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NY - Nid-Hudson MLS

*This list is a sampling of publications that Elyse Harney Real Estate has, and continues to use to market our exclusive listings
There is no guarantee on what publications are used for each listing.
We work diligently to market all of our listings on a rotating and continual basis*

Assessors to Weigh Home Owner Appeals

Appeals board meets this month

The assessor's office has completed the 2007 Grand List with a substantial increase in evaluations.

The appeals board will meet this month to consider assessments of those property owners who filed appeals by the February 20 deadline.

The state mandated software up-grade was installed during February. The next three months will be spent analyzing Norfolk sales data to create preliminary value tables for the 2008 revaluation of all real estate. ■

Briefly...

More on the Anniversary Celebrations

Norfolk Now is seeking a grant to put out a special anniversary issue on August 1, and the Lions voted to enter a float in the parade...

New At the Speckled Hen

Chef Victoria Canas is offering a special menu of Mexican dishes every Tuesday and Wednesday night...

Land Trust Acquisitions

In 2007 the Norfolk Land Trust took an easement of almost 1100 acres on the property known as Aton Forest. Other easements include over 100 acres in the area of Grant Hill and Grant Swamp, and over 94 acres in south Norfolk along Parker Hill Road and a part of Riggs Hill...

Double Win for Josh DeCerber

January was a pretty big month for the DeCerber family. Josh DeCerber received his Ph.D. in biomedical sciences, having defended his dissertation the very day before his second child and first son, David Carl, was born...

More for Meadowbrook

While the Lion's Club is the principal benefactor of the Norfolk Ambulance, the club's annual spaghetti dinner netted over \$1,220 for the benefit of Meadowbrook's gazebo fund, and another \$300 was donated to send two Norfolk students to the United Nations on UN Day...

—Compiled by Lloyd Garrison

To propose items for Briefly, contact the next issue editor.

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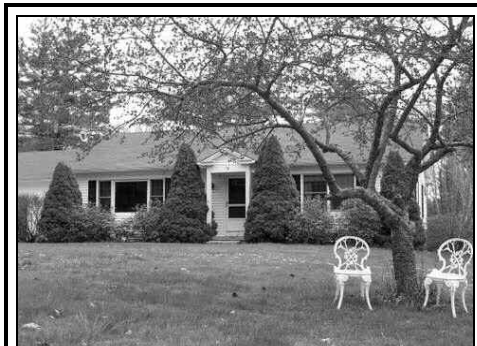
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Norfolk, Seven Brooks

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Norfolk, New Listing

Located on a quiet country lane within walking distance to town & surrounded by conservation land! 3 BR, 1.5 BA, great home with loads of sun & comfortable living spaces. Very solidly built and in move-in condition. For sale or rent. **\$379,000 or \$1,200/ mo.**

March Calendar

TOWN GOVERNMENT

Selectmen meet at the Town Hall on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Wetlands Agency meets at the Town Hall the first Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Planning & Zoning Commission meets the second Tuesday of the month in Town Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Board of Finance meets at Town Hall on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.

Regional Board of Education meets the second and fourth Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the library at Regional 7 High School.

Botelle Board of Education meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the school.

Economic Development Commission meets at Town hall on the first Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.

Recreation Department meets the fourth Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Norfolk Sewer District meets the third Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Annual Community wide Easter egg hunt will be held at the Battell Chapel for ages 10 and under on March 22 at 9 a.m. Please bring a basket or bag to collect eggs in. Call 542-5721 with any questions.

Norfolk/Colebrook Garden Club will meet on April 17 at 4 p.m. at the Colebrook Community Center. The speaker will be Roxann Lovell from the Aerie Mountain Garden Center.

Women's open night basketball will take place Monday evening from 7-8:45 p.m. at the Botelle School gym. All skill levels welcome. For more information contact Sarah Kasacek at 542-5849.

Preschool playgroup gathers on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at Battell Chapel for preschoolers and their caregivers.

NORFOLK LIBRARY

Art Reception for Norfolk painter Ron Sloan will be held on March 2 from 4-6 p.m.

Library Associates will meet on March 4 at noon.

Fireside Friday, New York Times science section discussion with Margaret O'Malley on March 7 from 3-4:30 p.m.

Documentary, "King Corn," to be shown on March 11 from 6-8 p.m.

Fireside Friday, Games and Conversation on March 14 at 3 p.m.

Concert, Grada Irish Music will take place on March at 5 p.m.

Fireside Friday, discussion (topic to be announced) on March 21 from 3-4:30 p.m.

Book discussion: "Animal, Vegetable, Miracle" led by Dorothy Pam on March 25 starting at 6:30 p.m.

Corner Club, Ricardo Frota will present multicultural and colorful music on March 26 at 3:20 p.m.

Fireside Friday, Mason-Herzig music on March 29 at 2 p.m.

Town on the same page, Wrap up book discussion will be held with refreshments on March 30 at 4 p.m.

BOTELLE SCHOOL

CMT Testing will take place on March 3-28.

PTO will meet on March 5 at 7 p.m.

Second Marking Period ends on March 7.

Daylight Savings begins on March 9.

Second Report Card goes out on March 14.

Roaring Brook here on March 17 for the third grade class.

Jump Rope for Heart is being held on March 19 in the gym.

Spring Begins on March 20.

Early Dismissal on March 19 and 20 for parent/teacher conferences.

Send submissions to Katherine Pilbin, dpilbin@snet.net.
Deadline is the 15th of the month.



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Pizza Parlor Night

On Saturday, March 8 the youth group of the Church of Christ Congregational will be hosting a "pizza parlor fundraiser" for this years work camp trip. Dine in (with karaoke) or take out. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for seniors and children under 12, with a \$25 family maximum. Price includes two slices of pizza, salad and beverage.

Community Easter Egg Hunt

The annual community wide Easter egg hunt will be held Saturday, March 22 at 9 a.m. All children 10 years and under are invited to attend. This year's hunt will be held in the Battell Chapel of the Church of Christ Congregational. Please bring along an Easter basket or a bag for egg collection. Questions? Call the church at 542-5721.

Pre-kindergarten Registration

Botelle School is in the process of compiling their 2008-2009 pre-kindergarten list for the fall. If you have a child or know of a child who was born on or before January 1, 2005, please call staff at the school office at 542-5286 so that they can ensure that you receive upcoming mailings about their program.



Learn to Navigate Over Land

The Norfolk Land Trust will be holding a navigation workshop on Sunday, April 6 beginning at 1:30 p.m. Those attending will meet first in the Norfolk library to run through compass, map, and global positioning skills, then go outside for some practical experience. The program is open to novices and those who just want to brush up their expertise. It will be especially useful for anyone interested in helping with the Land Trust's growing stewardship responsibilities.

Volunteer of the year

It's that time of year again when of Norfolk honors a member of the community with the Volunteer of the Year award. Instituted in 1996 by the Norfolk Republican Town Committee, the honor is bestowed upon a Norfolk resident of any political persuasion who has dedicated time to community service. It not only highlights the efforts of one person, but also brings attention to the many service organizations in town that enrich our lives. The 2007 honoree was Jim Harrington. Nomination slips may be clipped from this issue of Norfolk Now and mailed to P.O. Box 284, or may be found near nomination boxes at various businesses in Norfolk. The 2008 winner will be honored at a dinner on Saturday, May 10 at Botelle School.

Send submissions for Community News to Lisa Bazzano, thebazzanos@sbcglobal.net.
Deadline is the 15th of the month.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINATION

I nominate: _____
to receive the Norfolk 2008 Volunteer of the Year Award because:

Signed (optional): _____

Mail nominations to:
Volunteer of the Year
P.O. Box 284
Norfolk, CT 06058

Winner will be celebrated at a dinner
on Saturday, May 10

Norfolk Then . . .



PHOTO COPYRIGHT NORFOLK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

If you think you see something out of the ordinary in the first pew of the Catholic Church, you are right. This is a photograph taken during one of the ski masses held in Norfolk in the 1930's, and worshippers have brought their skis into the sanctuary. Back then Norfolk was known as the winter sports center of Connecticut. The big attraction was the annual ski-jump competition, held at the 150' natural slope jump on Canaan Mountain, where crowds gathered to watch some of the country's best skiers compete. But competitors were not the only ones out on the snow. The relatively new sport of cross country skiing had just arrived in Norfolk on the heels of the 1932 Olympics in Lake

Placid. A network of trails on Canaan Mountain—Queen's Highway, Biggs Trail, and Iron Horse to name a few—was created by the newly founded Norfolk Winter Sports Association which drew skiers from near and far. A special "Snow Train" transported city folk from New York to the Snow Station above the Blackberry River Farm, where they disembarked with skis and poles to try their luck. In Norfolk, enthusiasm for cross country skiing was so great that it was reported in the local paper, "Every man, woman, and child got a ski suit for Christmas."

—Ann Havemeyer

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