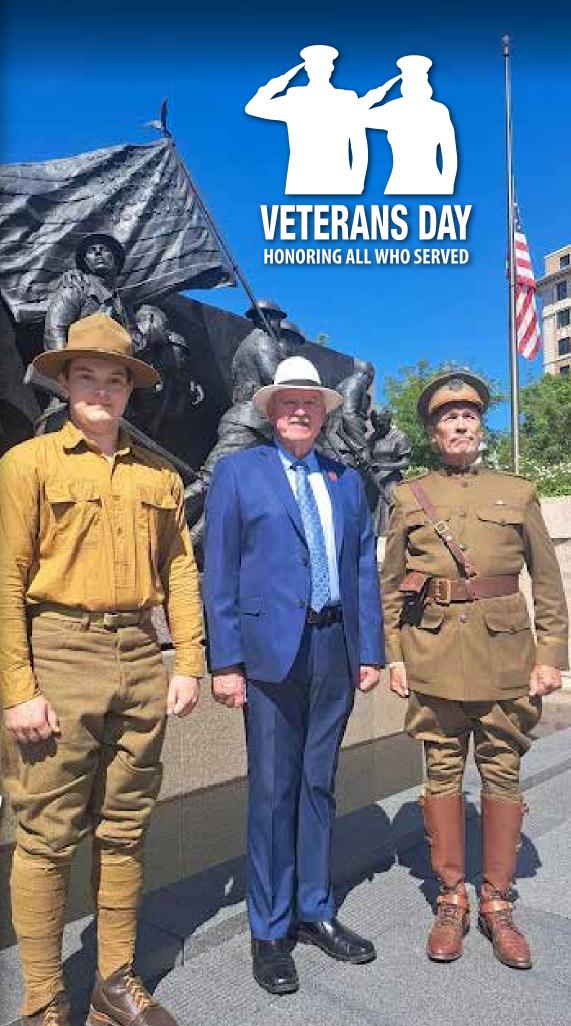


IN THE CATSKILLS



THANKS TO OUR ADVERTISERS!

**NOV 2025** 





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#### A Time and A Place

P. O. Box 65 Arkville, NY 12406 ataap16@gmail.com Gretchen Balcom PUBLISHER





# Raise the flag in honor of Veterans Day

Every November 11, Americans take time to honor veterans for their service and sacrifice to our country. Flying the American flag represents pride, unity and patriotism. Flying our flag is a powerful way to honor our veterans. Here's an overview of how to display it correctly on Veterans Day, and always.

#### **FLAG ETIQUETTE**

The United States Flag Code outlines specific flag-flying guidelines, particularly on national holidays. Follow these guidelines to honor this important symbol:

- 1. The American flag should be flown only from sunrise to sunset unless properly illuminated. Lighted, you can display it 24 hours a day.
- 2. Never let the flag touch the ground and always allow it to wave freely without obstruction.
- 3. Never display the American flag beneath anything else, including state flags, on the same pole. State or institutional flags should always be positioned below the American flag.
- 4. When displaying the flag on a wall or in a window, ensure the field of stars is positioned in the top left corner as you face it.
- 5. On Veterans Day, proudly fly the flag at full mast. Remember that only on specific occasions, such as Memorial Day and Patriot Day, should the flag be flown at half-staff.
- 6. Don't use the American flag as clothing, bedding or drapery, and don't allow it to become soiled. Never mark, alter or deface the flag in any manner, and store it in a clean and dry place, ensuring it remains in good condition.



#### ON THE COVER...

This photo was taken at the new WWI Memorial near the White House. At left, is Eli Taylor in his replica WWI uniform. The gentleman in the blue suit is Gerald York, grandson of Alvin York, who's story inspired Eli's interest in the Great War. **See the story on Page 4.** 

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Eli Taylor participates in immersive historical reenactments of WWI events by dressing in period clothing and recreating battles and scenes from the Great War — a "living history" with the primary goals: to educate us about history in a hands-on way, to get the details right, and to have fun.

#### **ELI TAYLOR**

# **WWI History Buff and Reenactor**

by Iris Mead

For a young man of 20, World War I was a long time ago, yet Eli Taylor, a native of Margaretville, in a sense travels back in time to participate in one of it's battles. This one, however, takes place once a year in November in a field outside Newville, PA.

Over 1,200 men and women come together to re-enact WWI battles as part of re-enactment and history demonstrations held annually. These are actual battles that give us a glimpse of two-days in the life of a WWI Infantryman in the trenches during the Great War. This event takes place every year, the weekend prior to Veterans Day in November. This year's battles will took place on November 7 and 8th.

Eli became interested in the Great War, as it is called by historians, as a young boy after seeing a movie about Sgt. Alvin York, one of the most decorated soldiers of WWI, who won a Medal of Honor for his heroism. This led him to do further research on the war where he found the immersion events happening at Newville, PA and The Great War Association (GWA).

The GWA hosts two combat reenactment weekends each year at its own battle site in Newville. This site is designed with trenches, underground bunkers, shell holes and machine gun nests, made to look and have the feel of a real WWI battlefield.

Once aware of the opportunity to actually participate in a reenactment, Eli contacted the GWA and became a member in November 2024. He was assigned to the 80th Unit out of Norfolk, VA, 318th Infantry, known as the Blueridge Doughboys. He became their newest and youngest member.

These two-day events are actual battles using simulated hand grenades, blank ammunition, and explosives, and all soldiers carry guns. Eli's gun is a 1917 Enfield. WWI replica biplanes fly over the battlefield using replica machine guns that fire blanks. The enemy is portrayed by GWA members as German and Austrian units.

As battles are "fought" throughout the weekend trench food is provided by each unit's mess cart.



Eli Taylor, WWI reenactor with the Great War Association, enjoys sharing his knowledge and experiences with local history buffs.

Breakfast is corned beef hash with bacon, coffee and bread. Lunch is a bacon sandwich and coffee, and dinner is chicken and gravy, peaches and coffee. Meals are eaten in the trenches.

As in a real war, there are hospital tents, medics, nurses and Red Cross volunteers who are GWA members. If you are wounded, you are required to stay on the ground for 5 minutes and then can fight again. At these battles, no country is ever declared a winner.

continued...

There are between 1,200-1,400 GWA members and participants come from all walks of life. Each member provides their own uniform and gear, and pays their own expenses.

Eli likes to give talks on WWI and was invited to Washington, DC to talk about the Lost Battalion at the dedication of the new WWI Memorial, adjacent to the White House. (The Lost Battalion is the name given to the nine companies of the US 77th Division, roughly 554 men, isolated by German forces during World War I.) He also traveled to Gettysburg to participate in commemorating General Dwight Eisenhower's 1st command where he camped on the lawn of the Eisenhower estate. At last year's annual meeting of the Historical Society of Middletown, Eli gave a talk on his interest in WWI and laid out his WWI gear that he uses in his talks and reenactments.

In real life, Eli runs a property management company and is a part-time lifeguard at the Catskill Recreation Center. He is also a member of the board of the Historical Society of Middletown. He enjoys giving talks about WWI and his participation in the Great War reenactments and is willing to provide more information on these events.

Email: etaylor62405@gmail.com Great War Association: www.greatwarassociation.org Videos: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Icj2XJ0TZ28 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-e29JGa9rU&t=22s



Renaissance man, Eli Taylor, at his encampment displaying his WWI accurate uniform and gear.







# PHOTO CREDIT: SUZANNE M. WALSH © 2025

#### CAROLYN M. NELSON, USMC, RTD.

by Suzanne M. Walsh © 2025

Carolyn M. Nelson is a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. Her military story is just one of 16 million U.S. veterans today and bears sharing especially now, during a time when awareness of the imperative to take care of ourselves and those we love and work with is recognized as a critical component of the country's mental health and well-being.

The inspiration that launched Nelson's story began at a very young age, growing up in a family that treasured retelling narratives of her grandfather's military experiences during World War II. These stories steered Nelson toward volunteering as a Junior ROTC member and excelling as an honor student during her high school career. By graduation, though, Nelson felt she just "wasn't ready" yet for college life.

That decision found Nelson beginning her Marine career in boot camp as a 17-year-old enlistee. She recounts her inauguration into Marine life as an eye-opener.

"Back then, being one of only two women in our boot camp program was pretty hard at first," Nelson says with the honesty that characterizes most everything about her. "But," she adds, smiling, "we got the hang of it soon enough."

At the outset, Pvt. Nelson, by her own choosing, was first assigned to her occupational unit as a Marine Corps aviation flight equipment technician. Before long, her leadership qualities became apparent and were recognized by her immediate higher-ups, resulting in her being singled out, selected, and accepted as an enrollee in the Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP), based in Quantico, Virginia.

"On graduation from MECEP, I became '2nd Lt. Nelson, USMC," she says, "and was on my way."

continued...

Carolyn Nelson, 20-year USMC Veteran and Associate Professor at SUNY Cobleskill's Equine Center with her canine therapy companion 'Jake'.

The years that followed accelerated Nelson's career advancement, with increasing acknowledgment of the junior officer's outstanding capabilities in the various leadership roles assigned to her, both stateside and abroad in Okinawa, Japan. Along the way, the young woman who once hadn't felt "quite ready" for college managed to achieve not just one but two separate college degrees—in economics and business.

Nelson's military career culminated with her superiors ultimately considering awarding her a preeminent promotion in rank. However, after 20 years dedicated to the Marine Corps—during which she met and married her fellow Marine husband and gave birth to a son—Nelson opted to retire, satisfied with the goals worked for and achieved at the close of two decades of service. Because retiring Marines are never referred to as "ex-Marines," Nelson's retirement bequeathed her the prestigious rank of captain in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Then came facing the transition.

"You know, when you sign up for military service, you enter a whole new world and are given a very clearly defined purpose in life," Nelson says, reflecting on the seismic shift all veterans face on returning to civilian life. Transitioning from military life—where everything is ordered and has its own place—to a life in which potentially nothing appears ordered can be fraught with issues, both physical and mental.

Although older and certainly more mature, life after service rarely turns out to be a piece of cake. As Nelson points out, for starters, all the years of secure peer support are suddenly gone—and just as suddenly, you're faced with having to fly solo.

Reflecting on her experience during this time, Nelson shares that it was during her first job back—as an effective teacher in Amsterdam—when she started experiencing feelings that something felt increasingly "off." Like millions of veterans, it was deeply unsettling.

Then an event occurred that changed her life. continued...

USMC Veteran and Associate Professor Carolyn Nelson at the SUNY Cobleskill Equine Center teaching about horses to Veterans from the Stratton VA in Albany. Accompanying the Veterans are college students in the Equine-Assisted Therapeutics Department at the College.



PHOTO CREDIT: SUZANNE M. WALSH © 2025

"A friend suggested a very unusual program to help returning veterans—a therapy of working with horses and building back trust."

The War Horse Foundation in Saratoga Springs offers a free, equine-assisted therapeutic program specifically designed for veterans dealing with confusion and stress after the military. Feelings can run the entire gamut of the spectrum—whether due to the mental health implications of resuming unfamiliar day-to-day life as a civilian, PTSD diagnoses accompanying combat veterans returning stateside, or service-related military sexual trauma (MST) experienced by both genders.

This is a free invitation to veterans from any branch of the military, no matter their rank and regardless of when or how long they served. All are eligible to be flown in from anywhere in the country and provided with food and lodging at no cost.

The War Horse Foundation is a 100% veteranoperated, donation-funded nonprofit whose sole mission is to help U.S. veterans through the many possible physiological and emotional challenges of life after service. As the project's website states, "We help veterans move past their trauma by partnering them with rescued and retired off-the-track Thoroughbred racehorses" an innovative approach a world away from traditional talk therapy.

As Nelson explains, "It's all about healing through the silence of physical bonding, utilizing the uniqueness of the horse-human trust relationship.



Horses are amazing."

years ago.

Implausible as horse-assisted healing may sound to those unfamiliar with this phenomenon, it really works—and has for decades.

"On completing my experiences with the incredible War Horse Foundation, I realized exactly what I wanted to do with my life," Nelson says. "I wanted—and continue to want—to help as many veterans as I can to have the same life-changing healing through horses that was gifted to me."

Nelson has been doing exactly that ever since. With the same devotion dedicated to 20 years in the military, Nelson enrolled in, completed, and received yet another degree—this time in the Equine-Assisted Therapy Department at SUNY Cobleskill, one of only two colleges in the country, until now, that offers a degree in equine-assisted therapeutics, which SUNY Cobleskill launched 30

Today, Nelson is an assistant professor in the college's Equine Department. She teaches and continued...



assists in overseeing undergraduates majoring and minoring in this field. In addition, she is the program director in charge of all veteran affairs at the college.

Nelson also does something else. For the past several years, she has facilitated a unique program for veterans at the college in partnership with the psychologists and nurses in charge of the Stratton VA Center's trauma (PTSD), drug-related, and alcohol rehabilitation programs. Twice each week, veterans arrive from Albany for hands-on equine ground-training sessions alternating with mental health support classes, during which the veterans are joined by students in this field.

The results are rewarding. Students learn from

veterans, and veterans learn from students. "With each session, I get to watch the silent trust and confidence growing as each individual equineveteran relationship deepens—along with the students' learning."

Nelson is experiencing her self-realized purpose.

Along the way of finding meaning in her life through her own healing, Nelson has turned her rich life's journey into a platform for helping other veterans acquire the same for themselves.

We salute the fruitful perseverance of Capt. Carolyn M. Nelson, USMC (ret.), and all veterans for their military service—and for the heroism involved in choosing to live their valuable lives.



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# November is National ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Awareness Month

Awareness today, a cure tomorrow



# How artificial intelligence is helping people affected by Alzheimer's disease



November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about Alzheimer's and supporting those affected by this disease. Did you know that artificial intelligence (AI) is playing

an increasingly vital role in the care of Alzheimer's patients? Here's an overview.

**Brain imaging.** Researchers are using AI to enhance brain scans, such as MRIs. By training algorithms on thousands of these images, AI can help achieve faster scan times, clearer images and more accurate interpretations. This will hopefully lead to earlier and more precise diagnoses.

**Improved research.** All is driving break-throughs in Alzheimer's research through advanced data analysis. For example, researchers are using Al-assisted ophthalmic imaging (scans of the retina and blood vessels in the eye) to detect early signs of neurodegeneration in the retina, potentially paving the way for earlier interventions.

Monitoring cognitive health. New tools like CognoSpeak, developed in the UK, are being used to analyze natural speech patterns to identify early signs of cognitive decline. This Al system conducts virtual interviews, asking memory-related questions while analyzing aspects like hesitation and fluency to support early detection and ongoing monitoring.

**Daily support.** Voice-activated assistants, such as Alexa and Google Home, assist Alzheimer's patients by providing reminders for medication, appointments and daily routines. Additionally, GPS-enabled smartwatches and smart home devices allow caregivers to track locations and receive alerts if patients wander outside safe zones.

**Emotional connection.** Al-powered social robots are being developed to provide companionship and emotional support for people with Alzheimer's. For instance, the University of British Columbia is working with LOVOT robots that recognize faces, respond to touch and detect emotions, helping reduce feelings of loneliness and anxiety.

As technology evolves, these innovations promise to enhance the quality of life for individuals living with Alzheimer's and their families.



Heart of the Catskills Humane Society by Laura Wright

# What are our pets most grateful for?

The year is flying by, and the holiday season is right around the corner! Like me, you may be turning inward and reflecting on the past year; your successes and challenges, the good times, the difficult moments, the growth, and all the things you are thankful for in your life.

But this year let's look at it from a pet's point of view and reflect on what they might be thankful for in life. We are their world, and we provide much of the love, attention, stimulation, and care that our pets experience. What do you think they are most grateful for when it comes to the life we share with them?

I have a menagerie at home, so this is a fun experiment. I have dogs, cats, turtles, and a cockatiel, and I love and appreciate every single furry, feathered, and shelled being in my home. They are all individuals and appreciate different things. There are ways they show me they are thankful, and in other ways I may have to use my imagination.

My dogs, for instance, show me they are thankful for any pets, cuddles, walks, playtime and food they get from me by their wags and smiles. But I believe my dog Pearl, who is very anxious and gets cold easily, appreciates it every time I put a sweater or hoodie on her. She is also very cooperative when taking her medications, even though she doesn't particularly enjoy it. She seems to know they help her. And she is definitely grateful for her calm, grounding doggie brother, even though it was an adjustment for her to share her home with another dog at first.



My deaf Australian Shepherd is grateful when I reassure him by telling him what I am doing (like taking a shower) or that I will "be right back" in sign language. He doesn't like it when I just disappear without checking in with him. He is very smart, and he can relax and not worry when I communicate with him. He is also thankful when I take him someplace where he can safely run off his leash and play fetch!

My cats truly seem to be thankful when I play classical music and keep the house clean and organized. They are calmer and happier babies. My cat with Cerebral Hypoplasia is grateful every time I help her up onto the bed when she asks (even though she can do it herself if needed). She purrs for me so sweetly. She is also very thankful for

continued...



## HERE'S A TIP by JoAnn Derson

"Save plastic bags that cannot be recycled and use them to collect food scraps that cannot be composted." -- **B.M.** in **New York** 

When frying ground beef, add a tablespoon or two of water. It will help the excess grease pull away from the meat, making it easier to drain off.

"To soften butter without melting it, warm a glass that is bigger than the butter stick and invert it over the butter." -- T.G. in Indiana

Save the peel from oranges and grapefruits. You can toss them on a fire for a nice smell.

"Hard water stains in the toilet are no match for denture tablets. Simply drop one in the toilet and let sit overnight. A quick scrub and a flush in the morning should do it." -- P.S. in Washington

Make a simple holiday cheese ball: Combine a package of cream cheese with a cup of finely shredded cheese (your choice) and 1/3 cup sour cream or plain Greek yogurt. Form into a ball, roll in coating of your choice (dried fruit pieces, chopped nuts, spices, etc.) and chill. Wrap in a pretty cellophane bag and bring with pita chips, crackers or pretzels as a hostess gift.

Glass and chrome will shine if you clean them with newspaper. You can mist the paper with water first, but not too much. Rub, and the shine comes right out -- plus no streaks or lint!

"Use purified water in your coffeemaker to lengthen its life. Water deposits build up and affect both the flavor and function of your machine. They can be cleaned, but it's much better if you use purified drinking water from a jug. It's very easy to fill the machine, too." -- M.E. in Wyoming

If you need to pick up small shards of glass, you can use a cotton ball that's been moistened, or a slice of white bread (insides only) wadded up.

"That time of the year is almost here for us. You know, the time when running the heater gives the whole house the zaps. To keep our carpets from giving us static shock, we fill a water spray bottle with one part laundry softener and four parts water. Give the air and carpet a spritz, and it kills the zaps." -- A.O. in Canada

Keep your hard-boiled egg yolks from crumbling by wetting your knife between slices.

#### **Pet Me Please** ... continued from Page 9.

Temptations Treats, especially the chicken flavor!
One of my Red-Eared Slider turtles is outgoing and is a happy girl when I take her out for walkabout in the house for a bit to stretch her legs. My other Red-Eared Slider is shy and is grateful when I DON'T make her come out of her pond! My little bird friend loves it when I greet her every morning and when I get home from work and when I sing her "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" every night before bed. She gets happy and excited and chirps for me. And she is, of course, grateful for millet! All the pets seem to enjoy it when I play healing frequency music and have a quiet, gentle day at home just being fully present with them. They become so relaxed and happy.

I'm sure my animals are thankful for many more things, but the main thing is that our pets appreciate it when we are sensitive to their needs and moods and they respond accordingly. Think about what your pets might be thankful for this year!





#### **Celebrating the Arts and Community**

& Benefiting RAG's Diverse Programming Friday December 5, 2025, 7:00pm The Old Mill, 2318 Co Rd 41, Roxbury

Roxbury Arts Group invites the community to celebrate the season with them at its inaugural Dance Party fundraiser on Friday, December 5. The Old Mill Restaurant in Roxbury will be live with excitement — great food, lively conversation, and a packed dance floor where supporters celebrate generosity with every step. This event celebrates the community connections and supports the high-quality arts programming that enriches life here in the rural Catskills year-round.

"There's no better way to celebrate the holiday season than by dancing with friends and neighbors while supporting the diverse arts programming that make our community so vibrant," said Interim Director Gregory Reece. "This event is all about the joy of coming together; of great food and music, and the joy that comes from knowing that while having fun, you are also helping to ensure that world-class performances, exhibitions, and workshops remain accessible to everyone in our region."

Guests will enjoy a menu catered by the Old Mill Restaurant featuring both hors d'oeuvres and main dish stations, along with a selection of wine, beer, and non-alcoholic beverages. Festive attire is welcomed and encouraged as attendees dance the night away in celebration of the season and the arts.

The evening benefits Roxbury Arts Group's year-round programming, which includes inspiring exhibitions at Headwaters Arts Center and Roxbury Arts Center, a robust season of unforgettable live performances, and hands-on workshops, camps and community events for adults and children

throughout the year. From bringing Grammy-winning musicians to historic venues to distributing over \$175,000 annually to regional artists through grants, RAG ensures the arts remain a vital part of rural Catskills life.

Tickets for this event are available with Tiered Equity Pricing (\$60-\$100) to ensure accessibility while maximizing support for RAG's mission. Tickets and information can be found at www. roxburyartsgroup.org or by calling 607-326-7908. Festive dress welcomed!

All proceeds directly benefit the organization's programming and operations throughout Delaware County and surrounding areas.

Whether you're a regular attendee at RAG events or looking for a festive way to support the arts, this inaugural Dance Party offers the perfect opportunity to celebrate community, creativity, and the holiday season in style.

#### **About Roxbury Arts Group**

Established in 1979, The Roxbury Arts Group is a non-profit multi-arts organization on a mission to infuse the heart of Catskill communities with the power of the arts. Through captivating public performances, inspiring exhibitions, engaging classes, and critical artist support, The Roxbury Arts Group ensures that artists from all walks of life and art lovers of all ages have access to quality programming and opportunities. RAG operates three venues: Roxbury Arts Center, Headwaters Arts Center, and the historic Old School Baptist Church.



#### Stronger together:

## COMMUNITY FOCUSED

Getting involved with a community organization is rewarding in every way!

Our community organizations work tirelessly to improve the quality of life here in the Catskills. Dedicated individuals often work behind the scenes, doing essential work with limited resources. Their dedication strengthens our social safety net. Without their efforts, our communities would suffer greatly, especially our most vulnerable members.



You can make a difference by lending a hand. Volunteer your time, whether it's a little or a lot, or donate clothing, furniture, food or money. Remember, every little bit counts.

Getting involved means taking real action for the common good, and you'll also experience great personal satisfaction. Not only will you be supporting a cause that matters to you, but you'll also help make your community stronger and more united.







# FAIRVIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY MONTHLY NEWS & UPDATES

#### NOVEMBER Events

#### **GUESS THE DINOS!**

Stop by the library and guess how many dinos are in the jar. Drop your guess in the basket. Closest guess wins a prize. There is a prize for kids and adults.

#### **FIBER ARTS CLUB**

#### Wednesday Nov 5 from 6pm-8pm Saturday Nov 22 from 12-2pm

Work on your own fiber arts (knit, crochet, embroider, sew, etc) and meet other makers. All are welcome - beginner to expert. No formal instruction but we will help if we can. Check our FB page, our webpage calendar or call the library for additional dates.

#### **FPL BOOK CLUB**

#### Thursday Nov 20 at 2pm via Zoom

The book is *James* by Percival Everett. Contact the library director at 845 586 3791 or director@fairviewlibrary.org for a Zoom link or more information.

MAH JONGG Every Friday from 1:00 to 4:00 pm

#### **Crafts with Miss Cherie**

Video instructions will be posted on Facebook on the dates indicated below. Craft components available in the library at least 48 hours before the demo.

#### TO GO CRAFT:

Pick up the components and be creative at home!

#### **November 6 - Fall Gnome Magnet**

Simple crafts will always available in the children's room. These can be done any time during open hours using the directions and sample provided.

Adult supervision is required.

SELF-GUIDED CHILDREN'S CRAFT
Nov 7 - Color the Dino
Nov 21 Christmas paper chains

# Thanksgiving Around the World

#### Canada

Canada's first Thanksgiving celebration actually predates America's. In 1578, an expedition led by English navigator Martin Frobisher held a ceremony in what is now Nunavut, giving thanks for the safety of their fleet. This is considered the first-ever Thanksgiving celebration in North America, though in fact First Nations (the indigenous peoples of Canada) and Native Americans had been holding harvest festivals long before Europeans arrived.

#### **Germany**

The German equivalent of Thanksgiving is Erntedankfest ("harvest festival of thanks"). This religious holiday often takes place on the first Sunday in October, which is often also the first Sunday following Michaelistag (Michaelmas); different places mark the occasion on various dates in September and October. Though rural areas take the harvest festival concept more literally, churches in German cities also join in on the celebration, giving thanks for the good fortune their congregations experienced that year.

#### **Norfolk Island**

This remote island in the Pacific Ocean, a former British penal colony and current Australian territory, is another unlikely place for a holiday celebration with American roots. Its Thanksgiving tradition dates back to the mid-1890s, when American trader Isaac Robinson put on an American-style Thanksgiving service in the All Saints Church in Kingston in order to attract some visiting American whalers to the celebration. His plan worked, and parishioners on the island continue to celebrate the holiday today, bringing fruits, vegetables and cornstalks to decorate the church and singing American hymns on the last Wednesday of November each year.





#### **ANNOUNCES:**

# Open Call for Photography Submissions for the **Community Photo Show**

Nov 22, 2025 – Jan 31, 2026

Headwaters Arts Center 66 Main Street, Stamford 607.214.6040 | www.roxburyartsgroup.org

Photographers of all abilities are invited to submit their best photographs for the annual Community Photo Show at the This annual exhibit is a celebration of local creativity, and will be on display from November 22, 2025 to January 31, 2026.

Community members of all ages and at all stages of their creative development are invited to participate in showing and selling their work. To show your work, drop off up to three unframed photos

along with an entry form to Headwaters Arts Center on November 12–15, 2025, 10a–3p. Entry forms can be completed in person when photos are dropped off. There is no fee to enter or participate.

The opening reception celebrating the photographers featured in the exhibit will take place on Friday, November 22, 2025, 3–5p. This is a free event and all are welcome to attend.

This event is sponsored by Roxbury Wine and Spirits.





# Portrait Drawing Workshop with Kathleen Green

Saturday, November 15, 11am–2pm
Headwaters Arts Center
66 Main Street, Stamford

headwaters@roxburyartsgroup.org www.roxburyartsgroup.org

Kathleen Green returns to Headwaters Arts Center to teach her popular workshop on drawing portraits in graphite and charcoal. Participants will learn about the structure of the face, how to use shadows to form features, and how to achieve a likeness from a photograph.

Participants will create several portraits throughout the workshop, and are encouraged to bring photographs of their own to work from. Though suitable for beginners, this workshop builds on concepts explored in Green's introductory class.

Tiered equity pricing is available for this workshop at \$20 | \$35 | \$45. All materials will be provided.

Kathleen Green has been drawing for as long as she can remember. She has participated in art shows, helped curate shows for festivals and is a member of the East Branch Delaware River Plein Air Painters group as well as an online international group of portrait artists. Her paintings can be found in collections in New York, Florida, Delaware, Michigan, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

#### This event is sponsored by Margaretville Telephone Company.

All programs offered by the Roxbury Arts Group are supported by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the NYS Legislature, the A. Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation, the Robinson Broadhurst Foundation, The Community Foundation for South Central New York, the Tianaderrah Foundation, The Delaware National Bank of Delhi, and individual supporters.



"Max." Portrait in graphite by Kathleen Green.





by CJ Karcher Owner & Systems Administrator **Level Up Tech Support** 

#### Holiday Shopping... Online

Well, here we are again—summer has come to a close, and traces of white fluffy stuff have been seen falling from the sky. Grandmas everywhere are preparing the Thanksgiving menu, kids are dreaming up long lists for Santa. dads have barbed wire and alarms on the thermostat, and the Hallmark Channel is once again beating that same Christmas movie plot to death.

This this month's article is some tips on shopping online, part recap, and part reminder—mainly about staying safe online and how to avoid having your holiday ruined by scammers.

#### **Watch Out for Holiday Scammers**

Scammers know this is the season for spending online. No doubt they will be working double time trying to steal your hard-earned money. As I've mentioned before, the number one rule of any email or pop is DON'T CALL THE NUMBER.

There is a good chance many of you will be making purchases you don't normally buy, from places you don't normally buy from. This is prime opportunity for scammers to send emails claiming a charge has been made, or your order didn't go through or any number of tricks to make you think something is wrong and call the number in the email.

Here's a suggestion: Keep a spreadsheet of what you bought, from where, and how much. Print a copy of your order or make a note including the number to that seller and your purchase number. If you get an email stating that your purchase was declined, the amount was

wrong, or whatever, you can compare details and call the number you wrote down from the website where you pmade the purchase.

Also, always look to see where the email is coming from. Big chains like BestBuy and Apple don't send emails from Gmail accounts. No legitimate retail companies will ever ask to remote into your system to fix an issue. If that is ever suggested, HANG UP and do not call the number you dailed again.

#### Be mindful of sales on social media

I see this all the time... name brand items being sold certain on some sites at a fraction of their retail price. Chances are it's not really that brand's site and if you continued...

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submit a payment you'll never receive any items. It never hurts to research a website before you buy. Many sites are legit, but aren't well known. Usually a quick google search on the authenticity of said site will help you determine if you wish to purchase from it. If the site seems sketchy, look for the desired item on a more trustworthy site.

If you are like me and buy gift cards for everyone, plan ahead! Stores now only sell a limited amount of gift cards in certain amounts. This is because many scams ask you to purchase gift cards for payment. If any website or "customer service person" ask you to buy gift cards to settle your bill, HANG UP! IT'S A SCAM.



#### **Tech Savvy Shopping**

Looking for the perfect gift for a techy family member or friend and don't have a clue? My advice... get that person a gift card to Amazon or BestBuy. Or, ask them to send you a think to the item they're wanting

Also, techs like me are usually more than willing to let you pick their brain for knowledge and suggestions. Maybe someone wants a new computer and you don't know what to get. They might not know either. Gather important information: Will the computer be used for graphics or music, or for gaming? What games, or accessories?

As always, Level Up offers custom-built desktop systems to meet everyone's needs. Laptops and other computers are available to order as well.

This can be a very stressful time of year. Slow down and pay attention to what you're doing online, and don't cause yourself more stress.

I hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving! Stay warm when the cold rolls in, and stay cyber safe!



## RELAX

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## **STRANGE BUT TRUE**

by Lucie Winborne

One spark of static electricity can generate as much as 3,000 volts.

According to the National Turkey Federation, around 88% of Americans enjoy the bird as part of their annual holiday feast. That adds up to a belly-busting 46 million+ turkeys, says the U.S. Department of Agriculture. We don't call it Turkey Day for nothing!

Hockey pucks are frozen before each game to prevent bouncing in and out of play and other potentially dangerous and uncontrolled movements.

The phrase "United States of America" was first published anonymously in the Virginia Gazette newspaper in Williamsburg, Virginia, on April 6, 1776.

When he was a teenager, physicist Stephen Hawking's friends called him "Einstein" after they created a computer using telephone switchboards, old clock parts and additional items meant for recycling.

American school buses are yellow because the color is easier to see in poor light and bad weather.

Helium was the first chemical element not initially discovered on Earth.

Diamonds are the only gem made of a single element, at nearly 99.95% carbon, the most commonly found element on Earth.

Assembling the International Space Station took more than 200 spacewalks.

American school buses are yellow because the color is easier to see in poor light and bad weather.

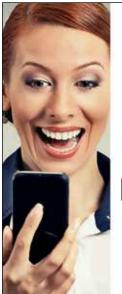
On average, Google.com processes about 63,000 search queries every second, or more than 5.5 billion searches per day, and 2 trillion per year.

A common garden spider can produce as many as seven types of silk, each made up of a different sequence of proteins.

During the Middle Ages, the majority of western maps placed east rather than north at the top.

At the 2007 French Open, Venus Williams' serve sent the ball flying at 129 miles per hour, the second fastest serve by a woman ever recorded. It was also the fastest recorded in a main draw match at that time.





## Share the Love

Who do you know who'd enjoy



We'd sure appreciate it if you'd share us with them!





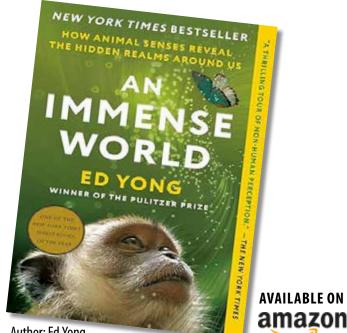
#### An Immense World

It is an immense world. There is also immense unrest in the world right now. I decided that what I needed was an immense immersion into a completely different world, the animal world. An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal The Hidden Realms Around Us, by Ed Yong, was the deep dive I had hoped for. I was already learning from the introduction before even starting the first chapter, so by the end of the book, I felt like my brain had grown three sizes.

Yong introduces a word unknown to me, but that has been in existence since 1909, Umwelt. The term means environment, the surroundings that an animal can sense, experience and perceive. Each animal from a moth to an elephant has their own unique Umwelt, humans too. Once you understand Umwelt you understand that paradoxically, you can never understand. That is because all animals have such vastly different senses inconceivable to others but their common link is sentience, all beings live a life worth living to them.

Yong is an experienced science writer, even receiving the coveted Pulitzer Prize, so a reader might look at his credentials and the size of the hefty book (359 pages) and feel intimidated. It's true that it isn't a quick or easy read, it's meant to be savored and contemplated. But if you step outside your comfort zone and take a chance on a book you might not ordinarily pick up, Yong meets you halfway, he doesn't dumb it down, trusting his reader, but his delivery is contagiously enthusiastic. You feel like you are a part of the story or on a guided nature tour of the immense world.

Yong is a prolific user of footnotes. I am a reader that appreciates footnotes as a chance for advanced comprehension and insider info, it's as if the author is speaking to us. But If you find footnotes distracting, it



Author: Ed Yong

**Publisher: Random House** 

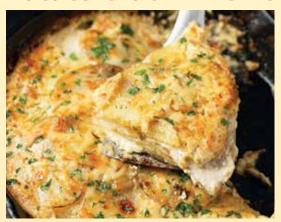
takes effort to ignore these. The full color photos aid in reader engagement.

After reading this book, a spider in the corner silently tending a web, a mouse that scurries through the house, an owl unseen high in a tree or an unseen creature from the depths of the sea will seem equal. Humans are not centrists, just a part of this immense world. Yong writes, "We will never sense the world as other animals do. Our senses are not theirs. But we can try to imagine what it might be like, to stretch our minds until they start to crack. That effort alone expands our own Umwelt and deepens our appreciation for the vastness of other lives."



# Don't sideline the sides!

#### **Potato Gratin with Cream**



**INGREDIENTS** (Serves 6)

2 tablespoons butter

2 cloves garlic

5 or 6 Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled

1 ½ cups 35% heavy whipping cream

1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg

Salt and pepper, to taste

1 ½ cups sharp cheddar cheese, grated

Fresh parsley, chopped (optional)

#### DIRECTIONS

- 1. Preheat the oven to 375 F. Generously butter a cast-iron skillet or ovenproof dish. Rub the bottom of the dish with the halved garlic cloves for added flavor. Discard the garlic.
- 2. Using a mandolin or a sharp knife, cut the potatoes into thin slices that are about an eighth of an inch thick.
- 3. In a saucepan, gently heat the heavy whipping cream with a minced clove of garlic, nutmeg, salt and pepper. Add the potato slices to the hot cream. Simmer gently for five minutes to soften (do not boil).
- 4. Transfer everything to the buttered dish, spreading the potatoes in even layers. Pour the rest of the cream over the potatoes. Sprinkle evenly with grated cheese.
- 5. Cover with aluminum foil and bake in the oven for 30 minutes. Remove the foil and continue baking for 20 to 25 minutes, until the top is golden brown and bubbling.
- 6. Let the pan rest for 10 minutes before serving. Garnish with fresh parsley, if desired.

# Sauteed Brussels Sprouts with Pancetta

**INGREDIENTS** (Serves 6)

4 cups Brussels sprouts, halved 1 cup pancetta, finely diced 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped Salt and pepper, to taste

#### **DIRECTIONS**

- 1. Fill a large pot with salted water and bring to a boil. Place a steamer basket or metal colander over the pot, making sure the bottom doesn't touch the water.
- 2. For each Brussels sprout half, remove any wilted outer leaves, and make a small incision in the base. Steam the sprouts for four minutes. Immediately plunge into a bowl of ice water to stop the cooking process, then drain.
- 3. Fry pancetta over medium-high heat in a cast-iron skillet. When the cubes start to brown, add the garlic and Brussels sprouts. Continue cooking until everything is nicely browned. Season with salt and pepper to taste.



# History of Our Hamlets

History of Our Hamlets is sponsored by



Photos and recollections courtesy of Diane Galusha, Historical Society of the Town of Middletown

#### **The Country Store**

Farm folks and country dwellers without the time or means to travel far depended on the general store in the nearest crossroads hamlet to procure staples, fabric, medicine, toys, books, tools and other items. Often they traded their own products – maple sugar, fresh picked berries or beans, or deacon skins (calf hides) – for things they could not make like coffee, for instance.

At Dennis Earl's store in Fleischmanns (top), you could even buy a wash tub (see a pair of them on the end of the porch).

Karl and Alice Lang ran the Denver Store (middle) from 1968 to 1995. Over the years it housed the post office, a dance hall, an eatery and a liquor store.

Willis Hubbell's store in Arena (bottom) was a favorite gathering place for these gentlemen to swap stories, play some checkers and warm their boots at the pot belly stove.







"Our old-time country stores didn't need a rebrand (like that other well known Country Store — they ran just fine on fresh coffee and gossip."





# Green living

#### GREYING GREEN: Seniors leading the eco-conscious movement

As concerns about climate change continue to take center stage, an inspiring and unexpected group is stepping up: older adults. Far from being passive observers, many individuals over 60 are passionate advocates for the eco-conscious movement.

#### Why older adults are going green

For many of us, sustainability is a personal issue. We've witnessed decades of environmental change and feel a responsibility to act. Unsurprisingly, motivation often stems from a desire to protect the planet for future generations, like our grandchildren.

#### **Active and impactful involvement**

Older adults can take meaningful action to contribute to eco-friendly change.



Here are a few suggestions:

- Downsize to a smaller, more energy-efficient home or move to a retirement community
- Choose eco-friendly transportation options like walking, cycling or shared rides
- Volunteer with local environmental groups and community gardens
- Participate in climate marches and advocate for stronger environmental protections
- Suppor eco-friendly businesses and choose sustainable products

#### Where to find opportunities

Explore the NYSDEC volunteer page for opportunities on state lands, such as trail maintenance and assisting wildlife biologists. Participate in the NYSDEC Fire Tower Challenge.

Look for trail-building and maintenance opportunities with New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

Find opportunities with environmental non-profits like The Nature Conservancy.

Thought for the Day

"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."

—Robert Swan

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