

The Voice of Your Community

Project Envoy Aims to Help Restaurants & Feed the Hungry



Support your local restaurants and help the Franklin Food Pantry

Project Envoy

For a list of restaurants participating visit www.franklinfoodpantry.org or scan the QR code.



#NoOneGoesHungryFranklin
#projectenvoy

February 1- April 30

Interfaith Initiative Quickly Spreads around Franklin

By J.D. O'GARA

A win-win.

Order from Franklin restaurants that are hurting, and, at the same time, help hungry residents. Project Envoy, which started out as a Covid-era food security initiative for one church in Franklin and almost immediately became an interfaith endeavor, is taking off, with enthusiastic support from the Town and the community. It began last month and will run through April 30th.

“When the First Universalist came up with Project Envoy (in the fall) to address food insecurity in town, it became clear that we should ask for allies from the other faith communities across Franklin to have greater impact. We reached out and asked if they would like to have representatives work as a sub-group of the Interfaith Council to work on food insecurity,” says Vicki Coates, a member of

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Facebook Group Trying to Save Local Restaurants

By GRACE ALLEN

Larry Curran and Ed Tocci are on a mission. The two long-time friends are helping drive business to scores of local restaurants hurt by the restrictions and shutdowns of the past year.

In January of 2020, the men started the Facebook Group “Norfolk County Eats” as a way to share recipes with friends and family and review local restaurants. The membership grew, fueled by fellow foodies inviting their own family and friends.

And then the pandemic hit. People were stuck at home and cooking more than ever. The social media group became even more active as members posted photos of their own culinary creations—however humble—and were cheered

on by other group members.

“The group has really helped people during the pandemic because everyone was sharing and becoming friends,” said Tocci, a Needham resident. “It’s made everyone feel closer to one another.”

But at the same time, the state’s restrictions on restaurants were taking a toll. Thousands of restaurant employees were forced out of work and businesses were in danger of closing permanently. Tocci and Curran, a Norwood resident, decided they would try to help.

“We encouraged people in the group to try different restaurants that were open, place takeout orders, or buy gift cards,” explained

SAVE

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ENVOY

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the First Universalist Society of Franklin (FUSF) and a member of the Franklin Interfaith Council Food Security Team. “Not surprisingly, there was a resounding ‘Yes!’ to work together on this topic. I have been very humbled by how much people have come forth to participate as residents, to buy meals and the restaurants (that are struggling) are generous in turn. It was like when you throw a stone in a pond, the ripples head out. People have been generous in giving space for the posters, donated by NHS Print, and space in their newsletters, including the senior center, town hall, the Downtown Partnership, the churches, and the Cultural District.”

“The Pandemic has hurt so many people right here in Franklin, and we wanted to take an opportunity to help our restaurants who are overcoming restrictions and closures, as well as the over 1,400 people who frequent The Franklin Food Pantry,” said Jane Fulton, fellow FUSF congregant and member of Franklin Interfaith Council Food Security Team.



MARCH 2021

Project Envoy by Interfaith Council Food Security Team

Support your favorite local restaurants on their designated day and a portion of your order will go to the Franklin Food Pantry

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	1 The Rome Restaurant	2 Spruce Pond Creamery	3 Acapulcos	4 King Street Cafe	5 Intermission Cafe	6
7	8 Central Pizza	9 George's Pizza	10 Intermission Cafe	11 King Street Cafe	12	13
14	15 Dacey's Market and Deli	16 Santa Fe Restaurant	17 Acapulcos	18 King Street Cafe	19	20
21	22 Central Pizza	23 360 Pizzeria Franklin	24 Franklin Pizza & Deli	25 King Street Cafe	26	27
28	29 Dacey's Market and Deli	30 Spruce Pond Creamery	31 360 Pizzeria Franklin	1	2	3

#projectenvoy

This calendar indicates the specific dates for restaurant opportunities that support Project Envoy during the month of March. You can visit The Franklin Food Pantry (www.franklinfoodpantry.org) for an up-to-date calendar.

Fulton explains that the name “Project Envoy” was conceived in the spirit of Benjamin Franklin, “who was an envoy to France

for the United States. We’re sort of the envoys between the restaurants, the food pantry and the community, trying to rally the

community support for local employers and the restaurants that we love in this very difficult time. We want to help them, because they’re important to the culture of the community. We recognized we could play a role in connecting those dots together, and could rally the support of buying power to go out and buy local.”

Rev. Maggie Gellar, Deacon at St. John’s Episcopal in Franklin, represents her parish on the food security team. Gellar was among those who approached local res-

taurants. “Basically, you would pick a day of the week, maybe a day where your business was the slowest, and you would agree if people bought certain things off your menu or maybe your whole menu—you’d agree to donate a portion of those proceeds (to the Franklin Food Pantry). We let the restaurant decide what the portion would be,” says Gellar. The group opted to stay away from big chains.

The participating restaurants during the month of March include: 360 Pizzeria Franklin, The Rome, Spruce Pond Creamery, Acapulco’s, King Street Cafe, Intermission Cafe, Central Pizza, George’s Pizza, Dacey’s Market & Deli, Santa Fe, and Franklin Pizza and Deli. Participating restaurants are also updated on a calendar at The Franklin Food Pantry site (www.franklinfoodpantry.org), and the participating faith organizations also share the restaurant schedule. There is no need to mention Project Envoy when ordering.

So far, feedback from participating restaurants has been positive.

Jan Spencer, a manager of King Street Cafe and Spruce Pond Creamery, says both locations participate in the program. King Street has suffered due to a limit of 40% on patrons allowed in.

“At King Street, we signed up for every Thursday through April, because that is kind of our slowest day, and at Spruce Pond, we’ll do it every Friday in March

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SAVE

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Tocci. "Anything just to keep them going. Because when this is over, we want to go back to these places and we want them to still be there."

Tocci used to be in the restaurant business himself so he understands their struggles right now.

"I know what it's like. It's not easy," he said.

By harnessing the help of the group's members—over 10,000 at last count—both Tocci and Curran have started to make some impact. They have spotlighted eateries like Rhapsody's Victorian Coffeehouse and Alumni Restaurant in Franklin, Vico Ristorante Italiano and Tasos Euro Café in Norwood, Café Assisi and Parker's Pub, both in Wrentham, and Horse n' Carriage in Norfolk.

Curran in particular will visit and post photos of his restaurant meals, and then encourage other members to visit and post their orders, too. After all, people eat with their eyes, says Tocci.

On January 2, Curran posted about Cilla's Coffeehouse in Norfolk, noting the coffeehouse was experiencing financial difficulties and encouraging members to visit. The post caught the attention of the region's SWAT team and over 50 members arrived one morning to place orders and support the establishment. That surprise visit by law enforcement made the news, further driving more business to the coffeehouse.

Similarly, Norfolk County Eats members have championed the Primavera in Millis after learning the Italian eatery was also struggling. In January, owner Jerry Gaita posted his thanks on the group's page.

"This past Friday and Saturday were SUPER BUSY... we have not been this busy in many months. It's felt like the old days...better days are coming. Larry and team are doing a great job spotlighting small businesses."

Norfolk County Eats is a very active group. Members respond to posts within minutes, and the discussions are upbeat and respectful. After a prime rib recipe



Larry Curran, left, and Ed Tocci are the founders of Norfolk County Eats.



Larry Curran with Lidia Bastianich, an Emmy award-winning television host, best-selling cookbook author, and restaurateur. Curran met Bastianich at a book signing.

post by Curran went viral and people from all over the U.S. and from as far away as Italy and France asked to join, the administrators decided to limit new membership to Massachusetts residents only.

There are a few rules in the group, mostly centering on kindness and courtesy towards others. Members have messaged the administrators and expressed thanks for the positive atmosphere fostered by Tocci and Curran, along with fellow ad-

ministrators Tamara Cullen and moderator Lois Kleberg Bertolino Arena.

When the pandemic is finally over, Tocci says the group will try to have a meet-and-greet for members. If the number of daily posts is any indication of interest, they'd better find a very big venue for the event.

Whether this grassroots effort by area food fans will help prop up struggling establishments in the long-term remains to be seen. But the evolution of the group,

with its love of food and the fellowship of other like-minded gastronomes, has gratified Tocci and Curran.

"When we started this group, we thought this would be a nice little platform to discuss our passion for food and we hoped people would be interested and want to join," said Tocci. "And it's grown into being so much more than we ever expected."

For more information about the group or to join, visit Norfolk County Eats on Facebook.



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Franklin Art Association to Explore "Science and Modern Art" March 3

The March 3rd Zoom meeting of the Franklin Art Association will feature Dennis Sardella, Docent at the Museum of Russian Icons in Clinton, Mass., presenting his Powerpoint presentation, "Science and Modern Art."

Someone comparing a medieval and modern artwork may find themselves puzzling, "How on earth did we get from there to here?" Art experienced two revolutionary periods that radically changed how artists saw and depicted the world, and that paralleled two revolutionary periods in which science underwent similar changes. This talk will be a visual exploration of how those two ways of seeing the world developed, and how they led from the "there" of medieval art to the "here" of modern art.



Franklin resident Dennis Sardella has been a docent at the Museum of Russian Icons in Clinton since 2012, where he leads gallery tours and introduces visitors to the world of Russian icons. He also writes about icons, and speaks regularly to civic and church groups on the

topics of religious icons and the role they play in Eastern Christian spirituality.

From 1967 until 2012 he was a tenured Professor of Chemistry at Boston College. In 1990, he became the founding director of the Boston College Presidential Scholars Program, a university-wide co-curricular honors program, and directed it until 2010. For 17 years, he and his wife Marjorie, a fine art photographer, led groups of Boston College Presidential Scholars on month-long study trips to France, and it was during those trips that he began to speak to students about science and modern art.

For more information on the Zoom meeting, visit www.franklinart.org, or find Franklin Art Association on Facebook.

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and two Tuesdays," says Spencer. "We have noticed people come in and say that they're part of it, which they don't have to, so there is a slight uptick (in business). It's a win-win for us."

"Honestly, I don't know why nobody thought about this sooner," says Beth Colace, owner of Rome Restaurant. She saw better-than-anticipated business the first night her restaurant participated, despite a snow storm. "We are participating again in March and probably will continue to participate as long as it happens," she says.

As for the Franklin Food Pantry, Communications Manager Laura Often can't say enough.

"From our perspective, it's been amazing, says Often. "The Franklin Interfaith Food Security Team, they came up with this on their own, and I've been so impressed. Obviously, restaurants are struggling during the pandemic, and (Project Envoy's) goal is to drive more people out. Maybe you wouldn't (normally) go out for takeout, but maybe you will because some of it's going to charity." Just two weeks after the project launched, The Franklin Food Pantry had already received a check from one of the participating restaurants.

"It's community helping community," says Often. The Frank-

lin Food Pantry has seen about a 20% increase in need over the past year and receives no state or town funding. "I think it's wonderful all the religious groups are getting together to help the town and the restaurants, and the restaurants are giving back to the food pantry, which is so appreciated, especially right now."

The Franklin Interfaith Food Security Team members represent: The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints, First Universalist Society in Franklin, Franklin Federated Church, New England Chapel, St. John's Episcopal, St. Mary Parish, and Temple Etz Chaim.

"Certainly, food security is a social justice issue, and many of us see it as our faith in action," says Coates, "but it's just humanity in action. People want to help one another."

"It's been such a rewarding thing to do together, we're already looking at what does the next 12 months look like to support food security in the area," says Fulton.

If you are a restaurant and would like to sign up to participate in Project Envoy please visit: <https://www.franklinfoodpantry.org/envoy-program>.

The Franklin Food Pantry helps over 1,000 individuals and is dependent entirely on donations. Visit www.franklinfoodpantry.org for more information.

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Community Ties and a Commitment to Customer Service: Affordable Junk Removal

There are plenty of reasons to call a junk removal service. Maybe you're planning to move and need to clear out the basement and attic before your open house. Maybe you've spent way too much time at home lately and are feeling the need to declutter.

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Business spotlight



Not everything ends up in a landfill—not if Jay can help it. He first tries to either recycle or donate items. Only after he tries to repurpose items do they end up at the transfer station.

Working with Affordable Junk Removal is simple. First, you can load stuff yourself if you want by renting a 15-cubic-yard dumpster for a week and chucking up to a ton of your unwanted stuff. If you need to get rid of more weight, then Jay prorates that tonnage—you never pay for what you don't use.

If you don't want to be bothered with the dumpster, they've also got a driveway special where they'll take away a truckload of your unwanted things if you pile it up. Or if you don't want to lift a finger, then you can point at the items, and the team will fill up their truck and haul away your unwanted things. However you do it, you're left with more space and more peace of mind.

Jay and his team beat the big waste haulers on both price and customer service. When you call Affordable Junk Removal, you aren't connected to an anonymous call center. Your phone call goes right to Jay.

And speaking of pricing, Jay is upfront about it. His website shows the truck sizes and prices, so you can save time knowing



your costs before you call for an appointment. There aren't any hidden costs or surprise fees with Affordable Junk Removal.

Affordable Junk Removal is fully licensed and fully insured, and they'll treat your property with care and respect.

They also have a thriving commercial business, working with contractors and roofers to clear away debris and keep the job site clean. They can even handle commercial and residential emergencies with same-day service.

Jay and his family are deeply involved in the community. He and his wife, Christine, run the Corner Market restaurant in Holliston as well as Resellables, a thrift store in Bellingham. It's not uncommon for someone to reach Jay at the restaurant, order

a sandwich, and then schedule a junk removal appointment. Yes, the local small business really can handle everything!

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A Voice for Women in the Metrowest

Metrowest Commission on the Status of Women Serves to Make Sure Women are Heard

By J.D. O'GARA

“Our job is to basically amplify the voices of those who identify as female in our community, to make sure our community partners, our elected and appointed officials are making decisions with those peoples’ needs in mind,” says Heather Panahi. She’s in her third year as chair of the Metrowest Commission on the Status of Women.

“Our Commission was founded in 2015. We represent 26 towns and two cities and are actually one of 11 regional commissions throughout the state,” says Panahi. There is also a state commission.

Panahi explains that the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, the state commission, was created in the mid-1990s, after a UN Conference on Women.

“The goal was to give a voice to Massachusetts women and girls,” says Panahi, of the non-partisan commission. “Over the last several decades, the state has created these regional commissions to be able to better reach women throughout the state.

The Metrowest Commission, says Panahi, covers Ashland, Bellingham, Dover, Framingham, Franklin, Holliston, Hopkinton, Hudson,

Maynard, Medfield, Medway, Millis, Natick, Needham, Norfolk, Northborough, Norwood, Sherborn, Southborough, Stow, Sudbury, Walpole, Wayland, Wellesley, Westborough, Weston and Wrentham, and Marlborough.

“Our nine commissioners are basically appointed to their positions; there’s no election. You apply, and then they’re appointed based on experience. You can serve two terms, and each term is three years.”

To get a handle on what women want and need, the Metrowest Commission on the Status of Women hosts public hearings, panel discussions, engages in community outreach programs and hosts awareness campaigns, as well as works with local community organizations and nonprofits. Members of the commission have also given testimony on behalf of women in the Metrowest region, which is very diverse, says Panahi. “You have rural towns, you have metropolitan towns, you have towns that are higher on the socioeconomic ladder than others. When we are bringing on new commissioners, one of the things we try to be mindful of is bringing in commissioners as representative of our region as possible.”

Areas of focus the Metrowest Commission has focused on has included a focus on reproductive issues last year, from improving access to feminine hygiene products in schools and jails to maternal health after having children, says Panahi. The group has also spent a lot of time on domestic violence and sexual assault prevention.

“Domestic violence prevention and sexual assault prevention are big items for us and continue to be for us, and Covid has exacerbated the problem, where women are in their homes trapped with their abusers. We’ve also done work talking about the experiences of incarcerated women in the region, making sure they have appropriate access to the resources they need, that they’re safe and that their health needs are being taken care of. We’ve also looked at economic empowerment, job placement after incarceration, and helping to protect immigrant families, particularly immigrant women and their children.

This past year, the Commission decided to focus on racial equity, hosting a Zoom public hearing on “Racial Inequality Affecting Woman and Families of Color in the Metrowest” in late February.

“The public hearing was really our first step before we start to develop a plan of action,”

says Panahi. The Commission will use the feedback they’ve gained from BIPOC women in the region to help identify issues to prioritize, support and raise awareness of, says Panahi.

“We recognized we needed to hold ourselves accountable, to make sure all of the girls and women in our region were adequately supported and have access to the services they need.” She adds that the commission itself is also a majority (75%) white, and the group would like to attract a more diverse panel of commissioners.

Panahi suggests that Covid has also highlighted where inequities lie.

“Whether or not people can access Wifi so that their children can learn – those things have become much more accentuated as a result of the pandemic.” In particular, says Panahi, the many immigrant families in the Metrowest face enormous barriers because of Covid.

The Commission also endeavors to listen to Metrowest’s youngest women constituents. It has created the Athena Council, and internship and advocacy

for women aged 14-19 to channel their passions into energy and action. The 12 members of the Athena Council are girls who’ve applied from all over the Metrowest.

Panahi adds that all meetings of the Metrowest Commission on the Status of Women are open to the public and “any women who want to come and listen and share their questions.”

The best way to stay apprised of when the next meeting is to visit the Metrowest Commission on the Status of Women’s Facebook Page (you can also find them on Instagram (@metrowestcsw) and Twitter (@MassCSW). You can also find out more at the state website, <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/metrowest-commission-on-the-status-of-women>.

Panahi points out, to all interested women, “We are a nonpartisan group. We want to emphasize that. To us, gender does not belong to a political platform. We want all women in the Metrowest to know we are here to advocate for them, and to listen.”



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Surprisingly, many are unaware that last April 28th, Massachusetts Senate Bill 2645 was passed/signed by Governor Baker to allow remote virtual notarization of legal documents through video-conferencing technology.

Yes, you can now work with an estate planning attorney through Zoom and FedEx to develop and complete your holistic estate plan.

I asked David Feakes, who over 20 years ago founded The Parents Estate Planning Law Firm, PC, to share his firm's experience and client observations to this legislative change.

Early Zoom adoption. "Last March/April, we'd help clients far along by doing signings in parking lots, picnic tables holding umbrellas and while we managed to do it safely, it was unsustainable", says David. "We'd been in communication with our state reps and got our firm's new policies and procedures in place. Once passed, we were proactive with Zoom, not just signings but

also helping clients in our discovery phase move forward, as they had just put everything on hold."

Scheduling and engagement is easier for clients. "Parents with kids coordinating to come to our offices in Acton at the same time during work hours is hard", confessed David. "Also the idea of coming to an attorney's office can be intimidating, so now with the ability to do it all from home with kids running around or cats walking across the screen, it's helped relaxed clients and made decision making easier."

What remains constant - the why. "People have had time to reflect on making sure their kids are cared for if something unthinkable happens", shared David. "A will is not enough, we educate clients on legal strategies



Glenn Brown

As a fee-only CFP working with financial planning clients, I'd echo David's observations with Zoom and leveraging virtual technology. In 2018, a few early adopters chose this option to engage, but today the benefits of time, convenience and ease of access are thankfully felt by all.

The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual.

Glenn Brown is a Holliston resident and owner of PlanDynamic, LLC, www.PlanDynamic.com. Glenn is a fee-only Certified Financial Planner™ helping motivated people take control of their planning and investing, so they can balance kids, aging parents and financial independence.

of trusts, guardianships, power of attorneys, health proxies, tax planning and legacy distribution. Additionally, as I share our process to get to know a client's family and what's important, I sense calm and relief when we reiterate this can all be done virtually and safely - something normally reserved at the completion of an estate plan."

Honor Your Special Veteran with an Engraved Brick this Memorial Day

The next brick installation on the Franklin Memorial Walkway on the town common is scheduled for May. Bricks may be purchased to pay tribute to anyone who served or is currently serving in the U.S. military.

"We've had a great response to the walkway project," noted Dale Kurtz, Franklin's Veterans' Services Officer. "Just under 1,600 engraved bricks have been installed since the walkway was dedicated in November 2018. We'll continue to sell bricks until all bricks in the walkway have been engraved. We're very excited about our new brick locator feature which allows brick purchasers and recipients to locate their brick on the walkway. Gathering the information to create the locator database was the work of several very committed volunteers. The entire project



has been a collaborative effort by the Franklin Veterans' Council and several other members of the community. Their dedication to the walkway project are reflected in this beautiful addition to our town's war memorial," Kurtz added.

The deadline for ordering engraved bricks for the May installation is April 1, 2021. For brick order forms and more information, contact the Veterans' Services Office at: (508) 613-1315.





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March 2021 at the Franklin Public Library

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, The Franklin Public Library is currently closed to the public. Curbside Pickup is available Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the vestibule of the entrance at the top of the parking lot ramp. Library Staff are available by phone (508-520-4941) and email (frkill@minlib.net) Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

No donations are being accepted at this time.

Curbside Printing

The Franklin Public Library is now offering free Curbside Printing!

More information at <https://www.franklinma.gov/franklin-public-library/pages/curbside-printing>

Have some questions about this service? Send an email to frkill@minlib.net. In the subject line, type CURBSIDE PRINTING QUESTION.

Book & Movie Bundles for Kids and Adults

Miss browsing the stacks? Looking for some book or movie recommendations? Help is here! Introducing Book & Movie Bundles! Fill out a form indicating

your preferences, and Library staff will customize a bundle of five items just for you and email you when it's ready for curbside pickup. Get started at: <https://www.franklinma.gov/franklin-public-library/pages/book-movie-bundles>.

Programs for Children and Teens

Weekly Virtual Events for Kids!

Wake Up Wiggles! Mondays @10:30 a.m. on Facebook Live!

Virtual Dungeons & Dragons! Mondays @3:30 p.m., email mgousie@minlib.net for details!

Zoom Tummy Time for Babies! Tuesdays @9:30 a.m., email Miss Caleigh at ckeating@minlib.net to register for Tummy Time!

Zoom Toe Tapping Tuesdays! (Super Silly Dance Class for Ages 2+) Tuesdays @4 p.m., email Miss Bree at bcomeau@minlib.net to register for Cool Cruisers!

Bookworm Bounce! Thursdays @4 p.m. on Facebook Live!

Virtual Dungeons & Dragons! Mondays @ 3:30 p.m.

Kids Ages 7-15! Join us each week for virtual D&D on Roll20.net! Then join a community of gamers for fun on FPL's own Discord Server! Email mgousie@minlib.net!

Teen Advisory Board, 2nd Wednesday of the Month on Zoom @6:30 p.m.!

The perfect way to earn community service hours remotely! Email ckeating@minlib.net.

Girls Who Code!

Grades 3-5 Friday March 5th & 19th @ 3 p.m.

A Coding club for grades 3-5. Email mgousie@minlib.net!

Grades 6-12 Friday March 5th & 19th @ 4 p.m.

A Coding club for grades 6-12. Email mgousie@minlib.net!

Special Programs for Families

March Madness Character Tournament!

Let's see who will be crowned Franklin's Favorite Character! Pick up a bracket and follow along/cast your votes in our vestibule or on our Facebook or Instagram pages! Be sure to check back each week to cast your vote!

Womens' History Month Readathon!

Celebrate Women's History Month with a special reading challenge! We've got a special "readathon" sheet with reading prompts in the library vestibule and on our website relating to

notable women throughout history Complete your reading sheet in order to receive a prize! Email your titles to bcomeau@minlib.net! All entries must be received by Wednesday, March 31st!

Zoom Cooking Class for families with Miss Sandhya! Saturday March 13th, 1 p.m.

Join Miss Sandhya of Sandhya's Kitchen for a special Zoom cooking class for kids and their grown-ups! We'll be making S'more's cups! To register, email Caleigh at ckeating@minlib.net!

Take and Make: Rainbow Shamrocks!

Starting Saturday, March 13th, stop by the library between 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and call the children's room (508-520-4941 ext. 2) to pick up your very own Rainbow Shamrock Kit! Kits include supplies and instructions for making your very own coffee filter rainbow shamrock! SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED!

Teen Take and Make: Stress Relief Kits!

Teens! Starting Monday, March 1st, stop by the library between 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m. and call the teen desk (508-520 4941 ext. 2) to pick up your very own stress relief kit with (almost) everything you need to relax, unwind, and de-stress! Email Caleigh at ckeating@minlib.net!

Make with Miss Mitzi Craft Class: Candles! Saturday March 27th, 1 p.m.

Join Miss Mitzi for a special Zoom crafting class! She will be teaching us how to make candles!

To register, email Mitzi at mgousie@minlib.net!

Adults

Decoding the News with David Wallace, Tuesday, March 9, 7 p.m.

Be sure that you're getting useful facts about politics, social media and pandemic reports by going beyond the headlines. Skip the bias, hype and noise. Get pro tools and tactics from David Wallace, a former business/tech reporter for The New York Times and Reuters, and journalism lecturer at Boston University. We'll discuss ways to be certain of details and separate news from opinions. Register at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZUocOqqz0iEtFsZqylm-lQdIKR8q9UIMg0X>.

Women in Music Series: Folk, Americana, and Blues presented by Kirsten Thien, Wednesday, March 24, 7 p.m.

A fun and informative live music program about the impact of women on music in America. From their musical contributions

LIBRARY

continued on page 11

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FDP Requests YOUR Support of Franklin Businesses

During these challenging times for small businesses, the Franklin Downtown Partnership (FDP) reminds you to visit its website and social media to find out what's going on with local businesses and find ways to support them. Please like, follow and share our social media posts! If you're looking for contact info for a specific local business, visit our website's member directory, located on the home page, with links to all our members.

Website: www.franklindowntownpartnership.org

Facebook: [franklindowntownpartnership.org](https://www.facebook.com/franklindowntownpartnership.org)

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Twitter: [@FranklinDowntown](https://twitter.com/FranklinDowntown)

As always, we encourage you to support our small businesses which are the lifeblood of our community. Not only do they provide essential goods and services, small businesses also support our community organizations and projects through donations of goods and sponsorships. Please remember Keep It Local - Support Franklin Businesses!

The Franklin Downtown Partnership is a nonprofit, 501©3 organization made up of more than 300 business owners, community leaders and residents working to stimulate economic development downtown and create a positive impact throughout the area.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 4TH ANNUAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

LEGISLATIVE FORUM

We welcome Senate President Karen Spilka, State Senator Rebecca Rausch and State Representative Jeff Roy

Tuesday, March 2, 2021, at 6:30 pm via Zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/91624587186?pwd=TWNyRmZpOWFQL2ZSeGRyempY1hnUT09>

Our state legislators will be updating the Franklin community on important issues specifically related to education. Topics will include:

- Schools and the COVID-19 pandemic
- The growing need for school-provided social services
- Status of House Bill 3665 - An Act Establishing Indigenous People's Day
- Funding to support our work to address diversity, equity, and inclusion
- FY22 State budget
- The Student Opportunity Act
- Change in legislative leadership in US Congress
- Special education
- Transportation

An opportunity for Q & A will be available for participants. We hope you will join us.



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Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart Council 1847, Franklin Presents Donation to Our Local St. Vincent de Paul Organization

The Franklin Knights of Columbus - Council 1847 held their Sixth Annual Holiday Food Card Drive to benefit St Vincent de Paul. This year's Drive was unique in that it was conducted virtually/online. The Covid 19 pandemic has created unprecedented challenge for St Mary's Parish and the Franklin Community in their efforts to raise the desperately needed funds to help feed people in need. Because of the Parish and Community support and generosity, the Franklin Knights of Columbus have been able to surpass our previous year's fund raising goals through online donations. Working with St. Vincent de Paul, the money raised will benefit people in our community that are in danger of going hungry. During these unprecedented times, the Parish and the Community has once again magnificently stepped up to ensure that this year's Holi-



Pictured from left to right – Jim Lane, Pam Obrien, Jim Ballio, Scott Kyle, Tom Seery. Second row Mike Perkins and Mike Swan

day Food Card Drive has been a great success. The Knights of Columbus in close partnership with the Parish, Community and St Vincent de Paul are happy to say that in a small way we have

tried to alleviate food insecurity in our community. The Franklin Knights of Columbus extend our sincere Thanks!



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Artist Spotlight

Christine Blue Lamb Toubeau's Robots Show Creativity in Motion

By J.D. O'GARA

For Christine Blue Lamb Toubeau, the future allows artistic freedom.

Her large-scale works, on great big canvases, often deal with futuristic imagery and robots, alongside humans.

"I've always been interested in machinery. I think it's part of the human creativity. I've always been interested in robots, in the future," says Toubeau. "I think it allows artists a lot of freedom." Toubeau's voice bubbles with excitement at the prospect of asking a child to paint the future or draw creatures that live on Mars. "You could do anything. I love that idea, and I thought the idea of robots coming into their strength was a wonderful way of showing human creativity. We will have them as part of business and will have them in our homes."

The artist earned her MFA from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst in 2004. There, in her first solo show, *The Robot Next Door*, she presented

paintings of robots alongside humans, of creativity in action.

"I wanted it to be daily interactions with robots," she says. "Sometimes they're driving in cars, or toasting the future together, or playing cards, and others are more abstract."

What isn't abstract is the type of robot Christine uses across all her imagery.

"DLR Research, of Germany,—an aeronautics research company in Germany, had come up with the most beautiful blue robot. I loved the way that robot looked. They are machines, and there's no reason for them to look human," says Christine, "but if they're going to work around humans, I guess there's a need for the aesthetic." With the company's permission, Christine has been using the blue, anthropomorphic robot, that tilts its head and moves its arms, for the past 15 years.

Initially, Toubeau painted her blue robots interacting with human females, who were often nude. "I wanted the humans to

**C. Blue Lamb Toubeau**

be vulnerable, wanted them to feel vulnerable next to the machine. We have to be careful. We can put things in place that can turn on us," says the artist, adding, "I also think nude women are beautiful, and I wanted people to come across the room and see what my paintings are about, and it usually works. People are attracted to my paintings. They're provocative."

Christine's more recent work depicts robots in more precarious situations. Lately, her robots are struggling with the ecological challenges humans will face down the road. In peril, they are surrounded by aqua greens and turquoise of the ocean.

"The robots were vulnerable. They are machines, and we cannot say these guys are going to be our way out in the future. It's up to us humans," says Toubeau. "The robots are graceful, floating and lying underwater, discarded. They're like a tool. When it's broken, you don't fix it. You let it go."

Toubeau's images create a cinematic effect of a battle being fought, and lost, with multiple actions taking place in her paintings. Her four most recent paintings, three that are four feet and one that's three feet, are painted so that, when hung together, "they look like they're this one big ocean," she says, "These current paintings show future humans partnering with robots to try to clean the terrain of our



earth, whose environment needs help."

"I believe artists are the truth tellers," says Toubeau, who grew up in a family of artists. "They're very intense people, both emotionally and where to put that emotion, but it does take patience, and it does take practice. You don't just sit there and do something great the first time. Someone who's an artist has an idea of the intensity that maybe other people

don't have, but artists get better as they get older."

In February, Toubeau exhibited her artwork at the First Universalist Society of Franklin. The same month, she also held a demonstration for the Franklin Art Association entitled "The Future Awash," which was filmed by Franklin TV. Visit www.franklintv.com to see the schedule. You can also check out Christine Blue Lamb Toubeau's work at www.chrisbluelamb.com.



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Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School Names Valedictorian and Salutatorian for the Class of 2021

The Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School District is pleased to announce the Valedictorian and Salutatorian for the Class of 2021. Vivienne Seested, of Franklin, has been named Valedictorian, and Gerard

(Ace) Ayotte, III, of Seekonk, has been named Salutatorian.

Tri-County's Valedictorian, Vivienne, is an Engineering Technology and Advanced Manufacturing student and maintains the highest cumu-

lative GPA of 4.493. During her four years at Tri-County, Vivienne has participated in several extracurriculars, including NASA's HUNCH Program and SkillsUSA. The Engineering Technology student won a Bronze medal for Additive Manufacturing and is a District Competition NASA HUNCH finalist.

Vivienne has acquired her 10 Hour OSHA Certification, MACWIC I Certification, and CPR Certification. She is com-

mitted to expanding her knowledge by pursuing her Autodesk Revit Architectural Drawing, SolidWorks CAD, HAAS CNC Machining certifications.

In addition to mastering rigorous academic classes, Vivienne joined the Volleyball team and participated in Varsity Track & Field. When she is off the field, she is experiencing first-hand what her career may consist of at her Co-op position at Dell.

Tri-County's Salutatorian, Gerard (Ace) Ayotte, III, maintains a cumulative 4.439 GPA while having a demanding academic schedule, including Advanced Placement Calculus and Physics, Honors English and World History, and Dual Enrollment Spanish. Ace is an Automotive Technology student and enjoyed learning the mechanics of a car and how to repair automobiles. He wishes to apply what he has learned during his high school career at a four-year college by studying Mechanical Engineering or International Business. Ace has maintained his status on the honor roll for his high school career and is a National Honor Society member.



In addition to being a dedicated student, Ace is a gifted athlete and has been captain of both the Football and Baseball teams. Being captain has helped him learn about leadership both on and off the field. He hopes to play college-level baseball next year.

Ace dedicates time to his community through his volunteer work at St. Cecilia's Church as a Food Pantry Volunteer and at Ken Ryan's Baseball Academy as an Assistant Camp Counselor.

"It is a pleasure to recognize Vivienne and Ace as our two top

graduating scholars. Their commitment to academic and vocational excellence exemplifies our Tri-County philosophy of working hard each day. Congratulations to Vivienne and Ace. We look forward to seeing what the future holds and wish them continued success in their future

endeavors." Stephen Dockray, Superintendent.

As Valedictorian and Salutatorian, Vivienne and Ace will lead the graduation procession and are scheduled to address their classmates at the Commencement Ceremony scheduled for Sunday, June 6, 2021.

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Saturday: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. **CLOSED** Sunday

Dean College Receives IACBE Accreditation

Dean College has received specialized accreditation for its business programs through the International Accreditation Council for Business Education (IACBE), located in Lenexa, Kansas, USA.

A global leader in outcomes-based business program accreditation, the IACBE certifies over 2,000 business and accounting programs worldwide while providing a supportive environment for members to develop high-quality, innovative business programs.

"It is a great day for Dean College," says Dean College President Dr. Paula M. Rooney. "I could not be prouder of the efforts of our faculty, staff and students which all contributed significantly to this recognition."

The Dean College School of Business currently has just under 500 full-time students, an increase of almost 20% over the past three years. With academic programs ranging from busi-

ness management and criminal justice and homeland security management to sport management, sports broadcasting and communications, Dean's School of Business offers a variety of options that are attracting students in significant numbers.

"Receiving accreditation from an organization such as the IACBE is a validation of the many innovative and industry specific courses we are creating to grow our business degree and certification programs and assist our students in reaching their career goals," says Dean of the School of Business, Dr. P. Gerard Shaw.

Each of Dean's academic programs combines a strong foundation in business theory with exceptional hands-on experience and practical application. In addition, all students must complete at least one internship prior to graduation working for strategic partners including Kraft Sports + Entertainment, U.S. Marshals Service, Liberty Mutual and Learfield, along with dozens of

others specific to the area of interest of the student.

The Dean School of Business students also benefit from the newly introduced Dean Career Advantage (DCA) approach that encourages students to develop a career mindset. This holistic curriculum features nine credits of career-focused classes through which students explore career options in their fields of interest, preparing individual career guides, LinkedIn profiles, resumes, and launching required internships and job searches. Mentorship and applied learning occur in experiential and co-curricular areas, as well, to ensure Dean College School of Business students graduate with a lifelong career advantage.

For more information about Dean College, visit www.dean.edu. For more information the Dean College School of Business, visit www.dean.edu/dsb.

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Pre-college programs available to high school students ages 14+. For those students looking to stay overnight, housing will be provided by Dean College. *Does not include activity fee.

Dean College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, age, status as an individual with a disability, protected veteran status, genetic information or other protected classes under the law (including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972). For more information, visit dean.edu.

Franklin's "Hearts of Kindness"

Franklin's "Hearts of Kindness" project once again brought a touch of brightness to Franklin, this time following what has been a difficult, bleak year for many.

"This has been going on for a few years, now," says Anne Marie Tracey, Marketing and Communications Specialist for the town of Franklin. Tracey explains that a Franklin resident who teaches in Uxbridge borrowed the idea from that town, bringing it to Franklin. "The idea behind it is to spread messages of kindness to our community," says Tracey. The hearts were created by students in the Franklin community, both in schools and in other community groups. Some have inspirational messages, and others encourage the readers to go out and spread kindness to others.



Elise Ravech, Marissa Barber and Clare Bowen work as a team to hang inspirational messages.

"This is a bright spot in what has been a very difficult year," says Tracey.

On a freezing cold February afternoon, students from Franklin High School, hoping to inspire walkers-by, trudged through a couple feet of snow to help Tracey hang the hearts.

Clare Bowen, 16, participated for the first time with two of her friends.

"I feel like it's a good thing to do, especially now," says Bowen. "It's nice to go on the common, where the town center is, and see some sort of life."



Franklin High School sophomore Ellie Bavey was the first to arrive on this frigid day to hang Hearts of Kindness at Franklin Town Common.



Don't let that sun fool you—this was a cold day to hang Valentines. Shown, Riley Lorenzo and Chloe Stavelly.



Justin Veilleux and Roman Pisani worked together to spread community cheer.



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Dean College Shines at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival

Dean College recently participated in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF), which was held virtually this year. The festival featured performances showcasing the outstanding work of the region, as well as a wide range of professional development opportunities in all areas of theatre.

For the past forty years, Dean College students and faculty have had a strong showing at the festival, representing greatness in areas of performance, design, stage management, technical theatre and arts administration.

"The KCACTF setting provides a chance for our students to spend time with like-minded peers at other institutions," said Marc M. Arentsen, Dean of the School of the Arts at Dean College. "The festival also facilitates an exciting opportunity for them to measure their skills in friendly competition, to learn from regional faculty and industry professionals and to foster new relationships within the ecosystem of the arts."

This year ten students were selected by faculty and KCACTF representatives, who observed Dean's performances over the past calendar year, to represent the College at the festival.

Olivia Amaral was nominated for the Richard Maltby, Jr. Award for Musical Theatre Excellence. Olivia went on to become the Region-1 winner and will represent Region-1 in the National KCACTF Festival that will take place in April. Dean College has won this award three times out of the last nine years.

Five Dean College students were nominated for the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship, with **Ethan Lazaro** being named a semi-finalist.

Three students were nominated for the Design, Technologies & Management Award for Stage Management, where **Kelcie Haver** was named a finalist.

Dean College's production of *La Bête*, directed by **Craig Handel**, was recognized for Outstanding Ensemble.

In addition, Dean College student **Matthew Alport** was se-

lected by KCACTF Region-1 to participate as a Technical Intern for the third year in a row.

Dean College faculty members **Ali Angelone**, **Jim Beauregard** and **Daniel Kozar** helped prepare students and were able to participate and observe throughout the festival.

"For me, the festival is time with theatre colleagues and friends away from my Dean family that reaffirms my passion for the arts and reminds me of how lucky I am to get to share that passion with our students," said Associate Professor Jim Beauregard. "I love seeing our students shine."

Congratulations to all students and faculty for their dedication in representing Dean College.

The KCACTF honors excellence of overall production and offers student artists individual recognition through awards and scholarships in playwriting, acting, criticism, directing and design. To learn more, visit www.kcactf1.org. Learn more about the School of the Arts at Dean College.

FSPA's First Ever Movie-Musical



The Franklin School for the Performing Arts (FSPA) presented a COVID-safe virtual movie-musical production of *The SpongeBob Musical* on February 27 and 28. There were two different movie-musicals, one featuring students in grades 8-12 and one highlighting FSPA's younger musical theater performers.

The project was filmed entirely on iPhones with all COVID distancing and mask protocol being followed at all times. Some scenes featured students recording in their homes edited together, while others featured the students masked and distanced at different locations all around the Town of Franklin. The project provided a unique opportunity for FSPA's musical theater students to explore the world of musicals made for the screen all while staying safe. The teen production filmed the end of their exciting opening number on a shutdown Main Street. The cast also utilized locations like Fletcher Field, Intermission Cafe, THE BLACK BOX, the YMCA, and more.

The SpongeBob Musical is based on the beloved animated series created by Stephen Hillenburg and features a book by Kyle Jarrow, with original songs by Yolanda Adams, Steven Tyler and Joe Perry of Aerosmith, Sara Bareilles, Jonathan Coulton, Alexander Ebert of Edward Sharpe & The Magnetic Zeros, The Flaming Lips, Lady An-

tebellum, Cyndi Lauper, John Legend, Panic! At the Disco, Plain White T's, They Might Be Giants and T.I., and songs by David Bowie, Tom Kenny and Andy Paley. Additional lyrics are by Jonathan Coulton, with additional music by Tom Kitt.

FSPA's teen production was directed by FSPA alum and faculty member Ali Funkhouser and the youth production was directed by FSPA Drama Director Nick Paone.

With extensive programs in music, dance, and drama all housed under one roof, FSPA is uniquely positioned to offer an immersive interdisciplinary musical theater experience. Younger students explore the exciting world of musical theater with an introduction to basic skills in singing, acting, and dancing, while older and more advanced students build upon this foundation with increasingly challenging repertoire, technique, and scene work. Musical theater history and audition technique round out the department's hands-on, multi-disciplinary opportunities. Alumni of FSPA's Musical Theater program have gone on to perform on Broadway, in national tours, regional theater, cruise ships, and other venues around the world.

To learn more about FSPA's programming, visit www.FSPAonline.com or by call (508) 528-8668.

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Planning, Prevention and Preparation Help Families Maintain Dignity and Control

BY DENNIS SULLIVAN & ASSOCIATES

Our team had a recent experience with our client, “Mrs. Cronin” a member of our Lifetime & Legacy Protection Program (LLP Program). Mrs. Cronin and her late husband, Mr. Cronin attended a seminar we held over 20 years ago with the AARP Legal Services Network. We helped the Cronins establish their estate plan and they kept it up to date with their membership in the LLP Program at Dennis Sullivan & Associates.

Mr. Cronin passed in his 80s, and Mrs. Cronin eventually had to go to a nursing home at age 93. We kept in touch visiting her to update her plan.

We learned Mrs. Cronin was having difficulties paying some bills for real estate taxes; we investigated to determine her health and medical needs and ensure her wishes were being met. Although it took considerable effort and coordination, due to COVID-19 protocols we were able to coordinate services on Mrs. Cronin’s behalf.

Unfortunately, we were rebuffed by nursing home personnel numerous times., nevertheless we persevered on her behalf all while Mrs. Cronin was locked in her room because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Hard Work & Mrs. Cronin’s Diligence & Dedication Pays Off

Despite numerous challenges, we were able to work with the bank regarding Mrs. Cronin’s



Trust and the Power of Attorney as well as coordinating with the nursing home physician. Persistence, passion, perseverance, compassion, care and commitment by our team prevailed and eventually all of Mrs. Cronin’s goals and objectives (financial, health, tax), as well as her choices for health care were honored. She was even successful avoiding the time delay and the cost of two probate court proceedings (one for disability and one after death).

Our Main Responsibilities Were Met on Behalf of Mrs. Cronin

We accomplished Mrs. Cronin’s efforts to exercise her legal rights to retain control of not only financial decisions, but also health decisions regarding end of life treatment made by trusted individuals, rather than having to go to court. Disability court proceedings are long and expensive and result in ongoing court involvement, expense and can mean unmet health and financial objectives.

Could you imagine if her care, was left up to the state, courts, and nursing home? Our team ensured that Mrs. Cronin’s choices were written into her documents, honoring that no unwanted extreme end of life measures were taken when the time came that she was at the end of life. We and her family were relieved that these goals were met.

Call (781) 237-2815 or visit DSullivan.com to discover the right steps to take now for peace of mind and for the future as the Cronin’s discovered.

Because of the pandemic it has been our experience that health care documents, DNRs and MA MOLSTs need to be reviewed and updated. Don’t let this happen to you.

Dennis Sullivan & Associates is a team of caring, compassionate highly-trained professionals who Protect Families for Generations. You and your family will benefit from the peace of mind of knowing you have done everything you can to protect yourself and your loved ones for generations. Call now 800-964-4295 or register for a free meeting at www.DSullivan.com

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Living Healthy

Home Remedies for Simple Eye Problems

By: ROGER M. KALDAWY, M.D.
Milford Franklin Eye Center

Many eye problems need an ophthalmologist's medical knowledge. But there are eye problems that you can treat safely at home, as long as they are simple. Here are a few problems that can respond to home treatment, with tried-and-true remedies.

Black eye

You can usually treat a black eye at home. But if there are more serious symptoms of black eye, see an ophthalmologist. These signs include: blurred/double vision; blood in the eye; or an inability to move the eye.

To reduce swelling and ease pain the first day, apply an ice pack to the eye for 15 to 20 minutes at a time, once every hour. If you don't have an ice pack, use a bag of frozen vegetables or ice cubes wrapped in cloth. The

cloth protects your skin from freezing. Don't put a raw steak or other raw meat on your eye. Despite what you've seen on television and in the movies, there's no scientific basis for this. In fact, the bacteria in raw meat poses a high risk of infection.

Pink eye (also known as conjunctivitis)

A virus causes most cases of pink eye. These cases don't respond to antibiotics. Viral conjunctivitis will disappear on its own. Have your ophthalmologist diagnose your particular case. Reduce the discomfort of conjunctivitis by applying cool compresses to the eye.

If your conjunctivitis is bacterial, follow your treatment plan. This usually involves antibiotic eye drops. In either case, you should take steps to reduce the chance of passing the problem

on to someone else. Conjunctivitis is highly contagious. Follow these tips to prevent the spread: Don't share towels, handkerchiefs or cosmetics. Change pillowcases frequently. Wash your hands often.

Eye allergy and seasonal allergy

Just as you can get nasal allergies, you can get eye allergies that leave your eye red, itchy and teary. Limiting your exposure to the source of your allergy — whether it's pollen, pets or mold — can help relieve symptoms. If you can't remove the source entirely, there are ways to reduce its effect with eye allergy treatments.

If pollen bothers you: Don't use a window fan, which can draw pollen into your house. Wear sunglasses when you go outside.



If dust is the problem: Use allergen-reducing covers for your bed. Use artificial tears, which temporarily wash allergens from your eyes. Use over-the-counter anti-allergy eye drops to lessen the symptoms.

Stye (also called hordeolum)

While a stye may look nasty, it's usually harmless and goes away within a week. You can treat it at home by running a washcloth under warm water, wringing it out and placing it over your closed eye. When the washcloth cools, repeat the process several times. Do this three to four times a day for at least a week. The heat will help unblock the pores in your eyelash area. Don't wear eye makeup or your contact lenses while you have a stye. And don't pop or squeeze the stye. Doing so can spread infection to surrounding areas of your eye. Shampooing with tea tree shampoo can also help.

that often accompanies the aging process. As we grow older, tissues around the eye gradually weaken and sag. This loss of skin tone allows fat to shift forward into the lower eyelids, making them look puffy and swollen. Fluid can also pool in this area and contribute to the puffy appearance.

Certain home remedies can help lessen or eliminate the puffiness of under-eye bags and the appearance of shadows. Wet a clean washcloth with cool water. Place the damp washcloth around your eyes for a few minutes, applying very gentle pressure. Do this while sitting upright. Make sure you get enough sleep. Sleep with your head raised slightly. Try to avoid drinking fluids before bed, and limit salt in your diet. That can help reduce fluid retention overnight that can lead to bags under your eyes. Quit smoking. Try using makeup concealer to cover shadows under your eyes.

Use Common Sense for Your Eye Health

With any of these conditions, see your ophthalmologist right away if the symptoms worsen or don't go away, or if your vision is affected.

Some eye problems you should never treat on your own.

If you experience any of these, you should seek medical attention right away: Blurriness. Double vision. Pain in your eye. Serious eye injuries.

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Eye strain

Many people have symptoms of eye strain, because of long hours of computer use, reading and driving every day. In most cases, there are simple things you can do at home, work, and while driving to ease eye strain symptoms. These include: resting your eyes, using artificial tears, wearing computer glasses, and wearing sunglasses.

Bags under the Eyes

What we often call "bags under our eyes" is actually sagging skin under the eyes. It is a common complaint, and one

Living Healthy

Franklin Senior Center March Special Events

Senior Connection Wed, March 3 at 1 p.m. via Zoom. Connect with the entire staff of the Franklin Senior Center! Staff will discuss the center's upcoming March events and answer any questions you may have. Email Ariel at adoggett@franklinma.gov for the link to join.

Palette Knife Painting Class Tuesdays in March (9,16,23, 30, from 2-3:30 via Zoom) Learn to paint with a palette knife! Ann Gorbett is an award-winning artist who paints exclusively with a palette knife. She holds a fine art degree and has worked as a professional graphic designer for many years. The thick yet highly detailed strokes of color are trademarks of her style. Space is limited, Email adoggett@franklinma.gov to sign up. Cost is \$20 and includes all 4 classes and supplies.

Name That Tune! March 11th at 6:30pm via Zoom - Whether you know your music or just enjoy listening to it you are sure to have fun at this lively, fun filled event! Prizes are awarded to top winners with a chance to win on a bonus question as well. Email Ariel at adoggett@franklinma.gov for the link to join.

Tom Dooley - Wednesday March 17th at 2pm via Zoom - Mr. Dooley, a fictional Chicago barkeep who "lived" from 1893 to 1926 thanks to the talented pen of journalist Finely Peter Dunne, will be the subject of a presentation by one of his many admirers, local Franklin historian Alan Earls. Alan will attempt to recount the high points of Dooley's often hilarious existence and perhaps even bits of his fantastic Irish brogue! Email Ariel at adoggett@franklinma.gov for the link to join.

Senior Coffee Hour with Local & State Officials -Thursday, March 18 at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom.

State Rep Jeff Roy, Town Council Members and Town Administrator Jamie Hellen will be available to chat, answer questions and provide updates.

Franklin Matters Q & A - Thursday March 18th at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom - Join Franklinite Steve Sherlock for a lively and informative discussion about current events in our town. Bring your questions for discussion. Email Ariel at adoggett@franklinma.gov for the link to join.

Virtual Coffee Hour w/ Sen. Rebecca Rausch -Friday, March 19th at 10 a.m. via Zoom.

Senator Rebecca Rausch will host a coffee hour reserved exclusively for seniors. During this time, constituents are welcome to share their questions and opinions on state issues with the Senator and her team. Join with either phone or webcam.

Name that Tune-Daytime Edition! Monday, March 29th at 1 p.m. via Zoom. We've been having a blast playing at night, join us for a daytime event! Whether you know your music or just enjoy listening to it you are sure to have fun at this lively, fun filled event! Prizes are awarded to top winners with a chance to win on a bonus question as well. Email Ariel at adoggett@franklinma.gov for the link to join.

MARCH- REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS:

Curbside Lunch: Monday-Friday from 11-1 p.m. \$2 per meal. Check our website or newsletter for menu and daily specials.

Chair Exercise with Judith Tues. & Thurs. at 10 a.m. via Zoom. Email judivperez@gmail.com

Cardio, Strength and Balance with Judith Tues. & Thurs. at 11 a.m. via Zoom. Email judivperez@gmail.com

Zumba Gold with Judith, Every other Wed. at 11 a.m. via Zoom. Email judivperez@gmail.com

Mindful Movements with Judith, Every Other Wed. at 11 a.m. via Zoom. Email judivperez@gmail.com

Quarantini Time Tues at 5 p.m. via Zoom. Raise a glass of your favorite beverage and join us for a social hour of conversation. Email Ariel at adoggett@franklinma.gov to join.

Blood Pressure & Sugar Testing with Trish Wed mornings at the Center, by appointment only.

Fibromyalgia Support Group First Wed. of the month; Call for more info. (508) 520-4945

Tele-Bingo ! Every Mon & Thurs at 1 p.m. Join via phone call, no computer needed! We'll provide a kit with everything you need to play. Call the Center to sign up. Call-in telephone number is: (508) 206-8603

Page Turners Book Club: First Mon. on the month at 11 a.m. Email: judymurphy@verizon.net

Senior Scribblers' Writers Group Wed. at 1 p.m. via Zoom. Email: Shersteve@gmail.com

Caregivers Support Group Meets the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month. Email Elaine at elaine.owens@verizon.net

Discussion Group Thurs. at 10 a.m. via Zoom. Email: matroviendro@yahoo.com

Sunshine Club Zoom Fri at 11 a.m. via Zoom. The Supportive Day Program meets weekly and is for people with mild to moderate memory loss. Gentle exercises, games, music, jokes and socialization to wrap up your week. Contact Ariel for more info at adoggett@franklinma.gov.

TOPS Taking off Pounds Sensibly Fri. at 12:30 p.m. Email: patdamour@yahoo.com

Council on Aging Monthly Meeting- Second Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. via Zoom.

The public is invited to attend. Call the Center for more info.: (508) 520-4945.

Friends of Franklin Elders Monthly Meeting- Fri. March 26th at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom. The public is invited to attend. Please call the Center for more information, (508) 520-4945.

EYES

continued from page 18

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Sports

Tri County Vocational Set to Resume Athletic Competition

Cougars Went 3 Seasons with No Sports

By KEN HAMWEY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

The long wait is finally over.

Tri County Regional Vocational Technical High School will be competing in varsity sports during the Fall-2 season that got underway with pre-season practice on Feb. 22. Nine teams will begin play with reduced schedules and, for the most part, their opponents will be Mayflower League squads.

The Cougars have not participated in athletics for three consecutive seasons, and that time-frame covers almost a year.

Last spring, Tri County was unable to compete when the Mass. Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) canceled all sports throughout the state because of the Covid-19 pandemic. When the fall season approached, 15 of the 16 Mayflower League schools decided to move all autumn sports to the newly-created Fall-2 time-frame (West Bridgewater stood pat for the fall). Then, before the winter season started, Tri County canceled all sports, because the school was moving 100 percent to in-person vocational instruction, while academic learning remained fully remote.

The Cougars' teams that will play in March and April include football, soccer, volleyball, golf, cross-country, cheerleading and boys' ice hockey.

"Sports will definitely return," said Athletic Director Sara Martin at Local Town Pages deadline (Feb. 15). "But, one question remains with the weather. Take soccer for example. If it snows considerably, there'll be no games because we don't have artificial turf. And, most practices for Fall-2 will be inside."

Martin is hopeful the Fall-2 season will be a return to some degree of normalcy.

"The athletes have missed structured settings," she said. "Now, they can reunite with their teammates and coaches. This year is about providing opportunities. We just want the kids to be able to compete and hopefully complete their schedules. I'd prefer that our teams win, but since we're still battling the virus, this is a time to adhere to the changes and modifications that the MIAA requires."

The Fall-2 teams will be dealing with similar changes that were implemented for the fall and winter squads. They include wearing masks, socially distanc-

ing on the bench, using hand sanitizer, crowd limits, no locker-room presence and bus limits for athletes.

Although many schedules are complete, some are still undergoing changes and updates. Tri County's Mayflower League opponents include Norfolk Agricultural, Southeastern Regional, Bristol-Plymouth, Old Colony, Diman Voke, Blue Hills Regional, Upper Cape Regional, Cape Cod Tech, Bristol Agricultural, South Shore Vocational, Avon, Bishop Connolly, Holbrook, West Bridgewater and Westport.

The league's schools moved fall sports to March and April, because they didn't have specific answers to a variety of questions.

"The feeling was that we didn't have a handle on the virus, like how far-reaching it would be," Martin said. "We wanted to know more about contact-tracing and we needed answers to questions. Do the athletes need masks while running? Would masks hurt their oxygen level while competing. What happens when there's contact with players who are sweating? If we erred, it was on the side of safety."

When the winter sports season was called off at Tri County, Martin filled the void with an intramural program and open skating at the Pirelli Veterans Arena rink.

"We started intramurals in mid-December," she said. "The sports were boys' and girls' basketball, co-ed volleyball, indoor track and a strength and conditioning program. Each team got one day a week to practice and compete. We followed all the virus protocols and capped the numbers at any one time at 25. The key was to address social, emotional and physical needs."

Skating at the rink occurred on Tuesdays and Fridays in one-hour sessions from January to mid-February.

Martin, who teaches history (3-4 classes daily), is very adept at multi-tasking. She's often juggling in a variety of ways — with sports schedules, rotating gym-time practices, busing details and



Tri County Athletic Director Sara Martin will be checking in on nine of the school's teams during the Fall 2 season.

ensuring that monitors and a trainer are available.

"For the Fall-2 season, I'll be relying on our coaches and team leaders (captains) to be models for wearing masks, socially distancing and using hand sanitizer. Coaches will have to realize that practices during Fall-2 won't be as plentiful as they were during normal times."

Now in her third year as the Cougars' A.D., Martin is optimistic about the 2021-22 school year. She even uses the "normal" word when looking to the future.

"I do see some normalcy," she emphasized. "The vaccines will help and lessen anxiety, and we'll have a better handle on how to manage close contact. We now know more about how contagious the virus is. We'll pick up in August at pre-season and masks likely will be used for awhile. With the focus on monitoring long-range conditions, everything can return to the way it was."

The personable Martin is quick to credit Tri County's custodial staff and its vocational teachers for their prudence in adhering to the precautions to prevent the virus from spreading. "They've been in school all this time, and it's a testament to them that there hasn't been any in-school infection or transmission of the virus," she noted.

Martin also deserves some notice for the way she's handled parental complaints, student-athlete concerns and all the

uncertainty that Covid-19 has created.

"There's been parental complaints, but for every negative opinion, we get about four positive ones," she noted. "Some parents call and ask how they can help. Students express disappointment when their sport is delayed. Some think we're not pro-active but we have to wait for guidance from the MIAA, the Executive Office of Energy and Environment, the leagues, the school superintendent, the Board of Health and the School Committee."

Martin said she's heard athletes express excitement about the Fall-2 season. And, it all centers around competing again. "The hockey players are glad they can play in March and April, and football players in January said, 'football is just a month away.' I certainly understand the frustration they've had to endure."

Tri County athletes have been on the sidelines for almost a year. But, that situation is about to change. Martin hopes the pandemic will fade in the future and her comments on that front are very telling.

"When its grip is loosened or greatly reduced, my emotions will be relief and pride," Martin said. "When August rolls around and all the athletes are sweating and exhausted at practices, we can all look back and say we've grown and that we appreciate our opportunities more."

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Kindergarten Registration for Class of 2034 Now Available!

Franklin Public Schools are now enrolling Kindergarten students for the 2021-2022 school year. Parents/Guardians will need to provide proof of residency, immunization/health records, and forms of identification.

Information is available on our website that specifies what type of documentation is required. Once all information has been gathered, students can be enrolled online.

Visit our website at <https://www.franklinps.net/district/prek-grade-12-student-registrationchange-address-online-form/pages/kindergarten> for details.

Questions? Please reach out to Central Office at (508) 553-4819.

It's time for Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration is open for the 2021-22 school year! Registration is ongoing, however, FPS is requesting that families register their child(ren) by March 1st if possible, in order to help us prepare staffing and class sections!

Required Documents

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- Original Birth Certificate
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- Immunization Records
- Custodial Documents

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Questions?

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Also, The Town of Franklin has partnered with the Great American Rain Barrel Company (<https://www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com/community/>) to offer barrels to our community. The Town of Franklin is offering a \$50 water conservation rebate for qualifying barrels.

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Calendar

Take-And-Make Craft: Needle Felting

Franklin Mill Store and the Franklin Public Library Kits available to the first 50 Franklin Winter Farmers Market, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Fairmount Fruit Farm, 887 Lincoln St., Franklin residents. To register, please contact Assistant Library Director Kim Shipala at (508) 520-4941, or email kshipala@minlib.net.

dren's room (508-520-4941 ext. 2) to pick up your very own Rainbow Shamrock Kit! Kits include supplies and instructions. SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED! First come first serve.

March 2

4th Annual School Committee Legislative Forum, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. See Schools for more information. Senate President Karen Spilka, State Senator Rebecca Rausch, State Representative Jeff Roy, includes Q & A for participants.

March 16

Franklin Senior Center Palette Knife Painting Class, with artist Ann Gorbett, 2-3:30 p.m., Classes will be held on 4 consecutive Tuesdays in March (9,16, 23, 30) via Zoom. Cost for class and supplies is \$20. Space is limited, email Ariel at adoggett@franklinma.gov to join.

Zoom link:
<https://zoom.us/j/91624587186?pwd=TWNyRmZpOWFQL2ZSeGRyempaY1h-nUT09>

SAFE Coalition Community Meeting, 7 p.m., Zoom link: 475 282 4122, all welcome

March 3

Franklin Art Association Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Speaker Dennis Sardella, Docent at the Museum of Russian Icons, to speak on "Science and Modern Art." Visit www.franklinart.org for more information, or look for Franklin Art Association on Facebook.

March 21

LiveArts Presents Duo Pianists Cynthia Raim and David Allen Wehr, 3 p.m., virtual show, free but donations accepted, visit https://www.liveartsma.org/events/duo-pianists-cynthia-raim-and-david-allen-wehr?fbclid=IwAR30Q8vU2CS0dUu7aj5YyIc9ix9pwp7cukrZEDRxnxa_Np6JexREikrHcl

March 9

Decoding the News with David Wallace, (virtual program), 7 p.m., Franklin Library, See library website for more information.

March 23

Franklin Public Library Book Club (virtual), 7 p.m., *The Night Circus*, by Erin Morgenstern, reserve a copy by emailing kshipala@minlib.net; to register, visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsf-yrrDIuGNZUG2MU-5BiraLtGa3dGaFib>

March 13

Zoom Cooking Class for families with Miss Sandhya!, 1 p.m., Special Zoom cooking class for kids and their grown-ups! We'll be making S'more's cups! Register by emailing ckeating@minlib.net

March 24

Franklin Library presents Women in Music Series: Folk, Americana, and Blues presented by Kirsten Thien, 7 p.m., via Zoom. More info. at library website.

Winter Farmers Market, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Fairmount Fruit Farm, 887 Lincoln St., Franklin

March 27

Winter Farmers Market, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Fairmount Fruit Farm, 887 Lincoln St., Franklin

Take and Make: Rainbow Shamrocks! Starting Saturday, March 13th, stop by the library between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. and call the chil-

FSPA Announces Summer 2021 Programming

FRANKLIN- Franklin School for the Performing Arts (FSPA) has announced their Summer 2021 offerings and enrollment is underway. In addition to summer weekly classes, FSPA will hold one week camps including Creative Kids, Acting, Broadway, Little Music School Experience, Rock Out!, and ProVoice.

FSPA will also offer 5 weeks of Summer Theater. Students can sign up for one or more of the offerings. The more students participate, the more they save. July 21-23 for grades 5-12 is Broadway Boot Camp.

Broadway Boot Camp brings Broadway's brightest talents to FSPA for song and dance master classes and coaching on individual performance skills. July 26-29 is the Cabaret Show for grades 5-12. Students will hone their skills and tap into their potential with a focus on performance skills, including repertoire choices, song interpretation, and presentation. The week concludes with a cabaret-style revue at THE BLACK BOX,

showcasing solo and small ensemble pieces that have been workshopped during the week.

Week 3, August 2-6 is a one week intensive for grades 3-8 and 8-12 that will focus on the rehearsal and preparation of a play that will be performed at THE BLACK BOX. The plays will be selected for each age group based on enrollment.

Weeks 4 and 5, August 9-20, culminate with the production of a book musical staged at THE BLACK BOX. Auditions for placements occur in May or early June. Grades 3-7 and 8-12.

The FSPA Ballet Conservatory will offer two intensives. The pre-professional summer intensive offers a four-week program for the dedicated and serious ballet student wanting to further ballet training and performance skills. A rigorous schedule of classical ballet technique, pointe, modern, dance history, and character is provided. Students will be divided by their current ballet level for technique, pointe, select variations and choreography to

ensure and maintain a challenging curriculum for every dancer. Additional disciplines may vary depending on enrollment and teacher availability. This intensive is for FSPA Conservatory Levels III/IV/V/VI, or by audition for ages 12+. It runs June 28-July 23 (4 weeks) Monday-Friday 9:30-3:00.

The three-week "Young Intensive" program is designed to challenge and motivate the young dancer. Instruction in classical ballet technique, pre-pointe, character, modern and dance history is offered. Additional disciplines may vary depending upon enrollment and teacher availability. The Young Dancers Program caters to FSPA Conservatory Levels I (2nd year)/II/III, or by audition ages 8-11. It runs July 5-23 (3 weeks) Monday-Thursday 9:30-3:00.

FSPA is located at 38 Main Street, Franklin MA. To register or learn more, visit www.FSPA-online.com or call (508) 528-8668.



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Roy Appointed Chair of Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities & Energy

State Rep. Jeffrey N. Roy (D-Franklin) was named by House Speaker Ronald Mariano (D-Quincy) as the new House Chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities & Energy. The committee considers all matters concerning the exploration, exploitation and development of energy sources, including the siting of energy facilities, public utilities, wind farms, and the bottle bill.

"It's a great honor to have been chosen for this assignment," noted Roy, who is serving his fifth term in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. "These are challenging times and the sustainability issues, including the climate crisis, energy needs, and pollution are top priorities. I am humbled and honored that the Speaker entrusted me with this leadership post to

face these challenges and help build a sustainable future."

In the last session, Roy chaired the Higher Education Committee and led efforts to address financial issues on our campuses with the enactment of an act to support improved financial stability (Chapter 113 of the Acts of 2019) and make them safer with the enactment of an act relative to sexual violence at colleges (Chapter 337 of the Acts of 2020).

He also served on the special commission studying veteran's tuition and the Harm Reduction Commission which addressed prevention and access to appropriate care and treatment of addiction. In addition to those duties, he serves as the House Chair of the Manufacturing Caucus which promotes making it in Massachusetts.

During his years in office, Roy has also served as Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee on Health Care Finance, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Ethics, and as a member on the Committees on Ways and Means, Judiciary, Education, Mental Health, Substance Use, & Recovery, and Labor & Workforce Development.

Since 2013 Roy has been part of the legislative efforts

that have addressed the issues of education, economic development, the coronavirus pandemic, health care, substance use disorder, criminal justice, veteran's services, seniors, housing, tax relief, civil rights, social equity, gun safety, energy, and the environment.

Also appointed to the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities & Energy were Minority Leader Brad

Jones (R-N. Reading), and Reps. Dylan Fernandes (D-Falmouth), Joan Meschino (D-Hull), Jim Hawkins (D-Attleborough), David Robertson (D-Wilmington), Kate Lipper-Garabedian (D-Melrose), Richard Haggerty (D-Woburn), Steven Owens (Watertown), and Len Mirra (R-Groveland).

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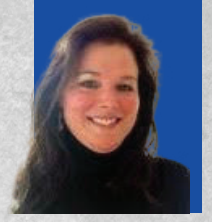
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Real Estate Corner

LIVEARTS

continued from page 11

2020, by Philadelphia Chamber Music Society. LiveARTS is very grateful to PCMS for generously granting permission to re-stream this extraordinary event!

LiveARTS and PCMS favorite Cynthia Raim is joined by her longtime piano partner, David Allen Wehr, for a rarely-heard, two-piano, four-hands, all-Rachmaninov program. Lauding the duo's recording of the Suites for Two Pianos, a Pianoforte critic raved: "Here are two fine artists who sound as if they might have stepped right out of a Russian academy. They allow the composer's melodies and phrases a natural shape without ever imposing technique on them, with a great feeling of contrast, light and shade."

PROGRAM

All- Rachmaninov program!
Suite No. 1 for Two Pianos, Op. 5

Fantaisie tableaux Rachmaninov: Duets, Op. 11 [Sel.]

Rachmaninov: Suite No. 2 for Two Pianos, Op. 17

About the Artists

CYNTHIA RAIM came to international attention when she was unanimously chosen as the First Prize Winner of the 1979 Clara Haskil International Piano Competition in Switzerland, after winning First Prizes in the 1977 Three Rivers National Piano Competition in Pittsburgh and the J. S. Bach International Piano Competition in Washington DC. She has been acclaimed for her concerto, recital, and chamber music performances throughout the United States and abroad and also won the 1987 Pro Musicis Award, the Festic Award at the Curtis Institute and the "Distinguished Artist Award" from The Musical Fund Society of Philadelphia.

Ms. Raim has appeared in recitals with soprano Benita Valente, cellist David Soyer, violinist Arnold Steinhardt, violist Samuel

Rhodes, and the Guarneri String Quartet and has recorded for Gall, Pantheon, and Connoisseur Society, including solo albums of Ravel, Schumann, Brahms, and Schubert and two-piano recordings of Rachmaninoff, Brahms, and Dvořák with David Allen Wehr.

A native of Detroit, where she studied with Mischa Kottler, Ms. Raim studied with Rudolf Serkin and Mieczyslaw Horszowski at the Curtis Institute of Music, where she earned bachelors and master's degrees.

DAVID ALLEN WEHR holds the Jack W. Geltz Distinguished Piano Chair at the Mary Pappert School of Music. His international career was launched when he won the Gold Medal at the 1987 Santander International Piano Competition in Spain. The resulting tours have taken him to over 30 countries in Europe, North and South America, and the Far East, including performances in the world musical capitals of New

York, London, Paris, Vienna, Washington, Madrid, and Buenos Aires. Over 1,000 concerts include 13 seasons of touring the United States and Canada for Community Concerts as soloist, pianist with the Sartory Trio, and duo-recital partner with violinist Linda Wang and cellist Zuill Bailey. Wehr has been soloist with the London Symphony, National Symphony, Chautauqua Symphony, Houston Symphony, New Zealand Symphony, and all the major Spanish and Latin American orchestras.

Born in Princeton, New Jersey, Wehr grew up in Boise, Idaho, where his parents, graduates of Westminster Choir College, were ministers of music at the Methodist Cathedral of the Rockies. Piano lessons began on his fourth birthday with his mother and continued with his father. Later teachers were Peggy Erwin, Edward Zolas, and Sequeira Costa. Wehr studied at the Cleveland Institute of Music, the Taos School of Music, the

Dartington Summer Music School in England, and holds degrees from the University of Kansas. He coached extensively with Leon Fleisher, Jorge Bolet, and Malcolm Frager. Early in his career, Wehr won the 1975 Kosciuszko Chopin Prize in New York City, the 1983 National Federation of Music Clubs Young Artist Award, and Second Prizes in the 1983 Naumburg International Piano Competition at New York's Carnegie Hall, and the 1986 Kapell Competition at the Kennedy Center.

David Allen Wehr has amassed a large and critically acclaimed discography with Connoisseur Society, Inc., with programs by Chopin, Debussy, Rachmaninoff, Mussorgsky, Schumann, Delius, Czerny, Gershwin, Brahms, Griffes, Wagner-Liszt, Dvořák, and Joe Utterback. The complete Beethoven Sonata Cycle has been released in four double-CD albums.

For other concert times, visit www.liveartsma.org.



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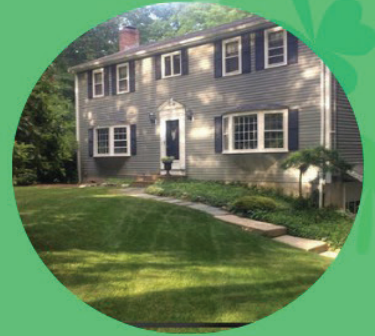
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