

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

Tribunus




Plebis

RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.


Volume VII, Number 5

August 2016

“Sandisfield, We Stand With You!”

As many as 250 people assembled at Spectacle Pond to support the town’s fight against a third pipeline through private and state forest land and the drawing down of over a million gallons of pristine water. Story and photos begin on page 8. 

“Our Town” Plays in England!

Over nine days, 26 amateur actors from Sandisfield and surrounding towns put on seven “moving and very professional” performances of “Our Town” at the incredible seaside stage of the Minack Theatre in Cornwall. The experience, said one performer, “gave my heart and soul the feeling that anything in life is possible.” Story and photos begin on page 10. 

An Ode to Summer

By Brigitte Ruthman

By July, the fireflies have already had their time. It’s hard to tell in the shadows that shorten by quickening sunsets which of them are close enough in tandem to be the eyes of a coyote lurking and which a calf late to answer its call to the barn.

By now, the swallows that build nests up high in the barn have given up their young to flight. New barns can’t match the feel of an older, weathered barn until the swallows flit through the door.

The lilies are beginning to bloom, suffusing the pasture with an unlikely sweetness, a strange homage to summer just as early evening sunlight begins to fade.

The cows find the clover, sweetening the milk. Soft rains are bringing back more quickly what they take.

It’s an especially playful crop of calves, two matched bulls for the yoke, and a Guernsey with a doting mother always guided it seems by the stunning bold red heifer, Rosie. There is never enough time to watch them, a fleeting gift of summer in one of the famed hill towns of Berkshire County.

Next door in Monterey, the three-year-old cow Firefly wanders pastures at Blue Hills Farm, which shows off its horizon as a muted shade of slate grey.

In less humid skies, off in the distance is the great humped whale, Greylock, that at times seems to breach in the mist. Writer Herman Melville saw it from his studio at Arrowhead, his 18th-century Pittsfield farmhouse, and it struck a mariner’s cord with him as he penned Moby Dick.

But Melville couldn’t sustain a vocation as farmer, and by the 1840s had succumbed to its relentless and challenging tasks and an unfulfilling friendship with neighbor Nathaniel Hawthorne and moved back to New York.

The Berkshires continue to mesmerize, beckoning but not divulging the price that winter brings. It is the price we pay to live here. 



A 1940s Farmall tractor in vintage condition sits in a field along Rt. 57 near Gedney Farm after the first cutting of the summer.



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TOWN NEWS

By Bill Price

Town Administrator

On July 28, the Select Board hired a new Town Administrator. Willie Morales, who recently moved to Springfield, will begin his duties early August. Willie holds a master's degree in public policy from the University of Northern Iowa. While in Iowa he served as city manager for Hudson, a town of 2,500 with a \$4 million budget. Selectman John Skrip interviewed Willie's references and said, "I had to stop some of them from telling me even more good things about him. Five glowing references."

The board received nine applications for the job and interviewed three. Negotiations are underway to share the part-time position with another town.

Select Board Chairman Alice Boyd said, "We're very glad to welcome Willie to Town Hall. A lot of work has been stacking up, and he will be very busy for awhile."

The Silverbrook Café

Connie D'Andrea reports that the July 21 TD Bank auction for the former Silverbrook Café was successful. She said that the building, which has been closed since October 2014, was sold to the highest bidder. No other information is available at press time.

Save Two Dates

A Sandisfield Discussion will be held Saturday, August 27, at 10:00 a.m. at Old Town Hall, providing seasonal and year-round residents alike with

an opportunity to provide input to the Select Board.


Master Plan Potluck Dinner in mid-September (date and location to be announced). All Boards and town residents are invited to review and discuss implementation of the Sandisfield Master Plan.

Rt. 57 Bridge, River Road Detour

Repair work is expected to begin this fall. Delays in plan approvals/paperwork have been caused by manpower shortages at state agencies.

Determination has been made that the work, estimated to last six months, will move faster if the bridge is completely closed, which will require an awkward detour along narrow, one-way River Road. Traffic will be monitored by stop lights, as it was during the bridge construction in 1993. Presumably large trucks will be prohibited on the detour, although the bridge at the foot of South Beech Plain Road may be reinforced by a temporary steel truss.

Police Presence at the Dump

The supervisor at the Transfer Station, Tony Melloni, has reported individuals dumping without permits and inappropriate behavior on their part toward him when challenged. The result is that Police Chief Mike Morrison will provide an occasional police presence during dump hours with the intention of catching and identifying these people. The fine will cost more than a permit. 



Baked Ham for Supper

The New Boston Congregational Church hosted its annual fund-raising ham and scalloped potato supper June 25, serving over 80 dinners to friends and neighbors and others who simply came by for a well-cooked, delicious meal. In the kitchen, carver Rodney Loring worked through a large number of well-baked hams, assisted by, from left, Laurie Loring, Sandy Morrison, and Evelyn Loring. Many others pitched in as line servers and to make Firehouse #2 welcoming for the event.



Smoothing It Out


Most of the axle-busting potholes on Town Hill Road and West Street were temporarily filled and rolled level during the third week in June. Drivers must still use caution since the road crew couldn't get all the holes, though they did get the worst ones. Here, from left, Road Superintendent Bobby O'Brien, roller operator Ralph Leavenworth, and truck driver David McCuin work on West Street near Stump Road. The most heavily damaged sections of both roads are scheduled for repaving this fall. Photo: Bill Price

Selectman Skrip on the Mend

Selectman John Skrip came home in early July following a difficult recuperation after being stricken with serious health problems during a visit to Mexico. Following surgery in Arizona, John underwent a lengthy rehabilitation before returning to Sandisfield.

John is slowly resuming his duties on the Select Board and expects to be fully

up to speed by mid-August. He was recently released from home confinement, although he's not allowed yet to drive

John and his wife, Rosanne, told The Times that they were grateful for the messages and flowers and "incredible support" they received from the town and from friends and neighbors, both while they were in Yuma and after they returned. "We're not on a regular routine yet," Rosanne said. "We have appointment schedules that would challenge the best administrative assistant in the world. But I can't express how glad John and I are to be home." 

Two Pipeline Issues Alive in Court

WILL WE GET PAID AND WATER QUALITY APPEAL

By Bill Price

The Town of Sandisfield joined the state attorney general's office at a compensation hearing in Berkshire Superior Court in mid-July to determine if promised compensation from Kinder Morgan/Tennessee Gas to the Town, slightly more than \$1 million, would ever be handed over. Select Board Chairman Alice Boyd has reported that KM no longer responds to phone calls or emails, and she is concerned that KM is preparing to ignore the promised, but unsigned agreement to compensate the Town for road and other infrastructure damage plus legal bills.

Alice reported that at the court a second hearing was scheduled for the last week in July to hear arguments regarding the Town's compensation. The latest information, she adds, is that Judge

John Agostini "may deal with the issue based on paper submissions."

A second issue still alive in court is regards the fact that Sandisfield landowners who will be affected by the pipeline construction have joined the Pipe Line Awareness Network for the Northeast (PLAN) and the Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT) in a legal appeal of the 401 water quality certificate issued by the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the pipeline project.

PLAN's president, Kathryn Eiseman, said, "Otis State Forest has become a flashpoint for a lot of people. We all want to make sure that the natural resources here are protected, and that DEP and Kinder Morgan follow the letter of the law."

DAYLILIES

The daylilies remind me of my Aunt Romona.
She shows up for two weeks each summer
Dressed in a flaming orange dress
Determined to upstage everyone that plays ...
With her swaying, dancing, posing ways.

And she brought her friends this year.
A mob of color that raise their arms
Along the roads and breathe new life
Into a dying Spring that really needs
Reassurance from these fancy weeds.

The thing about my Aunt Romona
Is that she only stays a couple weeks.
She's a flower, not a dove
And she always uses up my love
With her game of hide and seek.

Val Coleman
Town Hill Road

OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS



The designer for The Sandisfield Times, **Tina Sotis**, formerly of Sandisfield, is at present enduring a family tragedy. Tina moved to Greenwich, New York, in May 2015 to be near her sister, Lynne Sotis Bittner, who was beginning treatments for a particularly aggressive cancer. A member of the Sandisfield Players, Tina made the trip to England last month for the "Our Town" production. When she returned, her sister had taken a turn for the worse and then suddenly, four days later, their mother, Linda Sotis, also of Greenwich, suffered a massive stroke and died July 10. Unaware of her mother's death, Lynne died on July 20.

The irony of her role in "Our Town," as Mrs. Webb, the mother of Emily, is poignant. Tina wrote: "In the Act Three my daughter returns from the grave on her 12th birthday, pleading with me to 'really look at one another.' As Mrs. Webb, written as a practical and unsentimental housewife, I am too preoccupied in finding the just the right spice for my daughter's birthday cake. My character is too 'busy' to hear or care about my daughter's recognition that 'earth is too beautiful for anyone to realize.'

"Now, I have lost my mother; ten days later my dear sister died. Both women were the two most precious people in my life. These deaths, while cruel and merciless, have made me realize how important it is to stay as conscious as we can of all the beauty that life offers.

"Lately, I feel as if I'm floating high above the earth, seeing it the way the astronauts do: a glowing green and blue orb, circling in the perfect black, the perfect silence. Life's petty concerns are becoming meaningless. The only thing that matters is the big picture, life itself, and love.

"Be good to yourselves and each other, my dear Sandisfield family. Life is so precious. And so very, very short." 🍷

Librarian Named Town Treasurer

By Bill Price

Sandisfield's Librarian Theresa Spohnholz was named Town Treasurer in June, which might have surprised a few residents.

What does a librarian know about keeping track of figures for a town with a budget this fiscal year of over \$3 million?

For more than four years, until 2009, Terry was a senior auditor in Anchorage, Alaska, working for a major CPA firm where she prepared and audited financial statements, ensured grant compliance, and conducted Federal and State audits serving government, school districts, and non-profit organizations.

Before that she was finance director for the Boys and Girls Clubs of South-Central Alaska, a non-profit with more than thirty clubs throughout the state with an annual budget of over \$10 million.

When she moved back to the Lower 48 in 2009, she worked for a few years as an accountant for firms in Maryland before she "retired" and moved to Sandisfield in 2013. Once here, she began a long process of rehabbing the old James Merrill house in Montville into a charming and welcoming home. Last year she was hired as Town Librarian.

A graduate of the University of Alaska at Anchorage with a BBA in Accounting and a lot of CPA work in her recent past, this librarian knows her way around the financial books. Fortunately for local library users, she also knows a lot about books with stories in them. 🍷



Terry Spohnholz,
Treasurer/Librarian

AROUND TOWN HALL

By Alice Boyd, Chairman, Select Board

Our Quest for Broadband

In May 2015, Sandisfield voters resoundingly approved permitting us to secure bonding to build a fiber broadband network based on the model developed by WiredWest.

Since that time there has been a breakdown in discussions between the state-funded Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) and WiredWest, a cooperative of local towns. Unfortunately, progress came to a halt. The dedication of volunteers toward the WiredWest vision has been exceptional, but MBI and the state will not support WiredWest in moving forward in the role that they and their member towns had envisioned.

And here we are in Sandisfield, with less Internet infrastructure than China, Bangladesh, and parts of Africa.

On June 16, Sandisfield representatives met with Governor Charlie Baker's appointee Bill Ennen who has been tasked to help western Mass towns move forward.

On the 18th, the Select Board named a Broadband Committee to focus solely on this project. Jean Atwater-Williams, who has committed thousands of hours to bringing Broadband to our town and region, and Jeff Bye, a retired NASA Senior Engineer and recently moved to Sandisfield who has volunteered to be our Technical Project Manager, will anchor the new Committee. I'll continue to work on the organizational and financial aspects of the project.

Bill Ennen stated in a recent e-mail: "I've been bragging about what a great team you have in Sandisfield."

Where do we go from here? For the past six months Jeff and I met weekly with leaders from Tolland, Tyringham, New Marlborough, and Monterey to consider alternatives and move the Broadband agenda forward. We've met with a half-dozen Internet providers and consultants and have looked at other networks where there may be some options.

We've researched:

- Wireless networks and realized this is impossible in Sandisfield due to our topography and the high iron content of our soil and leaf cover.
- Hybrid networks.
- All fiber networks.
- Regional networks and outsourcing.


WITHOUT WIREDWEST IT COMES DOWN TO TWO OPTIONS.

Option One: Bring an established provider in to build and operate the network. We would use \$620,000 of our \$1.2 million grant to design the network with MBI and then hand over the plan to a corporation to build and operate. We are now attempting to woo one of the four large providers but this is an uphill battle as Sandisfield has a low "density" rate (i.e., a small market for the corporation) and has to wire a whopping 90 miles of roads. Our market is simply too small for most companies.

Option Two: Build the network ourselves, offsetting the cost with the same grant, and then join forces with our neighbors to operate regionally. This is the more likely option and would traditionally require the town to secure a bond to pay for the network. Unfortunately our town is not currently "bondable" due to the lack of audits and poor bookkeeping. We are seeking alternatives to bonding that could include grants and loans, and we've improved our bookkeeping systems. If the town pursues this option, at some point we will

need to select a network operator. It is possible that WiredWest may re-emerge to fill this role.


These other options may result in fewer services and higher costs than what was proposed by WiredWest, but bringing broadband to our residents is critical and is a top priority of the Select Board.

Broadband is a major catalyst toward local economic development and has been shown to have a significant impact on property values. We're committed to making this happen as quickly and as well as possible. 



Community Tag Sale
TOLLAND, MASS.

On the historic green at Tolland Center, Rte 57,
Saturday, Sept. 3, 9 am to 4 pm.
Rain or shine. Mark your calendar.
Info Contact: inkoming@netzero.net



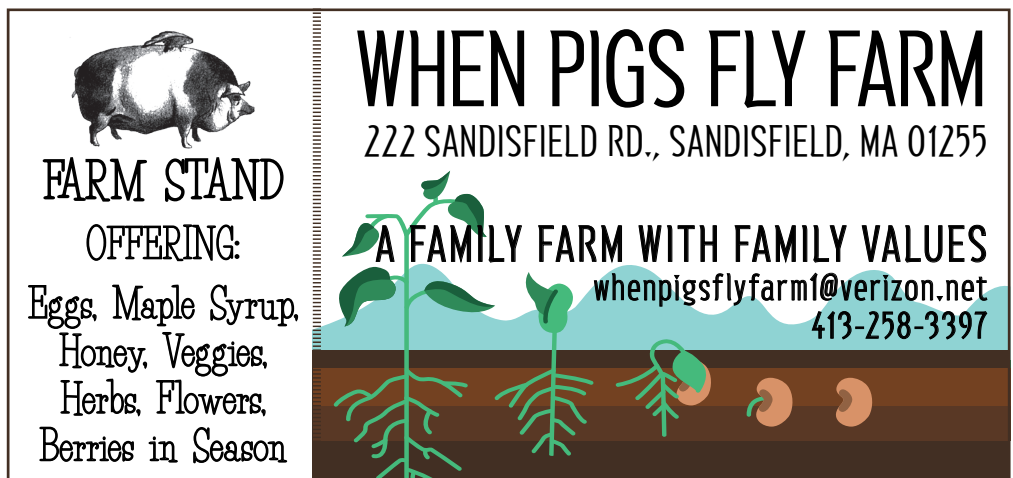
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New Life at an Old Landmark Site

By Bill Price



The New Boston Store, 2010, while still open for business.



The new building on part of the same footprint.

A new building stands where the New Boston Store, for more than 160 years, parceled out goods and services to Sandisfield and Tolland residents until October 2012 when a runaway truck destroyed the west half of the building.

Standing on the curve where Rt. 8 joins Rt. 57, the store was the most recognizable building in Sandisfield, probably more so even than the New Boston Inn just up the road. The truck, loaded with several tons of asphalt destined for a repaving of New Hartford Road, lost its brakes after the last curve coming down the steep hill from Tolland and, careening around the corner at the stop sign, crashed into the front of the building.

No one was physically hurt in the crash, but for more than three years the building suffered a long and visible period of uncertainty. Ultimately, whatever part of the building that remained standing was declared unstable and unrepairable.

The owner, Susan Campetti Murray, a former proprietor of the store, took the building down and constructed a totally new building on part of the footprint of the original store. The front of the building still faces the dangerous highway curve, but is protected now by a row of boulders.

The back of the building has become, in a way, the front, with a view away from the highway and up Tannery Road and the Farmington River. The back of the building opens onto a landscaped garden with a wooden staircase reaching a veranda off the second-floor landing.

Sue Murray is using the upstairs as living quarters while the bottom floor stands empty, she says, "in case someone wants to put another business there, sometime in the future." 🍷

Council on Aging

By Linda Riiska

Greetings everyone. We hope you're enjoying the summer.

On July 13 we were finally able to hold our Annual York Lake Networking Picnic at the actual York Lake. Last year we had to postpone it several times because of rain and finally held it indoors. This year it was a day of perfect weather. We had lots of good food and great company. The COA extends a special thank you to the helpful and welcoming Park Ranger on duty that day.

The foot-care nurse will be in town on August 2. Call 258-4816 for information.

Farmer's Market Coupons should be here in August. Call 258-4816 for information.

A new fiscal year means new opportunities through the tax work-off program. Apply at Town Hall Annex. The applications are easy and confidential. 🍷



**SANDISFIELD
VOLUNTEER
FIREMEN
STEAK ROAST**

ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 13,
from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Dancing from 7:00 to 10:00
p.m. at Fire House #2
on Route 57. Tickets are
available from any of the
volunteers and will not be
sold at the door.

**Call A & M Auto, 258-3381
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**Buy ice cream bars
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Yoga in the Gardens

Classes Saturdays:
August 6th & 20th

LOOKING GLASS GARDENS will host Yoga classes instructed by Kim Kost (200-hour Certified Teacher). Kim has trained at Yoga To The People and she continues training at the Dharma Yoga Center in New York.

Classes will be held from 10 am to 11 am for all levels and will be held bi-weekly. \$15.00 per person.

Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or have a signed waiver.

Bring a towel or yoga mat and enjoy a relaxing yoga session surrounded by our beautiful gardens.

LOCATION: LOOKING GLASS GARDENS
19 Dodd Road
Sandisfield, MA 01255
413-258-3375

Sandisfield Class of 2016

Farmington River Elementary School

Jacob Albert Gray
Ruby Caroline Smith

Monument Mountain High School

Katrina Campetti, **High Honors**
Lily Cormier
Paige Gray
Nicole Hryckvich, **Honors**
Klay Paspuletti
Anna Snyder
Katie Stratman
Scott Stringham

Mount Everett High School

Ashley Sermini

Orchid Blossom Healing Arts

Lauren Paul, Dipl. Ac
413-258-4296

Acupuncture and Shiatsu

Call for Yuletide Actors

Actor volunteers are wanted for two plays to be performed during the Yuletide Extravaganza at the Sandisfield Arts Center in December.

Needed: One boy to play a major role who can appear to be 9 years old; one older man to appear in his 70s-80s; one woman in her early twenties; six young men age 18 and up; six additional young men aged 18 and up who speak German; two men in their 40s-50s.

Auditions will be held at the Arts Center, Sunday, August 14, 2-4 p.m. For further information, please contact Tina deManbey at 258-4016, or email at asmallcrowd@verizon.net.



Sharps Go Here

In mid-June, residents had the opportunity to properly dispose of sharps (used needles), outdated medicine, and other medical waste past its use-by date. At the request of the Council on Aging with funding from the Sandisfield Fire/Ambulance Service, a site was set up at Firehouse #2 where volunteers Zoe Nelson and Sandy Morrison collected the items with a smile. The material collected was then turned over to MedWaste for disposal.



1873 East Otis Road
East Otis, MA 01029

413.269.4309

Bruce's HARDWARE



Bessie Rowley - Last of Her Kind



Don Victor collection/The Record

Bessie Brooks Rowley was perhaps the last person to teach in a one-room Sandisfield school, a tradition that spanned some 180 years. After her graduation from Westfield State Teachers College in 1939, she began her career teaching grades 1-8 at the one-room Beech Plain school. She continued to teach Sandisfield schoolchildren for more than 40 years.

The one-room school closed in 1950 when Sandisfield's neighborhood schools were consolidated at the "The New School" (now the Town Hall Annex). Bessie is pictured here at her desk at the New School in May 1982, shortly before her retirement.

Bessie and her husband, Marvin Rowley, ran their large working ancestral family farm at Spectacle Pond until his death in 1984. The abandoned farm buildings, now owned by the State of Massachusetts, still stand on Cold Spring Road.

Born in 1917, Bessie died in 1995. She also served in the historical society, and was organist at the New Boston and Otis Congregational churches. Her niece by marriage, Nancy Rowley Loring of West Otis, described Bessie as a happy, generous and down-to-earth person who often exclaimed, "Well, for corn sakes!"

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SAT, AUG 13 2PM \$15
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DOCUMENTARY &
DISCUSSION: the power of
music to bring people living in
conflict together

SAT, AUG 27 8PM \$20

ERIC MARTIN &
KAREN AXELROD -
traditional dance music with
violin, viola, piano, accordion
and voice

These programs are supported in part by a grant from the Sandisfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Pipeline Protest Rally at Spectacle Pond

“SANDISFIELD, WE STAND WITH YOU!”

By Ron Bernard

Photos: Geoff Coelho, Bill Price, Rene Theberg

On a warm Saturday afternoon, mid-summer 1969, a multitude of eager revelers from near and far packed together on a hillside of a former dairy farm facing a bandstand to enjoy live music and passionate speakers.

Wait. Strike that date. It was actually July 16, 2016.

This social activism celebration on the hilly picnic area overlooking lower Spec was pure 1960s *déjà-vu*. Pleased organizers estimated attendance at about 250, well above expectations and probably the largest gathering of all time at this place, the former Rowley Bros. Farm, now part of Otis State Forest, supposedly permanently protected conservation land under Massachusetts Constitutional Article 97.

The many Sandisfield and Otis residents in the crowd marveled at the numbers of supporters who came from all over western Massachusetts, Boston, New York State, Connecticut.

Cars lined both sides of Cold Spring Road as far as the eye could see, east and west. Young families strolled with babies and dogs. There were plenty of grandmothers and no shortage of old guys with gray ponytails. Busloads of teens from Camp Kinderland in Tolland bounded in enthusiastically to welcoming cheers.

Colorful protest signs and banners were everywhere. Really good folk singing between the speakers set the mood. And watermelon! Dozens brought kayaks, canoes, and paddle boats to form a “flotilla” and cruise the pond after the rally.

At one point four local and state police cruisers stood by. Maybe in case the mob got out of hand?



This was simply a Berkshires-style Yazgur’s farm “happening,” not exactly Woodstock but festive and with a serious purpose.

People came to voice their dismay about gas pipeline expansions and associated environmental issues and pledged support to protect Sandisfield and Spectacle Pond.

Two aging Kinder Morgan pipelines (1950; 1981) lay nearby – in fact, at the closest point to the pond exactly 976 feet upland.

The company wants to seize public and private land to expand its right-of-way for a *third line* and to drain over a million gallons from the pond to flush the line during construction.

For nearly three years the Town and residents with the help of State Representative Smitty Pignatelli and Senator Ben Downing and support from organized opponents state-wide have been resolute. The State Attorney General has joined the struggle to preserve Article 97 but Federal law and policy and legal precedent are big counter weights. A major legal challenge to the system might be required. However, time is running out as crucial decision points loom.

The “Solidarity Rally” was organized by The Sugar Shack Alliance and co-sponsored by at least nine other grass roots environmental and anti-pipeline groups, including Sandisfield Taxpayers Opposed to the Pipeline (STOP). Several had vigorously opposed a proposed \$5 billion pipeline

JOIN US FOR A FAMILY-FRIENDLY MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL!
 Labor Day Weekend, Sept. 3-4, 2016 in Tolland, MA
 At Camp Kinderland, 1543 Colebrook River Road

FEATURING DAR WILLIAMS
 AND GUY DAVIS


- ✦ 15 musical guests
- ✦ Food provided by Villa Mia
- ✦ Drinks provided by local breweries and wineries

Go to campkinderland.org/festival for advance tickets (\$80 per day) along with line-up, advertising, booth rental, venue address, and volunteer info.

Kinderland
ARTS & ACTIVISM FESTIVAL

(dubbed NED) across the northern part of the state. Kinder Morgan recently threw in the towel on that one, citing deteriorated economic prospects, but these groups certainly played a vital role in KM's decision and deserve much credit.

Sandisfield residents took to the microphones to express gratitude to the sponsoring groups and the people who came to hear about us and see for themselves beautiful Spectacle Pond and Otis State Forest land. Residents Thelma Esteves and Kathy Wilcox related personal stories of finding a home on Beech Plain Road and experiencing the evacuation of north Sandisfield and parts of Otis following the pipeline rupture of 1981.

The cancellation of the NED project was welcome news for state residents but local opponents worried that outside support for the continuing struggle here would evaporate. That has not been the case. Quite the opposite. One speaker after another concluded remarks by saying in effect, "Sandisfield, we stand with you." 



Beech Plain resident Thelma Esteves



The "Flotilla," Sandisfield's Navy for a Day

For lovers of world-class music and lively literary chat.
— Rural Intelligence



Saturdays at 4:30 pm
August 27-October 8

At the historic Meeting House
In scenic New Marlborough, Mass.

August 27 Neave Trio

Performing Haydn Trio in D major Hob.XV no.16, Dvorak Trio in f minor op.65, and Piazzolla "Estaciones Porteñas".

September 3 Douglas Trumbull at Trumbull Studios

A presentation and demonstration in the Magi Theater Pod where you will see works-in-progress of a revolutionary new movie technology. Advance tickets required.

September 10 Simon Shaheen

"From Cairo to Andalusia," a program of traditional Egyptian and Syrian music, plus improvisations and original compositions by Simon Shaheen.

September 17 Simone Dinnerstein

Harold Lewin Memorial Concert

Pianist Simone Dinnerstein performs Schubert and Glass.

September 24 The Sebastians

Baroque and classical. "Over the Alps", traces the musical evolution of the Italian style as it migrated over the mountains to the Austro-German regions.

October 1 Clarinetist Paul Green and combo

Paul Green and his Jazz/Jewish fusionband "Two Worlds" with Sephardic Singer Sarah Aroeste in a program that presents Jazz, Klezmer and Sephardic music.

October 8 Award-Winning Authors with Host Simon Winchester

Author Simon Winchester with guest **Novelist Nicholson Baker**, an American award-winning novelist and essayist.

*Receptions with the artists after the performances
Art Gallery shows through Oct. 2nd*

FOR TICKETS & INFORMATION: www.newmarlborough.org

(413) 229-2785

“Our Town” Plays in England

By Flora Parisky

Photos: Lynn Batten/Minack Theatre, Ruth Carrigan, Michael Sinclair, Tina Sotis

For nine days, the Sandisfield Players lived in Cornwall, England, to present seven performances of Thornton Wilder’s iconic American play, “Our Town.”

Twenty-six players made the trip, with another 15 or so friends, neighbors, and relatives going along as luggage handlers, cheerleaders, and coaches.

We arrived at the entrance to the Minack Theater after nearly 50 hours of travel (plane, time change, bus, overnight stop, more bus, grocery store, and a brief stop at our lodgings) and we saw the stage 120 feet below. We had seen the dramatic photographs, but the first sight of where we’d stand and speak made what we had come to England for suddenly and stunningly real.

And scary.

We climbed down the 96 steps to reach the stage and dressing rooms through flowers of all types and colors blooming from nooks and crannies among the hand-mixed concrete. It took decades of work to create this space overlooking the ocean.

On the stage, we would perform with our backs to the Cornish cliffs with the turquoise water far below. The audience would face us from steeply terraced rows.

We brought or borrowed our costumes and barebones props: 2 tables, 4 chairs, 2 stools, many umbrellas, 3 stepladders, and 5 benches. We moved them on and off-stage in costume while our accomplished fiddler, Maggie Holtzberg, played. Our electronic piano and organ hid just inside the small tent used for entrances and where the choir sang.

We had time for only two rehearsals on the enormous stage before the dress rehearsal and a preview for Minack board members. We didn’t



know how our version of “Our Town” would translate to a larger stage, since we had only performed it at the Arts Center.

But we had an advantage. The Sandisfield Fire Department had given us the use of Fire Station No. 2 for rehearsals for five weekends before we left. Only because of this courtesy were we able to expand our version of Wilder’s Pulitzer Prize play to the large Minack stage.



Ben Luxon, who played the crucial role of stage manager as well as directing us, saw our individual potential and tutored and guided our development into convincing characters. Now, caught in the spell of Cornwall, the Minack, the force of the group, and the director’s notes and standards, we were spurred to reach further and further and to help each other give life to this brilliantly simple and yet universally moving story.

Between performances, we made brief forays into the real Cornwall: Penzance, St. Ives, the Cornish paths and beaches, Mousehole, gardens, a former tin mine, churches and pubs and restaurants, many reached by narrow hedgerow-lined roads. We always returned back down the 96 steps happy to plunge into “Our Town” again.

We played through sun, cold wind, mist, and even rain to over 2,100 people. We had been warned: the Minack almost never cancels and audiences come prepared with sleeping bags, blankets, hats, ponchos, and umbrellas.

We improvised. It gets cold on the Cornish coast. Some players wore an underlayer of plastic for



many performances. Once a good rain began to fall just as George and Emily were doing the ladder scene. Ben simply took two umbrellas out and held it over their heads. Another time Ben did an entire monologue under an umbrella. The audience didn’t care; when it rained the audience was under umbrellas themselves.

Seeking to reach a high standard of work, Ben as director offered notes for every act. Cast members felt the opportunity to further develop their roles whether they had a few lines or a major role. As a group, we experienced firsthand what is required collectively to perform as a company of players day after day, and we supported each other.

Wilder’s work drilled further into the brains and hearts of the cast (and all those traveling with the production but not on stage).

In the first act the two families are introduced and the audience meets the youngsters, George Gibbs and Emily Webb. Mrs. Gibbs plots to sell a highboy for \$350, tell her doctor/husband that the money was a “legacy,” and persuade him to take a rest and go to Paris where “no one speaks English.”

The second act relates the courtship and marriage of George and Emily.

In the third act, Emily is welcomed to the cemetery by “the dead” who are already there, and she excitedly tells her mother-in-law that she and George used her “legacy” to buy a drinking fountain for their farm animals.

Allowed to return to Grover’s Corners to celebrate again her 12th birthday, Emily pleads with her mother, “Let’s really look at one another,” but her mother is looking for spices for the cake. To the audience, Emily says, “The earth is too beautiful to realize.”

The choir director releases his own buried anguish when she returns to the cemetery,

chastened by what she learned by her last visit home, and he tells her, “Now you know.”

Our nine-day immersion at the Minack was a wonderful experience of generations working together with a single purpose: to give voice to Thornton Wilder’s brilliantly moving story of life, communion, and death.

From our viewpoint on stage, we looked out at the audiences and often saw English faces moved to tears.

The last evening’s performance began in a drizzle of rain, but sometime in Act Two the rain stopped and we finished under a dark but non-threatening sky. When Ben, as the stage manager, gestured toward heaven and talked about the stars criss-crossing, it was impossible not to imagine them there. 🍷



The Cast Remembers ...

Patricia Hubbard: Living together in Cornwall we experienced a unique sense of community – transcending rain, wind, and chill – as beautiful as the rugged Cornish coastline. Much like *Our Town* – Sandisfield.

Lauren Paul: Ben saw our potential, cast us in oh-so-appropriate roles, and tutored and guided our development into convincing characters who Thornton Wilder would have recognized and greeted happily. We were ourselves cast back a century – “being” rather than “acting.”

Sandy Parisky: The incredible beauty of the steep cliffs and sandy beach that meet the intense, aqua green to blue color of the sea. The cast members engendered a sense of spirit, camaraderie, and enthusiasm in supporting one-another to do our best.

Shawn Coyne, Bleeker’s mom: What was most enchanting was the variety of generations working together with a single powerful purpose – giving life to a brilliantly simple and yet universally moving story of birth, communion and death. The children in the production discovered that they have inherent value and are crucial members of society, that with some help from their elders they can make a huge difference.

Evers Whyte: As magical as Cornwall is, and as fabulous as the trip to the Minack was, this very special group of warm, funny, clever, sometimes rag-tag, and endearing folks we call the Sandisfield Players really made the experience “once-in-a-lifetime!” Everyone’s energy, focus, and fun through each and every performance (even with some bloopers!) was terrific.

Chloe Whyte: I’ve never worked so hard in theater before and had so much fun!

Pia Whyte: It was very inspiring seeing everyone rise to the professional level! I really love this group of people and feel lucky that I had the chance to get to work with them and know them.

Laura Whyte: I have a postcard of Rowena Cade (the Minack’s creator) on our refrigerator to remind me of what a gift a spirit like hers can give to the world!

Lisa Danyluk: When looking out over the cliffs to the sea, I felt as if we were all on the edge of the world. The entire experience gave my heart and soul the feeling that anything in life is possible. 🍷

An Appreciation from the Director/Stage Manager

By Ben Luxon

The first actual sight of the Minack Theatre once we had gone through the box office and shop area was jaw dropping. I have known this spot and we had all seen many dramatic photographs of it. But that Saturday morning when the Sandisfield Players arrived it was all brand new.

Looking down the steeply terraced seating to the stage about 120 feet below and then along the back of the stage to another 50 or 60 foot drop straight into an emerald green ocean was so beautiful that we almost had to pinch ourselves to check that all this was real.

Add to this flowering cacti and succulents in riots of yellow, reds, blues, turquoise and white cascading down rocks and growing in endless nooks and crannies on this section of cliff face, and the picture is dazzlingly complete.

So this was the venue where the Sandisfield Players excelled themselves with seven moving and very professional performances of "Our Town." The audiences, averaging just under 300 a performance, were extremely attentive and appreciative to see and hear this play which is little known in Europe.

After a night flight, Boston to London, followed by most of the arrival day on a coach to get miles further south to Cornwall, the group went straight into rehearsing on the Minack stage with time for only two rehearsals before we plunged into a dress rehearsal and full week of performances.

Fire Chief Ralph Morrison and the Fire Department allowed us to rehearse at the station for five weekends before we left for Cornwall. If not for their generosity, we would not have been able to transfer the play from the small Arts Center stage to the much larger one at the Minack so easily. In appreciation, it is our pleasure to donate \$1,000 to the department from our ticket sales.

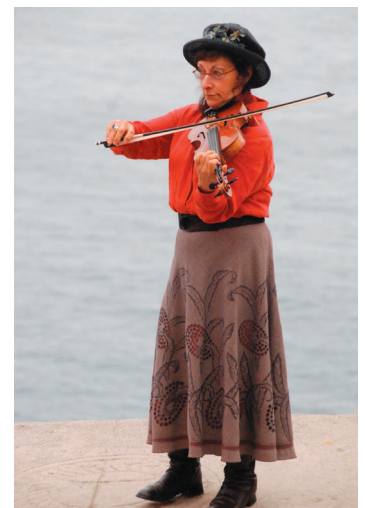
So we put 26 people on the Minack Stage, ages 11 to almost 80, who all acquitted themselves with great aplomb and professionalism, as if they'd been doing this all their lives.



As a life-long professional theater person I was so proud of this little group of friends and neighbors and their achievement. Incidentally, we were the first "foreign" company to be part of the Minack's 22-week season for over 20 years.

Also all my Sandisfield Players and friends fell in love with my native Cornwall and did quite a bit of scurrying around in between shows. What an adventure.

I was told by the theater director that our standard of playing was certainly equal to that of other visiting companies and better than many. He particularly enjoyed the natural delivery and acting style of the players, and, would you believe it, we have an open invitation to return.



The Minack Review of "Our Town"

THE SANDISFIELD PLAYERS

Review by Jenni Balow/Minack Theatre

This is a simple tale of everyday folk, living their lives in America at the turn of the 19th century, and it starkly reminds us how much things have changed in the last century.

The Sandisfield Players from Massachusetts have crossed the Atlantic to bring us a play that was a classic of its time and won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

Its author, Thornton Wilder, wanted it to be performed "simply, dryly and sincerely" and that is exactly how this group of nearly 30 actors, headed by Cornishman Ben Luxon, present this work.

Everything about it is pared down to the reality of life in a small US town in New Hampshire from 1901 to 1913 where a mainly Republican Protestant population of around 3,000 celebrates the births and marriages, and mourns the deaths of its residents.

There is no gloss – the stage is bare, with the exception of a white picket fence that lines Main Street, and a few tables, benches and chairs – plus a couple of step ladders.

The actors, particularly the ever-busy neighbours, Mrs. Gibbs (Jean Atwater-Williams) and Mrs. Webb (Tina Sotis) mime their kitchen work without props, and just a few well-timed sound cues hint at the horses and trains that pass through the town of Grovers Corners.

Well-known actor and baritone Ben Luxon, who recently appeared in the Cornish made film "Tin," moved to Sandisfield 14 years ago, and with his wife Susie is now closely involved with its arts centre.

He directs and appears as the stage manager in this play within a play, watching every move and orchestrating the whole with the sureness of a professional, working with a well rehearsed cast of mainly volunteers, who have many real life roles within the community.

The play follows the lives of high school sweethearts Emily (Sasha Nader) and George (Reid Sinclair) in three acts. They are teenage students for real and as they drink their strawberry sodas through straws, and work out their future, they give wonderfully expressive performances.

The mood is serious, understated and profound. The natural acting and the homespun simplicity is very touching, from the sounds of choir practice to the moment taken to smell the heliotropes in the moonlight.



The singer at the wedding, Laura Danehower-Whyte, is superb and fiddler Maggie Holtzberg adds to the atmosphere.

This play lends itself to a very much more intimate stage than the vast and often distracting arena that is the Minack, and back in the US the group acts in a very much smaller space, but the essence of Wilder's

writing is respectfully used to great effect, which is very important to us all because he wants us to know that there is no going back. 🍷

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A Wedding is Announced



John L. Grammer, of Sandisfield and New York City, and Lilli Beard, of London and New York City, were married at City Hall in downtown Manhattan on July 7, 2016. The couple will reside in New York City and visit John's parents, John and Mary Anne Grammer in Sandisfield, as often as they can. John and Lilli met their freshman year at Harvard College and have been together ever since. As Lilli said, "I was lucky, my first love is my forever love." John seconded the sentiment. The Times extends best wishes to the happy couple.

Sandisfield Historical Society



By John Kuzmech, President

A Successful Fair, and Election Coming Up

Our July Fair and the 2nd Annual Pet Parade was a fun and lively event that brought a broad slice of our community together.

Thank you to all the many unnamed bakers and donors of items for the tag sale. Special and specific thanks go to the Burrows, the Freedmans, the Bakunis family, the Gacek family, Marcia Patterson, Norton Fletcher, the Kuzmechs, Jeff Gray, Laurie Loring, and Teresa DellaGuistina.

Money raised at the Fair assists us with upkeep and regular expenses such as electricity, heating oil, and mowing.

The purpose of the Society is (1) to bring together those people interested in history, especially the history of Sandisfield and (2) to discover and


collect any material which may help to establish or illustrate the history of the area. Our thanks to Kathi Burrows for shepherding in donated props from the recent Karen Allen movie filmed at Silverbrook Café. With the addition of these treasures, and with the Fellowship at the Fair and at our July meeting, we did well keeping our mission.

Our next event is the important August meeting, when we hold annual elections. We require a new president and secretary to carry on the Society. As of this writing no one in our core group is willing or able to take over these positions.

Election of officers and discussion of the future of the organization will be the focus of our August 20 meeting. Our members will help and support a new person or persons as leaders of the Society.

We were at this juncture three years ago and through the strong support of our members were able to continue. We bought three more good years. In the last several issues of The Times, we have asked the community to help us identify a leader who can share his or her time and energy with us. Please help us find new leadership.

Our next meeting will be August 20 at 11 a.m. at the Society's building on Rt. 183 at South Sandisfield Road. The meeting will be followed by a potluck meal.

You can reach me at 413-258-4906. 

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Moreover...

By Simon Winchester

Flopsy? Mopsy?

OR COTTONTAIL?

In this all-too-worrisome world, I confess to finding it rather difficult to get worked up over the sad state of a rabbit called the New England Cottontail.

My government, though, would like me to become deeply concerned and has asked my help to revive a creature that it has recently declared to be In Trouble.

There is no doubt that the rabbit in question is a handsome fellow – two pounds of dark brown charm, with pointy ears, large and soulful eyes, and the adorable patch of white under his tail that gives him his name and makes him look like a fast-flying Q-tip each time he scampers into the brush.

Handsome perhaps, but none too happy. His recent wretchedness is all the fault of a few local hunting clubs who more than half a century ago gathered from far-away Kansas tens of thousands of rabbits that looked all-but identical, but actually belonged to quite another clan, the deceptively named Eastern Cottontails.

The club officials trucked the easterners here and released them, purely and simply for their members' sporting entertainment. Those of us who live here and noticed rabbits would probably never have known: the similarity of the two species is quite uncanny. Only by analyzing the pellets they leave behind can you tell them apart. (Or by X-raying their skulls, if that happens to be easier for you.)

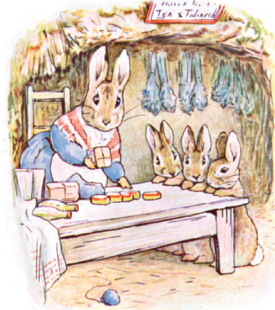
But rabbitologists can tell the difference and have lately noticed that the *arrivistes* appear to have been breeding like, well, rabbits. To the point where the frisky Easterners-from-Kansas seem

to be squeezing the old and rather sexually conservative New Englanders out of their traditional habitats.

Our native rabbits have long declared a liking for shrublands.

And herein lies the problem: it turns out that shrublands, with their grassy and tufted assemblies of swamp and sedge and open woodland, are for some reason (climate change maybe) fast disappearing, being folded into that immense green mat of spruce, fir, and eastern white pine that is our ever-spreading Berkshire County forest.

So now the Federal Government, pausing from its dealings with Brexit, Putin, and the West Bank, has come up with an idea how to better things for the embattled creature.



It wants to carve new-made shrublands out of the woods. Its hope – informed, but thus far unproven – is that by laying on lots of oases of shrubberies hereabouts, the old-style cottontails, finding comfort and privacy among the tussocks, will get down to their reproductive business. They will turn New England into a throbbing orgy of humping local bunnies, the tide will be reversed, and the Easterners will turn Cottontail, as it were, and head off *en masse* back to the prairies.

The Department of Agriculture is consequently letting landowners here know of their new program to help create such oases – twelve acres at a time – in the hope of boosting the local rabbit population. They will offer money for you to pay a logger to clear-cut, and then will compel you to promise not to sell the freshly-bared land to Wal-Mart or for a new golf course for at least the next thirty years.

They will come by to monitor – mainly by sending experts in to collect rabbit pellets and examine them under a microscope – to see if their plan has worked. It will take time: I will surely be dead and buried long before we know if the New England Cottontail has come roaring back.

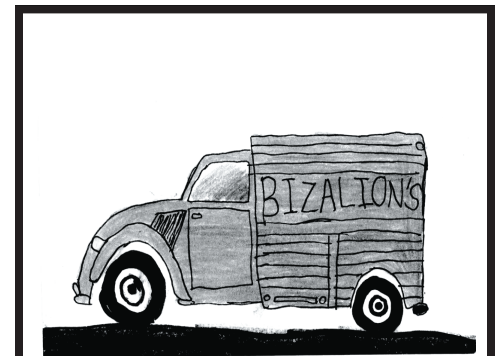
But – and it is a big but – there is the matter of cosmetics.

The clear-cutting looks pretty dreadful. A posse of government people just took me on a tour of some recently cleared sites – one in Sandisfield, another in Granville, two in Tolland – to try to reassure me. But in each case, even after three years of regrowth, the sites looked raw and wrecked. And twelve acres is a big eyesore, especially if it abuts a road. Hence my reservation.

By which I mean – should I really be worked up about the supposedly sad state of a rabbit which looks pretty much identical to the one that is said to be usurping its place in our local menagerie? Neither rabbit is anywhere close to facing extinction – the older one is just feeling a bit of pressure from its rival.

So – what to do? Forest or Rabbit? Shrubs or Bunnies? I am dithering, fretting, losing sleep. But I'll have made a decision by the time this piece appears in our Sandisfield Times, secure in the knowledge that, as with all decisions, someone, somewhere, is bound to condemn it.

As will, of course, one species – but only one – of the Cottontail Rabbit. 



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The Librarian's Corner

By Terry Spohnholz

*Librarian is a service occupation.
Gas station attendant of the mind.*

– Richard Powers

As your local gas attendant of the mind – think the old-fashioned kind with the crisp, clean uniform, clean rag in the back pocket to wipe that spot of dust on the hood, and a cheery “wash your windows?” – have you checked your engine of knowledge?

Are you running lean on high-octane nonfiction such as *Grunts: the Curious Science of Humans at War* by Mary Roach or *Indeh, a Story of the Apache Wars* by Ethan Hawke and Greg Ruth?

Or maybe the engine is knocking a bit with things that go bump in the night such as Joe Hill's *The Fireman* or Linda Castillo's *Among the Wicked*.

Running smooth and just a few gallons short on gasoline – may I recommend unleaded,

easy-on-the-engine summer reads – perfect for those trips to the beach! *Magic* by Danielle Steel, *The Little Red Chairs* by Edna O'Brien, *Everybody's Fool* by Richard Russo (and yes we have the prequel – *Nobody's Fool* as well) or James Patterson's *Bullseye*.

Or perhaps you are going for a long summer trip and need a complete check up – some real get-your-hands-dirty and all the cylinders popping – *Barkskins* by Anne Proulx or *Heat and Light* by Jennifer Haigh.

Whatever the engine of your mind needs, stop by and poke around the shop. You are sure to find the right combination for your needs.

Happenings At The Library

Ed the Wizard led a magical and enchanting afternoon at the Library on Saturday July 9. He entertained children and adults with anecdotes and slight-of-hand tricks. We followed that fun with ice cream!

The Sandisfield Women's Book Group meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month – August 24 – in the Library's lower level at 7 p.m. The book of choice is *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho. Come join the discussion!

Butterflies – the Children's section is sprouting another garden of butterflies. Watch the caterpillars grow, spin cocoons, and emerge as gracious winged creatures.

Well, time for this attendant to spiffy up some of the shelves and return some well-loved “vehicles” to their proper parking spaces. Enjoy your summer travels ... and be safe! 🛡️



Ed the Wizard enchanted kids and adults alike.

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Comings & Goings



August 1999

CLIFFORD L. GRAY, JR. 1955-2016

Cliff Gray, 61, of Bosworth Road passed away June 20 at Berkshire Medical Center, his wife and daughter by his side.

Born in York, Maine, on May 25, 1955, Cliff moved to Connecticut in 1971 to live with his sister Sandra and her husband Lewis Ledoux. He built a home in Harwinton with his first wife, Marilyn, and his daughter, Tina, before moving to Sandisfield in February 1988.

Cliff held many jobs. While in Maine, he picked potatoes in Aroostook County and worked at the Sanford Butcher Shop with his best friend, Sonny. He was a Security Officer in Farmington, Conn., and worked for the Harwinton Highway Department for many years. (He loved plowing with those big trucks!)

After moving to Sandisfield, he became maintenance supervisor at the former New Boston Nursing Center, a position he held for 11 years. In addition, he ran the Willow Brook Farm, a very busy hog breeding operation. At the farm's height there were 50 breeding sows on site, accounting for roughly 800 piglets per year.

Most recently, Cliff was the owner/operator of Gray & Bailey Property Management, with rentals in the Winsted and Torrington areas. Cliff was a carpenter, electrician, plumber, and painter and did it all with flair and perfection!

Many will remember Cliff jogging up and down Rt. 57 a few years ago, as he worked his way up to jogging 13 miles non-stop. Or you may have seen him horseback riding with his friends Wendy and Lori. He had a lifelong love of horses and all animals.

He enjoyed vacationing with family in Wells, Maine, and in New Hampshire and travelling around the country with his wife. But Cliff's true passion and calling in life was his dedication and love for his children. He was the devoted 'GaGa' to Owen and Selena, two developmentally challenged children, for the past 5 years. He also cared for Christian for the past 18 years, Aaron for 10 years, and Shawn for 12. Though at times this job was very difficult, Cliff made it look easy.

He was a big tough guy with a marshmallow heart. He will forever be missed by his wife, Terry; foster children whom he loved as his own; daughter Tina and grandchildren Richard and Ben; siblings, Sandra, Pat, David, Ruth, Linda and Harvey; numerous nieces and nephews; and many friends.

Those who knew Cliff will remember his zany offbeat humor and the way he would always help out a neighbor in need. How many times did he plow someone out during a storm, when he was just driving by? Or lend a hand to somebody stuck here on Bosworth Road during the mud season!

He was a wonderful, beautiful man with a heart of gold whose kindness, generosity, love, and grace will never be forgotten. He is resting now in Sandisfield Center Cemetery. God Bless You, BabyCakes.

— The Gray Family



About 2000

ROBERT K. FREDSALL 1951-2016

Rob Fredsall, 65, died at his home on Sandisfield Road June 9. A memorial service, with a U.S. military honor guard, flag ceremony, and the playing of Taps, was held July 9 at the Sandisfield Center Cemetery. An honor guard from Monterey also took part in the service.

Robert proudly served his country in the late 1960s and early '70s during the Vietnam War. He was among the veterans who march each year in Sandisfield's Memorial Day parade. This year Fred was accompanied on the parade by his great grandson, Jon Fredsall, 7. The two veteran/companions then drove to Monterey where they marched in that parade as well.

Robert had lived in Sandisfield since 1973. "He loved Sandisfield," said his son, Karl.

Born May 7, 1951, in Torrington, Rob was the son of Frederick F. and Marjorie (Karl) Fredsall. After graduating from the Oliver Wolcott Technical High School in Torrington, he volunteered for the U.S. Army.

Following his military duty, Robert worked as a machinist at Oldcastle in Connecticut doing welding and fabricating. He owned and operated the Berkshire Crane Service from 1988 until 2011.

A member of the Northwest Connecticut Sportsman's Association, Robert enjoyed shooting sports, the outdoors, photography, and spending time with his sons and grandchildren. Fred always had a joke to share with his friends, bad jokes as well as good ones, and he might have laughed harder at the bad ones.

Robert is survived by his wife who resides in Sandisfield; his two sons, Karl Fredsall and wife Kirsten of Great Barrington and Nick Fredsall and girlfriend Elinor Beane of West Stockbridge; one sister, Christine DeVries; three brothers, Bill, Ed, and Tom Fredsall; five grandchildren, Stephanie, Erik, Abby, Lily and Kaylin; and his great grandson, Jonathan.

JUDI AND LOU FRIEDMAN

At press time, we learned of the unexpected deaths on July 26 of Judi and Lou Friedman of Sandisfield and Canton, Connecticut. The Times will publish an obituary of the couple in the September issue.



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NOW HEAR THIS!

Edited by Laura Rogers-Castro. Please send notices for Now Hear This! to calendar@sandisfieldtimes.org.

AUGUST EVENTS

Gallery Opening Reception on Saturday, August 6, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center, 5 Hammertown Road. The Gallery will feature Paintings & Pastels by Joe Baker. The exhibit is on display August 6-28 and open during performances.

From Madness to Music: Film Documentary and Discussion on Saturday, August 13, at 2:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center. Through the voices and experiences of participants, the film explores the perceptions and challenges facing youth in conflicted communities in the U.S., Israel, and Palestine. The screening will be followed by discussion with filmmaker Lynette Najimy and a reception. \$15, \$5 students.

Sandisfield Firemen Steak Roast on Saturday, August 13. Dinner from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.; dancing from 6:00-10:00 p.m. at Firehouse #2 on Route 57. Tickets, \$25, will not be available at the door. Tickets can be purchased from any volunteer or call A & M Auto, 258-3381. Ice cream sales to benefit the Sandisfield Scholarship Fund.

Church Service on Sunday, August 14, at 10:00 a.m. at the New Boston Congregational Church, 4 Sandisfield Road (Route 57).

Sandisfield Discussion on Saturday, August 27, at 10:00 a.m. at Old Town Hall, Rt. 57 at Silverbrook Road. An opportunity for seasonal and year-round residents to provide input to the Select Board. A report on issues critical to the town will be provided by the Board. Comments/suggestions/questions encouraged.

Eric Martin and Karen Axelrod on Saturday, August 27, at 8:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center. This dynamic duo bring the vibrancy of traditional dance music and song to the concert stage. \$20.

EVENTS IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

Hilltown Rodders Car Show on Sunday, August 7, from 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Izaak Walton Field in Otis. Take Route 8 to 1 Tannery Road. Spectators are free. The show benefits the Shriners Hospital, HospiceCare Berkshires, and Otis AmVets. No dogs or alcohol. Rain date, August 14.

Adonijah's Birthday Bash on Saturday, August 13, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Bidwell House Museum, 100 Art School Road, in Monterey. Fundraising party celebrating the Reverend Bidwell's 300th birthday in the gardens. Live music, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, silent and live auction. For tickets, call 413-528-6888.

Kinderland Arts & Activism Festival on Labor Day Weekend (September 3-5) in Tolland. Save the date! Family-friendly festival for peace to include over 20 musical guests, visual artists, social justice organizations, local breweries, wineries, and food. Sandisfield residents receive 50% off on Saturday and Sunday by showing proof of residency. For more info, visit campkinderland.org/festival. See ad, page 8.

SAVE THE DATE

An Evening of 20th Century American Songs and Dinner to Benefit the Sandisfield Arts Center on Saturday, September 10, at 6:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center. A stunning medley of ballad, jazz, and popular music sung by the beautiful voices of Laura Danehower Whyte, Linda Mironti, Brian DeLorenzo, and Accompanist Michael Rheault. The evening begins with cocktails at 6, followed by dinner and an evening of song. \$50, tickets available online at www.sandisfieldartscenter.org.

Sandisfield Potluck Dinner in mid-September (date to be announced) sponsored by the Select Board and the Planning Board. All Boards and town residents will be invited as the town moves closer to implementation of the Sandisfield Master Plan.

ONGOING EVENTS

Select Board, The Select Board meets at the Town Hall Annex on Mondays. Regular meetings are held at 7 p.m. and working sessions at 2:30 p.m. See posted agendas for meeting schedules.

Farmington River Regional School District, first Monday of the month, 7 p.m., Farmington River Regional School, Rt. 8, Otis.

Planning Board, second Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., Old Town Hall.

Board of Assessors, second Tuesday of the month, 5 p.m., Town Hall Annex.

Conservation Commission, third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., Town Hall Annex.

Board of Health, second Monday of the month, 6 p.m., Old Town Hall.

Cemetery Committee, second Monday of the month, 6 p.m., Town Hall Annex.

Council on Aging, every Wednesday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Senior Center, Town Hall Annex. Pot luck lunch at noon, bingo at 1 p.m. Free blood pressure screening every fourth Wednesday.

Finance Committee, second Saturday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Sandisfield Library.

Strategic Planning Committee, third Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m., Fire Station #2 on Sandisfield Rd.

Sandisfield Public Library Hours: Monday/Tuesday: 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; All Wednesdays: 2-5 p.m.; Thursday: 5-7 p.m. Saturdays: 9-Noon

Historical Commission: First Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m., Rt. 57 Firehouse.



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SANDISFIELD TOWN DIRECTORY

Official Town meetings take place at Town Hall Annex unless otherwise indicated.

TOWN WEBSITE: WWW.SANDISFIELD.INFO

AMBULANCE: 911. Non-Emergency: 258-4742

AMERICAN LEGION Post 456: Maria Domato, Commander:
258-4578 (April-October) or rainbow2498@embarqmail.com

ANIMAL WARDEN/DOG OFFICER:

Kim Spring: 258-4450

ASSESSORS OFFICE: 258-4701

Office Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs. 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Meets 2nd Tues: 5 p.m.

BOARD OF HEALTH: Victor Hyrckvich: 258-4053

Meets 1st Mon: 6 p.m., Old Town Hall.

BROADBAND COMMITTEE: Jeff Bye: 258-4711

Meets as needed. Check for schedule.

BUILDING INSPECTOR: Eric Munson Jr.: 258-4590

CONSERVATION COMMISSION: Meets 3rd Tues: 7 p.m.

CONSTABLES:

Nazario Sanchez: 258-4705 John Burrows: 258-4943

COUNCIL ON AGING: Linda Riiska: 258-4816

Wed: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Senior Center/Town Hall Annex
Business Meeting 1st and 3rd Wed: 10 a.m.

FARMINGTON RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOL:

North Main Street, Otis, 413 269-4466
Thomas Nadolny, Principal

FRRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEES meets 1st Mon: 7 p.m.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Kathy Jacobs: 258-4535

Meets as needed. Check for schedule.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Emergency: 911

Ralph Morrison, Fire Chief: 258-4742

HISTORICAL COMMISSION: Ron Bernard: 269-0012 or

ronbernard@aol.com. Meets 1st Wed: 7 p.m. at Fire Station No. 2, Rt. 57.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Meets 2nd Sat (in season): 11 a.m., the

Society's building on Rt. 183

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE:

John Skrip: 258-4788

LIBRARY: Librarian: Theresa Spohnholz: 258-4966

sandisfieldlibrary@yahoo.com

Monday & Tuesday: 9-12:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 2-5 p.m. (Apr-Oct); (closed Wed: Nov-Mar)

Thursday: 5 - 7 p.m. / Saturday: 9-12 p.m.

NOTARY: John Skrip: 258-4788

Theresa Spohnholz: 258-4966 or 258-4712

PLANNING BOARD: Gary Bottom, Sr.: 258-4053

Meets 2nd Tues: 6 p.m., Old Town Hall

POLICE-LOCAL: Emergency: 911

Michael Morrison, Chief: 258-4742

POLICE-STATE: Lee Barracks: 413 243-0600

POST OFFICE: Amy Carriveau, Clerk, 258-4940

Window Hours: Mon-Fri: 9 a.m.-noon & 1-4 p.m. Sat: 8-11:30 a.m.

Delivery boxes in both lobbies accessible 24 hours.

RECREATION COMMITTEE: Robbin Campetti: 258-4096

ROAD SUPERINTENDENT: Bobby O'Brien, 258-4979

SANDISFIELD ARTS CENTER: (May-December)

5 Hammertown Road

PO Box 31 258-4100 www.sandisfieldartscenter.org

SANDISFIELD TIMES: Bill Price, editor: 413 429-7179

Published monthly (Jan/Feb combined)

PO Box 584, Sandisfield or editor@sandisfieldtimes.org

SELECT BOARD: 258-4711

Meets Monday with working session at 2:30 p.m. or regular meeting,

7 p.m. Town Hall Annex. See posted agenda for time.

STATE OFFICIALS:

Smitty Pignatelli, State Representative.: 413 637-0631

Email: rep.smittypignatelli@hou.state.ma.us

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE: to be announced

TAX COLLECTOR: Lisa Leavenworth: 258-4977

Mon-Wed: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE/WIREDWEST:

Paul Jacoby, 258-4682 or pauljacoby53@gmail.com

Town computers and technology.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Willie Morris

Mon-Thurs or by appointment. 258-4711

Email:sandisfieldtownadm@verizon.net

TOWN CLERK: Dolores Harasyko

PO Box 163 or sandisfieldtownclerk@verizon.net

Town Hall Annex: 258-4075

Mon-Thurs: 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Mon: 6 p.m.-7 p.m. by appt.

TOWN HALL: At Town Hall Annex, 66 Sandisfield Road, PO Box 90,

01255. Open Mon-Thurs: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mon: 6-7 p.m. by appt.

TOWN TREASURER: Theresa Spohnholz: 258-4712 or

sandisfieldtreasurer@verizon.net. Mon/Wed: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

TRANSFER STATION: Tony Melloni: Wed: 2 p.m.-5 p.m.

Sat/Sun: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

VETERANS SERVICES: Laurie Hills

Great Barrington Town Hall: 528-1580

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



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