



PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN



Ye Olde Townsman Valley

"The Best Journal Published by a Dam Sitz!"

VOL. 23 NO. 8 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 FEBRUARY 19, 2026

Mysterious Book Report John D. McKenna Pg 7 • *The Olive Jar* Carol La Monda Pg 8
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Have **The Townsman** delivered to your email mailbox each week and enjoy our local news. See details on Page 25

Tri-Valley Lions Dinner Meeting at Tilly's Diner in Monticello on Monday, February 2, 2026

The Tri-Valley Lions new Fundraising Committee met at Tilly's Diner on Monday, February 2, 2026 to discuss future fundraising activities which could help make up for lost revenues since we will no longer be operating the Soda Booth at



the Grahamsville Fairgrounds for The Little Worlds Fair, Youth Day, Antique Machinery Show or the Daniel Pierce Pumpkin Party. The Fundraising committee members are

Lions Hugh & Terri Delaney, Mike & Paula Ryan, Tom & Maryann Cosentino, Merri White, Stu Wizwer, Stephen Miller, Bill Brenner, and Esta Jacob. Several ideas were proposed for future fundraising events including raffles, 50-50's, an enhanced Tag Day, but we will be sure to notify the community of the events in advance. (Contd. Pg. 5)



Monticello Kiwanis Busy February Meeting



The Monticello Kiwanis Club members had a busy and enjoyable February meeting. President Marvin Rappaport welcomed Vanessa McPhil-lips, Vice President of Operations & Strategy for the Sullivan County Partnership for Economic Development, who gave an informative presentation on the many new business endeavors that are anticipated in the County. (Contd. Pg. 4)

YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN

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THE TOWN OF DENNING AND
THE TOWN OF NEVERSINK

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of Frank Comando

COMMUNITY NEWS - Sheila Lashinsky

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Subscription for *The Townsman* will be available in PDF format and will be delivered to you each week in your email that will be provided by you. *The Townsman* can easily be read on a computer, tablet or cell phone. The pages have been formatted so they can be printed out as a whole paper or a single page. We continue to encourage those who have home printers, to print out a hard copy and perhaps pass it on to a family member or friend who does not have a computer.

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1. **ALL submissions** should be typewritten or in Microsoft Word.
2. Letters should contain no more than 300 words and must be typewritten. They may be emailed as Microsoft Word documents.
3. Letters should offer worthwhile comments and avoid libel or bad taste.
4. Letters must be signed with the writer's own name. No letter will be published without a signature.
5. The writer must provide his/her full name, address and telephone number (for verification). This information will be kept on file in the Gnome Home Inc. office. Telephone numbers will not be published.
6. Copies of letters or third-party letters will not be accepted.

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Deadline for all submissions is 3:00 p.m. Monday for the current week's issue

NO EXCEPTIONS. All press releases/articles sent by email should be sent as **Microsoft Word Documents**. Photos or graphics must be in jpg or pdf format

More than ever, thank you for your continued support.

On the Front Burner:

Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any nation.
Proverbs 14:34

**DAYS OF
YOORE....**

Today's History

February 22, 1956

Bruce Denman Jr., son of former Supervisor and Mrs. Denman of Grahamsville, an agent for the Metropolitan Life Ins. Co., has been promoted to district manager, with headquarters in Middletown. He is now taking a training course in N.Y.C.

Mrs. Flossie Osterhoudt of Lackawack has announced the engagement of her daughter, Joan, of Kingston, to Jack Landers, son of Mrs. Carl Landers, also of Kingston. Miss Osterhoudt and Mr. Landers are both employed by IBM.

Belated congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Zanetti and the Rev. and Mrs. Irving A. Marsland Jr., who celebrated their wedding anniversaries last Wednesday.

February 23, 1966

John Sherman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Sherman of Grahamsville, was announced last week by the State Education Dept. as having won a N.Y.S. Regents Scholarship. John plans to enter Pennsylvania State Univ. where he intends to follow a chemistry major.

Mr. and Mrs. Grant Finch of Grahamsville have announced the engagement of their daughter, Margaret, to Roger J. Anderson, son of Mrs. Oliver Anderson and the late Dr. Oliver Anderson of

Minneapolis, Minn. The future bride is a graduate of Tri-Valley Central School and the Univ. of Buffalo. She is employed by the Berkeley Dept. of Health. Her fiance is a graduate of the Univ. of St. Thomas in Minn. He has finished his graduate studies in chemistry at the Univ. of Calif. at Berkeley and will continue his post-doctoral studies at Oxford for two years. The wedding will be on April 16th in Calif.

February 25, 1976

Honorene F. Adams died Monday at Liberty Loomis Hospital, she was 61. Born in Morsston on Nov. 9, 1914 to Edwars and Leonia VanWagner Cutler, she was a resident here for several years. She was married to the late Raymond Adams. She is survived by a son, James Hitt of Livingston Manor; a daughter, Phyllis Cherry of Oregon; a sister, Mrs. Donald Marks of Woodbourne; eight grandchildren; a great-grandson; two nieces and cousins.

March 6, 1986

Ruth G. Scully of Grahamsville, a teacher at Tri-Valley Elementary School, Grahamsville and an area resident for most of her life, died Thursday, Feb. 27, 1986 at Benedictine Hosp., Kingston. She was 52. The daughter of the late Leslie and Helen Coddington Green, she was born Nov. 9, 1933 in Kerhonkson. She was a graduate of the State University of New York at New Paltz. She was an elementary reading specialist for more than 30 yrs. At TV Elem. School. Survivors include her husband, William V. Scully at home; one brother, Frank Green of Kerhonkson; one sister, Virginia Allen of Kerhonkson; and several nieces and nephews.

LOOKING BACK

by Beatrice Akerley
Published February 13, 1997

Do you remember the fun of gliding over a frozen creek with the freezing air nipping at your cheeks? Or recall the breathless excitement of trying to leap over a mound of ice only to fall on your butt and finish your trip sitting down?

And the cozy warmth of the wood burning stove as you entered your home and pulled off your boots and stuck your cold feet in the bake oven and tossed your mittens, dripping wet, up on the warming oven to dry?

In the good old days, winter fun could be found almost anywhere if you lived where the snow often fell. The daytime possibilities were endless and night time coasting and skating were great. Having pop-corn while relaxing and warming up was just out of this world

A few more things are missing these days. Window panes etched by Jack Frost is one. Today's modern double paned windows have sent poor Jack packing. I am an old lady and I look back to the cold mornings back then when I awoke to kaleidoscope patterns of ice on the windows. Each pane was a unique work of art, far more intricate than anything created by artists today. Looking at those panes, it was easy to imagine a flock of birds or a forest of trees all captured in fast fading snapshots of ice. To my fading eyes, the pictures of today crossing our TV screens can never take the place of those etched on our windows by poor old Jack Frost of long ago.

Household Hint:

Keep Your Bath Towels Looking New

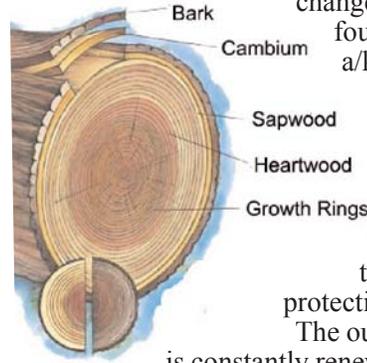
Keep you bath towels looking new by adding a cup of salt to the washing machine when they're new. The salt will set the colors so the towels won't fade as quickly.

Nature Column - L. Comando

A tribute to the memory of all of the Townsman Ladies that we have loved so much and lost... Peggy DeWire, Avril Pappa, Joan Hall, Polly Hill, Joyce Lockhart, Jean Helthaler, Karen Curry, Barbara Slater, Shirley Davis, Hulda Vernooy, Carolyn Coombe, Martha Ahrens and Barbara Barkley

A Message in the Trees

The weather and ice have prevented most of us from taking walks through the woods this past winter. Even though it has warmed up, looking out the window at the mounds of snow still remaining has narrowed my scope of nature. I thought, if I look hard enough, I would find something. When my son brought in a load of wood today, he had a small object in his hand and asked me what it was. A few years ago, Frank had also found a little odd-shaped object in the woodpile that he thought I could easily change into a bearded troll or a little hairy monster. What they found were pieces of bark with some frayed inner bark. a/k/a phloem.



The outer bark is what we see when we look at any tree. The next layer is the inner bark called phloem. Phloem conducts food (sugars, starch) down the tree from the crown to the roots. It is located just underneath the tree's bark. It is the pipeline through which food is passed to the rest of the tree. It lives for only a short time, then dies and turns to cork to become part of the protective outer bark.

The outer bark is the tree's protection from the outside world. It is constantly renewed from within. The outer bark helps keep out moisture in the rain, prevents the tree from losing moisture when the air is dry and it insulates against cold and heat and wards off most insect enemies.

Next is the inner bark (phloem), and then the cambium cell layer. This is the growing part of the trunk. It annually produces new bark and new wood in response to hormones that pass down through the phloem with food from the leaves. These hormones, called "auxins", stimulate growth in cells. Auxins are produced by leaf buds at the ends of branches as soon as they start growing in spring.

Just under the cambium layer is the sapwood. It is the tree's pipeline for water moving up to the leaves. Xylem tissue conducts water up a tree from its roots to the leaves and is located in the sapwood and heartwood. Sapwood is new wood. As newer rings of sapwood are laid down, inner cells lose their vitality and turn to heartwood.

Heartwood becomes the central, supporting pillar of the tree. Although dead, it will not decay or lose strength while the outer layers are intact. A composite of hollow, needlelike cellulose fibers bound together by a chemical glue called lignin, is in many ways as strong as steel. A piece 12" long and 1" by 2" in cross section set vertically can support a weight of twenty tons!

Once little buds burst into leaves this spring, the leaves will make food for the tree through the process of photosynthesis. It is well known that trees act as carbon sinks, taking in carbon dioxide from the air during photosynthesis and releasing the oxygen that we breathe. While trees use carbon dioxide to make their own food, they also need oxygen to process that food into energy. In order to use stored starch for growth, trees must convert the sugars back into energy through a process called respiration. Respiration requires oxygen. During respiration, sugar and oxygen are combined to produce energy, with water and carbon dioxide. The energy that is released can then be used to make new tissue.

Most tree growth occurs at the tips of branches and the tips of roots. The crown of a tree is surrounded by open air, the source of needed oxygen. The roots also grow and need a source of oxygen in the soil. For this reason, roots tend to grow right under the surface. Roots become smaller as they grow outward from the root collar at the base of the trunk. Small, ephemeral absorbing roots grow out of lateral roots, soaking up water and oxygen and other nutrients. The roots are opportunistic—they will grow wherever the conditions are suitable, and will die back if proper resources are not available.

When we can't get outside, even looking out a window can reveal so many of nature's secrets. We just have to look for them. If you get a chance today, take a peek. You may see the little buds on the tips of the branches on the trees in your backyard are beginning to stir sending a sign from the trees—signs that say, "Spring is on its way!"

Monticello Kiwanis Busy February Meeting



(From Pg. 1) Next on the agenda was the installation of our newest club member. Stephanie Mobley, Social Services Foster Care Supervisor, was previously a guest speaker reporting on the foster care program and the role of the caseworkers ensuring the smooth transition of children being placed into foster care. This collaborates with the Monticello Kiwanis' Sweet Dreams Project, which was created to ease the tension of children going into foster care by providing them with duffel bags filled with comfort items to bring with them, such as a blanket, pillow, toiletries, stuffed animals, games, books, etc., depending on the age and needs of each child. Mrs. Mobley was very impressed with this project and was very happy to join the Kiwanis Family and assist in its mission, which is improving the world, one child and one community at a time. She was installed by Hudson River West Lieut. Gov. Christine Mahoney.

The Kiwanis Club of Monticello meets the first Monday of the month at Albella's Restaurant in Monticello, NY at 6:00 PM. For more information about the club and its activities, please check out its facebook page at Monticello NY Kiwanis Club.

Tri-Valley Lions Dinner Meeting at Tilly's Diner in Monticello on Monday, February 2, 2026

(From Pg. 1) Tag Day, but we will be sure to notify the community of the events in advance. It is vital that we create new fundraising events so we can continue our support and donations back to the volunteer organizations we support, to the Food Pantries, to the Library, to the Tri-Valley School, and more. Of course, we also support local individuals who have experienced devastating fires or illnesses. You can see a listing of the many community and volunteer organizations we support later in this article.

Immediately after the meeting of the Fundraising Committee, we started our regular monthly dinner meeting also at Tilly's, which turned out to be a very nice place to meet and had great menu options for our meals.

During the meeting, Lion President Stephen Miller presented a Lions International membership pin to our Membership Chair Patricia Menje, who has brought in several new members to our Lions Club over the last year. Pat has done a wonderful job in recruiting new members.

The very next day, on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, Lions Stu Wizwer, Pat Menje, and Esta Jacob attended the Tri-Valley School Bear Bash. It was a wonderful and fun event for the children who attended. There were so many varied activities for the students to participate in, and all received games and other goodies handed out by several vendor attendees to the Bear Bash. There was even a Petting Zoo, and delicious grilled cheese sandwiches, tomato soup, iced tea, and brownies available to all hungry participants. The Tri-Valley Lions had a table with handouts about the Lions, nutrition tips, and more. Lion Stu Wizwer also did a few eye screenings for those who stopped by with a parent and wished to have a screening performed.

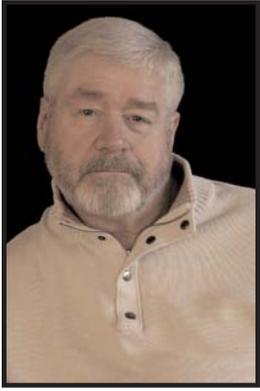
Our next fundraiser is the sale of the Lions Chocolate Easter Bunnies, available in milk, white, or dark chocolate. As soon as they are available, we will let you know.

Also at this dinner meeting, donations were approved for the Heart-A-Thon, the Rhulen Run and Ramble for Leukemia, Lymphoma, and other cancers. We also approved a donation to the Manzollilo family who unfortunately just experienced a house fire.

The Tri-Valley Lions, which was chartered in 1977, is now in our 49th year of existence, and we are always looking for new members. Just as a reminder, The Tri-Valley Lions bring in donations and funding by selling sodas from our Soda Booth for events at the Grahamsville Fairgrounds (this is to be discontinued for 2026), selling Chocolate Easter Bunnies, our Annual Journey for Sight Walk and Tag Day. Our funding allows us to continue to provide monetary and service support to Local Food Pantries, Tri-Valley Lions Club High School Community Service Awards, Children's Eye Screenings, support for Diabetes, Lymphoma and Leukemia organizations, WSUL Heart-A-Thon, Guiding Eyes for The Blind, payments for children's eye exams & glasses, assistance to local families for fires or health emergencies, and so much more. We have contributed to the Electronic Scoreboard at the new ballfield, as well as a large donation with a matching grant from Lions International toward the Children's Playground at the ballfield, and the moving of the Milk House at The Time & Valley Museum. If you are interested in joining the Tri-Valley Lions or getting more information about our club, please contact Membership Chair, Pat Menje at 917-783-6253 or hvacpat69@gmail.com or President Stephen Miller at 845-798-1981 or sgrecords@hvc.rr.com

Wishing one and all a safe, happy, and warm Spring.





Legacy Mysterious Book Report No. 167

Charlie 316

Mysterious Book Report No. 376

by John Dwaine McKenna

Published February 20, 2020

Charlie 316, (Down & Out Books, PB, \$18.95, 398 pages, ISBN 978-1-948235-68-6) by Colin Conway & Frank Zafrino, is an electrifying and propulsive police procedural that takes place in Spokane, Washington . . . out near the Idaho state line. It combines elements of race, heroism, crime, treachery, violence and murder into a tale that you just can't stop reading because there's no end to the plot twists and turns. They keep on coming, one after another.

Written by two Spokane Police Department Officers, (Conway five years, Zafrino twenty years and retired as a captain,) The novel begins when SWAT officer Tyler Garrett stops a reckless driver. Garrett is a poster child and model officer for the SPD: good looking, college educated, politically connected, decorated for bravery . . . and black . . . on a mostly white police force.

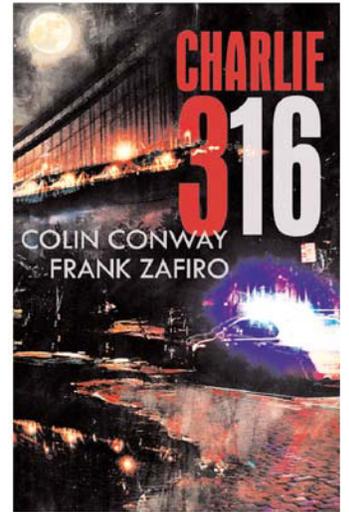
But, only moments after making the routine traffic stop-something he's done a thousand times-Officer Garrett is ambushed by gunfire from a nearby house. As he dives for cover, the reckless driver turns and pulls a weapon as Garrett returns fire . . . killing the man and chasing the second shooter in the house away. Community support, and the legend, of Tyler Garrett grows. He's publicly hailed as a hero.

Serious problems start to arise when SPD Internal Affairs Investigators determine that the reckless driver was shot in the back, and his gun has disappeared. Overnight the Police Department, City Hall, local news and even the national news media are looking into just what happened that night as the whole country focuses on police brutality and with racial roles reversed, Tyler Garrett's case is at the center of attention.

With time running out, Garrett has to take matters into his own hands, as he tries to find the other shooter and clear his name, before the stunning and shattering conclusion that will leave you shaking your head and wishing for more!

Like the review? Let your friends know, *You saw it in the Mysterious Book Report*, because the greatest compliment you can give is to share our work with others.

And Hey! When you have a moment, please check out our secure, all brand-new and combined website that's redesigned, prettier, simple to use, and makes it as easy as pie to send us your comments! Please do. We're looking forward to hearing from all of you.



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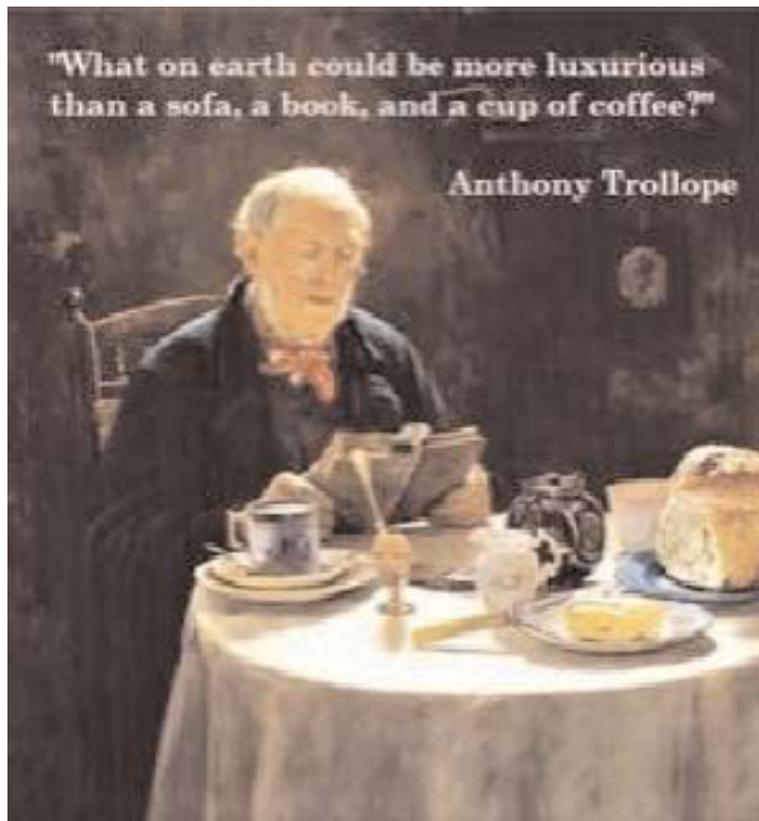
The Olive Jar

by Carol Olsen LaMonda

The Calm Within the Storm

When I listen to the news, my stomach contracts into knots of apprehension. As I listen to the weather forecast, I dread yet another storm of snow, then ice, then cold, then thaw that will turn all that wetness into a skating rink. I am tempted to not turn on the media at all, but being an ostrich doesn't help anything.

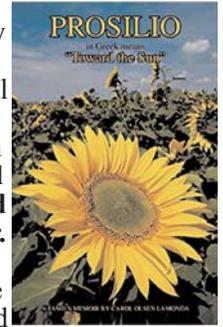
So what to do? What to do? My dad always said, "If you do not know what to do, do nothing." And so, I am following his advice. I am being a spectator until I can understand the rules of the game and know my strategies.



The FamilyMemoir, PROSILIO...

... in Greek means "Toward the Sun," was written by Carol Olsen LaMonda. Carol writes the column "The Olive Jar" for *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman*. This local author has been busy guesting at book clubs who have chosen this local memoir as their book choice. **Feel the warmth of "Prosilio" as you read Carol's memoirs cuddled up in your favorite chair.**

It also makes a great gift! *Prosilio* is available at Amazon or Barnes and



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and type in *Prosilio* in the search to order your copy of *Prosilio*

I am trying to be kind to myself until the world is kind (and warm) to me again. Kindness starts the morning with a routine. I make the coffee, stoke up the woodstove, and feed the birds. Then play Wordle.

Household chores and errands and responsibilities get done with an equal dose of pleasant activities to neutralize the necessities. I sew something. I actually made a lap quilt that just needs the border sewed on. I read something. I watch a Netflix series, I call a friend. I play a mindless game like Candy Crush. I paint. I cook.

One good thing about the winter, and it is the only good thing I can think of that is good about winter, is that it encourages me to stay home. Right now my home is my fortress, my sanctuary, and my harbor from tempestuous waves of fear and chaos.

And my cupboard has chocolate and Salt and Vinegar Potato Chips. There is butter pecan ice cream in the freezer if all else fails.

Be calm amidst the storm. Be good to yourself

The Busy Goings-on of the DPL! Thank you for all of your support

By Lisa Carroll

GRAHAMSVILLE –Happy belated Valentine's Day!

Thank you to all the families, patrons, Girl Scout Troop 674, 4-H Puppy Pals, Tri-Valley Central School teachers and students for helping to bring a little love to the patients at Achieve Rehab and Nursing Facility by creating and dropping off beautiful Valentine's Day cards. A special thank you to Mrs. Tara Burke (Berescik) and her agricultural crew for all the lovely carnations that were delivered alongside the cards. Our final card count was an astonishing 200! Ms. Deirdre brought the beautiful cards and flowers to Achieve Friday afternoon. She said the staff was so happy to receive them and shared that the residents would be uplifted by the cheerful and lovely sentiments.

And thank you to all who ordered our delicious Mardi Gras donuts! Donut makin' started before dawn on Tuesday, February 17. The scrumptious aroma spread throughout the library, just in time for Take Your Child to the Library Day, which ran from 11:00AM to 1:00PM. Families who attended took part in crafts, hands-on activities and cookie decorating. They also had the opportunity to read to our very special guest, Marek, a Blue Holicer bunny, who really, really loves stories! Thank you for coming out to the library, it's events like these that really help spread the love of libraries and reading to our younger generations.

In other news, Pocketbook Bingo tickets are on sale now! Stop by the library to pick up your tickets ASAP as this fundraising event sells out quickly. Bingo will be held on Friday, April 10, with doors opening at 6:00PM and calling at 7:00PM. Tickets are \$40 per person and includes the 7 games, door prize entry and light refreshments. The game prizes are awesome, high-end, bags and there will be additional tricky tray chances (available for an additional purchase). Again, seating for this very popular event is limited so call or stop by.

Do you have Central Hudson and are a Daniel Pierce Library card holder? If the answer is yes, stop by the library and check out a HomeBoost Kit. Central Hudson and Orange and Rockland Utilities (NYSEG will come on board soon) are offering RCLS member library patrons access to HomeBoost-a do-it-yourself home energy assessment program. The small kit contains a thermal imaging camera and appropriate cables for phone connection as well as step-by-step help from the HomeBoost app. After you have checked out the kit, you'll be prompted to download the app and fill in the required information then you'll perform the thermal camera assessment of your home. Once completed, you'll receive a free custom energy report, a \$99 value, courtesy of the joint utilities. The report will provide insight, recommendation and information on available utility incentives, rebates and simple DIY fixes to make your home more energy efficient-and hopefully reduce your home heating/cooling costs as well.

Our watercolor painting class, taught by local artist, Chris Parrow, went beautifully on Friday, February 13. All the new artists enjoyed creating colorful still-life paintings of flowers-adding a dose of spring life to an otherwise dreary February day.

Ready for more arts and crafts type programs? Coming up on Thursday, February 26 at 6:00PM we are hosting a book inspiration crafting event. Pre-register online for this crafty program where you'll get to create a fabulous work of art using just a book and a pair of scissors. No prior experience is needed and all materials will be supplied. Just grab a friend and join in on this fun night at the library!

And that brings us to the end of February, but don't worry, we're already filling up the schedule with fun March activities and pro-



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"If it grows by day, have it cut & split by Knight"

grams. On March 14 from 10:00AM to 12:00PM, there will be a Medicare 101 zoom webinar presented by James Farnham, MBA, MS. If you are turning 65 soon, this is the perfect webinar to attend because you'll learn all about Medicare basics including when to join, prescription drug plans, Medicare Supplement Plans and Medicare Advantage Plans (HMO's and PPO's). This program will help demystify the Medicare process and help you make well-informed decisions. Once you're registered, you receive an email link to the zoom webinar, all from the comfort of your own home. On March 21, from 10:00AM to 3:00PM, we're hosting a 5 Hour Pre-Licensing Class for permit holders. This is a DMV approved course mandatory for unlicensed students 16 and up looking to get their driving license. To attend, students must hold a NYS "photo" permit. Brought to you by J & J Driving School, and instructed by La June Black, this course provides a one-year certificate. The class fee is \$45 per student. To secure registration, pre-register online and submit checks to DPL payable to J & J Driving School prior to the class date.

Also, now is the perfect time to register your little ones for our Spring Children's Programs. Children ages 12 months to 4 years old (and who are Tri-Valley residents) are eligible to participate. We have three separate age groups: Mother Goose (12-23 months old), Toddler Time (24-35 months old) and Story Hour (3- and 4-year-old). Our eight-week programs start the week of April 6 and are offered at no cost, thanks to the generosity of our amazing community. Registration is required and can be done online. If you are continuing from the Fall Children's Programs, please register your child for the same age group they were in before. Our Universal Pre-Kindergarten Story Hour, "Story Hour on the Road" program will also restart April 6. Children attending the Tri-Valley CSD UPK program will be automatically enrolled.



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This Black History Month, the Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre invites you to a special community event that you won't want to miss!

Join Us for The Black Legacy Project

Friday, February 27, 2026

A screening of the Black Legacy Project's powerful documentary

Experience an inspiring evening with the nationally acclaimed **Black Legacy Project**. Developed by the nonprofit Music in Common, this program is a musical celebration of Black history created to foster understanding and conversation about racial equity.

The event will feature:

- A screening of the Black Legacy Project's powerful documentary.
- A live performance by the Black LP band, featuring reimagined songs, original works, and spoken word.
- An opportunity for community dialogue and connection.

This is more than just a performance; it's a chance to engage with history, music, and your community in a meaningful way.

Event details:

- Location: HPAC Cinema, 219 Main Street, Hurleyville, NY
- Admission: Free for the community (donations are welcome!)
- A cash bar and concessions will be available.

We believe in making the arts accessible to everyone, and we're proud to share that this program is generously sponsored by the STEAM Fund and ARC Hudson Valley. Their support helps us keep this event free and ensures HPAC can continue creating more free and accessible programs in the future. If you'd like to join them in making a meaningful impact, we welcome donations from community members and businesses alike. Every contribution goes directly toward supporting this event and our mission. To learn more about how you can support the **Black Legacy Project**, please contact us today!

We look forward to sharing this powerful evening with you.



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