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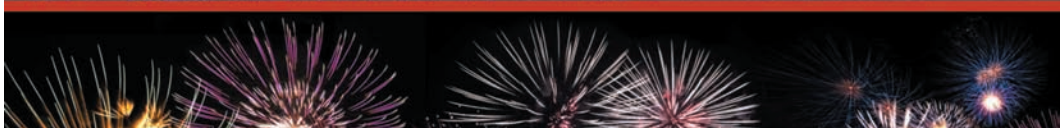
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Your New Neighborhood

With so much to do, you will never be alone, especially during the holidays! Located an hour and fifteen minutes from NYC, we invite you to live life as it should be—active, fun, and social.

As I drove down the street, everybody waved: a new experience for this city kid. That was the first sign that my new community was a different kind of place.

When I downsized from a sprawling house several years ago, I was looking for more than downsizing. I wanted a neighborhood with a sense of community and fellowship.

I retired a number of years ago. I had nice neighbors and friends, but living alone made me feel like a hermit at times, and my dog's conversation was getting tiresome. So I built a new townhouse in Rivers Edge, an over-55 Community in nearby Pike County, Pennsylvania. My new residence is maintenance-free, and I was able to add my own personality with some custom features.

I was immediately welcomed. I've found that I have more in common with my neighbors in an over-55 community than in my previous place where people introduce themselves, greet each other, and, yes, wave as you drive by.

I was a little apprehensive about living in an all-senior environment. Would it be too sedate and quiet? Rivers Edge bills itself as an active adult community—and that's an understatement.

The clubhouse is a beehive of activity with the residents socializing in the great room. The place is really great with its indoor state of the art gym, heated outdoor pool, game room and pool table, quiet library with comfy chairs, and more. It's a 5-minute drive to the historic town of Milford and the newly renovated theater and a lot of dining options. Milford sports, barber shops and salons,

all sorts of great shops, live music at local establishments, reading clubs, top notch farmers markets in season, the Black Bear Film Festival in October, Readers and Writers Festival and the Milford Music Festival.

Residents on committees run most of the activities here. And mall shopping is twenty minutes away while anything medical is a close five to ten minutes.

Not everyone is extroverted. If you prefer to chill out at home, neighbors still greet you when you venture out, and will check to make sure you're okay if they haven't see you for a while.

There is a real sense of personal safety here, and if I want more I know I can opt in for the Smart Home Technology program that is available to all residents.

Residents teach classes and organize educational day excursions throughout the tri-state area year round. Involvement in community is alive and well here.

Residents support any manner of organizations such as the Parish Council and other church councils, the Salvation Army, Milford Garden Club, and the Alzheimer's Association to name a few.

What a place to celebrate the holidays. At Christmas residents decorate their yards and common areas, and everyone gathers in the clubhouse to spread Christmas cheer and ring in the New Year.

I have downsized my living space, but expanded my lifestyle. I have met so many wonderful people here and made some dear friends. And I'm getting used to the waving thing.

—Rivers Edge Resident Lee Kenney

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SEPTEMBER 2023

FEATURES

6 STRENGTHEN THE FAMILY CONNECTION...

In spite of returning to busy school-day schedules and never-ending to-do lists, most families want to maintain a sense of connectedness all year round. Special moments with your family start by leaving behind that checklist, setting smart-phones aside and saving responsibilities for tomorrow.

8 BRING BACK FAMILY BONDING THIS FALL

Busy fall schedules often leave little time for the things that matter most – sharing special moments with those you love. This year, as time seems to speed up during another school year, making family bonding a priority in your household can start with a few simple tricks.

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CONNECTIONS Magazine

president • publisher • editor in chief
deborah bailey

production manager
meica drake

account representative
barry weiss

editorial correction services
kay marks

contributing writers

michael krupa, *Finance*

josh sheard, *Finance*

terri schlichenmeyer, *Book Review*

la guzda, *Pocono Secrets*

pike/wayne conservation partnership, *Living Green*

disaster blaster, *Home Tips*

mrs. dogood, *Letters*

lisa a. dorn, M.S.N., C.R.N.P, *Health*

CONNECTIONS Magazine

3305 Lake Ariel Highway
Honesdale, PA 18431
570.647.0085 • Fax 570.647.0086
cmag@ptd.net • thinkconnections@yahoo.com
www.connections-magazine.com

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WHAT A DILEMMA

To laugh is to risk appearing a fool.
To weep is to risk appearing sentimental.
To reach out for another is to risk involvement.
To expose feelings is to risk rejection.
To place your visions before the crowd is to risk ridicule.
To love is to risk not being loved in return.
****To go forward in the face of overwhelming odds is to risk failure.**
But risks must be taken, because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing.
The person who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing, is nothing.
We may avoid suffering and sorrow, but we cannot learn, feel, change, grow, love or know GOD.
Chained by our own self-assurances, we are a slave. We have forfeited our freedom.
Only the person who dares to take risks and to trust in their GOD will ever be made FREE.

In 1997, Rev. Edwin E. Bailey, father of the editor, gave this poem to his daughter 8 days before he had a stroke and 3 weeks before he died. The poem was adapted from works by Leo Buscaglia. Edwin hand wrote this on a scrap of paper and gave it to his daughter, Deborah, saying the words, "Someday you'll understand these words and use them. God bless sweetheart." **These words were used in making the decision to purchase Connections Magazine in 2002.

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“Autumn,
it carries more gold in its hand
than all the other seasons.”
— *Jim Bishop*

September brings with it change... leaves, temperatures, schedules... but it also brings some golden opportunities to spend quality time with those you love. Our area offers an array of fall festivals and activities; see events for all the *Good Stuff*.

In spite of returning to busy school-day schedules and never-ending to-do lists, most families want to maintain a sense of connectedness all year round. We've got five ways to share childhood classics with your kids on the next page.

Busy fall schedules often leave little time for the things that matter most – sharing special moments with those you love. This year, as time seems to speed up during another school year, making family bonding a priority in your household can start with a few simple tricks... see page 8.

No matter how you choose to spend the autumn days ahead... have fun!

The CM Team
570.647.0085
cmag@ptd.net



5 Ways to Share Childhood Classics with your Kids

A young girl with curly hair and glasses is pouring milk from a white pitcher into a white bowl filled with cereal. She is wearing a pink shirt with small floral patterns. In the background, a young boy in a blue and white striped shirt is also in the kitchen, looking down. The scene is set in a kitchen with wooden cabinets and a window in the background.

**Strengthen the
Family Connection with
Nostalgic *Activities***

In spite of returning to busy school-day schedules and never-ending to-do lists, most families want to maintain a sense of connectedness all year round. Special moments with your family start by leaving behind that checklist, setting smartphones aside and saving responsibilities for tomorrow.

If you catch yourself reminiscing about the goodness you grew up on, turning back the clock and showing your kiddos what childhood was like for you is one way to foster a better connection with your kids. Throw it back to your childhood with these family-favorite activities to enjoy at the breakfast table, after school or over a weekend.

Read Favorite Books

Take a more educational route and hook your children on a favorite novel, short story or book series. You can introduce them to favorite genres, popular characters or specific authors, then head to the library to search the shelves. In fact, you could be giving them a leg up on English class; literature from your days in the classroom might still be read in schools today.

Share the Goodness You Grew Up On

Childhood in the '80s and '90s meant school-day mornings with cartoons and delicious breakfasts. Classics like Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Lucky Charms and Cheerios were good then and are even better now with 20% the daily recommended value of Vitamin D – twice the previous amount. Vitamin D is essential for building and maintaining strong bones but is often under-consumed, according to the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, with 96% of all Americans ages 2 years and older falling short on this key nutrient.

“Cereal has the same great taste as when parents were kids and now even better nutrition,” said Amy Cohn, registered dietitian and senior nutrition manager at General Mills. “Affordable, accessible nutrition doesn’t have to be complicated or break the bank – and it can be as easy as a bowl of cereal beloved by multiple generations.”

Get Outside and Explore

Tech devices from tablets to video game consoles often dominate kids’ free time, but you can open their minds to a whole new world with a little outdoor exploration. Climb aboard bicycles (and strap on those helmets) for a cruise around the neighborhood or enjoy bird watching from the comfort of the backyard. If you’re on the adventurous side, gather a tent and s’mores supplies for a night or weekend in the great outdoors.

Watch Classic Movies

No VCR, no problem. A range of streaming services available at your fingertips means you can watch remastered classics just using a smart TV or casting device. Whether it’s a Spielberg favorite, original superhero flick or comedy classic, an abundance of kid-friendly movies from the video rental days are ready to watch online.

Play Board Games

Another way to turn kids’ attention from screens to the physical world is to dust off those old board games for some fun at the dining room table. Start with the basics like checkers or, with older children, jump straight into strategy-based brain games like chess for a dose of friendly competition.

For more ways to share your childhood with the next generation, visit GeneralMills.com.

*Family Features | #16760 | Source: General Mills
Photo courtesy of Getty Images (girl making bowl of cereal)*

Bring Back Family Bonding This Fall



3 ways to free up busy schedules to spend time with loved ones

Busy fall schedules often leave little time for the things that matter most – sharing special moments with those you love. This year, as time seems to speed up during another school year, making family bonding a priority in your household can start with a few simple tricks.

Connect with your loved ones this fall while juggling hectic routines with this advice:

Ham and Swiss Sliders

Total time: 25 minutes

Servings: 4-6

- 1 stick butter
- 1 package (12 rolls) King's Hawaiian Original Hawaiian Sweet Rolls
- 1 pound shaved deli ham
- 1 pound thinly sliced Swiss cheese

Heat oven to 350 F. Melt butter and set aside.

Cut entire pack of rolls in half horizontally, keeping all top and bottom halves intact.

In 9-by-13-inch pan, place bottom halves of rolls and cover with ham and cheese.

Cover ham and cheese stacks with top halves of rolls. Drizzle butter mixture over tops of rolls.

Bake, uncovered, 15-20 minutes. Separate rolls for serving.



Schedule Family Nights

Desiring evenings spent with your nearest and dearest and actually making them happen are two separate things entirely. It's easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season with days that feel too long and evenings that are often too short. Putting dedicated family nights on the calendar is a good way to avoid last-minute commitments that take away from important bonding time. Incorporate some favorite activities, whether your loved ones are board game enthusiasts or movie buffs, to give everyone something exciting to look forward to.

Make Cooking Together a Family Activity

Making dinner for the family shouldn't take up valuable time that could be used for quality moments together. Seeking out quick and easy recipes leaves more hours in the day to spend with family members – or you can even make preparing dinner a family activity.

Teaching kids how to make your favorite recipes creates great memories and can maximize time spent together. From making kid-approved lunchbox sliders together to preparing time-saving, weeknight-friendly sliders as a family after school, King's Hawaiian Rolls and Slider Buns have the power to help unite busy parents and picky kids. Plus, they're soft and fluffy with the right touch of sweetness, and sliders are customizable, easy, fun and always a crowd pleaser. These Ham and Swiss Sliders or Peanut Butter, Jelly and Banana Sliders offer ways kids can help, from layering meats and cheeses to spreading peanut butter. Everyone can lend a hand in the kitchen while enjoying quality time together.

Peanut Butter, Jelly and Banana Sliders

Prep time: 5 minutes

Servings: 4-6

- 1 package (12 rolls) King's Hawaiian Original Sweet Rolls
- 4 tablespoons salted peanut butter
- 4 tablespoons strawberry jam
- 2 bananas, sliced

Cut entire pack of rolls in half horizontally, keeping all top and bottom halves intact.

Spread peanut butter on bottom halves followed by strawberry jam. Top with banana slices then top halves of rolls.

Encourage Extracurricular Participation

Beyond those special moments at home, there are plenty of ways to connect with your kiddos. Encouraging them to participate in extracurriculars, like sports, band, theater, dance, choir or other activities, provides a great way to enjoy something together as you watch your children branch out and try new things. If they happen to try an activity you used to (or still do) participate in, it's an easy way to make a unique connection by sharing your own memories, offering helpful tips or even passing down old equipment like sports gear or an instrument.

Find more inspiration for family bonding with delicious meals and snacks by visiting KingsHawaiian.com.

Family Features | #16769 | Source: King's Hawaiian



Good Stuff

Common Mistakes People make when **BUYING**

Provided by Disaster Blaster

{ Are you planning to buy a home? While this is an extremely exciting time in anyone's life, the process is not without pitfalls and potential risks. }

Here are some tips to avoid making some common mistakes during the process that could cost you big.

Don't try to navigate the process alone

The home buying process can be extremely complicated, involving a variety of legal & regulatory requirements and timelines, financial obligations, disclosure requirements, and an understanding of building construction and zoning limitations.

A prepared home buyer should have a number of experts to rely on in order to avoid unwittingly making mistakes during the process. Some experts you should have in your corner include:

A Real Estate Agent – Your real estate agent helps you navigate the entire process from beginning to end. Not only do they help you find properties on the market that you may have an interest in, but they arrange for the walkthroughs and showings, negotiate on your behalf with the seller or their real estate agent, and assist with the closing. Their input and support throughout the

process makes them an invaluable member of your “home buying team”!

A Local Mortgage Lender – Whether you're dealing with a local bank or credit union, your mortgage lender is going to help you through the pre-approval process so you're ready to start looking at houses, and later, through the closing and funding process. While there are national lenders as well, it's strongly recommended to work with a local mortgage lender that will be available to answer your questions and support you throughout the process.

A Home Inspector – You love those high ceilings and that open kitchen, but did you notice the lifted shingles on the roof, damp basement, or termite damage? That's what a home inspector is there for. One of the most common mistakes home buyers make is purchasing a home without a home inspection as the home buyers often lack the expertise, and critical eye, needed to look for potential issues prior to the purchase. Just imagine the potential cost of issues you may not discover until after you move in – that's why you need a home inspector!

A Knowledgeable Contractor – When your home inspector discovers an issue, you'll need a knowledgeable contractor to explain what will be necessary to resolve the issue and what the cost of that work may be. This is important to ensure you're well informed prior to the purchase and that you're able to negotiate the sale price with the seller based on the work that is necessary. Ideally, your contractor should be qualified in a variety of specialty issues that are commonly discovered by the home inspector, including mold, water damage, basement waterproofing, asbestos, and radon!

Don't cheap out on the inspection

A home inspection is where you find out what issues may exist in your home and what may be required to address them. While the results of a home inspection should not be a deal breaker, it should be your opportunity to have unbiased eyes look at your dream home and point out what they see.

Home inspectors offer a variety of options with their home inspection, and we recommend electing for as many as make sense for your property. Some common inspection options include:

Radon – With a whopping 40% of homes in Pennsylvania estimated to contain a radon issue (Radon is a radioactive gas that is the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer), it's highly recommended to have a home inspector perform a radon test. Even if the home already has a radon system, the Pennsylvania DEP recommends testing every 2 years to ensure the system doesn't require any adjustments.

Mold – A common issue found in basements and attics, mold problems are estimated to exist in 70% of homes in the United States. Since signs of mold aren't always easy to identify, it's a good idea to have your home inspector look for these issues during their inspection.

Roof – We're sure you've spent a lot of time picturing yourself in the home, but who is going to look at the roof? The answer is your home inspector! During their inspection they will actually climb up on the roof and look for signs of storm damage, lifted or cupped shingles, flashing issues, and leaks!

Heating & Air Conditioning – Depending on when you are purchasing your home, the heating or air conditioning may not be on, so during the inspection, your home inspector will test these systems to make sure that they are in good working order.

Fireplaces & Wood Stoves – Issues with fireplaces and wood stoves are not uncommon, so it's a good idea to have these systems fully inspected by your home inspector. They will not only look for signs of damage or failure, but they'll look for potential risks of fire as well. This is an important inspection to ensure that fireplaces and wood stoves are safe to operate.

Wood Destroying Organism / Termite – Damage from pests like termites can be difficult to spot.

During the home inspection, your home inspector will look for signs of current, and past, infestation that could indicate weakened wood structures.

Don't forget costs after closing

It's easy to get wrapped up in the excitement of buying a home – and we don't blame you! But it's important to keep in mind, and budget for, additional costs you will have after closing such as moving costs and remodeling expenses.

As you go through the home buying process, you should keep a list of costs and additional steps you may need to complete after closing to ensure that nothing is missed. A few common after-closing costs include:

Remodels & Updates – We're sure there are a few things you would like to change with the house, but those projects will be an additional cost. While not all projects need to be tackled right away, any upgrades that you want to check off the list early on should be considered in your after-closing budget. This allows you to plan for everything from painting to kitchen renovations.

New Furniture or Appliances – Will you need new kitchen appliances? Will you need new furniture that better fits the style of the home? These costs can add up quickly, so it's always a good idea to keep these additional costs in mind as you get closer to closing. Especially if you may need to prioritize certain purchases over others.

Property Insurance – Don't forget you'll need property insurance to protect your new home and all the contents and possessions you're keeping in it. Speak to your local insurance agent for a quote and guidance on what coverages you'll need.

Moving Costs – Whether you're moving across town, or across the country, you're likely to have some moving costs. Even if you plan on doing a lot of the moving yourself, it's a good idea to budget some moving expense to cover expenses like moving truck rental, packing supplies, etc. Buying a new home should be exciting. It's a new chapter of your life with nothing but opportunities ahead of you. Fortunately, by soliciting the advice and assistance of industry experts like real estate agents, mortgage specialists, home inspectors, and contractors, you're able to leverage their expertise to ensure you are prepared for your next adventure!

As always, we hope your home buying process goes smoothly. If your home inspector does discover any issues during the inspection, please don't hesitate to contact our offices; we're always happy to help!

About Disaster Blaster

Disaster Blaster is an indoor environmental firm serving the Northeastern PA Area. We have been providing our local area with unparalleled water damage mitigation, mold remediation, basement waterproofing, basement waterproofing, asbestos abatement, radon mitigation, and fire / smoke restoration services for decades, and are proud to have been named The World's Greatest Indoor Environmental Firm. For more about Disaster Blaster, as well as more helpful tips, please visit our website at: www.disasterblaster.com or call our office at (570) 963-1123.



living green

Fall *Foliage*

By Garrett Beers

*Fire forester for Monroe County with the PA Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry*

If you would take a group of people and ask them where the best fall foliage destination is, you would probably get a lot of votes for New England. Hopefully a few people would say the Pocono Mountains. I may be slightly biased as a lifelong resident, but I believe we have a wonderful display of fall colors.

The first fall colors start to appear in the middle of September at the areas of highest elevation and latitude. Gradually, the fall colors become more intense as the days progressively become shorter and temperature grows colder.

The date of peak color can vary slightly from year to year, but generally the third week of October is the prime period to view fall foliage in Monroe and Pike County. Unfortunately, the peak viewing window can sometimes be short-lived. At this point, the leaves are lightly attached to the branches, and one heavy rainstorm or windy day can quickly knock the leaves onto the forest floor.

If you are planning a trip to the Poconos to view the fall foliage, it is important to keep an eye on the foliage reports. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources track the



progression of the fall foliage starting in late September. This report includes maps, photographs and descriptions of the species that are changing color, along with some hot spots to view the changing landscape.

Some great areas to view the fall colors are Big Pocono State Park, High Knob and Dixon Miller Recreation Area on the Delaware State Forest and along the Appalachian Trail. These areas have superb views that overlook the valleys. Some of these sites require a little bit of walking to access the vistas, but it is worth the walk.

There are plenty of options if you are looking to take in the fall colors from your vehicle. The Route 402, Route 390, and Route 209 corridors can provide wonderful viewing opportunities. All three roads have varying terrain, elevations and forest types which will provide a variety of different species changing color. These routes also offer ample opportunities to explore some of our public lands along the way.

When planning your trip to see this year's fall colors, please keep the Pocono Mountains in mind. The mountains have

a lot to offer, but they request that you only leave footprints as the sign of your visit.



Garrett Beers is a lifelong resident of the Pocono Mountains and is a fire forester for Monroe County with the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry. As

a fire forester, Garrett is responsible for wildfire suppression and prevention efforts in Monroe County. Statewide, DCNR Bureau of Forestry manages 2.2 million acres of state forest.

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LE MIROIR

By The Reverend Mrs. Silence DoGood

Dear Editor,

I never dreamed that wild turkeys would have such a big influence on the life of my son Toby. But outside forces were in play, and he went to France because of them.

It all started when he was six years old. Our parsonage is located in the farming hamlet of Halo, Pennsylvania and is nestled between two farms. The five hundred acre farm to our left is home to about one hundred and forty Black Angus cows. The smaller farm to our right has seventeen cows, three horses and a miniature pony. We live among animals.

And we also have visiting animals. We once had a river otter visit our pond for about two weeks, and I think it thought our pond was a delicatessen; it would usually come to the surface with a fish in its mouth. But our regular visitors are gaggles of wild turkeys, deer, ground hogs, and even an occasional eagle.

It was at the age of six when Toby began to imitate the ten or fifteen wild turkeys that regularly visited the parsonage. When he was bored or stressed, he would become a turkey. He turkeyed in his room. He turkeyed standing in our kitchen. He turkeyed in the living room. His body and head became them. He liked gobbling rather than yelping or purring. He loved being a wild turkey so much that his sister Sarah with an H would tease him and tell him we were going to eat him for Thanksgiving.

Over the years Toby continued to turkey. In school his friends gave him the nickname "Turk." And as he grew so did his repertoire. Even though a cow has four legs, when Toby stood on his two and imitated a cow you saw four. Ground hogs were easy.

One day while he was waiting to have a photo shoot at his agent's office in NYC, he turkeyed to relieve his stress; he is a model with US Modeling International which also has a marketing division. Although he thought no one was watching, he was observed by the French mime troupe Le Miroir which means The Mirror in English.

The mime troupe is comprised of four people: Manon (29) and her husband Gabriel (32) and Manon's two cousins Hugo (24) and Louis (26). They were having pictures taken to promote their upcoming performances at The Joyce Theater in NYC and at the Chaillot – Theatre National de la

Danse in Paris. The pictures are of their newly created show Cuisine which means kitchen.

Toby is used to promoting himself since he and his father created the company Ad-Vantage LLC several years ago for Toby to promote himself as a "hand choreographer." While initially having some success with star football players in insurance ads, he has only had a few clients since then.

"You are incredible" said Manon once she saw more of Toby's animals. "I could create a whole mime show around them called Noah and the Ark."

"Hire me to teach you."

"We are too busy here and we leave for Paris in a week. Can you come to Paris with us?"

"I have to ask my parents."

While initially I didn't like the "hand choreographer LLC" idea, Willie was correct in thinking it would be a good father-son project to work on together. It also gave Toby confidence to promote himself. So when Manon liked his turkeying, he went all out to sell his talent imitating other animals.

We held a family meeting after I met with Manon and her husband in NYC. They agreed to pay for Toby's expenses and a stipend for his two weeks of work in Paris. We agreed.

I have learned in my life that the outside forces can sometimes be positive and sometimes be negative. Here they were very positive. I have also learned that one has to be patient. One has to recognize that an outside force is available. And finally one has to be ready to accept nature's grace.

Amen.



The Reverend Mrs. Silence DoGood

Senior Pastor

Executive Director

President

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Choir Master (part-time)

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Creating an Investment Portfolio



..... Provided by Michael Krupa

You've identified your goals and done some basic research. You understand the difference between a stock and a bond. But how do you actually go about creating an investment portfolio? What specific investments are right for you? What resources are out there to help you with investment decisions? Do you need a financial professional to help you get started?

A good investment portfolio will spread your risk

It is an almost universally accepted concept that most portfolios should include a mix of investments, such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and other investment vehicles. A portfolio should also be balanced. That is, the portfolio should contain investments with varying levels and types of risk to help minimize the overall impact if one of the portfolio holdings declines significantly.

Many investors make the mistake of putting all their eggs in one basket. For example, if you invest in one stock, and that stock goes through the roof, a fortune can be made. On the other hand, that stock can lose all its value, resulting in a total loss of your investment. Spreading your investment over multiple asset classes should help reduce your risk of losing your entire investment. However, remember there is no guarantee that

any investment strategy will be successful and that all investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal.

Asset allocation: How many eggs in which baskets?

Asset allocation is one of the first steps in creating a diversified investment portfolio. Asset allocation means deciding how your investment dollars should be allocated among broad investment classes, such as stocks, bonds, and cash alternatives. Rather than focusing on individual investments (such as which company's stock to buy), asset allocation approaches diversification from a more general viewpoint. For example, what percentage of your portfolio should be in stocks? The underlying principle is that different classes of investments have shown different rates of return and levels of price volatility over time. Also, since different asset classes often respond differently to the same news, your stocks may go down while your bonds go up, or vice versa. Though neither diversification nor asset allocation can guarantee a profit or ensure against a potential loss, diversifying your investments over various asset classes can help you try to minimize volatility and maximize potential return.

So, how do you choose the mix that's right for you? Countless resources are available to assist you, including interactive tools and sample allocation models. Most of these take into account a number of variables in suggesting an asset allocation strategy. Some of those factors are objective (e.g., your age, your financial resources, your time frame for investing, and your investment objectives).

Others are more subjective, such as your tolerance for risk or your outlook on the economy. A financial professional can help you tailor an allocation mix to your needs.

More on diversification

Diversification isn't limited to asset allocation, either. Even within an investment class, different investments may offer different levels of volatility and potential return. For example, with the stock portion of your portfolio, you might choose to balance higher-volatility stocks with those that have historically been more stable (though past performance is no guarantee of future results).

Because most mutual funds invest in dozens to hundreds of securities, including stocks, bonds, or other investment vehicles, purchasing shares in a mutual fund reduces your exposure to any one security. In addition to instant diversification, if the fund is actively managed, you get the benefit of a professional money manager making investment decisions on your behalf.

Note: *Before investing in a mutual fund, carefully consider its investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses, which are outlined in the prospectus that is available from the fund. Obtain and read a fund's prospectus carefully before investing.*

Choose investments that match your tolerance for risk

Your tolerance for risk is affected by several factors, including your objectives and goals, timeline(s) for using this money, life stage, personality, knowledge, other financial resources, and investment experience. You'll want to choose a mix of investments that has the potential to provide the highest possible return at the level of risk you feel comfortable with on an ongoing basis.

For that reason, an investment professional will normally ask you questions so he or she can gauge your risk tolerance and then tailor a portfolio to your risk profile.

Investment professionals and advisors

A wealth of investment information is available if you want to do your own research before making investment decisions. However, many people aren't comfort-

able sifting through balance sheets, profit-and-loss statements, and performance reports. Others just don't have the time, energy, or desire to do the kind of thorough analysis that marks a smart investor.

For these people, an investment advisor or professional can be invaluable. Investment advisors and professionals generally fall into three groups: stockbrokers, professional money managers, and financial planners. In choosing a financial professional, consider his or her legal responsibilities in selecting securities for you, how the individual or firm is compensated for its services, and whether an individual's qualifications and experience are well suited to your needs. Ask friends, family and coworkers if they can recommend professionals whom they have used and worked with well. Ask for references, and check with local and federal regulatory agencies to find out whether there have been any customer complaints or disciplinary actions against an individual in the past. Consider how well an individual listens to your goals, objectives and concerns.

Stockbrokers

Stockbrokers work for brokerage houses, generally on commission. Though any investment recommendations they make are required by the SEC to be suitable for you as an investor, a broker may or may not be able to put together an overall financial plan for you, depending on his or her training and accreditation. Verify that an individual broker has the requisite skill and knowledge to assist you in your investment decisions.

Article continued on our website.



Michael Krupa
614 Church Street
Honesdale, PA 18431
570-253-0121
michaelkrupa@krupawm.com

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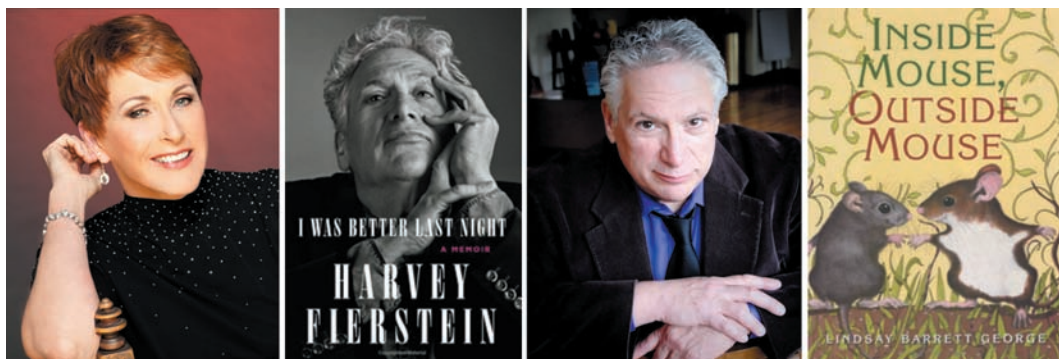
Readers & Writers

By LA Guzda

**The 2023 Milford
Readers & Writers
Festival kicks off 7 PM,
Friday, September 22,
with a performance by
Amanda McBroom at
The Milford Theater.**

Saturday, September 23, 3:45-5:00 PM features Harvey Fierstein In Conversation with David Drake. Best known for Torch Song Trilogy and La Cage aux Folles, Fierstein's hilarious memoir – *I Was Better Last Night*, is a New York Times best-seller. There is a cocktail reception following the conversation. This is a special ticketed event to benefit the festival.

There are ticketed and free events throughout the Milford area. Saturday's other ticketed events include: Leading Lady Charles Busch in Conversation with Dick Scanlan. Both are Tony Award nominees with a long list of writing credits. *Rewriting Shakespeare* – should books be revised to reflect social change? *Balancing history, accuracy and sensitivity*. *Vampires*, *Batman*, *Wytches*, *OH MY!* –



Scott Snyder and Joe Ott discuss the fantasy and horror genre.

The free events, featuring local writers, will be held at various locations. Some of the titles being discussed are: SciFi: Monsters That Make Us, Gideon's Revolution, A Lynching in Port Jervis, What the Dead Know, The Picture Book, Young Authors, Living Upriver, Artful Homes, Idyllic Lives and Perspectives on Cancer.

A special opportunity on Saturday, 12:30 PM at the Pike County Public Library with Lindsay Barrett George. She will be sharing what it takes to create a best-selling children's book.

For a complete schedule and to purchase tickets, visit MilfordReadersAndWriters.com

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UPSIDE-DOWN.

Hanging upside-down is just the way you want to do things sometimes: upside-down, inside out, front side backwards. When you do things differently, it seems interesting, fun, and right, and sometimes, it leads you to try other new things, too. But in the new book "Bitsy Bat, School Star" by Kaz Windness, being different isn't the same as fitting in.

Tomorrow was the first night at her new school, and Bitsy Bat was pretty nervous. What if she wasn't prepared? She could lift her wing high and she was really good at painting and sharing, so maybe things would be okay. Just in case, Mama had Bitsy practice "school" for awhile until Bitsy felt better about herself and her new adventure.

The next night, Papa and Mama and Baby all flew through the skies with Bitsy to make sure she arrived at Crittercrawl Elementary School on time. They were so proud of her, and they reminded her to do her best.

But things got off on the wrong wing right away. Mr. Nibbles told Bitsy to take her seat but Winnie Whiskers reminded her that "take your seat" doesn't mean hanging upside down on it, and being downside down made her sick. When Bitsy began art class by using her feet as a brush, Winnie said she was "supposed to use your fingers." And forget about sharing her delicious bugs at snacktime! No, Bitsy couldn't even do the playground right.

She couldn't take it anymore. Her parents came to get her, and the next night, when it was time to go to school again, Bitsy didn't want to go. She could never be like the other kids.

Why ever should she want to? asked Papa. Bitsy was a "big star" at home. So why not think of a way to be a big star at school, too? And why not do the same for all her new friends?

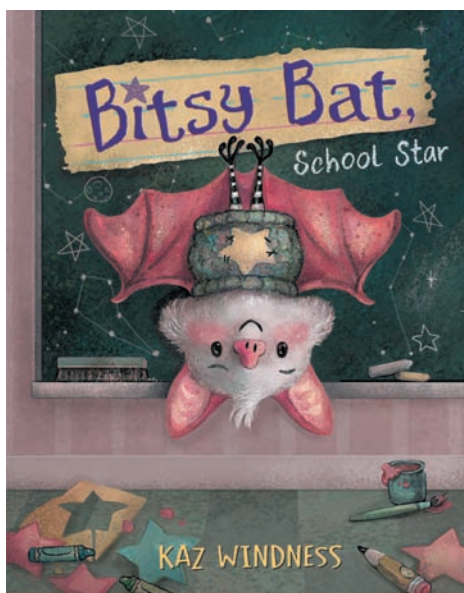
If you're thinking that this might be a great book for a neurodivergent child, or one who marches to their own drummer, or any child who'd have that unique kid in class, you'd be right. In fact, in her afterword, author-illustrator Kaz Windness explains to parents why this book was written and its artwork is as it is: Windness is autistic.

This should make you want to go back and look at "Bitsy Bat, School Star" again. Windness' little character uses coping methods that Windness says worked well for her. The story offers compassion when differences are presented, and a happy conclusion that includes

and supports the entire bat family. Parents might also appreciate that potential bullies are addressed here, in the subtle form of a little busybody classmate who's won over in the end.

This is the kind of book you hope your child's teacher has on the shelf at school. It's a book you want to read several times to your unique kid, and to their siblings. For a 4-to-8-year-old, "Bitsy Bat, School Star" is a book they'll want to hang out with.

"Bitsy Bat, School Star"



By Kaz Windness

Reviewed by Terri Schlichenmeyer

OUR OFFICE HAS GROWN



Welcome Benjamin Burkhardt



Benjamin Burkhardt

Financial Advisor

614 Church Street
Honesdale, PA 18431
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Good Stuff

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL LIBRARY CARD SIGN UP AND NATIONAL LITERACY MONTH!



Think libraries are just repositories for books? Think again! Libraries are where one can learn to cook, search for a job, acquire language skills, explore different cultures, receive instruction on technology, and even READ A BOOK!!! Library staff are engaged in kindergarten readiness programs and computer training. You can even learn and enjoy Scrabble, Canasta, knitting and meditation.

A twenty-year study reported in Social Science Research revealed that the simple presence of a home library increases children's academic success, vocabulary development, attention, and job attainment. How many books are we talking about? The study shows literacy levels surging at 80 books. Being surrounded by lots of books where they live increases children's awareness and comprehension. Beyond reading skills, having access to books at home was found to increase the ability to use mathematical concepts in everyday life and the ability to use digital technology to communicate with others.

Obtaining eighty books may seem a bit daunting. Scholastic has identified inexpensive ways to build a home library:

- Scour library books sales, where you can often find books for \$0.25 or \$0.50 each!
- Great books can be found at yard sales and resale shops; donated by people who are purging books from their personal libraries.
- Little free libraries are popping up all over – in parks, play grounds, front yards, and even banks! You can visit the Little Free Library website to find these small, miniature libraries in your neighborhood. Exchange a book you no longer want for a new one – for free!

- Don't forget to ask family members! Grandparents, aunts & uncles probably have books saved from when their children were little that they would love to share with the next generation.

Resources in libraries include so much more than just books. Considerable print and online holdings are available to patrons with a library card, from fiction and nonfiction books, newspapers and magazines for all ages, to eBooks, eMagazines, SAT, GED and Career test practice, digital and financial literacy, eGovernment and job resources.

Library staff are expert at gauging what the public wants and creating programs to meet those needs. Creating a resume? Look to the library for not only a template, but a tech tutor to help with the technology involved. Resources and personnel are available to help with career searches and interview skills. Searching for factual answers, research guidance or even answers to trivia queries? You can chat with a librarian 24/7 through powerlibrary.org, which will match you up with the best librarian for the job according to whether you're a K-12 student, college student or state resident.

Library resources are available to students looking for help with their homework through Tutor.com and to people searching for help with auto repairs with information gleaned from PowerLibrary.

Libraries are invested in supporting patron and community literacy. Our library is involved in Project Linus, area food pantries and the Victim's Intervention Program. Patrons who are unfamiliar with such initiatives can find out what they're all about and get involved by asking a librarian. Health literacy is supported in that individuals with chronic conditions can obtain up to date information through accurate librarian-assisted research. One can even find resources explaining how to talk with their healthcare provider to get the most out of their appointments.

Many became acquainted with the library as children or upon bringing kids for story hour, which is much more than listening to a tale read by a librarian. Stay tuned for more on children's literacy and the many facets of story hour that children's librarians utilize to help children's learning evolve.

So take a few minutes to get a library card! It can be done online or go to the library and spend a few minutes (if you're anything like me that will quickly become an hour or two) talking with the librarian and perusing all their offerings. If you can't find just what you want the librarian will be happy to help you initiate an interlibrary loan. Look at their calendar and decide if you'd like to get involved in the SHINE program, learn about foraging or come see the kid's magician!



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THE AREA'S *GOOD STUFF*

SEPT '23

Ongoing Events

DAILY

Rotating Art Gallery

Three Hammers Winery, Honesdale. Art gallery presents a harmonious balance of contemporary fine art, fine wine, and local history. It showcases the mastery of artists from Northeastern Pennsylvania and beyond, working in a variety of mediums. All artist receptions are free and open to the public. Info: threehammerswinery.com.

MONDAYS

Yoga at The Settlers Inn

3:30-4:30 p.m. The Settlers Inn, Hawley. Join Lake Region Fitness for Yoga Riverside at The Settlers Inn. Info: 570-390-4496 or info@lakeregionfitness.net.

MONDAYS

Open Mic Night

6 p.m. Creative Compound, Honesdale. Music, coffee, collaboration. Info: 570-884-8899 or Mike@creativecompound.biz.

TUESDAYS

Yoga at Silver Birches

8:30-9:30 a.m. Recreation Center at Silver Birches, Hawley. Join Lake Region Fitness for yoga at Silver Birches. Info: 570-390-4496 or info@lakeregionfitness.net.

WEDNESDAYS

Yoga

8:30-9:30 a.m. Lake Region Fitness, Hawley. Info: 570-390-4496 or info@lakeregionfitness.net.

WEDNESDAYS

Wednesday Bog Walk

10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tannersville Bog, East Stroudsburg. Take a guided journey into the unique Tannersville Cranberry Bog. Environmental educators explain the bog's formation, its interesting plant & animal life & the role the local Preserve Committee & the Nature Conservancy play in its continued protection. Wear appropriate footwear. Pre-registration required: 570-629-3061.

WEDNESDAYS

Jazz on the Deck

6-9 p.m. The Settlers Inn, Hawley. To Aug. 30. Enjoy live jazz music, a delicious summer menu,

& a view of the garden. Reservations are recommended. Can't join us for dinner? Grab a drink & listen from the garden. Info: 570-226-2993 or desk@thesettlersinn.com.

THURSDAYS

Thursday is the New Friday

6-9 p.m. Glass Restaurant, Ledges Hotel, Hawley. Live music with John Curtin. Info: 570-226-1337 or info@ledgeshotel.com.

THURSDAYS

Jazz Nights at Here & Now Brewing Company

6:30-9 p.m. Here and Now Brewing Company, Honesdale. Musical guests appear weekly & each week takes you on a different journey of sound. Info: 570-253-0700 or info@hereandnowbrewing.com.

FRIDAYS

Aqua Zumba

9-10 a.m. Recreation Center at Silver Birches, Hawley. Join Lake Region Fitness for Aqua Zumba at Silver Birches. Info: 570-390-4496 or info@lakeregionfitness.net.

FRIDAYS

Hawley Farmers Market

2-5 p.m. Bingham Park, Hawley. Through October. Pre-orders available from online vendor list, & pick up at the market. Rain or shine. Info: 570-226-1644.

FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS

Hop On Hop Off Wine Trolley

Staybridge Suites, Stroudsburg. Hop from vineyard to vineyard all day, for one flat rate as Pocono Daytripper delivers you in comfort, safety, & style. Spend a carefree day vineyard hopping & wine tasting without the worry of finding your way back. Pocono Daytripper's authentically restored trolley picks you up & delivers you to the best local wineries & distilleries, all for one low price. Hop off at each vineyard, stay for approximately one hour, then hop on again for the next stop. Info: 570-977-7731 or info@poconodaytripper.com.

SATURDAYS

Wayne County Farmers Market

Rt. 6, Honesdale. Next to Dave's Super Duper grocery store. Through October. Info: Facebook: [WayneCoFarmersMarket](https://www.facebook.com/WayneCoFarmersMarket).

EVENTS

SATURDAYS

Yoga

10-11 a.m. Lake Region Fitness, Hawley.
Info: 570-390-4496 or info@lakeregionfitness.net.

SATURDAYS

Free Summer Concerts 2023

1 p.m. St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Hawley. June thru August. See schedule at visithawleypa.com.

SATURDAYS

Lakeside Live

3-6 p.m. Silver Birches, Hawley. Through Columbus Day. Join us lakeside for live music. Grab a cocktail from Captain Wally's & a bite to eat. Info: 570-226-4388 or info@silverbirchesresortpa.com

SUNDAYS

Lakeside Live

3:00pm-6:00p.m. Silver Birches, Hawley. Through Columbus Day. Join us lakeside for live music. Grab a cocktail from Captain Wally's & a bite to eat. Info: 570-226-4388 or info@silverbirchesresortpa.com

SUNDAYS

Blues, Brews & BBQ

Ledges Hotel, Hawley. Through Labor Day. Enjoy an a la carte menu with BBQ specials, a featured brewery, & live blues music. Reservations suggested. Dinner 5-9 p.m., Music 6-9 p.m.
Info: 570-226-1337 or info@ledgeshotel.com.

September 1-30

SEPT. 1-4

La Festa Italiana

Courthouse Square, Scranton. Labor Day Week-end. Food, music, entertainment.
Info: 570-496-1701 or lafestaitaliana.org.

SEPT. 1-3, 9, 30

Honesdale Explorer

Hawley Station, Hawley. Enjoy scenic views of the Lackawaxen River & beautiful Wayne County, PA. Take the Stourbridge Line's Honesdale Explorer, departing Hawley Station to Honesdale & back. Enjoy a stroll down Main St. for fantastic shopping & dining while the train runs through the yard & prepares for the next run. Total time of this experience is about three hours, including the 90-minute layover in Honesdale. Info: 570-253-5492 or info@thestourbridgeline.net.

SEPT. 2-4

Labor Day Brunch

11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. The Settlers Inn, Hawley. Enjoy an a la carte menu on Sat. & Mon. Sun.'s brunch will feature a prix fixe menu & live music. Reservations suggested. Info: 570-226-2993 or desk@thesettlersinn.com.

SEPT. 3

A Bedfull of Foreigners

2:30 p.m. The Ritz Company Playhouse, Hawley. Comedy. Info: 570-226-9752 or ritzplayhouse.com.

SEPT. 8

The Life of an Eastern Coyote

5-6 p.m. Van Scott Nature Reserve of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Beach Lake. Join the DHC as they discuss the life & biology of the Eastern Coyote. How are they different from Western Coyotes? What is their primary diet? Have they always lived in packs? Space is limited & prior registration is required. Children must be accompanied by an adult to attend the program. Info: 570-226-3164 or rachel@delawarehighlands.org.

SEPT. 9

Bingham Park Arts & Crafts Fair

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Bingham Park, Hawley. The fair typically hosts approx. 100 vendors with truly unique items. Rain or shine. Admission is free. Entertainment & food available.
Info: 570-226-4064.

SEPT. 9

Mindful Family Yoga with Ramping Radishes

10 a.m. Van Scott Nature Reserve of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Beach Lake. A gentle outdoor yoga practice designed to heighten your awareness of your thoughts & surroundings. Open to families with children of all ages. Enjoy nature exploration, mindful & playful movement, & art-making inspired by your surroundings. The event will be held outdoors. Dress comfortably & bring a blanket or yoga mat. No prior yoga experience necessary. Children must be accompanied by an adult to attend the program. Registration is required: 570-226-3164.

SEPT. 9

Edible & Medicinal Plant Walk

10 a.m.-Noon. Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. Nature provides food & natural remedies for us in the form of many plants. Join a hike focused on wild edible & medicinal plants. No collecting will be done in the park. Call to register. Info: 570-828-2319 or peec.org.

SEPT. 9

Alcohol Ink Workshop

10:30-Noon. Art Factory of White Mills, White Mills. Join artist Carol Mainardi in an "Alcohol Ink" adventure. Learn a new skill while having a fun time. All skill levels welcome.
Info: 570-251-1181 or info@theartfactoryofwhitemills.com.

SEPT. 9**Dingmans Ferry-Delaware Township Historical Society Museum**

11 am-3 pm. Akenac Park on Route 739, Dingmans Ferry.

Info: admin@dingmansferryhistoricalsociety.org.

SEPT. 9**Ecozone Discovery Room!**

1-4 p.m. Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. Climb into a bald eagle's nest, crawl into a bat cave, explore a beaver lodge, & dig in a fossil pit. Explore this indoor discovery room & enjoy hands-on exhibits on natural history, sustainability & the local environment. No registration required. Info: 570-828-2319 or peec.org.

SEPT. 9**Summer Sounds - Alan Cooper**

2-5 p.m. Three Hammers Winery Wine Lounge, Hawley. Come relax outside on our newly updated grounds, enjoy some finely crafted wines, & listen to some great tunes.

Info: threehammerswinery.com.

SEPT. 9**Changing of the Leaves**

2-4 p.m. Van Scott Nature Reserve of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Beach Lake. Learn how leaves change colors while identifying the different types of trees along the way. Wear proper footwear for walking along trails in the reserve. Space is limited & prior registration is required. Children must be accompanied by an adult to attend the program. Info: 570-226-3164 or rachel@delawarehighlands.org.

SEPT. 9**Iconic America: The Statue of Liberty**

4-6 p.m. The Cooperage Project, Honesdale. Part of an eight-episode documentary series, each episode tells the story of an American symbol to reveal its origins & significance. This part covers the evolving meaning of The Statue of Liberty as symbol for a "nation of immigrants," & how it embodies our values & our conflicts, from abolition & women's suffrage to the treatment of refugees. Pre-registration required: 570-253-2020.

SEPT. 9**The Ritz Company Players Golden Anniversary Party**

5-9 p.m. The Ritz Company Playhouse, Hawley. Comedy. Info: 570-226-9752 or ritzplayhouse.com.

SEPT. 9**STORIES IN JAZZ**

5:30 p.m. Grey Towers N.H.S., Milford. Roni Ben-Hur Quartet, hailed among NYC's finest. The quartet will feature singer/composer Tamuz Nissim in variety of American classics, international

light jazz, & their own music. Tickets available in advance on [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

Info: kindredspiritsarts.org.

SEPT. 10**Bridge the Gap: Introduction to Orienteering**

10 a.m.-Noon. Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. Learn how to use a map & compass on the orienteering course. PEEC will show you the basics before you try to find all the points. Call to register. Free. Info: 570-828-2319 or peec.org.

SEPT. 10**Acrylic Painting Class**

10:30-Noon. Art Factory of White Mills, White Mills. Share the journey of creating a beautiful acrylic painting with artist Rosellyn Grohol. You will learn how to paint your own colorful "break water" ready to frame, which can be for you or given as a gift. All skill levels welcome. Info: 570-251-1181 or info@theartfactoryofwhitemills.com.

SEPT. 10**Volunteer Day**

1-4 p.m. Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. Lend a hand & help PEEC out with some seasonal projects. This is the perfect day to become involved with the volunteer program. Preregistration required. Free.

Info: 570-828-2319 or peec.org.

SEPT. 15**Jazz Supper Club**

6-9 p.m. The Settlers Inn, Hawley. Enjoy a New Orleans style dinner with live jazz music.

Info: 570-226-2993 or desk@thesettlersinn.com.

SEPT. 16**Wayne County Public Library's Family Fun Fair**

11 a.m.-4 p.m. Wayne County Fairgrounds, Honesdale. Music, food, bounce house, laser tag, life-size Jenga, mobile zip line, animals, arts & crafts, mini-golf, raffle baskets & more. Rain or shine. Info: waynelibraries.org/FFF.html.

SEPT. 16**Summer Sounds - Louis West**

2-5 p.m. Three Hammers Winery Wine Lounge, Hawley. Come relax outside on our newly updated grounds, enjoy some finely crafted wines, & listen to some great tunes.

Info: threehammerswinery.com.

SEPT. 16**Geology Hike**

1-3 p.m. Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. Take a hike on the Fossil Trail with Paul Kovalski, aka Dr. Dinosaur, as you discuss the geology of our area & what makes PEEC's park unique. Call to register.

Info: 570-828-2319 or peec.org.

SEPT. 16**Brews and Brats Festival**

4-10 p.m. Greene Dreher Vol. Fire Assoc., Newfoundland. Enjoy featured craft beers from local breweries & more. Oktoberfest-themed event features wursts & brats. Basket raffle. Corn hole tournament open to all. Bring a partner & join the fun. Other competitive events for your enjoyment. Proceeds fund Newfoundland Rotary projects. Info: 570-676-3384.

SEPT. 16**Nature at Night**

7-8:30 p.m. Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. A pleasant fall evening is the perfect time to head outside. Take a walk in the woods to listen for owls, look at stars, & enjoy the music of the night. Enjoy fun activities that test your night vision. Bring a flashlight. Call to register. Info: 570-828-2319 or peec.org.

SEPT. 17**Bridge the Gap: River Paddle**

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. Join PEEC for a paddle down the Delaware. Bring a lunch, a water bottle, & dress for the weather. PEEC will provide extra water & snacks. Choose between a canoe or kayak. Preregistration is required & begins at 8:30 a.m. on Aug. 18. Info: 570-828-2319 or peec.org.

SEPT. 17**Abstract Alcohol Ink Workshop**

10:30 a.m.-Noon. Art Factory of White Mills, White Mills. Join artist Rosellyn Grohol in an "Abstract Alcohol Ink" adventure. Learn how to paint using Alcohol Ink to create vibrant abstract flowers & exciting, colorful backdrops that explode. Go home with a piece of art ready to hang in your living room. All skill levels welcome. Info: 570-251-1181 or info@theartfactoryofwhitemills.com.

SEPT. 17**Meadow Party**

11 a.m.-4 p.m. Van Scott Nature Reserve of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Beach Lake. Guided trail walks, crafts, & fun educational programs for all ages, including Close Encounters with Birds of Prey presented by the Delaware Valley Raptor Center & Adam Swartz Puppets performing Joe Flashlight, CSI (Creature Story Investigator). Food available for purchase, or bring your own picnic to enjoy. RSVP to rachel@delawarehighlands.org or 570-226-3164 ext. 2. Dogs are not allowed. Free.

SEPT. 17**The Jersey Tenors**

4-6 p.m. (doors open at 3 p.m.) Woodloch Pines Resort Night Club, Hawley. Rock/Opera Mash-up sensation, creating an explosive blend of iconic opera classics alongside Rock 'n' Roll greats like Elton John, Queen, Bon Jovi & more. Open seat-

ing, lite bites, cash bar. Benefits Wayne Memorial Hospital. Info: Joan Buehl, 570-226-9750.

SEPT. 17**Sunset Bog Walk**

6:30-9 p.m. Tannersville Bog, East Stroudsburg. Explore the beauty of the bog just as the sun sets. Wear appropriate footwear. Pre-registration required: 570-629-3061.

SEPT. 18**Wayne Highlands Quilt Guild**

4-6 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, Hawley. Do you love to quilt? We welcome you to join us & make new friends who share your passion for quilting. At each meeting there is a Show & Tell. At some meetings we have a hands-on learning presentation, sewing of an item to donate to charity or a speaker. For more info, call Deb at 908-358-2670 or debzoo@gmail.com.

SEPT. 20**Tools in Your Toolbox Series: Three Easy Steps to Calm the Chaos**

4:30-5:30 p.m. Honesdale Public Library, Honesdale. The aromatic, topical & internal use of essential oils will support your ability to focus & calm your body, mind & spirit. Presented by Helen Mele Robinson, PhD. Contact Miles to register at 570-253-1220 or mkeesler@waynelibraries.org.

SEPT. 21**Simply Succulents Sip and Snip**

5:30-7 p.m. Gorgeous Floral, Hawley. Create a beautiful terrarium filled with vibrant succulents while enjoying a cocktail or mocktail. Info: 570-576-0490 or info@gorgeous-floral.com.

SEPT. 21**Ghosts & Legends of Sleepy Hollow**

7 pm. Delaware Township Municipal Hall, Dingmans Ferry. Dingmans Ferry-Delaware Township Historical Society presentation by Jonathan Kruk, Master Storyteller. Info: admin@dingmansferryhistoricalsociety.org.

SEPT. 22-24**Fall Flights: Birds & Brews**

Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. Come out for a wonderful weekend of bird watching & beer tasting. Enjoy guided hikes that teach how to identify birds by sight, sound, & habitat. Program is geared towards beginners & experts alike. Saturday night PEEC will provide beverages from local breweries while you relax around the campfire. Includes two nights of lodging & meals from Fri. dinner to Sun. lunch. Call for day rates. Info: 570-828-2319 or peec.org.

SEPT. 22-30**168th Annual Bloomsburg Fair**

Bloomsburg, Columbia County. Richard Marx, Sept. 25. Live music, entertainment, demo derby, motocross, Figure 8 Race, truck & tractor pulling,

rides, horse pulling, more. Info: 570-784-4949 or bloomsburgfair.com.

SEPT. 23

Honesdale Beer & Wine Fest

Noon-5:30 p.m. Wayne County Fairgrounds, Honesdale. Rotary Club of Honesdale hosts PA's best breweries & local wineries.

Info: danaalys@hotmail.com.

SEPT. 23

Members' Morning

Claws 'N' Paws Wild Animal Park, Lake Ariel. Info: 570-698-6154.

SEPT. 23

Harvest Harmonies - Rob Viola

2-5 p.m. Three Hammers Winery Wine Lounge, Hawley. Come relax outside on our newly updated grounds, enjoy some finely crafted wines, & listen to some great tunes.

Info: threehammerswinery.com.

SEPT. 23

Princess & Superhero Train

3-6 p.m. Honesdale Station, Honesdale. Climb aboard for a trip to meet your favorite superheroes & storybook princesses. Meet & greet with the characters plus enjoy face painting & a variety of fun activities at the trackside grove. Steps required to get off the train at the trackside grove.

Info: 570-470-2697 or info@thetourbridgeline.net.

SEPT. 23

Contra Dance

7:30-10 p.m. The Cooperage Project, Honesdale. Bring a partner or find a partner here. All are welcome to dance along to the live performers, no experience necessary. Caller Laurie B. will do a beginner lesson starting at 7:15 & the dancing will start at 7:30. Beginners are most welcome. Live music performed by CHERRY ORCHARD & others. FACEBOOK EVENT. Info: 570-253-2020 or thecooperageproject.org.

SEPT. 23

C & C Music Factory

9-11 p.m. Cove Haven Resort, Lakeville. As the front man & co-founder of the international multi-platinum selling group C&C Music Factory, Freedom Williams has traveled & performed around the world extensively, & has yet to meet a crowd that he couldn't captivate. Info: 800-233-4141.

SEPT. 24

Annual Festival of Wood

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Grey Towers National Historic Site, Milford. A celebration of our natural & cultural heritage of wood at the home of Gifford Pinchot, Father of American Forestry. Handmade crafts, music, arts, programs, children's activities, educational exhibits. Rain or shine. Free.

Info: 570-296-9630 or greytowers.org.

SEPT. 24

Dingmans Ferry-Delaware Township Historical Society Museum

11 am-3 pm. Akenac Park on Route 739, Dingmans Ferry.

Info: admin@dingmansferryhistoricalsociety.org.

SEPT. 24

Weekend Of Chamber Music

4-6 p.m. The Cooperage Project, Honesdale. Presenting Mysteries of Identity, featuring Canadian cellist Caroline Stinson & Lithuanian pianist Ieva Jokubaviciute in recital. A musical exploration of how we define ourselves, culturally, personally & spiritually, bringing together a wide range of compositional voices in search of their own expressive "I am." Info: 570-253-2020 or nicky@thecooperageproject.org.

SEPT. 30

Acrylic Pour Workshop

10:30-Noon. Art Factory of White Mills, White Mills. Join artist Carol Mainardi in an "Acrylic Pour" adventure. Plan on getting a little messy while having a fun time. All skill levels welcome.

Info: 570-251-1181 or info@theartfactoryofwhitemills.com.

SEPT. 30

Ecozone Discovery Room!

1-4 p.m. Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. Climb into a bald eagle's nest, crawl into a bat cave, explore a beaver lodge, & dig in a fossil pit. Explore this indoor discovery room & enjoy hands-on exhibits on natural history, sustainability & the local environment. No registration required. Info: 570-828-2319 or peec.org.

SEPT. 30

Harvest Harmonies - Eric Rudy

2-5 p.m. Three Hammers Winery Wine Lounge, Hawley. Come relax outside on our newly updated grounds, enjoy some finely crafted wines, & listen to some great tunes.

Info: threehammerswinery.com.

SEPT. 30

Owl Prowl

7-8:30 p.m. Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. Pa. is home to a number of different species of owls. There are a handful of different species that live around PEEC. You may not find any, but you'll definitely hear them.

Call to register. Info: 570-828-2319 or peec.org.

SEPT. 30 & OCT 1

Hawley Harvest Hoedown

10 a.m. Downtown Hawley. Old-fashioned fall street fair. Games, food, craft & other vendors, hayrides, live music, petting zoo, pumpkin decorating, & always some surprises.

Info: hawleyharvesthoedown.com or Facebook.

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