



Mount Mansfield Villages

MMV News You Can Use

April 2021

April Fool's Day ushers in the month of income tax, Arbor Day, [Earth Day](#), and mud season! Showers, five inches on average, bring May flowers. It's also [National Poetry Month](#), so share some poems and plant a tree. You can also plant peas and lettuce by month's end. Let the garden season begin!

*"It's said that April showers
bring May flowers."*

*When it rains, look for rainbows.
When it's dark, look for stars."*

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Events are online only & free to all
unless noted otherwise

QUESTION OF THE MONTH for MAY

***If you could fly off on a magic carpet,
what country would you like to visit, and why?***



Mongolia sounds like a fascinating place, and one would need a magic carpet to get there! It's huge and sparsely populated, with wonderful scenery, festivals, and historic sites. By April 15, please use [this form](#) to submit your answer OR mail your response to:

PO Box 31, Underhill Center, VT 05490.

View responses to the April (and earlier) "Question of the Month" [here](#).

MMV SPECIAL EVENTS

- **ZOOM SPEAKER SERIES: VERMONT'S FORESTS—PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE**

Tuesday, April 13, 2021, 7:00pm

Lamoille Neighbors in collaboration with Emily Potter

Emily Potter, who grew up in Rutland and currently lives in East Calais, is the Lamoille County Forester. She attended the University of Vermont where she received a BS in Forestry. She has worked with the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation in various forester positions off and on since 2012. Emily enjoys spending time in the woods and observing all of the life within it. When Emily is not working she enjoys swimming, running, hiking, boating, fishing, xc skiing, walking in the woods with her dog, and spending time with family and friends. Register at [this link](#).



- **ARMCHAIR TRAVELER: SHOW & SIP**

Friday, April 16, 2021, 4:00pm–5:00pm

Mount Mansfield Villages



If you've traveled somewhere near or far and have a favorite souvenir, photo, or anecdote to share, please consider joining us—with your favorite drink in hand! Or simply sit in your Happy Hour armchair and listen in. When real travel is not possible, armchair travel is the next best thing. It could be the perfect time to dream up a future trip.

Each speaker will get up to 5 minutes.

Please click [here](#) to register to let us know you plan to attend. We'll send you a link to the online meeting when we get closer to the event.

AGING WELL

- **GENTLE FLOW YOGA**

Wednesday, April 7, 2021 and April 21, 2021, 5:30pm–6:30pm
AARP VT

Gentle Flow is an accessible, all-levels class that focuses on connecting to the breath, releasing tension, and helping to gently develop strength and flexibility—appropriate for students newer to the practice and anyone who appreciates a slower, softer practice. Register here: [April 7](#); [April 21](#)

- **PLANNING FOR INCAPACITY**

Friday, April 9, 2021, 10:00am–11:30am

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health with Caldwell Law

Join this discussion of incapacity planning considerations, including estate and long-term care planning considerations relative to possible debilitating health issues. Discussion will include typical problems that can be reduced by adequate planning. Register [here](#).

- **QUIT SMOKING**

Tuesdays, April 20–May 11, 2021, 9:00am–10:00am

My Healthy Vermont with Lamoille Health Partners

Join this online workshop one time per week for 4 weeks—for support and motivation to become tobacco-free. Free nicotine replacement is available for participants. Register [here](#). Quit Smoking workshops are online and statewide—see [this link](#) for other dates/times.



- **CHRONIC PAIN MANAGEMENT**

Tuesdays, April 27–June 8, 2021, 3:30pm–6:00pm

My Healthy Vermont with Springfield Medical Cares & Ascutney Hospital

Get guidance and support to build strength, increase energy and mobility, and manage ongoing or long-term pain and related issues like trouble sleeping or depression. Register [here](#).

CHANNEL YOUR CREATIVITY

- **POETRY DURING COVID-19**

Wednesday, April 7, 7:00pm

Vermont Humanities in collaboration with Kellogg-Hubbard Library

Professor Adrie Kusserow wrote in her poem “Mary Oliver for Corona Times:” “You do not have to use this isolation to make your marriage better, your body slimmer,...” She’ll discuss Oliver’s poetry and explore ways in which the pandemic has sparked creative work. Register [here](#).

Adrie, a Professor of Cultural Anthropology at Saint Michael’s College, is the daughter of Sue & Bert Kusserow and lives in Underhill Center with her family.

- **BAKING CLASS: PIEROGI**

Thursday, April 22, 2021, 12:00pm–1:30pm

AARP VT in collaboration with King Arthur Baking Company

In this 90-minute class, you'll make these delicious dumplings from scratch. Join from your kitchen and bake along! Register at [this link](#).

- **STEPHANIE SEGUINO PHOTOGRAPHY**

OLLI Distinguished Speaker—March 2021

In her recent OLLI talk, Stephanie Seguino, UVM professor of economics, presented convincing graphical and data evidence of racial inequality in Vermont policing. Further, Seguino, an accomplished photographer, shared her powerful images of the summer 2020 protests in Vermont. View her stunning portfolios [here](#).



- **EXHIBITION OPENING: MARY CASSATT’S IMPRESSIONS**

Thursday, April 29, 6:00pm–7:00pm

Shelburne Museum

Join Associate Curator Carolyn Bauer and renowned art historian Nancy Mowll Mathews to examine the creative relationship between American impressionist Mary Cassatt and the Havemeyer Family. Register [here](#).

PROUD TO BE A VERMONT

- **STAND-UP COMEDY: EATING WHILE FAT**

Wednesday, April 7, 7:00pm

Vermont Humanities in collaboration with Brooks Memorial Library

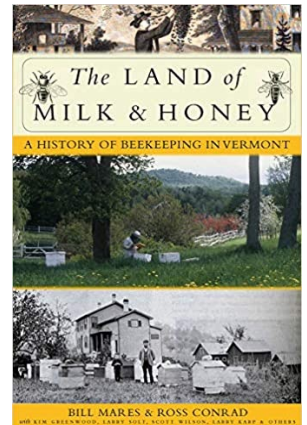
Vermont comic and educator Josie Leavitt shares her hilarious attempts at exercising and dieting, addresses fat-shaming, and describes her struggle for body acceptance. Register at [this link](#).

- **BEES BESIEGED: A HISTORY OF BEEKEEPING IN VERMONT**

Tuesday, April 20, 2021, 7:00pm–8:15pm

St. Albans Museum with Bill Mares, Writer & Beekeeper

Mares tells of the evolution of beekeeping with a particular emphasis on his new book with Ross Conrad: *The Land of Milk and Honey, a History of Beekeeping in Vermont*, a powerful testament of Vermont's oversized leadership to protect our nation's pollinators. Register [here](#).



- **PRIDE 1983**

Vermont Folklife Center in collaboration with Pride Center of Vermont

In 1983 the first Lesbian and Gay Pride March in Vermont took place in Burlington, fourteen years after the Stonewall Uprising. From the very beginning, Vermont's Pride events were a celebration as well as a march. View and listen to this sensitive, informative online historical exhibit [here](#).

- **RED KITE, BLUE SKY: AN EVENING OF POETRY WITH MADELEINE MAY KUNIN**

Thursday, April 22, 7:00pm

Phoenix Books

In concert with Poetry Month, Phoenix Books presents an evening of poetry with Madeleine May Kunin, former Vermont governor, to celebrate the release of her debut collection of poetry, *Red Kite, Blue Sky*. Description and registration information [here](#).



ENHANCE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- **TWO DECADES OF VLADIMIR PUTIN'S KREMLIN RULE, 2000-2020: AN ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS OF WHAT IS TO COME**

Wednesday, April 7, 2021, 1:00pm–2:30pm

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute—Distinguished Speaker Series

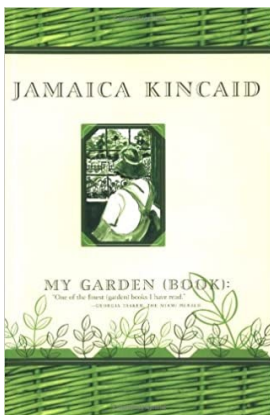
This presentation will assess the successes of Vladimir Putin's Kremlin rule as well as its failures and will speculate on what can be expected from his decision to change the Russian Constitution in order to permit him to extend his rule another 16 years until 2036. Registration \$10 at [this link](#).

Distinguished Speaker: Kevin McKenna, UVM Professor Emeritus, Department of German and Russian

- **BOOK DISCUSSION: MY GARDEN by JAMAICA KINCAID**

Thursday, April 22, 2021, 2:00pm–3:00pm

Vermont Humanities with Cabot Public Library



In her 2001 book *My Garden*, Jamaica Kincaid talks about her first flower garden in Vermont. This book is a playful and penetrating book on gardens, the plants that fill them, and the persons who tend them. For the event link, contact Kathleen Hoyne at cabotlibrary@yahoo.com.

- **CLIMATE CRISIS IN FOCUS: FINDING HOPE THROUGH DEMOCRATIC ACTION with FRANCES MOORE LAPPE**

Thursday, April 22, 2021, 5:00pm–6:30pm

Sustainable Woodstock

Celebrated author Frances Moore Lappé discusses three interacting roots of an urgent problem: a brutal form of capitalism, big money's grip on our democracy, and climate catastrophe and shows us how realizing their unity can be empowering, not overwhelming. Register [here](#). Free and open to all; suggested donation—\$10.



INSPIRED BY NATURE

- **VERMONT'S BLACK BEARS**



Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 7:30pm

Vermont Woodlands with Jackie Comeau, Fish & Wildlife Biologist

This discussion about Vermont's black bears will provide tips for how to consider bears' needs when managing your woodlot along with how to prevent conflicts with bears in your backyard. Register [here](#).



- **ORGANIC LAWN CARE**

Thursday, April 15, 2021, 5:30pm–6:30pm

University of Vermont Medical Center with Lisa Hoare, Garden Educator

Learn methods for maintaining your yard without the use of conventional lawn care products which are not only risky for your health, but also for the health of pets and wildlife, the surrounding environment, and for essential pollinating insects and mammals. Register [here](#).

- **RIVER ACCESS & STEWARDSHIP: PROTECTING THE THINGS WE LOVE**

5 min. video—available to stream anytime

The Vermont River Conservancy

This inspiring video is about maintaining access to our local rivers and getting out to use them. It features volunteers installing timber steps and building a bridge to the Lamoille River Paddler's Trail. View [here](#).

- **COYOTES, AND FOXES, AND FISHERS—OH MY! WILDLIFE IN THE CITY OF BURLINGTON**

Thursday, April 8, 2021, 1:00pm–2:00pm

Vermont Land Trust

This panel discussion with field naturalists will include tracking mammals in and around Burlington and protecting their habitats. Here at the base of Mt. Mansfield, we have long shared an ecosystem with coyotes, foxes, and fishers. To learn more about these neighbors, register [here](#).

MEET A FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR



Sandy and Roger Gillim write:

This year will mark 50 years since we moved to Underhill! It's so hard to believe! Where have the years gone? Famous last words uttered by me: "Five years and we're out of here!"

So why did we stay? SO many reasons, but first a little background. We met in 1967 in Muncie, IN, where we were both graduate students at Ball State University—Roger in Music and me in Sociology. About a year later we moved to NYC where Roger began his career in computer programming at J.C.Penney. I worked at a half-way house at Fountain House Foundation, a transitional placement for people coming out of mental health institutions. In 1970 Roger was offered a job in health care research working for an organization called Cooperative Health Information Center of Vermont, so we packed up our bags and two cats, rented a U-Haul, and moved to Fletcher, VT, where we lived for a while in a farmhouse with our friends Catherine and Brian Lloyd. It was Cait who got Roger his job at CHICV.

In 1970 I got my first teaching job at Enosburg Falls High School teaching social studies to 11th and 12th graders—an experience that taught me so much about Vermont culture. I think I learned more from the kids than they did from me.

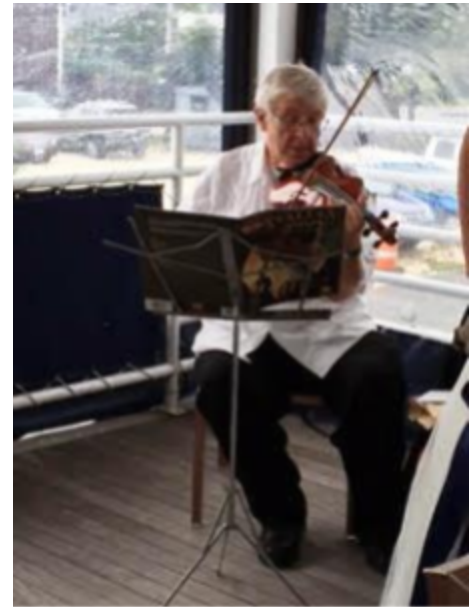
So, as I said, in 1970 we bought our house in Underhill. Our two sons were born—Sebastian in 1974 and Seth in 1976—and before we knew it, we were establishing strong ties to the community: Poker Hill School, Underhill Central School, eventually BRMS and MMU, and also, the United



Seth & Sebastian Gillim

Church of Underhill where, for a while, Roger led the bell choir and I attempted to be a “ringer.” Roger started his “side gig” playing his viola for the Vermont Symphony, then the Vermont Philharmonic, and for over 25 years with an octet (called the “Octet”) which played Haydn’s “Seven Last Words of Christ” each year around Good Friday. I sang with Mountain Song, a community singing group that I love and miss during this pandemic.

In 2009 we both retired—Roger from the VT Department of Health and me from BRMS where I was Assistant Principal. It seems like almost every year since then we discuss the possibility of moving out of our home: for a while, it was to someplace warmer, then it was someplace closer to town. We have even had realtors come out and give us an estimate as to how much we could sell our house for. But each time, we make the decision “not yet”—for which there are many reasons, including the fact that our son Seth lives in Winooski with his wife and our two granddaughters, but also because we realize that as time has gone by, we have made many friends here in Underhill.



Roger playing the viola at Sebastian's wedding in 2016

We have great neighbors. It's a wonderful community. We know we can depend on people here to provide support should we need it—and we have several times! And also we like our house! And then along came Mount Mansfield Villages which offers another source of support should we need it. We joined—and to this point, we haven't needed to use any of its services, but we are so grateful to be members of this organization in case we need it.



The Gillim Family in Arizona

So that's our story. We have lived here almost long enough to be considered “old-timers.” And we are so happy that we are!

SPEAKING OF UNDERHILL

*Many thanks to Gary Irish for creating this Underhill Trivia quiz.
Responses to the questions are on the following page.*



1. Early on, the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department housed their fire engine in part of Elbridge Nealy's jewelry store, but in 1936 they built their first fire station. Where was it located? For extra credit, once the new fire station was completed in 1952, the old station was decommissioned, moved to its present location, and repurposed. Where and what is it now?
2. The building beside the United Church of Underhill is usually known as either the Gifford Building or the church's Clutter Barn. Why was this building originally built/what was it known as?
3. The house at 4 Depot Street sits on the location of the former Borden's Condensed Milk Co. creamery. After the creamery closed in 1928, the building was converted to what use?
4. The swampy area along the Creek and Route 15 north of Underhill Flats was at one time kept drained and used as hayfields by local farmers. What was the other reason for keeping the swamp drained?
5. Some of the earliest settlers in Underhill located on the Hill Road, today known as Poker Hill Road. What was a prime attraction to that location?
6. What was the Hiram Bogue family, who lived in Pleasant Valley, particularly noted for?
7. What was one of the major farm crops in Underhill for much of the 1800s?

~ RESPONSES TO THIS MONTH'S UNDERHILL TRIVIA ~

1. The 1936 fire station was located on the corner of Route 15 and Park Street, beside the former Methodist parish house, now the office of Green Thumb Hydroponics. After decommissioning, it was moved across Route 15, the next building north of the former Underhill Garage building, and it began its new use as a 2-car garage.



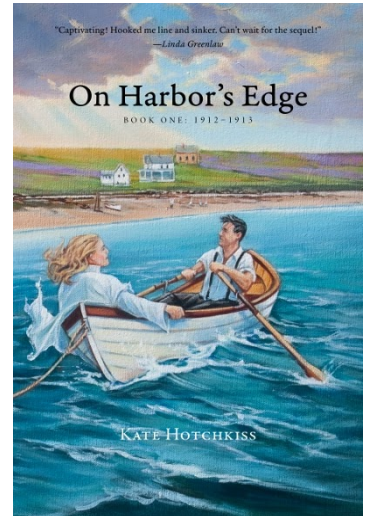
2. It was built about 1915 by Minerva Lodge #21 of the Knights of Pythias and used by them and the Mizpah Temple #14, Pythian Sisters, as their meeting hall. It was often called the KP Hall.
3. It was purchased by Parker and Emma Rice and converted to Rice's Gym. Local youth played basketball games there, and also dances were held in the building, often with live music provided by either Doc Kenyon's Moonlight Ramblers or Wood's Orchestra—but if not, with music from the recently purchased Columbia Victrola.
4. It was along this area, between the Flats and North Underhill, where the Burlington and Lamoille Railroad ran, and so the swamp was kept drained to prevent it from damaging or washing out the railroad tracks.
5. There were so-called beaver meadows there, the open land allowing for farming to begin with relatively little effort needed to clear the land first.
6. They were all exceptionally tall. Hiram was 7'0", and his six sons were all over six feet tall, with the tallest being Max at 7'2".
7. Potatoes. In 1840, 30,375 bushels were grown, and in 1886 George Terrill alone shipped 15,000 bushels out on the B&L RR. In the earlier years, much of the crop was converted to starch in local starch mills.

BECKONING BOOKS

ON HARBOR'S EDGE: BOOK ONE 1912-1913

by Kate Hotchkiss

When an unsuspecting bride gets into a boat one stormy June day in 1912, Thaddeus takes her far out to sea to the end of Popplestone Isle. There, villagers welcome Mildred with hopeful joy, but she discovers the tiny fishing community is headed for a most dreadful end. In her efforts to save their treasured harbor home, Mildred must risk losing everything she holds dear.



On Harbor's Edge is the first story in a series with dramatic, generationally layered plots from 1912 to the present, against the backdrop of Maine coast imagery award-winning author Susan Conley describes as "so rich it is its own character." While the Popplestone Isle tale is fictional, some of the hurdles Mildred May Gale and her neighbors faced over a hundred years ago still challenge islanders today.

On Harbor's Edge is available at our local Phoenix bookstore in Essex and can be ordered [here](#).

"Captivating! *On Harbor's Edge* hooked me line and sinker with fascinating characters and dramatic plots brilliantly layered in Maine island life a hundred years ago. Can't wait for the sequel!"

– Linda Greenlaw



Kate, the daughter of Jean Archibald and Ted Hotchkiss, was 12 when her family moved from their farm in Jericho to Underhill where she spent her teen years until she went to Dartmouth and majored in Chinese and Anthropology. After time in China, Hong Kong, and Minnesota, Kate moved to Isle au Haut, Maine, where she raised her two sons, remarried and today has an island business with her husband. Kate has experience writing for Maine publications, lobstering, working in Beijing for the UN, and renovating island homes.

OUTSIDE THE BLUE BOX

Nancy McRae is the author of "Outside the Blue Box," which will be an ongoing series in the MMV newsletter.

CONSUMER BATTERIES: SPECIAL RECYCLING

STANDARD ALKALINE (i.e., AAs or Cs):

Standard Alkaline batteries are not banned from disposal in regular trash; however, special-recycling is preferred.



RECHARGEABLE:

It is illegal to put most types of rechargeable batteries in the trash.

LOCATIONS FOR DROP-OFF:

CSWD Drop-off Centers: All CSWD Drop-off centers (except for Burlington's) have special-recycling areas for standard alkaline and rechargeable batteries and for handheld appliances that recharge (i.e. rechargeable toothbrush). For more information on CSWD drop-off locations and hours, click [here](#). For additional information on CSWD disposal options, reference [here](#).

Jeri-Hill and Biben's Hardware Stores: They will take rechargeable, single-use, and cell phone batteries.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DROP-OFF AT ALL LOCATIONS:

To prevent fires, cover the terminals of batteries greater than 9 volts with clear packing tape. Damaged or bulging lithium batteries (ex: those from a cell phone, laptops) are particularly dangerous and should be separated in their own sandwich/Ziploc bag. Many round button cell models are lithium.



MEMBERS' MEMORANDUM

Happy April to our MMV Members:

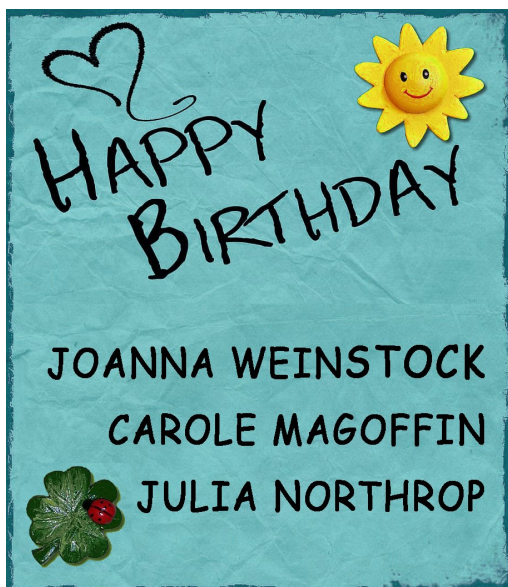
As more of you are vaccinated, along with our volunteers and sponsors, we are looking forward to beginning to offer additional in-person services, activities, and events.

First, we would like to remind anyone who has not registered and received their vaccine we are here to help with registration and transportation to your appointment.

[Click here](#) for the link to the Department of Health website with information regarding who is eligible for the vaccines.

We encourage everyone to vaccinate so we can safely start to gather our Village together.

Jeanne Hutchins
Chair, Board of Directors



Want More Information about MMV?

Please get in touch if you'd like to explore becoming a member, volunteer, sponsor, donor, or commercial service provider. You can:

- visit our website
www.mountmansfieldvillages.org
- email us at
mountmansfieldvillages@gmail.com
- call us at (802) 858-5381

MMV News You Can Use is a resource to share information that might be of interest to its members, volunteers, sponsors, and friends.

If you have suggestions for postings, problems with “links” in the newsletter, or if you wish to unsubscribe, please let us know at mountmansfieldvillages@gmail.com.

Donations to MMV support our efforts to help seniors age well at home.

Our Village is part of a web of local resources for seniors and their families. We work closely with a number of other important senior service organizations to create as many aging support solutions as possible.

Your generous donation helps make it possible for older adults at all income levels in our Jericho, Underhill, and Cambridge communities to be Mount Mansfield Villages members, supplementing membership fees and providing much-needed services.

Donations can be made at [this link](#). Sponsors are a special group of donors. View our “Become an MMV Sponsor” information sheet [here](#).

Mount Mansfield Villages is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and donations are tax-deductible.



WE THANK OUR GENEROUS COMMERCIAL DONORS

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