

OBITUARIES

Robert R. Potter

CORNWALL — Robert R. Potter, 86, of Cornwall, died Dec. 18, 2016, in Miami, Fla., after a brief illness. He had been on a cruise vacation featuring traditional jazz. His wife of 51 years, Virginia Potter, was with him.

Bob was a teacher, writer and editor, a sincere servant to his community, and a man of many interests and avocations.

He was born in 1930 in New York City to Lida Dean (Lorimer) and Russell Potter. The family vacationed in Cornwall; during World War II, they lived there. In 1951, Bob left Antioch College and enlisted in the Army. He served for three years in Germany and Greenland, and spent leave in Britain, France and Italy. Following the Army, he earned a Doctorate of Education at Columbia University, and was an instructor at Columbia's Teachers College. There, he met Ginny Johnson. They were married in 1965 and moved to Cornwall in 1969.

Bob taught English at a junior high in the Bronx, Litchfield High School, the State University College in Oneonta and the University of Connecticut's Torrington branch.

His experience as a teacher and his dissatisfaction with existing textbooks led to a parallel career in publishing. Starting in 1963, he wrote or edited more than 20 books, including "Making Sense"

and a series of biographies for young readers.

His 16 years on the Cornwall and Region One boards of education included several terms as chairman of both. He was president of the trustees of Cornwall's United Church of Christ, Congregational, and served the church and its family in ways large and small. His particular concern was the maintenance and preservation of the North Cornwall Meeting House. He contributed to the Cornwall Chronicle as a writer, editor, proofreader and president.

Bob's interests reflected a life spent working with words and hands. He was a member of the Institute of General Semantics. He wrote poetry, organized groups of poets and published two volumes. He split firewood and grew peas. His maple syrup won blue ribbons. He tinkered with Ford Model As, a model railroad and a vacation house on Cape Cod. And he listened fervently to traditional jazz, from his teens in Manhattan until his last days.

Bob Potter is survived by his wife, Ginny Potter; his daughter, Bonnie Potter; his son, Dean Potter; his granddaughter, Zola Potter; his sister, Peg Keskinen; and his nieces, Lisa Keskinen and Mindy Keskinen.

A memorial service will be held at the North Cornwall Meeting House on April 1.

Robert John Smithwick

SALISBURY — Robert "Bob" John Smithwick, 76, died Dec. 29, 2016, at Sharon Hospital following a brief illness.

Born Aug. 24, 1940, to Anne and John Smithwick, Bob attended schools in Cheshire, Conn. He was a graduate of Northwestern Connecticut Community College.

Following U.S. Navy service on the aircraft carrier Valley Forge, Bob was a state trooper, stationed at Troop B in North Canaan, later moving his family from Watertown to Salisbury, where his wife, Ruth Ann, still resides in the family home.

Having served Salisbury in various capacities, as resident state trooper, selectman and member of the Republican Town Committee and as a volunteer on the ambulance squad, he was chief of security at Lime Rock Park race track. Bob was also a director of the Litchfield Bank.

A Little League coach and Boy Scout leader, Bob was known for his compassion and a firm commitment to family and community life, but he will be remembered especially for his sense of humor. He best loved time spent entertaining his many friends at "The Beach" (their place on Twin Lakes) and evening cruises on the water in the "Crime Wave."

Survivors include his wife, Ruth Ann (Howard) Smithwick of Salisbury, whom he married Jan. 25, 1964; a sister, Marion Smithwick and her companion, Peter Dirlam, of Idaho; his brother- and sister-in-law, Richard and Linda Howard of Georgia; his daughter, Sheila Koneazny, and her husband, Paul, and their sons,

Vladimir and Oleg, of Mill River, Mass., and their daughter, Sharon Koneazny, and her husband, James, and their children, Christine, Colleen, Mary, John and Michael, all of Southfield; and his son Robert Jr. and his wife, Laurie Goldman, and their daughters, Zoe and Lucy, of Charlotte, N.C.; four nieces and a nephew.

Bob was predeceased by his younger sister, Nancy Smithwick.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Jan. 4 at the Church of St. Mary, followed by burial at St. Mary's Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation, 77 South Canaan Road, North Canaan, CT 06018.

Bob had resided at Geer since 2013, and his family extends special thanks to the dedicated staff of Cardinal Court for their care and compassion.



Year in Review 2016

Memorial Hall renovation project to gather steam in 2017

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
editor@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — The folks behind the Pine Plains Memorial Hall (PPMH) project are getting more and more excited as time marches on. That's because efforts to renovate the old 1915 Second Empire-style architectural masterpiece — in dire need of repair due to years of neglect — are in full swing.

The building was bought by S.E.B. Holdings Management LLC, in March of 2014 for a cool \$199,000. S.E.B. includes investors Jack Banning, Ariel Schlein and Christian Eisenbeiss. The

three men bought Memorial Hall to convert into a performing arts center for the entire Tri-state region.

Memorial Hall is the site of former vaudeville and minstrel shows, not to mention the home of a former coffee shop, hair salon and offices. It also housed a popular laundromat.

In the past, Banning said he and his partners were "thrilled" at having the opportunity to redo the multi-story brick building. They started their project with the grand opening of a new Pine Plains Laundromat in May of 2015.

There are also plans for a

community center on the lower floor with a bathroom and kitchen. The ground floor will serve as a theater hall. The upper level is expected to be converted into office and studio space to be rented out to artists and non-profit organizations. There is also the possibility of rehearsal space being carved out for performers.

In October of 2016, PPMH Executive Director Brian Keeler released plans for Memorial Hall. He shared architectural drawings and goals with members of the community invited to the site to learn more about the project.

So far, PPMH has raised \$1.9 million from private donors, plus a \$125,000 grant secured by Assemblywoman Didi Barrett (D-106). Another \$300,000 is expected from the Millbrook Tribute Gardens.

"This puts us closer to our goal so we can begin demolition and excavations to get the project going," said Keeler in October. He also said that the hope is to begin the work this month.

The project is estimated to have a capital cost of \$5 million, though with all of the pro-bono work done by members of the community that cost has been whittled down to \$4.75 million.

Year in Review 2016

Patchin's Mill Bridge up and running

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
editor@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — As was just announced in a recent issue of The Millerton News, the renovation work at Patchin's Mill Bridge is finally complete, after a two-year closure and construction project.

Patchin's Mill Bridge runs along South Main Street (Route 82), crosses over the Shekomoko Creek and leads to both Hoffman Road and Silvernail Road on the other side of the creek.

A single, two-span bridge now includes stone-faced parapets, a bridge rail, lighting, approach pavement and expanded shoulders. The project was done both on time and under budget.

That was good news to residents living in and around Pine Plains. Many complained over the two-year period about road detours and added time to their commute.

The Pine Plains Central School District's bus route was also affected by the work.

Patchin's Mill bridge closed in September of 2014, after it was determined to be functionally obsolete and structurally deficient.

Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro expressed his pleasure at the project's completion in a recent press release.

"As our Department of Public Works Engineering Division team finishes up the last bridge and road projects of the season, we extend our thanks for their tireless efforts over the last several months to complete these projects on schedule and within or under budget. These improvements to our highway infrastructure will have a lasting impact on

the overall safety and ride-ability of our county's roadway system for years to come," stated Molinaro.

A 2015 New York State inspection rated the former bridge at a 4.67. New bridges tend to rate a 7. — Kate Shanley contributed to this report.

Correcting Errors

We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning. Notice of such error must be given to us after the first run of the advertisement.

AREA IN BRIEF

Defensive Driving Course Jan. 28

STANDFORDVILLE — The Stanford Grange 808 will host its annual Defensive Driving Course on Saturday, Jan. 28, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The cost is \$35 per person. This course allows New York drivers to receive a 10 percent discount off their collision and auto liability insurance and removes up to four points on their license for any

violations incurred in the last 18 months.

The class includes festive classroom participation and informative movies as well as a delicious homemade lunch served by the Grange Family Activities Committee with a free will offering asked.

For more information or to request an application for the course, contact Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at 845-868-7869.

Party for Pine Plains library director

PINE PLAINS — A party to honor retiring Pine Plains Library Director Marquerite Hill will take place on Sunday, Jan. 15, from 1 to 3 p.m. at Lia's, Route 82 in Pine Plains.

Admission is \$20 per person and includes hors d'oeuvres, cake, coffee and a cash bar.

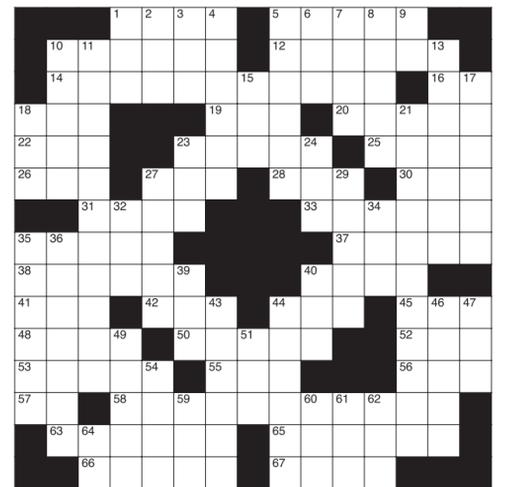
To sign up, contact Richard Diaz at 518-398-7133, if possible, by Friday, Jan. 6.

More obituaries are on Page A2

Brain Teasers

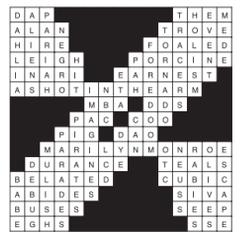
CLUES ACROSS

- Isidor __, American Nobel physicist
- One a day keeps the doctor away
- Extents
- Noticing
- Scriptural
- Star Trek character Laren
- "The Crow" actress __
- Ling
- Not good
- Measures gold
- TV network
- Wasting
- Money in Ghana
- Young girls' association
- Title of respect
- High schoolers take this test
- Crunches federal numbers
- Wild or sweet cherry
- Celestial bodies
- Fruit of the oak tree
- Royal Navy ship during WWII
- Of cherished symbols
- Satisfy
- 5th. day (abbr.)
- Swiss river
- Royal Albert Hall (abbr.)
- Cool!
- Flat metal shelves
- Enclosed
- A way to pass
- City in Iraq
- Printing speed measurement
- Twitch
- Indicates position
- Made lawful
- Took down
- A way to travel on skis
- North winds
- Tunisian metropolis



- Talk
- Serving no purpose
- Container
- Breathes new life into
- Beloved dog Rin Tin __
- A bag-like structure in a plant or animal
- Yemen capital
- Sacred book of Judaism
- Make a mistake
- Wrestlers wrestle here
- Respiratory issue
- In league
- Resinous insect secretion
- Unhappy
- Turbulent area of a river
- Neglectful
- Sours
- Calendar month (abbr.)
- Grooves
- Sony Pictures Television
- Monetary units
- Command right
- 1,000 cubic feet
- Expression of triumph
- Dinner jacket
- The first two

December 22 Solution



Sudoku

1	8				6			
			3			9	2	
		9						7
9	3			2				
	5	7		3	8	2		
				5			6	
		5		4				
				7				1
4	8							

December 22 Solution

5	6	4	9	8	3	7	1	2
7	2	8	1	6	5	4	3	9
9	3	1	2	4	7	5	6	8
4	7	3	6	2	8	9	5	1
2	9	5	7	1	4	3	8	6
1	8	6	5	3	9	2	7	4
6	5	7	8	9	2	1	4	3
3	1	9	4	5	6	8	2	7
8	4	2	3	7	1	6	9	5



It's Noble or nothing.

Find out how much more complete your recovery can be. Gain strength, balance, endurance and get the care you need following a hospital stay.

Contact Linda Castaldi, Admissions Coordinator,
at 860-435-9851, x160 or email lcastaldi@churchhomes.org
17 Cobble Road | Salisbury, CT | www.noblehorizons.org
retirement | rehabilitation | healthcare

24-Hour Nursing Care working closely with physician services • Respiratory Therapy
Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy • IV Services • Wound Care • Pain Management
Transportation Services • Medicare-eligible Stays • Most Private Insurance Accepted • Respite Stays
Concierge/Spa Services • Wi-Fi Internet Access • Flat Screen TVs • DVD Movies • Guest Meals • Kitchenette



retirement rehabilitation healthcare

www.noblehorizons.org 860-435-9851
17 Cobble Road, Salisbury, CT 06068