

## Candidates for Mayor Offer Contrasting Views

BY MIKE MCGARRY

Hartford is gearing up for the most wide-open race for mayor since Mike Peters took on Carrie Perry in 1993.

Right now, there are six candidates: Hartford Land Bank CEO Arunan Arulampalam, former State Senator Judge Eric Coleman, Renardo Dunn, senior pastor of Faith Miracle International, State Senator John Fonfara, Tracy Funnye and Hartford City Councilman Nick Lebron.

Hartford's Democratic Party is

proposals to make city streets more bike friendly? How do you feel about red-light cameras?

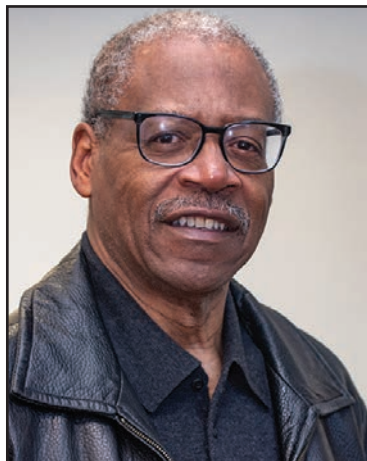
- Should Brainard Airport be closed and the land it occupies redeveloped?
- How can Hartford better promote itself to visitors, businesses and potential residents?
- How do you plan to manage and finance your campaign?

dangerous. Unprotected bike lanes with large gaps make little sense. Only three residents out of 1,000 use bikes for commuting, so lost parking spaces and the inevitable congestion would be byproducts, in order to please a very small but vocal group. Red light cameras need to be discussed.

(Question 5: Brainard Airport): It's been waiting 60 years for major development. It serves only 30 pilots, a subsidy for the wealthy.



Arunan Arulampalam



Eric Coleman



Nick Lebron

scheduled to announce its endorsed candidate for mayor in late July. If a Democratic primary is necessary, it will be held on September 12. The general election is on November 7.

We recently sat down with three of the candidates to discuss their views on several key issues currently facing the city. We plan on interviewing the other three candidates in upcoming editions.

### The Issues

- Is there a way to mitigate the effects of the recent property tax revaluation, especially on elderly homeowners and renters?
- How many police officers are needed to adequately protect residents and businesses and regulate traffic?
- How would you handle the court ruling against the City of Hartford in the current lawsuit over Dunkin Donuts Stadium?
- What is your view on current

### Nick Lebron

(Question 1: Assessments): Much better communication by the tax and assessment offices and the mayor's office should take direct action. The logjam on employment in the Human Resources Department hurts taxpayers. Building our Grand List of taxable properties means delays in the Department of License and Inspection must be avoided.

(Question 2: Police): 600 [officers] seems too high, 425 are budgeted. Speeding is a problem with state legislation limiting officers. A culture of lawfulness is needed.

(Question 3: Lawsuit): The City is in a strong position to win. If it doesn't, borrowing would be needed, paid over time. The mil rate needs to be reduced in any outcome. A billion dollar city operation should be able to handle any scenario.

(Question 4: Traffic): The proposed plan for Asylum Avenue is

Develop the land.

(Question 6: City Promotion): The Development Development needs a revamp to better help small businesses needing more customer traffic.

(Question 7: Campaign Plans): \$400,000 to \$500,000 is needed and I can raise that.

### Eric Coleman

(Question 1: Assessments): Better communication needed from the mayor's office and tax assessment office to make all citizens, especially seniors, aware of the of the opportunities. Qualifying numbers should be adjusted for seniors, veterans and the disabled.

(Question 2: Police): Hartford needs 500 sworn officers and 100 civilian back-up. Police must be reimagined with citizen input. Foot patrols need to come back.

(Question 3: Lawsuit): The potential [of a ruling against the city] is dismal. State intervention may be needed.

(Question 4: Traffic): Some plans seem counter-intuitive, eliminating parking and adding congestion. The whole policy should be re-evaluated. Red light cameras need discussion concerning privacy concerns.

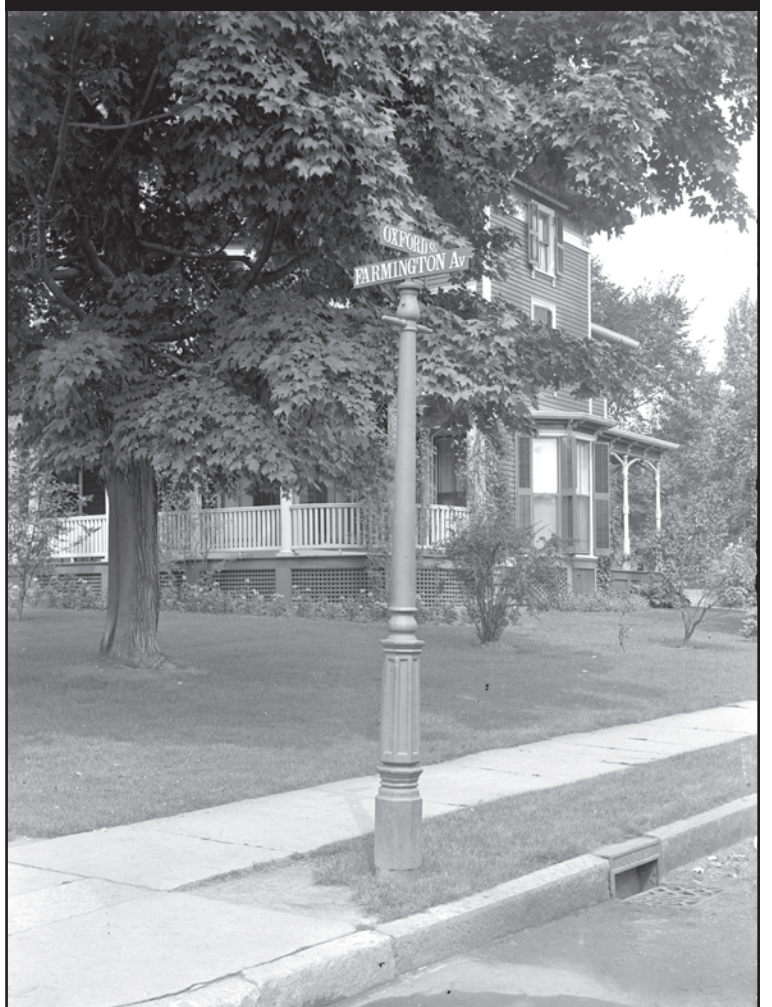
(Question 5: Brainard Airport): It



### Warming Up with Saturday Hoopsters

Brian Gallagher leads a drill in defensive skills at Noah Webster School Saturday morning for youngsters enrolled in the Saturday Hoopsters program. Founded in 2008, Saturday Hoopsters currently serves over 200 youngsters ages 5-12 who either live or attend school in Hartford. Sessions are held at Webster for children under age 9, and at Classical Magnet School for older players. Three sessions are held at Webster each Saturday morning: 9 am (kids ages 5-6); 10 am (age 7); and 11 am (age 8). At Classical Magnet, boys from 9-12 practice at 12 noon and girls ages 9-12 take the court at 1 pm. This year's season started on January 21 and will run through March 18. In 2012, Saturday Hoopsters was one of the original members of Active City Sports, along with Hartford Soccer Club, which is also run by Gallagher. Active City Sports, founded by Councilman Nick Lebron, now has over 20 programs featuring a wide variety of sports, from golf to boxing. To find out more, go to: <https://www.activecity.org/>. (Hart photo)

### THOSE WERE THE DAYS... IN HARTFORD'S WESTEND



After much research and detective work, we determined that this photo shows the intersection of Oxford Street and Farmington Avenue in Hartford's West End. Just kidding, the street sign was a pretty big clue! Although the home in the background resembles many that are still standing in the West End, it was demolished many years ago. All four corners of the intersection of Oxford Street and Farmington Avenue are now occupied by brick commercial buildings. (Photo courtesy of the Hartford History Center, Hartford Public Library)

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# CITY OF HARTFORD PUBLIC SAFETY STATISTICS

## HARTFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT Weekly Crime / Incident Report

Current Week: Jan. 22 - 28, 2023 • Prior Week: Jan. 15 - 21, 2023  
Last 4 Weeks: Jan. 1 - 28 • Year to Date (YTD): Jan 1 - 28, 2023  
Each period is also compared to the same period last year.

CITYWIDE											
Violent Crime	Current Week			Prior Week		28 Day Period			YTD		
	2023	2022	+/-	2023	+/-	2023	2022	+/-	2023	2022	+/-
Agg. Assault Other	5	4	25%	3	67%	28	35	-20%	28	35	-20%
Agg. Assault with Firearm	1	1	0%	2	-50%	7	9	-22%	7	9	-22%
Rape	-	-	-	1	-100%	4	2	100%	4	2	100%
Robbery Other	6	2	200%	3	100%	17	11	55%	17	12	42%
Robbery with Firearm	1	3	-67%	5	-80%	12	6	100%	12	7	71%
<b>Property Crime</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>+/-</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>+/-</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>+/-</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>+/-</b>
Auto Theft	11	14	-21%	26	-58%	79	57	39%	79	59	34%
Burglary	12	18	-33%	9	33%	50	47	6%	50	47	6%
Larceny	36	61	-41%	34	6%	121	188	-36%	120	191	-37%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>-43%</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>-15%</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>-12%</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>-14%</b>
<b>Victim Counts</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>+/-</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>+/-</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>+/-</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>+/-</b>
Murder Victims	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	0%	1	1	0%
Shooting Victims	2	1	100%	2	0%	6	8	-25%	6	8	-25%

NORTHWEST (Includes West End, Blue Hills & Asylum Hill)											
Violent Crime	Current Week			Prior Week		28 Day Period			YTD		
	2023	2022	+/-	2023	+/-	2023	2022	+/-	2023	2022	+/-
Agg. Assault Other	-	2	-200%	-	-	8	8	0%	8	8	0%
Agg. Assault with Firearm	-	1	-100%	1	-100%	3	2	50%	3	2	50%
Rape	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-100%	-	1	-100%
Robbery Other	1	-	100%	-	100%	2	-	200%	2	-	200%
Robbery with Firearm	-	1	-100%	2	-200%	2	2	0%	2	2	0%
<b>Property Crime</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>+/-</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>+/-</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>+/-</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>+/-</b>
Auto Theft	1	1	0%	6	-83%	23	6	283%	23	6	283%
Burglary	2	2	0%	1	100%	6	9	-33%	6	9	-33%
Larceny	4	12	-67%	8	-50%	18	38	-53%	18	39	-54%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>-138%</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>-125%</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>-8%</b>
<b>Victim Counts</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>+/-</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>+/-</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>+/-</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>+/-</b>
Murder Victims	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shooting Victims	-	1	-100%	1	-100%	3	1	200%	3	1	200%

The numbers included in this report are preliminary figures for general situational awareness and trend purposes only. They do not represent the official figures of the Hartford Police Department and are subject to further analysis and revision. Due to the statute driven, changing nature of crime classification and area boundaries over time, be advised that the figures contained may not fully coincide with HPD statistical sources. Additionally, they are not Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) or "crime rate" numbers and are not intended to be used as such. Rather, they are a breakdown of every offense within every case that occurred during the given time periods. Although every reasonable effort is made to verify their accuracy, the accuracy of any data is subject to the constraints of the report generation process as well as the manner, format and point in time of any query. Numbers may erroneously show drop in current data due to some cases not yet having been reported, approved, and/or recorded.

## Inspire Center Opens at the Historical Society

The Connecticut Historical Society (CHS), 1 Elizabeth Street, Hartford opened its new Inspire Center on Saturday, January 7.

The Inspire Center is now open at CHS on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., and Sundays from 12:00 p.m.- 4:30 p.m. Access to the Inspire Center is free with museum admission.

Inspired by Curtis Veeder, who was the inventor of the bicycle cyclometer, the founder of the Veeder Manufacturing Company, and the original owner and inhabitant of the CHS's current facility in Hartford's West End), the Inspire Center brings together history, problem-solving, and creativity.

Using items from the CHS collection as inspiration, visitors will be prompted to identify the problems solved by historic objects, brainstorm a new, imagina-

tive solution, and build a prototype of their innovative invention.

Robert A. Kret, Executive Director and C.E.O. of the CHS, believes that the Inspire Center will encourage active participation across an entire family, among a group of friends, or by solo participants. "Our vision is to see patrons enjoying and using the museum. We want to encourage people to interact with and explore objects from our collection by asking questions and experiencing the CHS as a unique, engaging, and memorable destination to visit time and again."

Connecticut is known for its innovations and history, and the Inspire Center will pair these two themes in a creative space for all.

Learn more at [chshs.org/inspire](https://chshs.org/inspire) and at <https://youtu.be/nZN6AkVl8ak>



## From the House: Capitol Update

By Matt Ritter  
State Representative, 1st District

## Your Legislature is Now in Session

The 2023 session of the Connecticut General Assembly convened at the State Capitol on a cloudy, unseasonably warm morning of January 4. Not dissimilar to opening day of the baseball season at Fenway Park or Yankee Stadium in early April, the day brings much hope, optimism and high expectations.

As the legislature deliberates over the next five months (this year's session adjourns on June 7), new laws aimed at improving the quality of life in Connecticut will be passed and a state budget for the next two years will be adopted.

In addition to serving as your legislator representing Hartford's 1st Assembly District, I also have the tremendous honor of being elected Speaker of the House. In my brief remarks to the House of Representatives on opening day, I reminded every legislator that they are each advocates for their community.

## In fact, much of what gets proposed, debated and voted on in the House and Senate begins with ideas shared by residents with their respective legislator.

In fact, much of what gets proposed, debated and voted on in the House and Senate begins with ideas shared by residents with their respective legislator.

That is why I encourage you to participate in the legislative process by making your voice heard. There are many ways to get involved, and my office can help you, for example, if you would like to testify on legislation that comes before the various committees. Or, feel free to simply call or email to share your opinion on a particular issue or specific bill of interest.

You are also invited to visit your beautiful State Capitol and Legislative Building to take a tour, observe a committee meeting or public hearing, or witness the full House in session. It is literally right down the street, and I would love to see you stop by and say hi.

Thank you again for allowing me to represent you at the State Capitol. As your representative I am here to help and listen to your concerns, so please contact me if I can ever be of any assistance. I can be reached at [Matthew.Ritter@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Matthew.Ritter@cga.ct.gov), on Facebook at [facebook.com/SpeakerMattRitter](https://facebook.com/SpeakerMattRitter) or by phone at (860) 240-8489.



## Westend Real Estate Transactions

1/20/23 44 Oxford Street. Shermane Davis to Courtenay Jackson. \$340,000

1/5/23. 22 North Beacon Street. Mark M Socha and Maura McNulty to Andrew and Roxanne O'Sullivan. \$418,500

12/19/22. 31 Woodland Street, Lot 11, Toni Fatone to Anthony D. Brown. \$115,000.

12/23/22. 230 Scarborough Street. Arshia Monshi to Anisha, LLC. \$425,000

12/23/22. 230 Scarborough Street. 1st Emmanuel Assembly to Arshia Monshi. \$350,000.

12/14/22. 1433-1435 Albany Avenue. Judith Dunn and Marcia Jackson to Elieber Riberio-DeSouza. \$280,000.

12/13/22. 30 Woodland Street, Lot 5C. Todifa LLC to Henry Hampton. \$62,000.

12/13/22. 30 Woodland Street, Lot 3B. Todifa LLC to Kaitlyn Young. \$62,000.

12/13/22. 30 Woodland Street, Lot 6A. Todifa LLC to Brittany Walters. \$62,000.

12/13/22. 160 Kenyon Street, Nathaniel Gale to Tashawna Advincua and Jeanne McKune. \$500,000.

12/13/22. 398-400 Prospect Avenue. Jose L. Sosa to Berkis Espinal and Arliz M Baldera. \$262,000.

## THE WESTENDER

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# Letters to the Editor

## The Origins of Conny the Whale And Why She's Worth Saving

Conny, the great whale in West Hartford CT: either we move Conny or it will be demolished. Why SAVE CONNY? Why did 200 volunteers even build this whale?

And what is a Whale Park?

In the mid-1970s, sperm whales were dying by the thousands each year due to commercial whaling. Literally, just as in the days of Moby Dick, sperm whales were still being hunted and harpooned. It was barbaric. Whales were being hunted to the brink of extinction. The decimation of whales continues today.

Greater Hartford and Connecticut, of all places, became a leader in the international campaign to save whales: In this effort to bring attention to this threat, a group of volunteer environmentalists known as the Connecticut Cetacean Society banded together to do the impossible...to build a life size ferrocement sperm whale to be named Conny. All volunteer, all with donations, and literally by hand. Using Conny as an educational tool and life size symbol of the "Save the Whale" movement, the Cetacean Society worked to secure passage of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) ban on commercial whaling, which took effect in 1986. The Society also petitioned and won in making the sperm whale the state animal of Connecticut. Conny is the state animal.



Despite almost 40 years of protection, however, sperm whale numbers have yet to rebound from the decimation that was caused by the years of commercial whaling. Still listed as endangered under US law, sperm whales face even more threats today, including entanglement in fishing gear, ingestion of plastics, ship strikes and ocean noise pollution. The reason for Conny, the purpose of Conny, is more important today than ever. Conny is needed to educate the public about the need to protect the sperm whale, and all whales, and all of the world's oceans. Conny is needed to teach the role whales play in a healthy, diverse ecosystem.

The WHALE PARK and Education Center: The Cetacean Society is leading the campaign to SAVE CONNY. We lead the campaign to raise funds necessary to move this iconic statue of a whale from its current location (where the land has been sold) to a new permanent home (possibly across the street on the Trout Brook Greenway, a West Hartford linear park). Conny will continue attracting families, picnics, school programs and summer camps. A destination landmark for celebrating whales in the heart of Connecticut.

The only place in the world where you can literally witness being next to a life size sperm whale. We need foundation funding to cover the cost to help SAVE CONNY. It is ironic that the symbol to open eyes to the threat of extinction of whales now faces its own demise i.e. extinction.

There will never be another Conny.

If you want to help save Conny, you can donate at: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-conny-the-whale>.

David Kaplan, West Hartford

## WECA Committee Chairs Appointed

The West End Civic Association has appointed the following people to chair its wide range of committees dealing with neighborhood issues and events.

- Architectural History & Resources: John Rose
- Beautification & Planting: Mike McGarry
- Community Engagement/Membership: Lindsay Ewing
- DineAround the West End: Alan English
- Economic Development: Joe Linhart
- Education: Erin Sheehan
- Farmers' Market: Rachel

- Taylor
- Golf: Matt Marks
- Housing: vacant
- Little Free Pantries: Nealie Newberger & Dorothy Buckley
- Membership: Lindsay Ewing
- Movies in the Park: Ken Lerman
- North Branch River: Mary Pelletier
- Planning & Zoning: vacant
- Porchfest: Sarah Moore & Jeff Lanteigne
- Public Safety: Matt Marks
- Social Activities: Jonathan Harding

## Neighborhood News & Notes



### Noah Webster PTA

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) at the Noah Webster Micro Society Magnet School is looking for volunteers. If your child is a current student and you have an interest in participating in all of the PTA's fun events this school year, please contact [noahwebsterpta8@gmail.com](mailto:noahwebsterpta8@gmail.com)

### WECA/WENS Blood Drive

The West End Civic Association (WECA), in association with the American Red Cross is host the 2nd Annual WEND Blood Drive, hosted at the Noah Webster MicroSociety Magnet School on April 1st, 2023 from 8am-1pm. The drive is in honor and support of WECA's long time friend and former Treasurer Mr. David Kline, who recently battled Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML). For more information or to sign up please visit: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=WECA>



### Dine Around 2023

The West End Civic Association Dine Around is back after a long hiatus due to the pandemic and scheduled for March 18! Neighbors are invited to host a progressive dinner in their home or visit other neighborhood homes in this lively West End event. Tickets are on sale soon. Visit <https://bit.ly/3HYQHMY> for more info or to host or sponsor!



## Booth & Bash @ The Connecticut Flower and Garden Show

KNOX'S Exclusive  
*After Hours Garden Party*  
Feb. 24, 8 - 10 PM  
Food, Drinks, & Dancing!

Connecticut Convention Center, 100 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, CT



## CONNECTING COMMUNITIES: BREAKFAST · LUNCH · DINNER

*breakfast +  
lunch*

**MON-THURS**

**9AM-2PM**

PARTICIPATION MODEL  
REGULAR PRICE (MIN \$2),  
VOLUNTEER, OR SEEK A MEAL  
VOUCHER: BE PART OF A  
VIBRANT COMMUNITY

*dinner  
schedule*

**WED-SAT**

**5:30-8:30PM**

PRIX FIXE MENU  
BY LOCAL GUEST CHEFS  
VISIT [GATHER55.COM](http://GATHER55.COM) FOR MENU  
AND RESERVATIONS, OR  
CALL OR EMAIL FOR NO-CHARGE  
OPTION: 860.929.2316

*Gather55 is a mission-based initiative of Hands On Hartford  
55 Bartholomew Ave, Hartford, CT*

# School & Youth News

## Submissions Now Being Accepted for the Annual Hartford Creative Contest

If you have a talented artist, poet or essayist student in your family, make sure they are aware that the deadline for this year's Hartford Creative Contest is March 3rd!

In 2015 Tiana Hercules, an Asylum Hill resident, lawyer, mother of three, and current Hartford City Council member imagined and then implemented this contest. She wanted Hartford students in grades 4-12 to have an opportunity to express their opinions and feelings on matters that affect their lives. The contest started out with essays and has expanded to include poetry and visual art as well. The Contest has grown every year, and now enjoys, among other businesses, the support of the Mark Twain House which is a co-sponsor and will be holding the Awards Ceremony in its auditorium later this year.

The Grand Prize for the best entry in all age categories is \$750. There are 3 categories, based on the grade of the students, and each category has a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, place winner – all of whom will win a cash prize. To be eligible to participate, you must either be a Hartford resident or attend a Hartford school and be in grades 4-12. Last year more than 30 different schools submitted entries to the Contest, and the quality of the submissions was higher than ever. Hartford has an extremely talented student population – prior years' winners can be found on the HartfordContest.com website. The 2022 Grand Prize winner was 5th grader Reik Torre.

Find out more information on the topics for this year's contest, and the submission requirements, go to [www.hartfordcontest.com](http://www.hartfordcontest.com).

## West End Girl Scout Troop



The West End now has an active Girl Scout troop of 41 girls at Noah Webster (about half of whom live in the West End)!

The Noah Webster Girl Scouts love all things outdoors and have been building their skills in preparation for their first overnight camping trip! Most recently, they spent the day at a Girl Scout camp in Lebanon practicing winter camping.

Cookie season has begun, and the girls are eager to raise money for their camping trip! If your Hartford

business would be interested in hosting a cookie booth in April or May, please reach out to Nealie Newberger secretary@weca.org

Several West End moms are leading the troop (Sarah Becker, Madeline Campbell, Whitney Patterson, Elizabeth Ploof, and Nealie Newberger) in addition to more community volunteers and parents. Please reach out if your child is interested in joining next year or if you would be interested in volunteering!

## NEWS FROM TALCOTT MOUNTAIN ACADEMY

### US DOE Science Bowl

The Dept. of Energy (DOE) is interested in making math and science fun for students to encourage them to pursue studies and careers in math and science. The DOE sponsors many science research projects in all disciplines and has a vested interest in future young scientists. Every Fall they sponsor a Science competition for CT middle and high schools. The last few years were by Zoom but this year's middle school event was held live on Feb 4, 2023 at the CREC Computer Science and Engineering Middle School in East Hartford. The middle school questions are in life science, physical science, earth and space science, energy, mathematics. While Talcott did not win the competition, their 5 person team of Captain Reha Doshi, Justin Xu, Poppy Hine, Felicia Liu, and Ashton Beckett held their own and enjoyed the experience.

### Science Fair

The Talcott Mountain Academy Science Fair started off with our upper suite students engaging in the the judging process, followed by interviews with the suite II students. By mid day all students were excited to welcome our families to present their projects to and to tour our fair!

Students going on to the Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair will be Rhea Doshi, Alaina Ryan, Ilana Mezheritskiy, Rand Copley, Justin Xu and Yveson Hsiao.

Students going on to the Connecticut Invention Convention will be Rhea Doshi, Silas Perri, Kian Ali-Takahashi, Kellan McKenna and Raine Perri.

Congratulations to all of our students for sharing their ideas and for the dedication shown in presenting them to our community!

## Watkinson School Selects 2023 Philanthropists of the Year

Watkinson School is proud to announce that two West End residents, Jan and David Klein, will be honored with Watkinson's 2023 Philanthropist of the Year Award at the school's annual gala, A Watkinson Affair on Saturday, February 25 at Hartford's downtown Marriot.

The Philanthropist of the Year Award is presented to an individual or family with a history of exceptional generosity through their own financial support, generosity of spirit, and civic responsibility. They set the highest example of leadership which, in turn, encourages others to take philanthropic roles in the Watkinson community.



Jan and David are founders of the Grace Scholars Fund, distinguished donors, current and past trustees and alumni parents to Jordan '06. Jan and David reflected on receiving this award, "We continue to support and be involved at Watkinson because our daughter was the beneficiary of the incomparable experience of Watkinson, which prepared her so well for her future. We want to ensure that Watkinson can, for today's and tomorrow's students" develop the power to shape their lives and the world around them". We also passionately believe in Watkinson's commitment to be intentionally diverse – racially, culturally and economically, and to seek and welcome students who would thrive in this wonderful educational environment, whose only roadblocks to attending Watkinson are financial."

To join us in honoring the Kleins, please come to or support A Watkinson Affair ([watkinson.org/watkinson-affair](http://watkinson.org/watkinson-affair)).

## News from Classical Magnet School

As we reflect on the close of 2022 and look ahead to a new year, let's take a moment to celebrate all that our community has accomplished together. Seeing our students engaged in theatrical performances, athletic competitions, Socratic seminars, Paideia projects and service learning reminds us that we are fortunate to be part of such an inclusive and thriving community. We begin 2023 feeling joy and optimism for the year ahead.

### Gladiator Updates:

- The mock trial team met several times over the winter break to prepare for the statewide mock trial competition which was held on Friday, January 13 in Waterbury.
- Student athletes participated in the High School Leadership Conference at SCSU and were interviewed by the CIAC for a promotional video. Dwight Biggs and Isaiah Waring represented Classical well as panelists at the conference.
- Theater students performed a variety of plays, including *Oliver Twist* in our Black Box Theater. They are rehearsing

for the musical *Sister Act*, which will be performed in March.

- The instructional focus for December was Socratic seminars, providing increased opportunities for students to engage in collaborative dialogue grounded in complex text.
- Varsity athletes are doing well competing in swimming, indoor track and basketball.
- College acceptances are rolling in! Some of the colleges/universities where Classical students have been accepted so far include UNC Chapel Hill, Morehouse College, Providence College, Clark University, Hawaii Pacific University & Morgan State University.

We are proud of our students' achievements and are looking forward to 2023! Go Gladiators!

Our next open house is February 15th from 5:00-7:00pm. Come see what makes us one of the top performing schools in the region!

Feel free to call for a personal tour of Classical (860)695-9100, or reach out to Principal Sullivan at [sullb001@hartfordschools.org](mailto:sullb001@hartfordschools.org)

**Watkinson School**  
**Want to know why Watkinson's Class of 2022 was offered \$2.5 million in merit scholarship college aid?**

*"My son has found an exceptional peer group and teachers who respect and encourage him unconditionally."*

— Current Upper School Parent from West Hartford



**97%** of Watkinson students agree or strongly agree that they are encouraged to think critically and problem-solve

— NEASC 2022 Reaccreditation Survey

**That's why.**  
 Schedule a visit today.  
[watkinson.org/visit](http://watkinson.org/visit)

## HIU Appoints Three Black Church scholars

Hartford International University (formerly Hartford Seminary) has announced the appointment of three preeminent Black Church scholars to its faculty. With the leadership of Dr. Walter Earl Fluker, Dr. Cheryl Townsend Gilkes, and Dr. Cleotha Robertson, HIU's Howard Thurman Center is becoming a national leader in the field of Black church studies and its intersection with social justice. The Center's mandate is to educate and enable Black pastors and lay leaders to lead their communities and guide their congregations toward greater equity and engagement in the public square.

In addition to teaching, the three will take on key leadership roles at Hartford International's Howard Thurman Center for Justice and Transformational Ministry. Dr. Robertson will be the center's Director.

The Howard Thurman Center, which launched earlier this year, is named after a national icon who promoted the idea that out of religious faith emerges social responsibility. The Center is the home of the Black Ministries Program, which began in 1982, and the recently launched John Lewis Institute for Public Leadership, as well as other initiatives.

In 2023, the Thurman Center will undertake a Faithful Healing Fellowship to address the twin deep traumas of racism and Covid. The John Lewis Institute will be training community activists in the democratic process and civic engagement. These initiatives are funded with the generous support of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, the J. Walton Bissell Foundation, and the Connecticut Health Foundation.

"The time is ripe," said President Joel N. Lohr. "Now is the moment for which we have all been waiting. The new Howard Thurman Center at HIU is an ambitious idea coming to fruition, a place of learning, justice, and transformation. It's hard to imagine — and I mean this — three more accomplished scholars in the areas of Black Church and Black Christian Theology than Drs. Fluker, Gilkes, and Robertson. This is all in addition to the continued excellent leadership and scholarly contributions of Bishop Dr. Benjamin Watts."

Executive Minister of the Thurman Center, Bishop Dr. Benjamin Watts, added his excitement for this announcement, stating, "Step by step, the dream of HTC is beginning to materialize. Adding three distinguished faculty members who embody the ethos and spirit of Thurman will enhance our ability to prepare contemplative leaders to be agents of social change."

### Dr. Walter Earl Fluker

Dr. Fluker has been appointed Distinguished Professor of the Howard Thurman Center. Dr. Fluker is the Martin Luther King,



Jr Professor Emeritus of Ethical Leadership at Boston University and presently serves as Dean's Professor of Spirituality, Ethics and Leadership at Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He retired from the Boston University School of Theology in June 2020.

In addition to his work as a pastor and chaplain, Dr. Fluker taught at Harvard College from 1990 to 1991 and was named Dean of Black Church Studies and Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Professor of Theology and Black Church Studies at the Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School (CRDS) in 1991. In 1992, Fluker became editor of the Howard Thurman Papers Project. He served as Director of the CRDS's National Resource Center for the Development of Ethical Leadership from the Black Church Tradition from 1993 to 1998.

In 1998, Dr. Fluker joined Morehouse College as Executive Director of The Leadership Center (renamed the Andrew Young Center for Global Leadership), The Coca Cola Professor of Leadership Studies, and Professor of Philosophy and Religion. In 2004, Fluker served as Distinguished Lecturer in the International Human Rights Exchange Program and visiting professor for the University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business and from 2008-2011 as faculty at The Salzburg Global Seminar, Salzburg, Austria. He has served visiting professorships at the Harvard Divinity School and Candler School of Theology; and visiting scholar at Princeton Theological Seminary, and Columbia Theological Seminary.

Dr. Fluker has also consulted and provided ethical leadership training in diversity and inclusion for an array of organizations. Among his many publications is the forthcoming, *The Unfinished Search for Common Ground: Reimagining Howard Thurman's Life and Work*.

### Dr. Cheryl Townsend Gilkes

Dr. Gilkes will join Hartford International as Distinguished Professor, Community Liaison, and Research Consultant for the Howard Thurman Center, in partnership with the University's Hartford Institute for Religion Research.

Dr. Gilkes is the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Professor Emerita of African-American Studies and Sociology at Colby College in Waterville, ME. An ordained Baptist minister, she is an assistant pastor for special projects at the Union Baptist Church in Cambridge, MA. She has served as visiting faculty at several seminaries and schools of divinity, most recently Chicago Theological Seminary.

Dr. Gilkes holds degrees in sociology from Northeastern

University (B.A., M.A., Ph.D.), has pursued graduate theological studies at Boston University's School of Theology, and has received an honorary Doctor of Divinity (D. D.) from Ursinus College. In addition to her book, *If It Wasn't for the Women: Black Women's Experience and Womanist Culture in Church and Community*, she has published articles in scholarly journals and edited volumes on race and ethnicity, the work of W.E.B. Du Bois, and African American religion. She has also published sermons in several journals and edited volumes. Until the pandemic, she was "Dr. Dr. Cheryl" on Colby College's radio station where she hosted a gospel music radio show, "The Uncloudy Day," for 19 years. Since the pandemic she has contributed several opinion pieces to Religion News Service and has written the introduction to the fiftieth anniversary publication of James Cone's book, *The Spirituals and the Blues: An Interpretation*.

### Dr. Cleotha Robertson

Dr. Robertson has been named Director of the Howard Thurman Center and Associate Professor.



He concurrently serves as Associate Professor of Old Testament at Alliance Theological Seminary's New York City Campus. Dr. Robertson is also the Senior Pastor of Sound View Presbyterian Church in the Bronx, NY, where has served since

Continued on page 8

## A Nation Divided

COMMENTARY BY BILL KATZ

I'm afraid that our country is broken into a million pieces and it probably can't be mended. This was inevitable since it's beginning which was founded on a very imperfect union — really a collection of disparate entities into a union of malcontents (perhaps as the illegitimate bastard offspring of England) destined in 70 years to engage in a most devastating war and one which was initially won then lost after a sudden change of administration and later, a fight that has never fully ended and never will.

Today our politics are governed by deep-pocketed money. Campaign finance reform ended with John McCain's great attempt at such reform. He wouldn't have made a good president, but he definitely was on the right side of eliminating dark money. The end result is unlimited campaign donations into what we have today. Money elects candidates and money determines who gets elected. Now we have extremists on both sides of the political spectrum but mainly on the Republican side. They are the autocratic deciders of the day. They will destroy whatever good remains in this nation and very little does remain good. And I say, prudence might dictate tempering some assets invested in the stock market because the debt ceiling has arrived. The extreme right will bring down the government and I don't envision any possible compromise until massive damage has been done to this nation and global markets as well. We are not going to lose on funding Social Security and Medicare as the Republicans would like. It's simply not going to happen.

No need to rehash what the far right autocrats stand for. They stand for nothing but the accumulation of wealth. That is all. No morals. No ethics although some in the religious sector pretend to pay attention to right-to-life while they execute prisoners in their red-leaning states. Sure and they talk of less government until they call for more government to demand what women can and can not do with their bodies. It's ultimately based on the accumulation of wealth with a sprinkling of pro-life faux legitimacy over the baking cake.

The left side is so dense we can't even figure out why we lose over and over, even when we temporarily win. To wit: We accuse Republicans for not joining Democrats to reform and fix immigration at the southern border. Why? Because we insist on including 'The Dreamer's Act' and that is a deal breaker that should be negotiated separately. So we let it fester on and on. We allow the wholly out of control transgender issue to proliferate in the schools from kindergarten on through the grades. What has God wrought? This is insane beyond all measure. It's Tik Tok indoctrination of children that turns some into Frankensteinian monsters of transgenderism now made possible through uterus transplantation. What medicine can do will do. Doctor Mengele knew these ropes for different outcomes. OK, my fellow Democrats, have it your way. You won't win even as you are mistaken with these social/political wars. You just won't win.

I'm not homophobic. I have

Continued on page 8



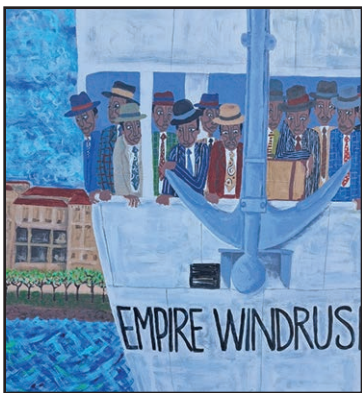
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## Saturday, February 11 Arwe Journey: The Art Of Iyaba Iwo Mandingo



A gallery opening for the new exhibit, Arwe Journey: The Art Of Iyaba Iwo Mandingo, at Charter Oak Cultural Center, 21 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford, will be held on Saturday, February 11, from 5:30 - 7:30pm. Admission is free and the public is welcome. The exhibit itself will be on view through March 24. Gallery hours are Mon-Fri 10am to 2pm. Iyaba Iwo Mandingo is a painter, poet, writer, actor and play-

wright, Arts Collaborator, Artist Advocate, and Arts Educator. He studied fine arts at Southern Connecticut State University and today, teaches in and around the tri-state area as a Master Teaching Artist. He currently resides in Bridgeport, CT where his art gallery -9104 The Art House- serves as a workspace, classroom and a creative hub.

## Saturdays & Sundays Paper Creations at CHS Inspire Center

The new Inspire Center (see page 2) at the Connecticut Historical Society, One Elizabeth Street, Hartford, is open Saturdays 9:00 am - 4:30 pm and Sundays 12:00 pm - 4:30 pm. February's challenge for youngsters is to make something unique and innovative using only paper! The Inspire Center brings history and problem-solving together in a hands-on creative space for visitors of all ages! With objects and themes changing monthly, you can enjoy unique experiences all year long! Free with museum admission.

## Sunday, March 12 Oscar Night Red Carpet Experience at Peppercorn's Grill



Join us on Sunday, March 12, from 7 - 11 pm at Peppercorn's Grill, 357 Main Street, Downtown Hartford, as we raise funds to support ACT's mission, while our guests enjoy an evening of movie fun! Special features will include an exclusive VIP reception with live musical entertainment from 6-7pm, a delicious buffet menu, a fabulous silent auction with online/mobile bidding, and of course, a live telecast of the 95th Annual Academy Awards. Tickets are \$100 for General Admission which includes a delicious buffet menu by Peppercorn's Grill and a cash bar; \$150 for VIP which includes an exclusive pre-event cocktail hour from 6-7pm with complimentary Prosecco, passed hors d'oeuvres, and swag bags.

## Sunday, February 12 Improvisations NOW at Real Art Ways



On Sunday, February 12 at 2:30pm, Real Art Ways, 56 Arbor Street, Hartford, will present world renowned trumpeter Wadada Leo Smith and guitarist Joe Morris in a monthly music series called ImprovisationsNOW, curated by Joe Morris. Wadada Leo Smith was a finalist for the 2013 Pulitzer Prize in Music for his Composition Ten Freedoms of Summers (Defining Moments in History of the United States of America). Joe Morris was born in New Haven Connecticut in 1955. He began playing guitar at the age of 14 first playing rock music, progressing to

## Hartford Public Library

### BABY GRAND JAZZ SERIES

Hartford Public Library's Baby Grand Jazz Series is being held at Center Church, corner of Main and Gold Streets in Downtown Hartford, due to extensive flooding at the Downtown Library. Concerts will be held at Center Church every Sunday through April 23, except on April 9 (Easter Sunday). The final concert on April 30 will be held at another venue, site to be determined. Last Sunday's kick-off concert had to be cancelled due to the illness of one of the performers. Doors open at 2 pm and the concerts start at 3 pm.

### This Sunday, February 12: Caio e Jess



In Northern Brazil, a natural phenomenon occurs called "Encontro das Águas" translating to "The Meeting of Waters". Two distinctly different rivers meet and flow side by side, unmixed for miles, before heading toward the ocean as one. Caio e Jess strive to embody this philosophy. Caio Afiune, born in São Paulo, Brazil, and Jessica Curran in Boston, USA, uniquely blend their backgrounds in Brazilian Music, Pop, and Jazz to create organic and lush compositions. With awards such as the ASCAP Young Composers Award and John Lennon Songwriting Contest under their belts, the two provide an honest, intimate show of virtuosic electricity with either full band or duo. Currently, the two are gearing up to release their debut full-length album, "Encontro das Aguas", featuring some of the finest musicians from around the globe including guests such as Raphael Barata, Bertram Lehman, Henrique Eisenmann, and Marrisol Mwaba.

blues, then to jazz, free jazz and free improvisation. He released his first record Wraparound (riti) in 1983. He has composed over 200 original pieces of music. Tickets are \$15.00 general admission, \$12.00 for Real Art Ways members, and \$5.00 for full time students.

## Thursday, February 16 RAW Creative Cocktail Hour



Real Art Ways (RAW), 56 Arbor Street, Hartford, will hold its monthly Creative Cocktail Hour from 6-10pm on Thursday, February 16. The event will feature a live performance by Elliot Sharp and Eric Mingus. Longtime collaborators, Mingus and Sharp have worked together for decades in a dizzying variety of musical situations culminating in their distinctive duo project Fourth Blood Moon in which they create a mashup of poetics, electronica, blues, opera, improvisation, funk, and the cosmic. In their performance at Real Art Ways, they will be showcasing songs from their latest album on zOaR, *Songs From A Rogue State* with Mingus on vocals and Elliott Sharp on guitar. There will also be music from DJ Mr. Realistic, hands-on art making activities, a food truck and three art exhibitions to view. Admission: \$15 at the door; \$10 Real Art Ways members & bicyclists; RAW members on bikes get in free.

## Thursday, February 16 Refugees And Reconciliation

Muslim World Managing Editor Nick Mumejian will interview Editor Davide Tacchini about the book *Reconciliation and Refugees: The Academic Alliance for Reconciliation Studies in the Middle East and North Africa* on Thursday, February 16, from 7 - 8:30 pm at Hartford International University (formerly Hartford Seminary), 77 Sherman Street, Hartford. Learn more and register at: <https://bit.ly/3X8x49P>

## Friday, February 17 Movie Under The "Stars" at CHS



The Connecticut Historical Society (CHS), One Elizabeth Street, Hartford will present a screening of *The Lego Movie* from 6-8 pm on Friday, February 17. Bring the whole family and follow these Connecticut-made toys on a wild adventure! Families are encouraged to bring pillows and blankets and wear their comfiest footy pajamas! Free popcorn and juice boxes will be provided. Quiet toys and activities to enjoy during the movie will also be available. Pre-registration is available.



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### Every Friday: Drag Night

The Market's NEW Drag Race Watch Party on Friday nights with games, prizes, special guests and more. In The Local, 8 - 10 pm (pre-show activities begin at 6:30 pm).

### Saturday: A Crafty Valentine's Day

The Market is partnering with CREC for an afternoon of glitter tattoos, Valentine card making, Wally from Wally's Entertainment, and dancing from 12-4 pm on Saturday, February 11. Plus, Hartford Hartford's Proud Drill, Drum, and Dance Corp will be performing at 3:30pm.

### Sunday: A Golden Conversation Podcast

Listen to inspiring stories and views from Black voices in the community with Dondre Leslie. Sunday, February 12, 12-5 pm.

### Salsa & Trivia on Tuesday

Joey Huertas will teach Salsa dancing from 6-9 pm. Open to all skill levels. Plus Trivia Tuesday in The Local from 7 - 9pm!

encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome. Free and open to the public.

**Friday, February 17  
Keney Lovebirds  
Birdwalk**



Listen to some beautiful poems by Black poets while taking a walk through Keney Park. The walk will be held on Friday, February 17 from 3:30 - 4:30 pm. Hot cider and donuts will be available. Meet at the Keney Park Pondhouse, 323 Edgewood Street, Hartford. (Photo: Downy Woodpecker in Hartford by Helder Mira)

**Saturday, February 18  
CHS Lunar New Year Celebration**



Did you know that Lunar New Year has been celebrated in Connecticut for over 150 years? Come to the CHS on Saturday, February 18, from 1 - 4 pm to welcome the Year of the Rabbit and learn about the many ways that Lunar New Year is celebrated today

across different cultures. This FREE event will feature a Lunar New Year dance performance by students from Ju Long Wushu Chinese Martial Arts Training Center; a paper-lantern making craft led by Quan Tran, Senior Lecturer and Senior Program Coordinator in the Ethnicity, Race, and Migration Program at Yale University; a chance to sample traditional Lunar New Year sweets; and a special gallery talk in our exhibition, "Boys of the Chinese Educational Mission."

**February 23-26  
Connecticut Flower  
& Garden Show**



Can't wait until Spring? The sights and smells of that season will be on full display at the 41st "Connecticut Flower & Garden Show" from Thursday, February 23 through Sunday, February 26, 2023 at the Connecticut Convention Center, 100 Columbus Blvd. in Downtown Hartford. The prestigious annual event will be New England's only 2023 flower exhibition show, covering almost two acres, and offering ideas for house, apartment, and condo dwellers. "Gateway to Spring" is the theme of this year's show that features expansive live gardens, a nonstop schedule of seminars and demonstrations, the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut's annual Standard

Flower Show, and hundreds of vendors displaying and selling all types of items. Dates/Hours: Thursday, Feb. 23 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 24 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 25 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 26 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Discounted admission tickets are on sale now: \$17 for Adults and Seniors at [www.CTFlowerShow.com](http://www.CTFlowerShow.com).

**Saturday, February 25  
Exploring Trees &  
The Environment**



The Justice Dance Performance Project will continue its yearlong exploration of trees and environmental justice at Hartford Public Library's Park Street Branch from 1-5 pm on February 25 (snow date March 4): The event will start with two workshops. First will be "Tree Collage," an art activity with Melissa Wright. You will be able to create a personalized visual representation of your culture and family traditions depicted on the leaves and branches. Next will be "Moving with the Tree," a movement workshop with Melissa Craig: In this workshop we will explore the tree, with its roots, branches and leaves and its wonderful connection with other trees around it. In addition, two films will be screened: *In the Presence of Trees: Autumn*, filmed at Farmington River Park, Bloomfield at 2:30 pm; and *In the Presence of Trees: Winter* filmed at Keney Park, Hartford at 3:30 pm. Discussions will follow each film. Can't attend in person? Films will be livestreamed on Zoom. All activities are free but you must register in advance. More information and registration at <https://give.jdpp.org/HPLTrees>.

**Saturday, March 11  
Greater Hartford  
Saint Patrick's  
Day Parade**



Over 60,000 people are expected to attend the 51st Annual Greater Hartford Saint Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 11, starting at 11 am. The parade will start and end on the grounds of the State Capitol. It will march east on Capitol Avenue, north on Main Street and west on Asylum Street before ending at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch in Bushnell Park.

**AT THE  
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**The Whale**

Accepting this year's Critics Choice Award for Best Actor, Brendan Fraser said "This movie is about love. It's about redemption. It's about finding the light in a dark place." Fraser's triumph in *The Whale* is one of the most deserved comebacks in recent memory. A box office star in 90s' films, Fraser dropped out of view – until his deeply empathetic performance as a gay online English professor who is struggling with obesity and a lack of connection with his daughter (Sadie Sink from *Stranger Things*). *Thursday, Feb 9 7:00 PM; Friday, Feb 10 7:00 PM; Saturday, Feb 11 2:00 PM; Saturday, Feb 11 7:00 PM; Sunday, Feb 12 2:00 PM; Monday, Feb 13 7:00 PM; Tuesday, Feb 14 7:00 PM; Wednesday, Feb 15 7:00 PM; Thursday, Feb 16 7:00 PM.*

**Killer of Sheep**

*Killer of Sheep* examines the black Los Angeles ghetto of Watts in the mid-1970s through the eyes of Stan, a sensitive dreamer who is growing detached and numb from the psychic toll of working at a slaughterhouse. Shot on location in Watts in a series of weekends on a budget of less than \$10,000, most of which was grant money. Finished in 1977 and shown sporadically, its reputation grew and grew until it won a prize at the 1981 Berlin International Film Festival. All Tickets \$5 or free with a Hartford Public Library Card through funding from Edward C. and Ann T. Roberts Foundation. *Friday, Feb 17, 7 pm; Saturday, Feb 18, 2 pm, 4:30 pm, 7 pm; Sunday, Feb 19, 2 pm; Monday, Feb 20, 7 pm; Tuesday, Feb 21, 7 pm; Wednesday, Feb 22, 7 pm.*

**REAL ART WAYS**

56 Arbor Street, Hartford • [realartways.org](http://realartways.org)

Regular Admission: \$12; Real Art Ways Members: \$7; Senior & Student Members: \$6; Seniors (65+): \$8; Full-Time Students (With ID): \$8.

**Everything Everywhere All At Once**

A hilarious and big-hearted sci-fi action adventure about an exhausted Chinese American woman (Michelle Yeoh) who can't seem to finish her taxes. Nominated for 10 Oscars: Best Picture; Actor in a Supporting Role – Ke Huy Quan; Actress in a Leading Role – Michelle Yeoh; Actress in a Supporting Role – Jamie Lee Curtis and Stephanie Hsu; Costume Design; Best Director; Film Editing; Music (Original Score); Music (Original Song); Writing (Original Screenplay). *Friday, February 10, 7 pm; Saturday, February 11, 7 pm; Sunday, February 12, 7 pm; Wednesday, February 15, 7 pm; Thursday, February 16, 7 pm.*

**The Fabelmans**

Steven Spielberg's semi-autobiographical masterpiece is considered by many to be the best film of the year. Young Sammy Fabelman falls in love with movies after his parents take him to see "The Greatest Show on Earth." Armed with a camera, Sammy starts to make his own films at home, much to the delight of his supportive mother. *Friday, February 10, 2:10 pm; Saturday, February 11, 2:10 pm; Sunday, February 12, 2:10 pm; Wednesday, February 15, 2:10 pm; Thursday, February 16, 2:10 pm.*

**Living**

*Living* is the story of an ordinary man, reduced by years of oppressive office routine to a shadow existence, who at the eleventh hour makes a supreme effort to turn his dull life into something wonderful. Nominated for two Oscars: Best Actor (Bill Nighy) and Best Writing (Adapted Screenplay). *Friday, February 10, 5 pm; Saturday, February 11, 5 pm; Sunday, February 15, 5 pm; Thursday, February 16, 5 pm.*

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**Friday, Feb. 10: Comedy X Music Show**

Yes Offense will presents the Comedy X Music Hybrid Show from 9 - 11 pm. Doors open at 8. \$20 admission.

**Saturday, Feb. 11: Nikita**

The 5-piece band Nikita will play live starting at 9 pm. 21+. Tickets: \$15

**Friday, Feb. 17: Barely Dead**

Barely Dead will play all your favorite Grateful Dead tunes starting at 9 pm. 21+. Tickets: \$12.

**Saturday, Feb. 11:  
Outer Sirkle presnts...**

Outer Sirkle's debut bass event MADD NICE featuring heavy hitting dubstep legends DJ MADD and Joe Nice. 9 pm. 21+

## Mayoral Candidates

Continued from page 1

works well now with job training and security very important. Those that say "it's only for the wealthy" also want to build a marina provide merriment to the discussion.

**(Question 6: City Promotion):** Jobs in the hospitality industry are important. A mayor should take the lead.

**(Question 7: Campaign Plans):** We expect to raise in excess of \$300,000 to get our message out.

### Arunan Arulampalam

**(Question 1: Assessments):** The Mayor's job is to describe options for [tax assessment] adjustments. All efforts for relief must be discussed with the state legislature, especially PILOT [Payment In Lieu Of Taxes] and state aid.

**(Question 2: Police):** The City must be competitive with its neighbors so actual numbers of staff will have to watch resources. Look into private job regulations.

**(Question 3: Lawsuit):** Every effort

should be made to limit liability and discussions with legal entities to prepare for any outcomes are essential.

**(Question 4: Traffic):** Seems to be not coordinated with striping [for lane divisions] often faded or missing. Delay for the review [of any new plans] by the incoming administration is worth considering. Red light cameras may be needed at dangerous intersections, with close monitoring.

**(Question 5: Brainard Airport):** The state study is very important. It could lift a cloud of uncertainty off current operations, or re-open discussion for development.

**(Question 6: City Promotion):** We should consider a Hartford Convention & Visitors Bureau video on ongoing city department efforts. We should feed off the city's energy to improve our image.

**(Question 7: Campaign Plans):** We expect to be competitive with support from all neighborhoods, friends and family.

*Editor's Note: Questions on education, public works and the iQuilt plan will be covered later in the campaign.*



## Other People's Poems Starts New Season

Connecticut Public Radio Host Chion Wolf (above, left) opened a the 2023 season of Other People's Poems on Friday, February 3, at Hartford Flavor, 30 Arbor Street (rear), Hartford. All are welcome to recite one of their favorite poems. Among those participating in last Friday's readings was Drew John Ladd (right), who recited a poem by James Baldwin. Other People's Poems will be held the first Friday of each month at Hartford Flavor. Sign-up starts at 6:30 pm. Readings start promptly at 7:30 pm. (Hart photos)



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## HIU Appointments

Continued from page 5

July 1994.

Dr. Robertson is a native of Brooklyn, NY, where he received his early Christian nurture at Cornerstone Baptist Church. He was licensed and ordained to Christian ministry under the guidance of Dr. Harry Wright and Rev. Henry Scott.

Dr. Robertson received his aca-

demical training at Dartmouth College (B.A.), Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (M.Div.), Brooklyn College (M.S.), New York University (Ph.D.), and Lutheran Theological Seminary (D.Min.) He has served as an adjunct faculty member at New York Theological Seminary, Hartford International University, and Alliance Theological Seminary.

## Katz Commentary

Continued from page 5

accepted other lifestyles my whole life. But these social/gender wars end badly. We morph into what Plato once predicted; that Tyranny often follows Democracy. Think January 6, 2021. That date will be etched in our collective memory forever and it hasn't happened since the British stormed the Capital in 1812. Now we have lost a moderate Supreme Court. And this illustrates how ignorant and fractured we are on the left; that we would elect two of the most inferior presidents in the history of the nation during most of our lifetimes and each of these presidents got to nominate 3 far right Federalist Society-approved justices that most will, at least the majority of them, outlive

me.

On some days, I want to continue caring. On other days, I just want to do daily things that improve my immediate surroundings. But the great battles are lost. Need I say that Bush II would never have won if progressive Green Party candidate Ralph Nader, the great consumer advocate from my grandparents hometown of Winsted, didn't destroy Al Gore's chances in 2000. As to who leaked the ending of Roe vs. Wade, I don't give a hoot. I think it was one of the liberal justices so that an uproar would occur which it did.

End of my rant. Now I need to go back to my man cave and make cat food for the herd — which is more important to me today than trying to save an unsalvageable nation.

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Now that the pandemic is reaching its end, you may find yourself behind on your mortgage or bills. Don't play ostrich - we may be able to help you save your home. Call us for more information

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## Job Opening at Elizabeth Park Rose Garden

The Elizabeth Park Conservancy is seeking a part-time gardener for the 2023 season to work in the Helen S Kaman Rose Garden located in Elizabeth Park in West Hartford, CT. The Helen S Kaman Rose Garden is the oldest public rose garden in the United States.

The seasonal gardener will join the team of gardeners tasked with the maintenance of this award-winning garden under the supervision of the rosarian and head rose gardener. The ideal candidate has a background in gardening and/or a strong interest in horticulture. For more information, go to: <https://elizabethparkct.org/resource/4agayyb03ldm2i70h.pdf>

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