

WEDNESDAYS - SPRING 2026

W11 European Perspective on the Rise of the Far Right

*Per Vidar Kjølmoen,
MP, Norwegian parliament*

Wed., Apr. 8 from 11am-1:30 pm
Zoom

The far right wins elections in large parts of the Western world. What has happened, and how can moderates cope with a new political reality?

This presentation is given by Per Vidar Kjølmoen, member of the Norwegian parliament. Mr. Kjølmoen is a former foreign exchange student who did a high school year at Richmondville Central School and lived with the Krohn family.

Later he had a political career in the Labour party - the dominant centre-left party in Norwegian politics. He is representing Møre and Romsdal district - where the Norwegian far right have a National stronghold.

Participants should bring: a general interest in politics

Bio: Per Vidar Kjølmoen got reelected for his second term in the parliament in the fall of 2025.

He is a previous vice Governor of the district of Møre og Romsdal, Norway, and has held several high ranking positions in the Norwegian Labour party.

W26 Silver Screenings III: More Movie Matinees

Wed., Feb 18, Mar 18, Apr 15, May 20, June 17 all 1 - 3:30 pm

Don LaPlant Min 5 / Max 50 Community Library Pgm Room

This popular film series returns in 2026! We'll eat some popcorn, watch a film featuring senior citizens as main characters, and have a moderated discussion afterwards led by librarian Don LaPlant.

Bio: BA/MA/PhD in Theatre. MS in Information Sciences. 35 years of teaching experience.

Directions: The Community Library, 110 Union St., Cobleskill

W27 ART TALKS

Teresa Rivas

Wed., Mar. 11, 18, 25; 10 - 11 am

Zoom

Art Talks is a three part series that will provide an in-depth look into some of the world's most iconic artists. Each session will focus on one artist and explore the personal, historical and cultural stories behind their art. No background in art is needed for the hour-long talks, just a curiosity and love of learning.

Whether these are works of art you have admired for years or you are just seeing them for the first time, you'll come away with a deeper appreciation that will leave you saying, "I never knew that!" The three topics for this semester are Jackson Pollock, Caravaggio and The Hudson River School.

Bio: Teresa is a retired art teacher and art history professor.

W28 Fall Prevention and Balance Screen

Nicole Camporese DPT

Wed., Mar. 25, Apr. 29, May 27, July 1 at 1:30 - 2:30 pm

Max 6

Valley Knights Physical Therapy

This movement-based class is designed to improve stability, coordination, and confidence in everyday activities. You'll work on static balance (holding steady positions), dynamic balance (maintaining control while moving), and strengthening exercises that support better posture and mobility. Whether you're looking to prevent falls, move more confidently, or simply feel steadier on your feet, this class offers a safe, supportive environment with exercises that can be adapted to all fitness levels.

Participants should bring: a pen!

Bio: After graduating West Point in 2011, Nicole went on to the College of Staten Island's Doctorate of Physical Therapy program where she graduated in 2020 and is now operating a private practice (Valley Knights Physical Therapy) in Schoharie, New York where she specializes in fall prevention.

Directions: Valley Knights Physical Therapy, 4912 NY-30 Schoharie, NY 12157 ACROSS FROM THE ARC

W29 VV - Istanbul to Budapest on the Danube River plus Tuscany

Beth Brandel

Wed., Apr. 15; 10 - 11:30 am

Zoom

In August, my husband & I joined his two sisters on a 10 day Viking cruise with a pre-extension in Istanbul, Turkey. We saw the Bosphorus Strait between Asia and Europe, went to Bazaars, and saw the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia. Next was Bucharest, Romania, followed by Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia & Hungary. Having grown up in Soviet Occupied Czechoslovakia, Lanny & Jeannette were very interested in how these people survived, while Lanny & Jeannette had immigrated to the US.

After the cruise was over, Lanny & I flew to Italy and joined a "Whole Foods, Plant Based" Retreat in beautiful Tuscany. Each day we ate healthy, delicious food, no oil, added salt or sugar, drank kombucha & structured water, and visited charming cobblestoned towns each day. Before leaving Italy we spent a few days in Rome, saw the Vatican, almost saw the American Pope and saw all the highlights. Please join my travel log & pictures of our adventures!

Bio: Avid, enthusiastic traveler my whole life.

W30 Clark Foundation Greenhouse Tour, Cooperstown

Hannah Mead

Wed., Apr. 22; 10 - 11:30 am

Min 10 / Max 20

Cooperstown, NY

Have you ever been curious about the flower displays, hanging baskets and greenhouses of Cooperstown? This class will provide an opportunity to visit The Clark Foundation Greenhouses. You will learn about how the magic of Cooperstown's floral displays happen. The greenhouses will be full and there will be a lot to see!

Directions:The first tour takes place at Fernleigh Greenhouse at 57 River Street, Cooperstown. The second is Iroquois Greenhouse at 123 Country Highway 52, Cooperstown. Both locations will have parking. We will all drive to the second location after the tour at 57 River Street. We will spend about 45 minutes at each location. It would be good to carpool, if possible.

Note: Parking is limited, so further info will be sent to registrants prior to this class.

W31 Lift Every Voice & Sing: Songs of Compassion, Community, and Friendship

Clare Wettemann

Wed. April 22; 1:30 - 2:45 pm

Min 8

CUMC Sanctuary

"We value our earth and we value each other."

What do these songs have in common: "If You Miss me at the Back of the Bus" and "Come and Go With Me to That Land?" The answer can be found in some of Clare's musical presentations.

Come and enjoy this talented troubador as she weaves tales of history, love, politics, and people into folk-style ballads while accompanying herself on a wide variety of stringed instruments. Many of her songs are original compositions and others are drawn from the history of Upstate NY and the early years of our country.

Bio: Clare Wettemann delights in presenting songs for all ages. She accompanies her voice with guitar, psaltery, dulcimers, and other stringed instruments. For many years, she has woven images from Upstate N.Y. and other Anglo-American and French folk songs into entertaining programs.

Participants should bring: Ears, heart, interest and attention.

Directions: Cobleskill United Methodist Church, 107 Chapel Street, Cobleskill, NY

W32 Tapas 2.0

Jeannette Balins

Wed., Apr. 29; 12:30 - 5:30 pm

RSVP by 4/15/26

Min 5 / Max 10

Worcester, NY

Join Chef Jeannette as she leads us in another culinary adventure. The class will be making the following scrumptious tapas:

"Bacalao en Naranja Agria" (Fresh Cod in Bitter Orange Sauce)

"Patatas en Salsa Verde" (Potatoes in Parsley Sauce)

"Changurro" (Crabmeat with Sherry and Brandy)

"Arroz con Azafrán" (Saffron Rice)

"Judias Verdes con Salsa de Tomate" (Green Beans in Tomato Sauce)

"Natillas" (Cinnamon-flavored soft Custard)

Participants should bring: Please bring an apron and small containers for the samples you will bring home.

Bio: Formerly Chef/Owner of A Taste of Europe

Fee: \$25 per person; Payable to SCHOOL. Sign up and pay by 4/15/26. No refunds after that date.

Directions: 2607 County Rd 39 Worcester, NY

W33 Organics in the Circular Economy: How They Affect

Our Carbon Footprint

Jean Bonhotal

Wed., May 6 10-noon

Min 10

Landis Arboretum

Organic recycling starts with collection, moving it into our yards, farms or central facilities so it can be processed. Microbes turn our organic waste into a resource, and we can help make that product happen.

Organics make up 60 % of our waste not including livestock manure or humanure (human manure), when they are placed in a landfill to emit greenhouse gases. Characterizing waste streams is important to be able to separate and determine value-added purposes for different residuals. Compost quality and consistency in the market place is also a high priority, as well as encouraging use to build healthy soils and redistribute nutrients.

Compost use is the third leg on the climate footprint stool and really makes an impact. Using compost is the key to reducing our carbon footprint by 3x more than compost processing itself. Compost is used in erosion control, growing fruit and vegetables, orchards, agroforestry, organic and conventional farms, rural and urban landscapes

We will discuss different ingredients (manures, cloth, food waste, yard waste, livestock mortality..) that we can convert into a product, and also learn how to use compost blankets, (sox) and berms.

Bio: 30 years experience in organics recycling with Cornell Waste Management Institute. Currently her time includes work on food scrap, manure and carcass & butcher waste composting education and research.

Fee: No fee, but donations to Landis are always appreciated.

Directions: Landis Arboretum, 174 Lape Road, Esperance, NY 12066

W34 Storysongs

Clare Wettemann

Wed., May 6 at 1:30-3 pm

Min 8

CUMC Sanctuary

What do you think happened when a young British cabin boy decided to single-handedly sink a Spanish sailing ship? We will explore and imagine dramas from other places and times.

Participants should bring: Ears, heart, interest and attention

Bio: Clare Wettemann delights in presenting songs for all ages. She accompanies her voice with guitar, psaltery, dulcimers, and other stringed instruments. For many years, she has woven images from Upstate N.Y. and other Anglo-American and French folk songs into entertaining programs.

Directions: Cobleskill United Methodist Church, 107 Chapel Street, Cobleskill, NY

W35 Verlaine - The Number Wisdom Connection

Carol Sarcona

Min 3 / Max 10

Wed., May 13; 2 - 4 pm

Stamford Library

Explore the Ancient Art of Feng Shui - learning to live in harmony with the natural energies that surround us as well as use of color in both the home and workplace. Unearth our "Childhood Dreams," the instinctive path of life. Reveal "The Moral Compass" connecting with the higher mind of intuitive perceptions. Take a look at your personal peak cycles for the year 2026.

Participants should bring :writing materials - paper/pens

Bio:Carol attended, as well as participated, in various programs of the Theosophical Society, NYC. For over six years, she has been a program presenter at Stamford Village Library.

Directions: Stamford Library,117 Main St, Stamford, NY 12167

W37 Zim Smith Trail Hike

Carolyn Melszer

Raindate= May 29

Wed., May 27; 10 - noon

Malta, NY

The Zim Smith trail is a paved, well maintained, 11.5-mile multi-use trail which connects Ballston Spa to Mechanicville through the towns of Ballston, Malta and Clifton Park, the village of Round Lake and Mechanicville. The trail is excellent for walking and bicycling, mostly level. Our walk will be about 4 miles total. The trail is wooded with some rolling hills, a ravine to your left and a small waterfall on the right.

We will start at Malta's Shenantaha Creek Park, which is part of the trail. The park contains picnic tables, playground equipment, and tennis courts as well as public restrooms and a drinking fountain. As we enter the trail, we will head south towards the village of Round Lake.

Participants should bring: Wear good comfortable boots or shoes. Bring water.

Directions: 376 Eastline Road, Malta, NY 12020 Malta's Shenantaha Creek Park
Take I-88 to I-87, exit 11 for Round Lake Road/Curry Road. Continue for about 1 mile on Curry Road - Round Lake Road, and make a right onto Eastline Road for about 2 miles. Turn right into Shenantaha Creek Park, Ballston Spa. Follow the road to the parking lot, where we will meet.

W39 Hessian Hill- Farm Tour & Canine Training Program

Liz & Lois Goblet (and family)

Wed., June 3 at 1 - 4 pm

Raindate= Fri June 5 Min 2 Treadlemire Rd, near Berne, NY

Join us for a tour and updates on the evolution of this multi-generational farm run by the Goblet family. Learn about the changes and diversifications made from their origins as a dairy and sheep farm in the 1960's to its many divisions today. The farm is a hub of growth and excitement in every season. Lamb from their registered Southdown sheep, beef from Shorthorn cattle, and pork are raised on acres of rolling hills and lush green pastures. Fresh produce like green beans, lettuce, swiss chard and bright red tomatoes are grown in the family's 1/2 acre garden. In the fall delicious raspberries can be harvested; giant pumpkins are picked and carved into silly jack-o-lanterns. At Christmas time you can hike across the pasture to pick the perfect Christmas tree. In addition to their agricultural pursuits, the family also offers classes and lessons in fiber arts and other agricultural-related activities for all ages, raises and trains registered Border Collies, and holds training and educational workshops at their Canine and Events Center.

Participants should dress for the weather

Bio: The farm was originally started as a dairy and sheep farm in 1964 by Jim's parents. The name "Hessian Hill" came to be after Jim, as a child, found a Hessian weapon in one of the fields on the property. After doing some research, Jim learned the farm had been a camp for Hessian Soldiers during the Revolutionary War.

Directions: 576 Treadlemire Road, Berne, NY 12023

W40 Cross Hill Heirlooms Garden Tour and Spring Arrangement

Jenna Mallette King

Wed., June 17 10:30-noon

RSVP by 6/7/26

Raindate= W June 24

Richmondville, NY

Cross Hill Heirlooms specializes in custom floral designs, using locally-sourced foliage and blooms whenever possible. Join owner Jenna Mallette on a walk through her garden. She'll explain what she grows, why she made those choices, and how she uses what she grows. Then we'll each have some time to create a spring arrangement incorporating experienced suggestions and hints from Jenna. This class will be outdoors, so dress appropriately and use a hat or sunscreen. Note that, though parking is on level ground, you will need to walk down a hill to get to the garden.

Participants should bring: pruners or scissors you like to work with.

Bio: After starting out in landscaping and heirloom vegetable gardening, Jenna earned her certification from the Floral Design Institute. She has been owner and designer at Cross Hill Heirlooms for five years.

Fee: \$10 per person; Payable to SCHOOL. Sign up and pay by 6/7/26. No refunds after that date.

Directions: 616 Cross Hill Road, Richmondville, NY 12149

**W49 VV - A Tale Of Two Hemispheres: Caves, Bats, Travel and
International Meetings In Brazil And Australia**

Emily Davis & Mike Warner

Wed. Apr. 8 at 2-3:30 pm

Cornell Cooperative Extension- Cobleskill

In the summer of 2025, two major international conferences, one in Brazil (caves) and one in Australia (bats), were scheduled only days apart. These meetings only happen every 4 and 3 years respectively and this was the 12th year in the cycle when both would happen in the same year. We took a deep breath, made our plans, packed our separate bags for each, and headed for an epic series of travels and experiences.

Bio: Emily and Mike own Speleobooks, an internationally focused specialty business exclusively about caves and bats. They are both long time cave explorers and bat work field technicians. They also volunteer extensively helping cave based land conservancies and bat working groups. Their talks feature behind the scenes looks at exotic locations frequently tied to current scientific, conservation and exploration efforts. Both are experienced photographers and speakers who love sharing their experiences.

Directions: CCE, 173 S. Grand Street, Cobleskill, NY