

# WEDNESDAY - SPRING 2025

## WE4: Three Generations of Displacement

*Jeannette Balins*  
& *Beth Brandel*

**Wed., Mar. 26; 1 - 3 pm**  
Cobleskill Cooperative Extension

Imagine being forced to leave your home, your friends and your possessions and move to another country that speaks a different language and has different customs. This is the story of Jeannette Balins and Lanny Brandel's family history (sister and brother). Imagine this happening, not once or twice, but for three generations consecutively. And that's not even talking about their ancestor's migration in the 1600's during the religious wars in Europe.

The first generation (their grandmother) was deported from Poland during World War 1.

The second generation (their mother) was forced to flee Poland during World War 2.

The third generation (Jeannette and Lanny with family) escaped the Communist Regime in Czechoslovakia in 1967. Jeannette's husband, Janis Balins, and his family also fled Latvia during WW2.

Directions: Cobleskill Cooperative Extension, 173 S. Grand Street, Cobleskill, NY

## WE6: Filo (Phyllo) Workshop

*Jeannette Balins*  
*Min 4 / Max 8*

**Wed., April 9; 12:30 - 3:30 pm**  
Worcester, NY

Working with filo dough can be a little challenging, but easier if you know a few tricks. We will make Greek "Spanakopita", an excellent choice for an appetizer or any time snack. The two main ingredients are Spinach and Feta cheese.

On the sweet side, we will make two favorites: German/Austrian "Apfelstrudel". (Using filo is an easier way to make this apple strudel than the stretched dough version.)

The Honey and Walnut "Baklava" originated in the Middle East but is also popular throughout Mediterranean countries.

**Fee:** \$27 per person payable to SCHOOL. Register and pay by 2 weeks before. No refunds after March 26.

Directions: 2607 Co. Hwy 39, Worcester, NY 12197

## **WE7: Soup is Good Food**

*Jeannette Balins*

*Min 4 / Max 8*

Snow date: TBD

**Wed., Apr 2; 12:30 - 5 pm**

Worcester, NY

With the endless possibilities of making a delicious soup, we will concentrate on some of the European favorites: French Onion Soup, Hungarian Goulash Soup, Italian Wedding Soup, German Lentil Soup, Spanish "Sopa de Ajo (Comfort Soup with lots of Garlic and some Bread), and Polish "Zupa Nic"(Sweet Egg Soup) which was, of course, our favorite when our Grandmother made it for us children.

**Fee:** \$36 per person payable to SCHOOL. No refunds after March 19.

Please bring an apron and 6 containers to take home samples of your soup .

Directions: 2607 Co. Hwy 39, Worcester, NY 12197

## **WE9: Wine Tasting**

*Robert Rosenberg*

*Max 8*

**Wed., May 7; 2 - 4 pm**

Cobleskill, NY

Come explore the world of wine. Topics include a review of the types of wine, where to purchase wine, and how to store, open and serve wine. There will be discussion of the types of wine tastings you can have – what's called a vertical, a horizontal or mixed. We will taste several wines and discuss how we feel about them.

**Fee:** \$10 per person payable to SCHOOL. No refunds after April 23..

Directions: 145 Edgewood Dr., Cobleskill, NY 12043

## **WE10: The Amish Lifestyle – Part 1**

*Ron Ketelsen*

**Wed., May 7; 10 - 11:30 am**

ZOOM

The Amish have been thriving for generations without electricity or running water...without supermarkets, without pharmacies, and many other modern necessities. This two-part presentation provides a historical context as well as intimate glimpses of the daily Amish lifestyle that promotes continuity of values and skills from generation to generation. This presentation explains how the Amish have managed not merely to survive but to flourish in the midst of modern life. The presentation will include the origins of Amish culture and how Amish people currently live, discussing religion, education, community life, and health.

## **WE11: The Amish Lifestyle – Part 2**

*Ron Ketelsen*

**Wed., May 21; 10 - 11:30 am**

ZOOM

In this presentation (Part 2) you will learn about life on an Amish farm, from a very young age including school, games and chores; work, crafts and foods; clothing, farming, and more. You will learn about the expectations for girls and boys, and then for young women and young men, in Amish families; of social roles and understandings about courtship and marriage; about adult baptism and the often wrenching decisions young Amish men and women must make to go out into the English world into mainstream Christian congregations, or to stay and make a life of faith in the Amish church.

## **WE12: Household Solutions: Money-Saving Tips, DIY Cleaners, Kitchen Secrets, and Other Easy Answers to Everyday Problems**

*Ron Ketelsen*

**Wed., May 28; 10 - 11:30 am**

ZOOM

Whether you're cleaning house, cooking a meal, improving your appearance, or fighting a cold, this presentation will help you with natural and simple solutions to your daily tasks requiring only basic—and inexpensive—items with multiple uses that you should always keep on hand in your home. Not only will the recipes and hacks help you save on time and energy, they will also give you the satisfaction of having done your bit for the conservation of the environment. You will be surprised by how many effective, cheap and harmless cleaning products you already own in your household!

## **WE16: Dreamy Cream Puffs**

*Andrea Clapper*

*Min 4*

**Wed., Apr. 16; 1 - 3 pm**

St. Vincent's R/C Church, Cobleskill

This class will be a demonstration of the creation of "pat a choux" (puff pastry). The dough may be used for eclairs, swans, profiteroles for croquembouche. Different fillings will be presented and students will be able to sample.

**Fee:** \$10 per person payable to SCHOOL. No refunds after March 15.

Participants should bring: Your own apron.

**Directions:** St. Vincent de Paul Church, 138 Washington Ave., Cobleskill, NY. Parking lot is just past the church and the entry to the lower level is on the side below the sanctuary.

## **WE32: Making Composting Work for You**

*Jean Bonhotal*

*Min 15*

**Wed., Mar. 26; 10 am - noon**

Cobleskill Cooperative Extension

This class will contain Information to help homeowners and small-scale composters close the loop: manage organics on-site, improve soils and grow plants for consumption that will then go through the loop again, achieving sustainable organic residuals management while reducing fossil fuel inputs and converting waste into resources. Soil Quality Information is designed to help foster informed decision making to improve soil quality and reduce possible health risks from exposures to soil contaminants.

Note: compost bins can be purchased at class for \$15.00-bins will be made by participant-no money up front.

Directions: Cobleskill Cooperative Extension, 173 S. Grand Street, Cobleskill, NY

## **WE40: Libby for Overdrive**

*Kimberly Zimmer*

Max 10

**Wed., June 11; 2 - 3:30 pm**

Program Room- Community Library Cobleskill

Are you interested in using your device to download books, audiobooks and magazines? Are you currently downloading but paying for your books? I will introduce you to the Libby App on the Overdrive platform and demonstrate how you can get your books and magazines for free. All you need is your library card and a device.

Bring your laptop, tablet, kindle/Fire, phone, power cords, Amazon passwords and your library card. Don't have a library card? Stop into your local library and staff will assist you. Reminder: to get a new library card you will need identification and a piece of mail.

Directions: The Community Library, 110 Union Street, Cobleskill, NY

## **WE48: Resin Art**

*Emilie Hazelton*

**Wed., March 26; noon - 1 pm**

Studio for Art and Craft

Resin art is one of our newest projects at the studio and a lot of fun. Learn to nip the glass and place it into a premade frame to create your own resin art suncatcher. Then pour the resin in and we will cure it to be able to take home the same day you make it.

**Fee:** \$30 per person payable to Studio for Art and Craft.

Directions: The Studio for Art and Craft, 576 Main St, Cobleskill, NY 12043

## **WE49: Fused Glass in Wooden Stand**

*Emilie Hazelton*

**Wed., Apr. 2; noon - 1 pm**  
Studio for Art and Craft

Fused glass is an all time favorite. Join us in making this fused glass panel that fits in a stand .

**Fee:** \$30 per person payable to Studio for Art and Craft.

**Directions:** The Studio for Art and Craft, 576 Main St, Cobleskill, NY 12043

## **WE55: Tips and Tricks to Plan Your Next Vacation**

*Mary Carrier*

**Wed., May 14; 3 - 4:30 pm**  
Middleburgh Library

*Min 2 / Max 20*

Are you planning the trip of a lifetime or a weekend getaway? Discover a variety of websites and apps available to help you with this process. We'll explore Google Earth, Airbnb, and Tripadvisor, just to name a few.

**Directions:** Middleburgh Library, 323 Main Street, Middleburgh, NY 12122

## **WE64: Birdwatching (and Listening!)**

*Roger Masse*

**Wed., Apr. 23; 9 - 11 am**  
SUNY/ Cobleskill- Curtis Mott

*Rain date April 30; 9-11 am*

*Min 8 / Max 12*

Wildlife viewing is an extremely popular pastime for millions of people around the world. According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, more people over the age of 16 years old participate in wildlife viewing than either fishing or hunting in the USA. In the USA, wildlife watching also generates more economic output than fishing or hunting. Birds are among the most popular wildlife to watch because most species are diurnal, many species are colorful or have bold patterning, and they are generally more conspicuous than other groups of wildlife. Birds are also easily attracted for viewing using bird feeders. The objectives of this course are to: 1) introduce students to the basics of bird identification, and 2) practice bird identification by sight and sound in the field. This course will involve a short presentation (about 20 mins) followed by a short birdwatching walk (about 1.5 hours) around part of SUNY Cobleskill campus.

Participants should bring: Binoculars if students have them. Dr. Massey can bring some to share too.

**Directions:** SUNY Cobleskill- Curtis Mott bldg. Near the Speedway gas station, turn onto Schoharie Parkway North and follow it around the loop to the right, and past the Animal Science Buildings and Turf Grass.

## **WE67: Tour of 1797 Gideon Frisbee House and Other Historic Buildings at Delaware County Historical Association**

*Tim Duerden*

***Wed., June 11; 11 am - 2 pm***

*Delaware County Historical Association*

Delhi, NY

*Min 5 / Max 30*

Our visit to the Delaware County Historical Association Museum in Delhi, NY will begin with a guided tour of the 1797 Gideon Frisbee House. This federal-style home was built by Gideon Frisbee, a judge, tavern keeper, farmer and entrepreneur. The tour will offer a glimpse into the home life of Delaware County residents from 1800 through the 1920's including the omnipresent outhouse out back. Following the guided tour, we will guide ourselves through the Amos Wood Gun Shop; Husted Hollow One-Room Schoolhouse; a 19th century corn crib; Woodin Blacksmith Shop relocated from Andes, NY; a Tollgate House from along the Susquehanna/Catskill Turnpike, relocated from Stamford, NY, and the Frisbee Family Cemetery. We will also be able to visit the two exhibit galleries located on the premises.

**Fee:** \$5 per person payable to SCHOOL. Register and pay by 2 weeks before. No refunds after May 28.

**Directions:** 46549 State Highway 10, Delhi, NY 13753

## **WE68: VIA Aquarium Visit with Guided Tour**

*Shannon Perrott*

***Wed., May 14; 10-noon***

Campbell Rd., Schenectady, NY

Via Aquarium is the capital region's only full-scale aquarium. Journey through over 45 exhibits showcasing the wonders of our oceans, rivers, and local freshwater habitats. Individuals will partake in a 45-60-minute Guided Tour, then will continue to freely explore the aquarium. During the Guided Tour, an educator will take guests around to all of the tanks of the aquarium to teach guests about the fascinating animals that inhabit the waters of the world. The educator will focus on the habitats these animals come from, the adaptations they have developed to survive, and conservation of wildlife. A few vocabulary words used in the tour include invasive species, endangered animals, climate change, adaptive radiation, biodiversity, symbiosis, and more.

**Fee:** \$17 per person payable to SCHOOL. Register and pay by 2 weeks before. No refunds after May 1.

**Directions:** VIAport, 93 West Campbell Road, Schenectady, NY 12306

## **WE70: Farming with Dynamite:**

### **The Forgotten Building Stone Boom in Schoharie County**

*Dana Cudmore*

**Wed., Apr. 16; 3:30 - 5 pm**

Cobleskill Cooperative Extension

Farming with Dynamite documents a brief period, from about 1890-1905, when the quarry industry likely surpassed farming as Schoharie County's local economic engine. Thirty-one quarries dotted the limestone belt that ran along the northern third of the county. Collectively, these quarries supplied millions of tons of cut and finished stone for major projects such as the Brooklyn Bridge, the expanding NYS Barge Canal System and hundreds of homes and prestigious building meant to last a lifetime. Farming With Dynamite describes where the quarries were worked in Cobleskill, Esperance, Schoharie, Sharon Springs, and elsewhere, as well as where the stone went! Some were small, others employed hundreds, including scores of then-recent Italian immigrants. Included is a brief history of the Howes Cave cement works, which supplied stone and cement to important projects across the region, including the State Capitol building in Albany.

Recommended reading: Farming With Dynamite: The Forgotten Stone Boom in Schoharie County which is available at local bookstores. AND/OR; Quarry-related posts on Dana's "Cave Country Tales" blog at [howecavernstales.com](http://howecavernstales.com) (one word)

Directions: Cobleskill Cooperative Extension, 173 S. Grand Street, Cobleskill, NY

## **WE72: Improving Soil Part 2**

*Paula Sinatra*

*Min 5 / Max 50*

**Wed., Apr 9; 10 - 11:30 am**

Cobleskill Cooperative Extension

The spring workshop will focus on practical ways to prepare the garden for spring planting, including pH testing, nutrient testing, and some tools and methods as alternatives to tilling. Paula will try to include how to submit a soil sample for nutrient testing and how to read the test results. They are currently working out a system for soil testing at the extension office.

Directions: Cobleskill Cooperative Extension, 173 S. Grand Street, Cobleskill, NY

## **WE73: Planning Your Garden**

*Berenice Dooley*

*Min 5 / Max 50*

**Wed., Mar. 19; 10 am - 1 pm**

Cobleskill Cooperative Extension

Your job as a gardener is simple: to understand what your plants need and to give it to them. So what do plants need? They need sunlight, water, air, and nutrients in the right amount and at the right time.

Before making your garden beds, you must first decide what plants to grow and where to put them. As you make your choices, You will use your Personal Planting Plan and graph paper to map out your garden and learn how to obtain the best possible results.

Directions: Cobleskill Cooperative Extension, 173 S. Grand Street, Cobleskill, NY

## **WE80: Catskill Scenic Rail Trail Hike**

*Kathy Livingston*

*Rain date TBD*

*Min 5 / Max 25*

***Wed., May 28; 1 - 4 pm***

Stamford, NY area

The Catskill Scenic Trail is a 26 mile recreational path (formerly the bed of the Ulster and Delaware railroad) that meanders along some of the most beautiful countryside in New York State. The trail weaves through farm fields, along the Delaware River, and past small Catskill towns. The hard-packed surface, wide path and very slight grade make it ideal for an assortment of recreational activities. The trail runs along the West Branch of the Delaware River and alongside sections of NYS Routes 10, 23 and 30. The Catskill Scenic Trail is open to the public for hiking, biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, walking, and jogging. We will plan to enter the trail either near Stamford or Grand Gorge and hike about 3-5 miles roundtrip.

Participants should bring: Dress for the weather; wear layers, sturdy hiking shoes; bring snacks, bug spray, sunscreen, walking stick.

Directions: There is parking in Stamford at the intersection of Railroad Avenue and South Street by the historic depot. There is also parking at Route 30 on Ferris Hill Road, just south of Grand Gorge. Starting spot and more detailed info will be sent to participants before the hike.

## **WE81: Riverdance - 30th Anniversary Tour at Proctors**

*Rose Keller & Kathy Livingston*

***Wed., Apr. 16; 7:30 pm***

Proctors Theater Schenectady

Since Riverdance first emerged onto the world stage, its fusion of Irish and international dance and music has captured the hearts of millions worldwide. The Grammy award-winning music and the infectious energy of its mesmerising choreography and breathtaking performances has left audiences in awe and established Riverdance as a global cultural sensation. To celebrate this incredible 30th year milestone, Riverdance will embark on a special anniversary tour, bringing its magic to audiences around the world. This spectacular production rejuvenates the much-loved original show with new innovative choreography and costumes and state of the art lighting, projection and motion graphics. And for the first time Riverdance welcomes "The New Generation" of performers, all of whom were not yet born when the show began 30 years ago. Audiences will enjoy a unique and memorable performance which blends the traditional and the contemporary, showcasing the skill and passion of the world-class dancers, musicians and singers in the Riverdance ensemble. Composed by Bill Whelan. Produced by Moya Doherty. Directed by John McColgan.

**Fee:** SEATS: There are 5 Balcony seats available: \$40 for members/ \$45 guests; There are also 5 Lower level left seats available: \$55 for members/ \$60 guests. First come/ first served. No refunds after March 15.

This is a 'drive yourself' event. Please arrive at least 45 minutes early to allow for parking and finding your seat.

Directions: Proctors Theater, 432 State Street, Schenectady, NY 12305