

Mystic Briefs

Stonington Madrigal Singers to perform "The Animal Kingdom"

STONINGTON — The Stonington Madrigal Singers, now in its thirteenth year, will be presenting its spring concert titled "The Animal Kingdom." The concert of renaissance part songs include references to a variety of creatures—crickets, cuckoos, monkeys, pigs, chickens, among others. These 15th and 16th century songs are sometimes silly, sometimes racy, sometimes sad and are sung in various languages. The Stonington Madrigal Singers is an adult ensemble of local choral singers that are joined in this concert by a trio of recorder players.

The first performance will be at La Grua Center, 32 Water St., Stonington, at 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 3. There will be a reception to follow and a suggested donation of \$20.

The second performance will be held at the Westery Library, 44 Broad St., Westery, at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 6. Free admission. For more information, email stoningtonmsingers@gmail.com.

Homeowner Readiness Resource Fair

NEW LONDON — Habitat for Humanity of Eastern Connecticut will be hosting the Homeowner Readiness Resource Fair on Tuesday, May 5, in the lobby of the Garde Arts Center, 325 State St., from 5 to 7 p.m. All are welcome, but especially renters and first-time homebuyers to the free event.

Organizations from different journeys in the housing continuum, along with representatives from local financial institutions, will have information available for first time homebuyers and renters seeking to purchase a home.

Those in attendance will be able to connect with professionals specializing in housing stability guidance, rental assistance, mortgage programs, and education and work skill development.

Habitat for Humanity will highlight their mission of bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope. Ensuring Habitat homeowners do not pay more than 30% of their income on housing costs, Habitat for Humanity of Eastern Connecticut has built 114 homes in the region and has plans to build over 60 more homes over the next several years.

For further information about the event, write to engage@habitatect.org or call 860-442-7890, ext. 215.

Friday Night Folk: John Gorka

NEW LONDON — Friday Night Folk presents John Gorka on Friday, May 15 at 7:30 p.m. at All Souls UU, 19 Jay St. John Gorka notes, "Life is not fair and love is not enough, but it is the only thing worth pursuing." His songs, rich with depth, beauty and emotion, have gained international attention. Rolling Stone describes him as "the preeminent male singer songwriter of the new folk movement," while the Boston Globe notes his "sophisticated intelligence and provocative originality."

Tickets are \$11.79 for students and current military ID, \$27.54 in advance, or \$32.79 at the door. For tickets and more information, visit fridaynightfolk.org.

A livestream option will go live the night of the concert on [Youtube.com/@AllSoulsNewLondon](https://www.youtube.com/@AllSoulsNewLondon).

Spring Soiree to Support the Mystic & Noank Library

MYSTIC — On Thursday, May 28 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Mystic & Noank Library will hold a spring fundraiser at the Haley Mansion at the Inn in Mystic, 9 Williams Ave.

Event highlight will be Live music from Adam Anderson and Steve Donovan, a silent auction, and a wine pull—attendees purchase a ticket and choose a mystery bottle valued between \$20 and \$250.

Ticket includes a signature cocktail and all non-al-

coholic drinks, heavy hors d'oeuvres and access to all event activities. Tickets are \$125. For tickets and more information, visit mysticnoanklibrary.org or call 860-536-7721.

Gardens by the Sea Walking Tour Tickets on Sale

STONINGTON — Tickets are available for the Stonington Garden Club's "Gardens by the Sea" walking tour of rarely seen private gardens in the Borough of Stonington.

Attendees are invited to explore waterfront vistas, formal terraced rooms, and enchanted pocket gardens, designed in styles ranging from formal to eclectic. The tour will showcase 9-10 gardens as well as several ribbon gardens. All gardens are within walking distance, and free parking will be available.

Wadawanuck Square will become a tented market featuring vendors offering garden-inspired items, clothing, jewelry, and home decor. In addition, community partners will be on hand to answer questions about regenerative gardening techniques, conservation, plant health, composting, and volunteer opportunities.

The tour will be held Friday, June 12, and Saturday, June 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days, rain or shine. Tickets are \$50 online (until June 7) or \$65 if purchased on site the days of the tour. Tour tickets are valid for both days. The Marketplace is free and open to the public. All tickets are non-refundable. To order tickets and to see more information, visit stoningtongardenclub.org/garden-tour.

Mystic resident awarded Worcester Polytechnic Institute's Salisbury Prize

WORCESTER, Mass. — Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) has announced that Elliot Reese, Class of 2026, majoring in Robotics Engineering, was awarded the university's Salisbury Prize.

A total of 27 undergraduate students - out of a class of more than 1,200 - were selected by their departments to receive this award. The Salisbury Prize was instituted in 1871 by Stephen Salisbury, a 19th century businessman and philanthropist who was one of the founders of WPI. Salisbury, who also served as President of the Board of Trustees, established the award to recognize outstanding members of the senior class "who have faithfully, industriously, and with distinguished attainment" completed all course and project requirements for the bachelor's degree.

"These students exemplify the spirit of WPI," said Professor Arthur C. Heinricher. "WPI is more than an academically elite university; from the moment our students set foot on this campus, we challenge them to use their intelligence and their abilities to solve problems and help people around the world. In addition to their exceptional coursework, each recipient of a Salisbury Prize has done outstanding work in all three of WPI's required projects, one in the Humanities and Arts, one addressing a problem at the intersection of science and technology with human need, and one in their major area of study. These students have helped make WPI a better place to study and work."

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) is a top-tier, STEM-focused university with an R1 research classification and global leadership in project-based learning. Founded in 1865, WPI's distinctive approach integrates classroom theory with real-world practice, preparing students to tackle critical challenges through inclusive education, impactful projects, and interdisciplinary research. With more than 70 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments and over 50 global project centers, WPI advances knowledge and innovation in fields such as life sciences, smart technologies, advanced materials and manufacturing, and global innovation. Learn more at www.wpi.edu.