

# accent



**Laugh or death**  
It's a case where the cure might be worse than the disease. **2D**

**Faith**  
More nuns around the world are speaking up about abuse. **6D**

## Coaching can help students get hired

Millennial Den fills in the gaps

BY TRACEY O'SHAUGHNESSY  
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

The two adjunct professors saw it all the time.

Former students — bright, sharp — would contact them, desperate for a job. They had the degrees, they had the skills. The job market was good.

But they had received no job offers. Not a nibble. Not a phone call. What went wrong?

Frances J. Release and Randye Spina had a lot of answers.

"They are coming out with degrees but they don't know how to package themselves," said Release, of Oxford. "We see them struggling with a lot of the etiquette that goes into securing a professional position."

So, Release, a marketing consultant, and Spina, of Bridgeport, created Millennial Den, a Seymour-based business that helps college graduates grasp a rung on the career ladder — often by just getting them in the door.

"A lot of students will just mass flood the market with their resume and never get a response," said Release. "They come out highly skilled but the missing piece is how to package and promote themselves."

Often, said Spina, these students post hundreds of their resumes on sites like Monster.com or Indeed.com, without a cover letter or knowing anything at all about the company.

"They're not taught the soft skills," said Spina, adjunct professor and owner of Affordable Marketing Solutions. "They're not taught how to write a powerful resume. They all come out of school

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Giorgione's 'La Vecchia,' circa 1506, is on view at the Wadsworth Athenaeum in Hartford until Aug. 9.

## ARTIST DIDN'T BLINK

Giorgione put reality of age on canvas for all to witness, and now you, too, can see it

BY TRACEY O'SHAUGHNESSY  
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

One of the greatest works of the High Renaissance is coming to the Wadsworth Athenaeum May 15.

Giorgione's bewitching allegory, "La Vecchia" ("The Old Woman") will be on view at the Hartford museum until Aug. 9. Few works of the mysterious and influential work of Giorgione (1474/6-1510) exist. Nev-

ertheless, Giorgione is considered one of the greatest artists of the Venetian Renaissance, an aesthetic bridge from Bellini to Titian. With this empathetic painting of an old woman, Giorgione created a portrait of aging and a reminder of human vanity and the fleeting nature of life.

"La Vecchia" is Giorgione's poetic response to the natural phenomenon of aging," Oliver Tostmann, the Wadsworth's

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## THE list

Here are a few things to think about today

### Enjoy fine cigars and good food

Main Street Waterbury will have its second annual "Perfecto" Cigar Night on May 10 at La Bella Vista's lower pavilion.

Playing off the success of last year, the downtown revitalization organization is bringing back an event that seems to be a favorite among those who enjoy great cigars and food.

The event is being hosted by Smoke Easy Cigar Parlor of Waterbury. Fred Sprano, owner of Smoke Easy, is known to provide only top-quality cigars from the industry's premier makers.

Men and women alike will have the opportunity, in a springtime outdoor setting, to have a smoke and enjoy some great food.

A ticket to the event includes quality cigars, great food, and Nutmeg Fine Wines and Spirits will be providing a scotch, bourbon, and cognac tasting along with some select craft beers for sampling.

Tickets are on sale at the Main Street Waterbury Office, 83 Bank St., Waterbury; Smoke Easy Cigar Parlor, 679 Main St., Watertown; Nutmeg Fine Wines and Spirits, 1650 Watertown Ave., Waterbury; Anthony's Barber Shop, 500 Bank St., Waterbury; or online at mainstreetwaterbury.com.

For information, call 203-757-0701 ext. 302 or email [cross@mainstreetwaterbury.com](mailto:cross@mainstreetwaterbury.com).

### Scholarships by arts council

The Northwest Connecticut Arts Council has awarded its UNICO scholarships to Lea Carosella of Harwinton and DaSilva Wata of Torrington.

The Northwest Connecticut Arts Council administers this grant program on behalf of the Torrington UNICO Scholarship Fund. This fund has enabled the Arts Council to direct funds to visual and performing arts students and practitioners who are 25 years old or younger. The goal of the grant is to foster the talent and career development of Northwest Connecticut youth in all areas of the arts.

Both recipients are second-year students at Northwestern Connecticut Community College in Winsted. Carosella is studying digital media and has developed a YouTube channel, "Toon Ruins," which has over 50,000 subscribers and 8 million views in two years.

DaSilva Wata is a fine arts major who works as a graphic designer in Torrington. "I owe a lot of my love for art to my first art teacher in high school because he loved his job and wanted to see me succeed the way he had," Wata said.

For information about the local UNICO club, call Brian Mattiello, president, at 860-485-4542.



Drake poses with his 12 Billboard Music Awards, a record.

## His mom got early Mother's Day gift

Drake gives heartfelt speech as he sets Billboard record

BY MESFIN FEKADU  
AP MUSIC WRITER

Mother's Day is in a couple weeks, but Drake gave his mom an early gift with a heartfelt speech at the 2019 Billboard Music Awards, where the rap star also broke Taylor Swift's record for most wins.

Drake turned up the love for his mom when he picked up top artist, besting Cardi B, Ariana Grande, Post Malone and Travis Scott. He won 12 awards Wednesday in Las Vegas, making his career total 27 (Swift has 23 wins). He looked up to the ceiling as he held the trophy, then

said: "I just want to thank my mom for her relentless effort in my life."

"I want to thank my mom for all the times you drove me to piano. All the times you drove me to basketball and hockey — that clearly didn't work out. All the times you drove me to 'Degraassi.' No matter how long it took me to figure out what I wanted to do, you were always there to give me a ride, and now we're on one hell of a ride," Drake said.

Family bonding was a theme at the three-hour show, which aired live on NBC and was hosted by Kelly Clarkson

Ciara's young son and husband, NFL player Russell Wilson, danced along while she worked the stage, and Nick and Joe Jonas gave kisses to Priyanka Chopra and Sophie Turner of "Game of Thrones" fame when they sang in the audience before hitting the stage. Brendon Urie of Panic! at the Disco looked to his parents as he accepted top rock song, quoting the name of his current hit: "Hey look Ma, I made it!"

Mariah Carey's twins cheered her on as she sang a medley of her hits and accepted the Icon award.

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A MATTER OF LAUGH OR DEATH

# Old age becomes a pain in the aspirin

Last week I discussed the difficulties I'm having trying to adapt to being a senior citizen. I'm very new at this, having joined the ranks of the Geeser Brigade just a few short years ago. There are no training classes or instruction manuals to offer guidance on the proper behaviors and protocols for those of us in our 60s and beyond, so I'm just kind of muddling my way through it.

Here is a perfect example of how difficult this can be. A couple of years ago, my doctor suggested I start taking a baby aspirin each day to lower the risk of heart troubles. Apparently, good ol' aspirin helps reduce the chances that goop (the official technical medical term) will stick to the inside walls of a person's arteries and cause a blockage.

So, I started taking a tiny aspirin tablet every morning. They even sell it with a little heart on the box and the words "Heart Healthy." Senior citizens, ironically, are now the key target market for St. Joseph's Baby Aspirin.



BILL DUNN

Anyway, this morning I received an urgent email message from AARP. The email was titled, "New Advice on Daily Aspirin." Recent scientific studies have discovered that a daily aspirin regimen may help heart health a little, but the benefit is greatly outweighed by a 38 percent increase in gastrointestinal bleeding. So, the aspirin is doing the "anti-goop" thing in the heart arteries but at the same time is doing the "spring a leak in the gut blood vessels thing," too. (Technical a leak in the gut blood vessels thing is, of course, also the official technical medical term.)

Here is a summary of the new guidelines: If you've already had a heart attack or stroke, then you should keep taking the daily aspirin. If you've never had a heart attack or stroke, then don't take the baby aspirin because the intestinal bleeding risk is worse.

However, the scary email concluded with this delightful advice: "Don't stop taking a daily aspirin old turkey. It can create a rebound effect that can trigger a heart attack. A 2017 Swedish study found that abruptly stopping a daily aspirin raised the risk of a heart attack or stroke by 37 percent."

Oh, great. I've been taking a baby aspirin every day for two years. What am I supposed to do now? I've never had a heart attack or stroke, so I shouldn't be taking the aspirin. But if I stop, the heart attack and stroke odds go way up. Sheesh.

The only specific suggestion the email offered was to talk to your doctor about it. Yeah, but he's the guy who told me to take the aspirin in the first place. By the way, he also is the guy who asked me, during my annual physical a few months ago, if I wanted to start taking cholesterol medication. "Why should I do that?" I asked him. "You're telling me for the top 10 years my cholesterol is fine."

"Well, they recently changed the guidelines," he explained. Oh really? I changed the guidelines. Who exactly are "they"? The pharmaceutical companies that make cholesterol pills?

As my woeful story clearly indicates, it's not easy being a senior citizen nowadays. The rules keep changing. I wish there were training classes or instruction manuals.

But now that I think about it, it was very easy and instinctive for me to start complaining about pharmaceutical companies. As everyone knows, this is a requirement for all seniors. (Along with the other requirement of discussing in graphic detail all of your recent medical procedures.)

Maybe I can get the hang of this without any training after all. Hey, let me show you my surgery scar!

Bill Dunn is a freelance writer who lives in Torrington. He can be reached at [MerryCatholics@gmail.com](mailto:MerryCatholics@gmail.com).

# HIRING: Good writing can set you apart

Continued from 1D

with this formulaic resume that is not powerful, taught by people who have been tenured in their professions for 20 or 30 years." Both say college career centers are very well intentioned but low-effort.

"It's frustrating to me to see that they are not taught the skills that will serve them well in their life," Spina said.

"The career centers are working hard, but they don't have the resources," Trelease said. She said graduates reach out to her and Spina because both are adjunct professors and consequently involved in the business world today. Often, she said, she needs to instruct graduates in professional courtesies with which they were unfamiliar.

For example, she stresses sending a hand-written thank you letter to the person with whom a job candidate interviewed. "It'll be asked 'Can I just text them a thank you?'" Trelease said, shaking her head. "A thank you is meant to show awareness of maturity and professionalism. It's a way, in a culture in which most don't, to set themselves apart from other candidates who may be just as qualified."

Jessica Liebman, executive managing editor of Business Insider, recently wrote that she does not get a thank you note from a job candidate, she will not hire them. "While sending a thank you note doesn't necessarily guarantee the person will be a good hire, it gives you the tiniest bit more data," she wrote. "The candidate is eager, organized and well mannered enough to send the note."

Spina said colleges must realize that "eighty percent of people who go to school look back to school to get a job or to better their jobs." While she says "schools are very good at teaching you the hard



Randy Spina, left, and Frances J. Trelease

## SKILLS

Among the skills Millennial Den tries to teach:

- Writing a pointed resume and cover letter
- setting up a separate email account to look professional
- creating a letterhead and look professional
- using sites like LinkedIn and others to the max

skills, schools aren't very good at teaching kids how to find a job."

"They're not taught the soft skills," said Spina. "They're not taught how to write a powerful resume. They all come out of school with this formulaic resume that is not powerful, taught by people who have been tenured in their professions for 20 or 30 years."

That's a real problem in a society where student debt is as high as \$1.5 trillion. The Northeast is particularly hit hard by college students who return home to live with their parents after earning their college degree. New Jersey,

Connecticut and New York lead the nation in having the highest percentage of millennials living with their parents, according to WalletHub. Part of that is the high cost of living in those states. Apartments can eat up half a pay check.

But part of it is a lack of the "soft skills" necessary to nab a job, said Trelease. "I have seen young applicants show up to interviews in T-shirts," she said. "They're so caught up in the school culture that they come out and they're not sure how to dress."

Many students also don't realize that their college loans begin coming due in the first six months after graduation. Today, the average student leaves with a college loan of \$25,000, which breaks down to about \$280 monthly. That's when Trelease and Spina start getting the calls.

"Without being critical of them, there are some late believers. OK, I have my degree, I'm going to sit back and wait for the offers to come in," she said. "It's simply being naive about the process."

Both women say through research about the company a candidate wants to work is critical. "If you can read a

company's annual report and you can come in with a lot of relevant questions, you're going to impress the heck out of them."

Spina encourages graduates to investigate who they want to work for and then mail them — as in "snail mail" — a cover letter and resume that is specific to that company. "You never want to be the person who is among 600 emails," she said. "The chances of you being successful when you are one of hundreds are very slim. The chances of you being successful when you have the savvy to literally land in somebody's mailbox, the odds are more in your favor. It works. When everybody is going digital, you are going to stand out."

"It is how to package yourself," Spina said. "You could be the best number cruncher, the best artist, the best poet, but it is how you package and promote yourself." That means blowing your resume — a task that can be difficult for some graduates. "Soft skill are what employers are looking for now," said Spina. "Writing, speaking, presenting, leadership. Your hard skills will get you your degree. But they will not guarantee you success in a job. The ability to communicate or things like presentations, how to speak in front of people, how to write, especially in social media," is what employers want, she said. "Research papers can be taught," she said. "No one teaches you how to write a resume. Writing will set you apart."

Millennial Den's introductory boot camp training is now about \$80, with the coaching is \$129 for an hour. Discounts are available. For information, visit [BoomerDen.com](http://BoomerDen.com).

## SENIOR EXCURSIONS

**Bethlehem Seniors:** Some trips RSVP and payable by mailed check only to Town of Bethlehem, P.O. Box 160, Bethlehem, CT 06751, attention "Theresa" on front on envelope, include phone number on check. Cost for bus generally \$1 for lunch trips; lunches generally on your own. Departures are: May 8: New Britain Museum of American Art, departure 11 a.m. Current exhibit: "The Beyond: Georgia O'Keefe and Contemporary Art," featuring three dozen iconic works. Lunch stop first at an area public restaurant (lunch on own). \$11 Bethlehem seniors, \$21 non-seniors. May 14: Lunch at Hopkins Inn on Lake Waramaug, Washington, departure 11:30 a.m. Inn renovated for its contemporary Austrian cuisine and American menu. Lunch on own \$1 for bus. 203-666-6999, ext. 303.

**Blanche McCarthy (Winsted) Senior Center:** Info and RSVPs at 203-379-4252 or 860-379-8325.

**Cheshire Senior Travel Club:** Trips 203-379-4252. SC Transportation Office (day trips) are RSVP; depart from Stop & Shop parking lot. May 9: "Phantom of the Opera" at Toyoko Oakdale Theater, Wallingford at 1 p.m., departure TBD. \$60 per person for ticket and bus fee. Dinner after show at local restaurant on your own. June 5: New York Botanical Garden, New York City, departure 9:45 a.m. More than 50 diverse gardens and plant collections to explore. Lunch on own at Pine Tree Cafe or Hudson Garden Café, departure 11:30 a.m. Departure at HGG at 646-627-7711, 573, 203-272-1365.

**Colebrook Senior Center:** May 6: Boscor's at Westfield Meriden Mall, departure 9 a.m. Lunch on own. \$3 members, \$5 nonmembers. May 13: Meadow View Farm, Southwick, Mass., departure 9 a.m. Lunch on own. \$3 members, \$5 nonmembers. May 17: Out to Lunch at Wood Creek Restaurant, Norfolk, departure 11:30 a.m. Lunch on own. \$3 cash only. May 24: Elizabeth Park Rose Garden, Hartford, departure 9:30 a.m. Lunch on own. \$5 members, \$7 nonmembers. May 31: County Living Fair, Rhinebeck, N.Y., departure 9 a.m. Lunch on own. \$5 members, \$7 nonmembers. Info and RSVPs at 860-738-9521.

**Falls Avenue Community Center and Senior Services:** All trips RSVP and leave from the town municipal center, 61 Echo Lake Road, Waterbury. May 11: 71st annual Albany Inland Festival, Washington Park, Albany, N.Y., departure 8:30 a.m. More than 140,000 tulips; family style lunch at Boca di Beppo, Albany. \$81 per person based on 40 to 52 passengers. June 9: Providence, R.I., for Providence Foodie Tour, departure 8 a.m. Includes stops at Volenti's, Trattoria Cosma, Ristorante Romano, driving tour of Providence. \$113 per person based on 40 to 50 passengers. RSVPs and more general information at 860-945-5246.

**Litchfield Community Center:** RSVP all trips. May 8: Goodspeed Opera House, East Haddam, for "The Music Man" musical, departure 10 a.m. Lunch at the Gelestone House before 2 a.m. show. Includes transportation, three-course lunch and ticket to show. \$80-967-8302.

**Middlefield Senior Center:** May 15: Deerfield, Mass., for Magic Wings Conservatory and Yankee Candle Village, departure 9:30 a.m. Includes transportation and admission for both. \$30. May 16: Seth Thomas Bradstreet House, Thomaston, departure TBD. Guided tour at noon. \$7 for transportation. RSVP, May 22-24: Lancaster and Pennsylvania Dutch Country, departure TBD. Includes two nights lodging, four meals, "mess" show at Sight & Sound Millennium Theatre, "Ovation" show at American Music Theatre, Kitchen Kettle Village, "The Amish Experience and Jacob's Choice" at the F/W Theatre. RSVP, call for prices. May 29: Maritime Aquarium, Norwalk, departure 9:30 a.m. Some 75 exhibits featuring more than 2,700 marine animals. Includes transportation, admission and IMAX movie. \$29.95. RSVP, 203-577-4166.

**Morris Senior Center:** Departures are from Morris Town Hall or senior center, with some trips now in conjunction with Warren Parks and Recreation Dept. May 19: Fenwick Park, Boston, for Houston Astros vs. Boston Red Sox MLB game, departure TBD. Includes seating in grandstand 5 and 6, snacks and prizes. \$108. June 23: Yankee Stadium, Bronx, N.Y., for Houston Astros vs. New York Yankees MLB game, departure TBD. Old Timers Game before regular game. Includes ticket in section 232 or 233, ballpark and in-seat food. Info and RSVPs at 860-567-7437.

**Nausauck Senior Center:** May 21: Foxwoods Resort Casino, Mashantucket, departure 7:30 a.m. Receive food voucher and slot play. \$25. June 18: Foxwoods Resort Casino, Mashantucket, departure 7:30 a.m. Receive food voucher and slot play. \$25. RSVP, 203-720-7069.

**New Hartford Senior Center:** May 11: 71st annual Albany Tulip Festival in Washington Park, van departure 7:30 a.m. For Litchfield for departure TBD. \$11 per person. May 13: Bethlehem, Festival includes live music, craft and food vendors, fine arts show and more than 140,000 tulips. May 29: Broadway New York City for "Kiss Me Kate" or "The Cher Show," departure TBD. Includes lunch at Carmine's, ticket to show and the show. \$16 per person for Cher show. \$249 per person. RSVP, June 13: Holyoke, Mass., for Lot 29 at the Great American Swing Band at the Log Cabin, departure TBD. Includes transportation, complete lunch and show. \$109 per person. June 16: Mohagan Sun Arena, Uncasville, for Connecticut Sun vs. Seattle Storm WNBA basketball game, departure TBD for 3:30 p.m. game. Early arrival for lunch and gaming tables in casino. \$57 per person. RSVP, info and RSVPs at 860-379-3880.

**Oxford Senior Center:** May 14: The Bronx Zoo, Bronx, N.Y., departure 8:30 a.m. May 28: Mohagan Sun Casino, Uncasville, departure 8 a.m. More info, costs, and RSVPs at 203-881-5231.

**Roxbury Senior Center:** RSVP, 860-210-0956.

**Seymour Senior Center:** May 13: Riverview Cinema, Southbury, departure 12:30 p.m. RSVP, May 20: Mohagan Sun Casino, Uncasville, departure TBD. \$25 per person. May 23: Nelson Hall, Cheshire, for "Motown Review," departure 1:15 p.m. Music production featuring sounds of the Temptations, Marvin Gaye, The Spinners and others. \$33. June 27: Sharon Playhouse, Sharon, departure TBD. \$28 per person. All trips RSVP, 203-888-0406, ext. 1.

**Southbury Senior Center:** Transportation costs vary, payable to Town of Southbury, check cash. RSVP all trips beginning May 4. May 10: Dogwood Festival hosted by Greenfield Hill Church, Fairfield, departure 9:15 a.m. Activities, crafters, new Senior Tea in Dunsmuir Café area. \$5. July 16: Burkin' Donuts Park, Hartford, for Hartford Goat Goats vs. Richmond Flying Squirrels, departure 10:15 a.m. Transportation, lunch and bus lunch included. Only seven seats left. \$17. Inquire at center for Gateway and Getaway trips, plus Shopping Trips with Robin. 203-263-0651.

**Sullivan Senior Center (Torrington):** Trips RSVP and also open to public on first come, first served basis. May 23: Newport Playhouse and Cabaret R.I., featuring "Clothes Encounters," departure TBD. Includes lunch, buffet and show. \$117 per person. June 19: Thimble Island Sightseeing Cruise aboard the Sea Mist, Branford, departure 10:30 a.m. Includes transportation. \$117 per person. 860-489-2211, ext. 8.

**The Thomaston Family Travelers:** June 4: Brotherhood Winery at Washingtonville, N.Y., departure 8:45 a.m. for 100 passengers. RSVP and more general information at 860-945-5246.

**Waterbury Senior Center:** May 15: Beardsley Zoo, Bridgeport, departure 10:30 a.m. Lunch at Peacock Café or on own. Bus \$2. Admission \$11, wheelchair rental \$6. RSVP, 203-575-4219 or 203-574-6746.

**Willow Plaza Community Center:** Departures at 8:45 a.m. from Huntington Avenue commuter parking lot. Waterbury, May 22: Mohagan Sun Casino, Uncasville, departure TBD. Includes three bet tickets worth \$30. RSVP, \$25, cash only. 203-575-1545 or 203-756-9371.

**Wolcott (Charles Riedley) Senior Center:** RSVP for all trips, and for the bus. May 7: Krystal Gardens, Wolcott, for "All Shook Up" Elvis tribute with entertainment Jimmy Madz, departure 11 a.m. Complete dinner and entertainment. \$35 per person. RSVP and payment by mail to: May 8: The Great Taste of China, New Britain, departure 11 a.m. May 9: Westbrook Outlets, departure 9 a.m. May 14: Mystic Village shopping, departure 9 a.m. May 15: Connecticut Science Center, Hartford, departure 9 a.m. More than 165 hands-on science exhibits. Group price \$15 per person if 15 sign up. \$21.95 if fewer than 15. Add on for movie/showing or butterfly experience. RSVP by May 10. 203-879-8133.

**Woodbury Senior Center:** RSVP for all trips. Senior bus trips limited to 15 passengers. May 8: The Great Taste of China, New Britain, departure 11 a.m. May 9: Westbrook Outlets, departure 9 a.m. May 14: Mystic Village shopping, departure 9 a.m. May 15: Connecticut Science Center, Hartford, departure 9 a.m. More than 165 hands-on science exhibits. Group price \$15 per person if 15 sign up. \$21.95 if fewer than 15. Add on for movie/showing or butterfly experience. RSVP by May 10. 203-879-8133.

# WADSWORTH: Artist's eye didn't flinch

Continued from 1D

more familiar, idealized portraits of the time. A recent conservation treatment, funded by FIAC, has removed discoloration and breathed new life into La Vecchia.

Venice around 1500 was a center of culture and artistic activity where private patronage of the arts thrived. Giorgione was an innovator, introducing new subjects in time with the early masters in a landscape, mythological scenes and sensitive portraits. He is considered one of the leading Venetian painters during the Renaissance, yet he remains one of the most enigmatic. Little is known about Giorgione's life. Born in Castelfranco, he came to fame during the early 16th century and died in his early 30s, likely from the

plague. Among the few facts scholars know about Giorgione is that he went to Venice to study about 1490 under Giovanni Bellini, the greatest Venetian master of the day. One sees the color and mood of Bellini's style in Giorgione's works.

The Wadsworth is encouraging visitors who come to see the Giorgione to spend time with its collection of Italian works of art including important Venetian Renaissance paintings by artists such as Sebastiano del Piombo, Titian and Jacopo Bassano. A group of deluxe books designed for and published by the famed Aldus Manutius — Venice's leading purveyor of ancient and modern texts, known for his elegant design — will be on view

adjacent to the Giorgione, as is the museum's Andrea Previti, "Madonna and Child with a Donor," in a landscape (c. 1504-05).

"Rarely do we have such a prime opportunity to reconnect with our shared humanity and with the Renaissance," says Thomas J. Loughman, director and CEO of the Wadsworth. "La Vecchia is without peer in America as a major allegorical portrait by Giorgione, and this recent conservation provides the perfect occasion to learn and appreciate the ideas behind the painting afresh."

The Wadsworth Athenaeum is at 600 Main St. in Hartford. For information, call 860-278-2760 or visit the [wadsworth.org](http://wadsworth.org).

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