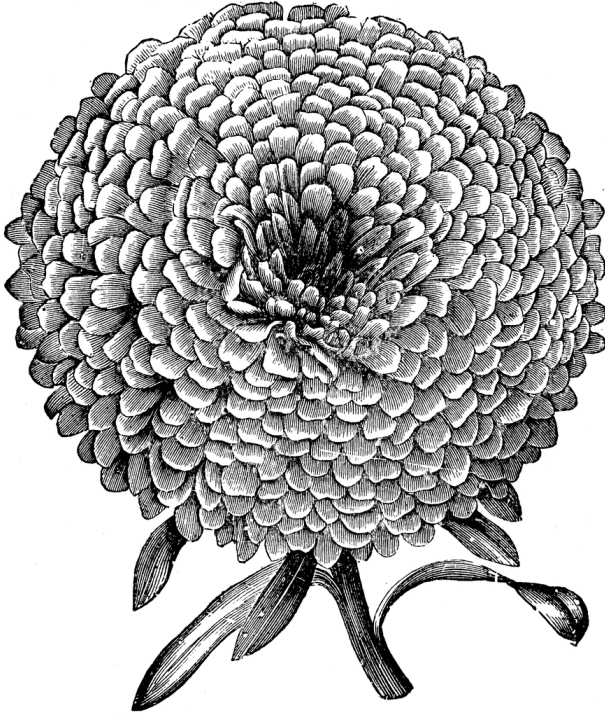


# Almanac of the Chathams & the Dutch Towns

*Being a highly opinionated compendium of natural phenomena, events,  
holidays, rural pleasures, shops, history, "to-dos," outings, and etc.*



*Chasin' clouds*

# September

2024

*Volume 2, Issue 7*

almanacofthechathams.com

# Almanac of the Chathams & the Dutch Towns

## *Volume 2, Issue 7*

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# almanacofthechathams.com

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### Mission Statement

Almanac of the Chathams & the Dutch Towns is a monthly publication founded to inform residents of Northern Columbia County of upcoming events, to provide marketing support to local businesses, and to help full-time and part-time residents of the area better understand this special landscape, and all the living beings that call it home.

### Sources and References

ClipArt etc.	Quora
Merriam-Webster	<a href="http://suncalc.org">suncalc.org</a>
Project Gutenberg	<a href="http://timeanddate.com">timeanddate.com</a>
<a href="http://publicdomainvectors.org">publicdomainvectors.org</a>	Wikipedia

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The home we are in now is the first I have lived in where the seasonal shift of the sun from north to south is dramatically evident. The house is situated squarely within the cardinal directions; the sun rises at the front and sets at the back. Because of the earth's tilt at the height of summer the plants on the north side of the house received the merest sliver of sunshine. And now, now it's gone and slipping with increasing speed to the south.

I love the light at this time of year though. There's some quality to it that makes flowers look their very best; it might be why I love dahlias so much. While they grow bravely through the teeth of summer's heat, dahlias hate it and their blooms languish until these more moderate times. Which is in some ways fortunate, because sunlight becomes softer, more golden, less harsh in September. September's sun makes dahlias shine, especially as it dips toward the western horizon and becomes golden before dusk.

If you have never grown your own dahlias you might not know that many of them have this quality to them that is hard to explain. It's not quite metallic, and it's not quite sparkly, it doesn't glow, per se, and yet it does. And it's fleeting. It doesn't necessarily stick around in the vase, which is why it's best to grow your own. I don't know what to call it—dahlia "glimmer," or dahlia "shine," or dahlia "sparkle"—none of them seem quite adequate. But I do know that September's glowy, golden light makes it even more spectacular.

Bringing dahlias inside in great profusion is one of the most luxurious acts I know of, it is a ridiculous privilege to be surrounded by flowers inside your own home. But what I love most is the simple act of examining one single, perfect bloom out in my garden as the sun begins to set, rotating it slowly so as to best enjoy its magical sheen. It reminds me that happiness doesn't lie in the future, it exists now.

Warmly,  
Ann

September 1, Sunday

West Lebanon, Lebanon Valley Speedway: Musclemania XXXVI, 9:30am \$  
Spencertown, Spencertown Academy: Festival of Books Author  
Presentation: Anna Shechtman 'The Riddles of the Sphinx: Inheriting the  
Feminist History of the Crossword Puzzle,' 11:30am  
Williamstown, Ma. The Clark: Family Concert - The Knights, 12pm  
Spencertown, Spencertown Academy: Festival of Books Author  
Presentation: Stephen McCauley 'You Only Call When You're in Trouble,'  
1pm  
Spencertown, Spencertown Academy: Festival of Books Author  
Presentation: Paul Muldoon 'Joy in Service on Rue Tagore,' 2:30pm  
Kinderhook, Del's Roadside: Live Music - Saxola with Ben Fallis, 3pm  
Old Chatham, Old Chatham Country Store: Movie & Game Night, 6pm  
(movie at 8pm)  
North Chatham, Larkin Hill: Horse Trials, Dressage & Combined Training  
Show \$  
Saratoga, Saratoga Race Course: Jockey Club Gold Cup \$

## Important Dates:



September 2 (Monday): New Moon

September 17 (Tuesday): Full Harvest Moon

September 22 (Sunday): Fall Equinox

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September 2, Monday *Labor Day, New Moon*

Kinderhook, Village Yoga: Everyday Practice, 8:30am \$  
Spencertown, Spencertown Academy: Final Day, Festival of Books Book Sale, 10am-2pm

September 3, Tuesday

Chatham, Top Form: Yoga for Strength & Stability with Patrick, 9am (Tuesdays) \$  
Kinderhook, Del's Roadside: Bingo Night, 6pm

September 4, Wednesday

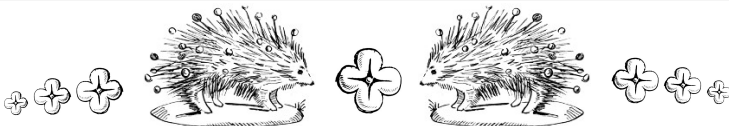
Chatham, Top Form: Gentle Stretch & Flow Yoga with Kristy, 9am (Wednesdays) \$  
Williamstown, Ma. The Clark: DJs At Sunset: LDER, 6pm  
Chatham, Chatham Public Library: BIPOC Book Club, 5:30pm  
Valatie, Ichabod Crane Central School: First Day of School

September 5, Thursday

Chatham, Top Form: Yin Yoga with Patrick, 7am (Thursdays) \$  
Kinderhook, Super Stories Makers Space: Adult Drawing Club, 6pm \$  
Kinderhook, Del's Roadside: Live Music - Three Quarter North Band, 6pm  
Great Barrington, Ma. Hart GB: Mending Club, 7pm \$  
Valatie, Reifenberg Brewing: Valatie Community Theater Open Mic, 7pm  
Chatham, Mac-Haydn Theater: Opening Day 'The Fantasticks,' Various times through September 15 \$  
Chatham, Chatham Central School District: First Day of School

September 6, Friday

New Lebanon, Hand Hollow Conservation Area: Columbia Land Conservancy Floating Friday Invasive Waterweeds Removal, 9am  
Chatham, Top Form: Gentle Stretch & Flow Yoga with Melissa, 9am (Fridays) \$  
Chatham, Chatham Public Library: Library Walking Club, 10am  
Kinderhook, Village Yoga: Community Meditation, 12pm  
Chatham, 248 State Rt. 295: Chatham Farmers Market, 3-7pm (Fridays through October 11)



## September 7, Saturday

New Lebanon, Hand Hollow Conservation Area: Columbia Land Conservancy Birding Walk with Alan Devoe Bird Club, 8-10am  
Chatham, Top Form: Boxing with Richard, 9am (Saturdays) \$  
Chatham Center, Tri-Village Volunteer Fire Company: TVFC Annual Steak Roast, 12-4pm \$  
Kinderhook, Kinderhook Memorial Library: Sketching the Natural World with Jean Mackay, 12:30pm  
Chatham, The Warm Ewe: Community Making, 2-5pm (Saturdays)  
Ghent, Art School of Columbia County: Opening Reception 'Only the Mountain Remains' Group Show, 4-6pm  
Kinderhook, James Vanderpoel House: First Columbians, A Benefit for Columbia County Historical Society, 5-7pm \$  
West Lebanon, Lebanon Valley Speedway: 2024 Season Finale, 6pm \$  
Valatie, Martin H. Glynn Gazebo: Valatie Community Theater Presents Beer Stained Fiddle, 6pm  
Pittsfield, Ma. The Colonial Theater: An Evening with Roger McGuinn, 7:30pm \$  
New Lebanon, Tannery Pond Concerts at the Darrow School: Israeli Chamber Project, 7:30pm \$

## September 8, Sunday

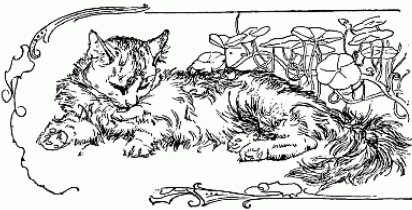
Kinderhook, Village Yoga: Sunday Service, 10:30am \$  
Chatham, Roots Holistic Wellness: Dances of Universal Peace, 2pm \$  
Kinderhook, Kinderhook Memorial Library: Reflections on Nature: A Dialogue in Three Voices, 3pm  
Malden Bridge, Malden Bridge Community Center: North Chatham Free Library Presents the Heavenly Echoes Gospel Band, 3pm  
Malden Bridge, Good Hope Farm: Old Chatham Hunt Club Hunter Pace \$

On September 1 the sun will rise at 6:20am and set at 7:28pm. By the end of the month, sunrise will be at 6:51am and sunset at 6:37pm. We're losing daylight fast as the year passes through the equinox, losing almost 3 minutes per day. The angle of the sun's altitude will decrease by more than 11° and the azimuth will move south more than 2° in this time period meaning that shadows will have increased noticeably in length by the end of the month.

Chatham Schools are unique in having a robust walking culture amongst students and staff. School is back in session and days are shorter. Pedestrians have the right of way within crosswalks. Give the kids a break and use your brakes!

Spanning 12 years, from 1793 to 1805, the French Republic used a unique calendar designed to remove royalist and religious influences from the year. Day I in Year I was declared as September 22, 1792 on the Gregorian calendar. In the French Republican calendar, September is split between two months, Fructidor and Vendémiaire. Fructidor, the month of fruit, is the last month of the summer quarter. Vendémiaire, the month of the grape harvester, is the first month of the autumn quarter and the beginning of a new year. French Republican months always had 30 days broken into three, 10-day weeks.

Since the late 20th-century, we have been living in "Eternal September." Prior to this time, the Internet was mostly used by academic and government institutions making September a big time for admins to grant Usenet access to a slew of new users, causing upheaval and grousing in established forums and groups. Starting late-1993/early-1994, ISPs began offering affordable access to total n00bs who didn't understand Internet etiquette and threw the whole cybersphere into anarchic chaos making it forevermore feel like September. In the immortal voice of Comic Book Guy, "Worst September ever!"



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## September 9, Monday

Chatham, Top Form: Gentle Stretch & Flow Yoga with Kristy, 9am  
(Mondays) \$

Valatie, Valatie Free Library: Book Club, 'The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store,' 6pm

## September 10, Tuesday

Kinderhook, Kinderhook Memorial Library: Next Page Book Club, 6pm

## September 11, Wednesday

Williamstown, Ma. The Clark: DJs at Sunset: Gardy Girault, 6pm

## September 12, Thursday

Chatham, Top Form: Cardio Jazz Dance Class with Patrick, 9am  
(Thursdays) \$

Williamstown, Ma. The Clark: Screening 'Lethière: Oath of the Ancestors,'  
6pm

Hancock, Hancock Shaker Village: Shaker Supper, 6pm \$

Hudson, Story Screen Cinema & Arcade: Pinball Match Play Tournament,  
7pm \$

## September 13, Friday

Harvey Mountain, Kingsmont: Berkshire Botanical Garden Cocktails in  
Great Gardens, 5-7pm \$

Great Barrington, Ma. Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center: Screening  
'Amadeus,' 7pm \$

Williamstown, Ma. The Clark: Kathia St. Hilaire Closing Festival, 7pm



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## September 14, Saturday

Kinderhook, Kinderhook Farmer's Market: Rocky Hill Forge Knife Sharpening, 8:30am-1:30pm \$

Kinderhook, The McNary Center at St. Paul's Episcopal Church: Friends of the Kinderhook Memorial Library Fall Book Sale, 9am-3pm (also September 15, 12-3pm)

Ghent, Art School of Columbia County: Monoprinting Workshop with Gel Plates, 10am-3pm \$

Watervliet, Shaker Heritage Society: Harvest Craft Fair, 10am-4pm (also September 15)

Chatham, Columbia County Fairgrounds: Columbia County Climate Carnival, 11am-3pm

Chatham, Columbia County Fairgrounds: Repair Cafe at the Columbia County Climate Carnival, 11am-3pm

Chatham Center, Equine Advocates: Public Open Day, 11am-4pm

Stockbridge, Ma. Berkshire Botanical Garden: Overwintering Your Garden, 2-3:30pm \$

Williamstown, Ma. The Clark: Writers in Conversation: Edwin Danticat, 3pm

Taghkanic: Embers & Evergreens: A Benefit Barbecue for Columbia Land Conservancy, 4pm \$

West Lebanon, Lebanon Valley Speedway: Light Fest, 4pm \$

Hillsdale, Little Apple Farm & Cidery: Fancy Feast Supper Club Presents A Harvest Moon Dinner, 5-8pm \$

Stuyvesant, Stuyvesant Railroad Station: Harvest-Polish Community Dinner, 5-8pm \$

## September 15, Sunday

Philmont, High Falls Conservation Area: Columbia Land Conservancy Geology Walk with Paul Titus, 10am

Sheffield, Ma. Dewey Hall: Floral Arranging with Dahlias with Wenonah Webster, 11am \$

Sheffield, Ma. Dewey Hall: Dahlia Festival & Contest, 12-4pm \$

Sheffield, Ma. Dewey Hall: Biodegradable Flower Crowns with Clara Stickney, 12:30pm \$

Sheffield, Ma. Dewey Hall: Overwintering Dahlia Tubers with Rebecca Klingabiel, 2pm \$

Chatham, Roots Holistic Wellness: Yoga Sound Spa, 4pm \$



## September 16, Monday

Old Chatham, Old Chatham Country Store: Tacos, Nachos, Margaritas!  
5-9pm \$

Ghent, Art School of Columbia County: Exploring Skies & Clouds with  
Pastels with Tia Maggio, 5:30-7:30pm (also September 23 & 30) \$

## September 17, Tuesday *Full Harvest Moon*

Williamstown, Ma. The Clark: The Conceptual Autonomy of Kathia St.  
Hilaire, 6pm

## September 18, Wednesday

Williamstown, Ma. The Clark: DJs at Sunset: Val-Inc, 6pm

## September 19, Thursday

Valatie, Valatie Free Library: Bridge Club, 12:45pm (Thursdays)

Hudson, Olana State Historic Site: The Hudson River Schools of Art &  
Their Ice Age Origins, 2pm

Hudson, Olana State Historic Site: Tunes With a View - Naomi  
Wastewater, 3:30pm

Williamstown, Ma. The Clark: Lecture - The Print Fetish, 5:30pm

Kinderhook, Kinderhook Memorial Library: Analyzing (dis)Information in  
the Age of Social Media, 6pm

Hudson, Olana State Historic Site: Tunes With a View - Perry Foster, 6pm

## September 20, Friday

Ghent, Art School of Columbia County: Collage with Art Therapist Shera  
Weintraub, 10am-12pm (Fridays through October 18) \$

Chatham, Chatham Farmers Market: Columbia-Greene Cooperative  
Extension Ask A Master Gardener, 3-7pm

Ancram, Overmountain Conservation Area: Columbia Land Conservancy  
Sunset Sound Bath & Hike, 5-7pm \$

Kinderhook, Del's Roadside: Open Mic Night, 6pm

Castleton, Schodack Town Hall: Historical Society of Esquatak Presents  
Troy's Tiffany Treasures, 7pm

Pittsfield, Ma. The Colonial Theater: Big Wigs: A Las Vegas-Style  
Impersonation Show with Mrs. Kasha Davis & Aggy Dune, 7:30pm \$

North Adams, Ma. MASS MoCA: FreshGrass Festival, Through September  
22 \$



September 21, Saturday *Oktoberfest begins in Munich*

Kinderhook, Village Yoga: Beginner Practice with Patrick, 9am (Saturdays)  
\$

Chatham: Chatham Area Farm Tour, 10am-4pm

Williamstown, Ma. The Clark: Race & Celebrity in Historical France:

Examining the Chevalier de Saint-George, 11am

Chatham, Top Form: 2nd Annual Summer BBQ, 1pm

Ghent, Art School of Columbia County: Plein Air Figure Drawing & Painting Workshop, 1-4pm \$

Hudson, The Caboose: Art Omi Upstate Benefit, 5:30-10pm \$

Great Barrington, Ma. Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center: Lewis Black:

Goodbye Yeller Brick Road, the Final Tour, 8pm \$

September 22, Sunday *Fall Equinox, Hobbit Day*

Kinderhook, Kinderhook Memorial Library: Managing Invasive Species In Your Garden Sustainably, 1pm

The night of the full Harvest Moon, September 17-18, will bring a partial lunar eclipse that will be visible in our area.

Lasting about an hour, the full moon will cross partially into earth's shadow a bit after 10pm, with its greatest extent at about 10:45pm. The partial eclipse will also offer an excellent opportunity to admire Saturn, which will be the brightest object in the sky after the moon.

It doesn't matter what your favorite autumnal activity is, from cider donut eating to apple picking or corn mazing, it's best done against a backdrop of dazzling fall colors. So when to expect those leaves to start changing? That depends on the weather, and we all know how easy it is to predict *that*. However, the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center has released it's autumn longterm outlook and it's ... kinda bleak. They predict both above-average temps and precipitation. That bodes ill for bright fall colors which rely on clear, warmish, sunny days and clear, chilly, dry overnights for optimum vibrancy.



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## September 23, Monday

Online: Columbia County Libraries Association Presents: Zoom Around the World Book Club, 6:30pm

## September 24, Tuesday

Williamstown, Ma. The Clark: Lecture - To Represent, Or Not, 5:30pm

## September 25, Wednesday

Hudson, Stair Galleries: Auction - The Art of Entertaining, 10am  
Ghent, Art School of Columbia County: Landscape Painting in Oils with Bob Watkins, 1-4pm (Wednesdays through October 30) \$  
Chatham, Chatham Public Library: Civil Service 101, 5:30pm  
Hancock, Hancock Shaker Village: Timber Framing with Traditional Tools Workshop, Through September 29 \$

## September 26, Thursday

Spencertown, Spencertown Academy: Roots & Shoots Concert - Mary Gauthier with Special Guest Jamie Harris, 7:30pm \$  
Kinderhook, Village Yoga: Fundamentals: Strength & Stability with Sam Breschi, 6-7pm (Thursdays through October 24) \$  
Pittsfield, Ma. The Unicorn Theater: Opening Night 'The Weir,' Various times through October 27 \$

## September 27, Friday

Williamstown, Ma. The Clark: Guillaume Lethière Symposium, 10am-6:30pm  
Valatie, Volunteer Park: Town of Kinderhook Recreation Fall Festival, 4-7pm  
Great Barrington, Ma. Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center: Screening 'Crooklyn,' 7pm \$

It's Banned Books Week! While many books are challenged by parents and social authorities, few books in the United States are actually banned, thanks to the good work of librarians across the country and the U.S. Constitution. Since 1939, the American Library Association has affirmed the right to make knowledge free and publicly available through its Library Bill of Rights, a copy of which helpfully hangs in the bathroom of the North Chatham Free Library. It's hard for me to choose my favorite clause of the Library Bill of Rights, but if pressed I think I would go with III: "Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment." Read a banned book and be enlightened!

## September 28, Saturday

Hancock, Hancock Shaker Village: 27th Annual Country Fair, 11am-4pm (also September 29) \$

Chatham, Columbia County Fairgrounds: Capital Apple & Wine Festival, 11am-5pm (also September 29) \$

Great Barrington, Ma.: Festival Latino of the Berkshires, 12-6pm

Williamstown, Ma. The Clark: 1874: A Significant Year, 1pm

Hudson, Olana State Historic Site: Still Life: Drawing A Memorable Object with Cris Gamet, 1pm \$

Nassau, S&S Farm Brewery: Brewgrass Festival, 1-9pm

Ghent, High & Mighty Therapeutic Riding & Driving Center: Kick Up Your Heels, A Benefit for High & Mighty, 5pm \$

Valatie, Valatie Community Theater: Northern Comfort Band, 6pm \$

Sheffield, Ma. Dewey Hall: Sheffield Contra Dance, 6pm \$

Great Barrington, Ma. Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center: Villalobos Brothers in Conjunction with Festival Latino of the Berkshires, 7pm

Watervliet, Shaker Heritage Society: Moonbow #8 with Bonnie Kane & Federico Balducci, 7pm \$

## September 29, Sunday

Kinderhook, Del's Roadside: Fall Makers Market, 12-5pm

Kinderhook, Kinderhook Memorial Library: Mini-Ren Faire, 2-5pm

Pittsfield, Ma. The Colonial Theater: Chris Ruggiero in Concert, 3pm \$

Williamstown, Ma. The Clark: Music on the Moltz Terrace - Malik Abdul-Rahmaan & DJ Rec, 5pm

Watervliet, Shaker Heritage Society: There Are NO Black Shakers, 5-7pm \$

Multidisciplinary artist and friend-of-the-almanac, Jean-Marc Superville Sovak has written and will direct the contemporary folk-opera 'There Are NO Black Shakers' which makes its debut at the Shaker Heritage Society in Watervliet on Sunday, September 29 at 5pm. This moving new piece shows the history of New York State's painful and exceedingly long process of the gradual abolition of enslaved peoples through the lens of one family. 'There Are NO Black Shakers' tells the story of Prime Lane, a free Black man who joined the Shaker Society but later renounced his faith and attempted to take his daughters with him. Articulated through reinterpretations of traditional Shaker hymns, 'There Are NO Black Shakers' asks deep questions about property, freedom, religion, and law. The production stars Aviva Jaye, Cleo Reed, and Lawrence E. Street under the musical direction of Gwen Laster.

September 30, Monday

Valatie, Valatie Free Library: Mahjong, 12pm (Mondays & Tuesdays)  
Chatham, Chatham Public Library: Lego Club, 4pm

In Australia, September 1 is celebrated as Wattle Day, the unofficial start of Australian spring. Astrological spring begins in the Southern Hemisphere on September 22 with the equinox. Wattle is the common name for many different species of *Acacia* which are commonly in bloom at this time of year. On Wattle Day, Australians may wear a sprig of the blooms and leaves. If you would like to celebrate Wattle Day here in the Dutch Towns & the Chathams you should plan well ahead as there are no acacia species native to New York State. Perhaps an alternate way of celebrating would be in eradicating an invasive black locust, scientific name *Robinia pseudoacacia*. Known for extensive root systems with clonal reproduction, black locusts threaten local biomes like the nationally important Albany Pine Bush. The sale of black locust is regulated by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.



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Stonykill Coffee & Records is the most welcome new addition to Main St. Chatham that I can imagine! The coffee is outstanding, the tunes are impeccable, and the space is sunny and gracious. Every time I stop in I love it more. Next time you're in town, check it out and support this great endeavor!

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If June is for roses then September is for dahlias. Dahlias are my flower obsession, super original, I know, but they're just so awesome. I've been planting and storing mine successfully for four years now, and I have yet to figure out how to guarantee they all show their faces year-in and year-out. My very favorite, 'Myrtle's Brandy' was the star of 2020 but hasn't been seen again until this year. Why? I have no idea. But weather-willing, I'll be pitting her against the area's very best blooms at the Dewey Hall Dahlia Festival & Contest in Sheffield, Ma. on Sunday, September 15. If you want to join the cliché flower fun, find all the details at [deweyhall.org](http://deweyhall.org)

The Historical Society of Esquatak will be hosting a talk, 'Troy's Tiffany Treasures' at the Schodack Town Hall at 7pm on September 20. Ok, Tiffanys are cool and all, but hold up: Esquatak? According to my source, Esquatak is an Indigenous name meaning "the fireplace of the nation," that has been adopted for the historical society which encompasses the towns of Schodack and Nassau. Esquatak was originally the home to the council-seat of the Mohican tribe as noted on early colonial maps and may be the word from which 'Schodack' is derived.

# Almanac of the Chathams & the Dutch Towns



*Abracadabra*  
*October*

[almanacofthechathams.com](http://almanacofthechathams.com)

*Proudly made in the Village of Chatham. Which may be in Ghent.  
Or it may be in Chatham. It's really unclear. It's a Chathams thing.*