# The HUB has been busy, assisting 86 applicants so far

By Tom Ayres Senior Staff Writer

he HUB, the nascent, seven-town mutual aid network that has operated under the auspices of the Woodstock Community Trust and the Ottauquechee Health Foundation since last November, has provided more than 80 individuals and families facing financial crises with critically needed funds over the past six months.

Initiated last fall, The HUB brought together nearly 30 community service organizations and volunteers representing Barnard, Bridgewater, Killington, Plymouth, Pomfret, Reading, and Woodstock to identify and provide financial support for people in need for such essentials as paying utility bills, medical expenses, car payments and other transportation costs, home repairs, combating food insecurity, and more.

"It's been a startup experience, learning as we go, figuring out our computer systems, trying to get the word out and how not to overwhelm our case workers, communicating with the public to let them know who we are and the help that we have available," commented Denise Lyons of Taftsville, an organizational psychologist and member of The HUB leadership team, during a phone conversation Sunday afternoon. "It was challenging to know what

the demand would be. Initially, we were getting a lot of requests and asking ourselves if this was pent-up demand or if this is just what winter will always be like, because we had so many requests for fuel assistance. It's probably our hypothesis right now that winter is always going to be the biggest demand time."

Lyons' colleague and The HUB's volunteer "strategist," Marian Koetsier, is a Woodstock Village resident who keeps tabs on a lot of the mutual aid network's data. Koetsier also took part in the Sunday afternoon discussion. "The HUB advisers — our case advocates — worked with 86 applicants through the end of this past week," Koetsier offered. "More than half of that — 64 percent, actually was for heating assistance. We also assisted with housing needs like mortgage or rent payments and home repairs. And we had people with transportation needs — help with car payments and significant repairs, a mix of things including gas for getting to and from work. And oftentimes the needs would be related to medical and health care issues and expenses."

The HUB concept grew out of the remnants of an older organization — the Woodstock Area Relief Fund, commonly known as WARF. The HUB was also inspired and

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## **Obituaries**

#### Mae E. Lewis, 74

Scottish expert, Christmas enthusiast,

family-focused

Mae E. Lewis, 74, died peacefully on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at the Springfield Hospital, Springfield, Vt.

Mae, "MeMa," was born in Bridgewater on May 11, 1948, the daughter of Arthur and Jenny (Baker) Beauregard.

She graduated from Woodstock Union High School in 1966 and was married to Robert A. Lewis that same year. They enjoyed over 50 years of marriage together. Mae also worked for many years as Manager of Scotland by the Yard in Quechee and became an expert on everything Scottish.

Mae was actively involved in the local community and was always there to provide support and love. Her family lovingly referred to her as "Mrs. Claus" due to her unbridled enjoyment of the Christmas holiday season. She was deeply committed to her family and took great joy in raising her children, grandchildren, greatgrandchildren, and spending time with Bob, her lifelong soulmate.



She is survived by her eldest son, Robert Jr. and his wife, Susan (Hard) Lewis of Brownsville; her youngest son Anthony A Lewis and his wife Kim (Lemois) Lewis of North Hartland; five grandsons, Jonathan, Cameron, Brian, Christopher and Eric, and seven great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband Robert A. Lewis, and her brothers David and James Beauregard.

There will be a Memorial Visitation at Cabot Funeral Home, Woodstock, on Sunday, April 23 from 3-5 p.m. and a Chapel Service at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Randolph on Monday April 24 at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Heart Association.

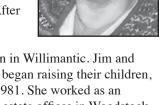
Arrangements are under the direction of the Cabot funeral Home in Woodstock. An online guestbook can be found at cabotfh.com.

## Deborah McLaughlin, 72

Proud mother, grandmother and wife Deborah Anne Carlsen McLaughlin of South Pomfret passed away on April 17, 2023 in the comfort of her home and surrounded by her family. Deborah is survived by her loving and devoted husband of 51 years, James T. McLaughlin; daughter Maura Tynes, her husband David and their children Duane, Jackie, Kayla, Seamus and Aoife of Newton, Mass.; daughter Margaret Roylance, her husband Joshua, and their children Maeve and Declan of Woodstock; and daughter Abby Kachura, her husband Jason and their children Brett (deceased), Kaitlyn, and Jameson of Pepperell, Mass. She is also survived by her sisters, Diana Dunbar of Woodstock, and Kathleen

Clairmont and her husband Roger of Lebanon, Conn.; and her nieces and nephew. She is predeceased by her infant son and parents, Keith and Margaret Monahan Carlsen.

Deborah was born on March 6, 1951 in Willimantic, Conn. and attended Windham High School, graduating in 1969. After high school, Deborah worked at Winhdam Hospital and the



Social Security Administration in Willimantic. Jim and Deborah married in 1971 and began raising their children, moving to South Pomfret in 1981. She worked as an office manager in several real estate offices in Woodstock, retiring from Williamson Sotheby's International Realty.

Deborah's true happiness in life was found in the family she and Jim created. She considered her three greatest accomplishments as having raised each of her three girls. Her love for them was only surpassed by the love she held for each of her grandchildren, having a special and unique relationship with each of them.

In April of 2022, Deborah was diagnosed with brain cancer. With the utmost of grace and courage, she fought to spend as much time with loved ones as possible. A special thank you to all the friends, community members, and care providers who supported her and the McLaughlin family throughout this time. A private burial will be held for close family members only. Her family will host a celebration of life at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, Deborah's family welcomes a donation in her name to the March of Dimes or the

Glioblastoma Foundation. An online guestbook can be found at cabotfh.com.

## Peggy K. Janney, 75

Teacher, part-time philanthropist,

people person

Peggy K. Janney, 75, long-time resident of Plymouth,

Vt., passed away on March 10. Born on Jan. 15, 1948, Peggy was the daughter of Henry Kahn and Lillian (Florsheim) Kahn. Raised in Chicago, she graduated from Harcum College in Bryn Mawr, Pa.,

with a degree in education. Peggy was a dynamic, multifaceted people person who lived many lives — teacher, Italian car importer, wife, mother and part-time philanthropist. She lived a life full of experiences that most of us could only dream of. She also battled through broken bones, breast cancer, heart attacks and surgeries armed with a sense of humor, a glass of char-

donnay and a handful of M&Ms. Peggy is survived by her son Peter Janney and his longtime partner Deborah Dukeshire, her brother Robert Kahn and step-brothers Steve and Tom Kahn. She was prede-

ceased by her husband Walter C. Janney III. A service will be held this spring. Memorial donations may be made in her name to the Foley Cancer Center at Rutland Regional Medical Center. To leave an online condolence, cabotfh.com.

### Laurence D. Matson, 73

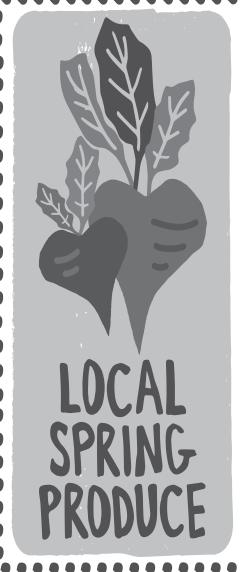
Laurence D. Matson, 73, died at his home in Hartland on

March 15, 2023. An online guestbook can be found at cabotfh.com.



















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informed by other mutual aid networks that sprouted across Vermont during the COVID pandemic, such as RAMAN, the Randolph Area Mutual Aid Network, which serves people in crisis in Braintree, Brookfield, and Randolph in Orange County. "We're very aware of the kinds of crises that our neighbors were experiencing during the pandemic and also aware that many people face those kinds of events in the course of their ordinary, daily lives as well – situations such as divorce, job loss, family illness, or simply financial stress," Lyons told the Standard shortly after The HUB launched last year.

Of the nearly 90 individuals and families who received assistance from The HUB in the last six months, Woodstock had the most applicants, Koetsier said. "Of course, Woodstock has the most population," The HUB strategist noted. "I'd say maybe 30 to 40 percent of the people we supported were from Woodstock, with the rest spread pretty evenly around the region."

The HUB offers local residents much needed financial support through its four case advocates and network of volunteers and collaborating organizations. People can use the network as a centralized conduit for connecting confidentially with numerous community-based funding resources in the region, including Barnard Helping Hands, the Plymouth Memory Tree, and the Faulkner Fund in Woodstock. Residents of Bridgewater, Killington, Pomfret, and Reading can find confidential connections to other regional service organizations that are part of The HUB's collaborative network, including the King's Daughters and Sons, Pivotal Steps, and the Ottauquechee Health Foundation.

Interested parties can connect with The HUB and its varied local funding resources by completing an application online at apply.thehubneighbors.org, sending an email to apply@thehubneighbors.org, calling the volunteer help line at (802) 457-7214, or picking up an application form for support at the Ottauquechee Health Foundation office at Simmons House at 30 Pleasant Street in Woodstock.