Barb Blom Shares the Story of Filling Up Her Empty Nest

I went to Wells College in the last century and fell in love, not just with the college, but the village and surrounding countryside. But after college I moved out west for a bit before settling in Ithaca for 25 years, where I fostered many young people. Six years ago, when my two officially adopted sons and one unofficially adopted son, of whom I had custody, moved to Aurora, it felt like coming home.

When one of my sons moved out, I felt like I had an empty nest that needed filling, and I heard about the Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) program through Catholic Charities in Syracuse. They partner with Onondaga Social Services, who partners with the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Refugee Agency. The UNHCR finds countries that can take in legal refugee youth who are either orphaned or whose family have smuggled them out of their country because they are fearful for their lives.

I called, found out more information, and attended the classes. Last September, they called and said that they had a seventeen-year-old youth from Afghanistan who would be arriving in December - would I be interested? I said sure. Then they called again to say that he was going instead to Colorado, but they had another young man from Afghanistan who would be arriving in mid-February - would I be interested? I said sure. Then a week before Thanksgiving, I received a call saying the first young man was not going to Colorado after all, he would be arriving in Syracuse the following week - would I still be interested? I said sure. They asked if I would also still be interested in the second young man? I said sure. Then the week before Christmas, I received a call saying that the second young man was arriving the following week instead of February, along with his older brother, would I be interested? I said sure. So that is how I ended up with three Afghan refugee minors.

It has been an extraordinary and life changing experience. The young men have been through so much, things that we can only imagine; some of the things we only see in movies or on tv shows, they actually experienced. All three were smuggled out of Afghanistan because to stay would be certain death. Terrorists killed 2,900 people on 9/11; they kill an average of 2,500 Afghans PER MONTH in Afghanistan.
These young men are so eager to learn, positive, respectful, hard-working, polite, and just such a pleasure to have around. All three attend Southern Cayuga High School where they made the honor roll every semester last year and are working hard to make the principal’s honor roll this year. One played baseball last year and the other two joined track. All three are playing soccer this year and just bleached their hair, a soccer team tradition and something totally new for them! All three have been doing yard work around the area for neighbors and friends, two worked at the Fargo over the summer, one was a counselor at Camp Gregory, and one already has his driver’s license.

All five young men in my house get along, they have each other’s backs, they tease each other, and occasionally argue (especially about the shower in the morning). They don’t always “get” each other and they couldn’t be more different, but at the end of the day, they call each other bro. I feel very lucky and honored to share my home with all five of these very special young men and am so happy with how the community and the school have welcomed them and made them feel a part of US. I am so glad I moved back home. Thank you all!

Preschool Storytime for Birth – Kindergarten

Join us for fun stories and early literacy activities. All children who have not yet entered kindergarten and their caregivers are invited. No registration is necessary – you are welcome to start attending at any time. Storytimes are held throughout the year when Southern Cayuga Central School is in session, September through June.

Tuesday Morning Storytime – 9:30 a.m., Hazard Library, 2487 Rt. 34B, Poplar Ridge
Wednesday Morning Storytime – 9:30 a.m. (doors open at 9:00 a.m.), Corner of Cherry Ave. and Rt. 90, Aurora.

Give Us Your Feedback! Look for Aurora Free Library’s Survey in October
The Wells College English Department is proud to welcome the following writers this fall. All events take place in Faculty Parlors unless otherwise indicated:

Ashley Woodfolk
Young Adult Fiction Reading - Wednesday, Sept. 4, 6:30 p.m.
MASTER CLASS: “Writing with Empathy” - Thursday, Sept. 5, 12:30 p.m.
Ashley Woodfolk is the author of two novels: The Beauty That Remains (2018) and When You Were Everything, to be published next year. A graduate of Rutgers University, she currently works in children’s book publishing and resides in Brooklyn with her husband, her son Niko, and her dog. Find her on Twitter at @Ash Writes.

Cassie Donish
MASTER CLASS: “Writing with Personal Vocabularies: Using Language from Beyond the Everyday” - Friday, Sept. 20, 12:30 p.m.
Nonfiction and Poetry Reading - Friday, Sept. 20, 6:30 p.m.
Cassie Donish is the author of the poetry collections The Year of the Femme (U. of Iowa Press, 2019)—winner of the Iowa Poetry Prize—and Beautyberry (Slope Editions, 2018). Their nonfiction chapbook, On the Mezzanine (Gold Line Press, 2019), was chosen by Maggie Nelson as winner of the Gold Line Press Chapbook Competition. A poet, prose writer, geographer and educator, Cassie currently teaches at the University of Missouri in Columbia, where they are pursuing a Ph.D. in literature and creative writing.

Michael Don
Fiction Reading - Thursday, Oct. 10, 6:30 p.m.
MASTER CLASS: “The Imaginative Leap: On Fictionalizing Lived Experience”
Friday, Oct. 11, 12:30 p.m.
The author of the story collection Partners and Strangers (Carnegie Mellon U. Press, 2019), Michael Don has been published in journals such as Washington Square Review, Vol. 1 Brooklyn, Fiction International, the Cortland Review and Southampton Review. He lives in Boston, where he co-edits Kikwetu: A Journal of East African Literature and teaches at Tufts University.

The Healing Muse
Reading and Issue No. 19 Launch - Thursday, Oct. 24, 7:00 p.m., Art Exhibit Room
In celebration of its 19th issue, the editors of and contributors to The Healing Muse will join us at Wells to share some new poetry, fiction and nonfiction. The Muse is the annual journal of literary and visual art published by SUNY Upstate Medical University’s Center for Bioethics and Humanities.

Philip Memmer
POETRY MASTER CLASS: “Lines of Play: On Lineation” - Thursday, Nov. 7, 12:30 p.m.
Poetry Reading - Thursday, Nov. 7, 6:30 p.m.
Philip Memmer is the author of five books of poems, most recently Pantheon (Lost Horse Press, 2019). His work has appeared in such journals as Poetry, Poetry Northwest and Poetry London, and in many anthologies. He is executive director of the Arts Branch of the YMCA of Central New York, where he founded the Downtown Writers Center in 2000; he also serves as executive editor of Stone Canoe, and associate editor for Tiger Bark Press.
Sights of Southern Cayuga

Monarch and painted lady butterflies in and around Aurora during September
Submitted by Linda Dugan
UPCOMING EVENTS

Wells College Science Colloquium Series
“Equine Research: Clinical, Collaborative and Comparative”

Thomas J. Divers, DVM
Rudolph J. and Katharine L. Steffen Professor of Veterinary Medicine,
Department of Clinical Sciences, Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

Friday, October 4
12:25 p.m.
Stratton Hall, Room 206

Treleaven’s Harvest Festival

Saturday, October 5 & Sunday, October 6
12:00-5:00 p.m.
Treleaven Wines

Experience fall in the Finger Lakes at Treleaven’s annual Harvest Festival! The two-day celebration beginning Saturday, October 5 will showcase a variety of festival activities for everyone to enjoy such as traditional grape stomplings, pumpkin painting contests, wine and craft beer, lawn games, and live entertainment! Bring the whole family for what promises to be a wonderful weekend!

Simply Cookie’s Kitchen will be serving up some great harvest specials. Check out their Facebook page for more information!

* There is a $2 entry if selecting and painting a pumpkin at the event.
* No outside food or beverages permitted.

The Klezmer Kings

Saturday, October 5
7:30 p.m.
Morgan Opera House

This lively and enthusiastic band has provided evenings of European folk, American Pop, and all genres in between for many years as a benefit for the Opera House. Clarinet, sax, percussion, accordion, piano, voice, and more share the music making with both gusto and sweetness. If you haven’t experienced Klezmer before, now is the time. Thanks go to Dana Mandel and Lifespan Physical Therapies for their support.

A donation of $8 is suggested.
Southern Cayuga Book Club

Wednesday, October 9
7:15 p.m.
Aurora Free Library

The Southern Cayuga Book Club will meet to discuss the book of the month, *Born a Crime: Stories From a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah. New members are always welcome!

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Wells College Science Colloquium Series

“The Laws of Levitation”

Mishkat Bhattacharya
Associate Professor, School of Physics and Astronomy, Rochester Institute of Technology

Friday, October 11
12:25 p.m.
Stratton Hall, Room 206

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Delta Mike Shaw Band

Saturday, October 12
6:00-9:00 p.m.
Treleaven Wines

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Finger Lakes Chamber Ensemble

Sunday, October 13
4:00 p.m.
Morgan Opera House

Suggested Donation $10

Finger Lakes Chamber Ensemble performs the seventh of what has become an annual Sunday afternoon, early fall concert. The group always presents a singular, piano-free program for the Opera House. This year’s features two extended Classical period quintets, the Kuhlau Quintet for Flute and Strings in D Major, Op. 51, No. 1, and the Mozart Quintet in C Major, KV 515.

Sponsored in part by a Finger Lakes Community Arts Grant.
“The Right Size Head”

Tuesday, October 15
4:30 p.m.
Hostetter Lecture Hall (Stratton Hall 209)

The Wells College chapter of Phi Beta Kappa is pleased to welcome its 2019 visiting scholar, Hazel Sive, professor of biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Sive’s keynote lecture will expound upon her groundbreaking research, which focuses on neurodevelopmental and mental health disorders, as well as fundamental processes underlying brain and craniofacial development.

Admission is free and all are welcome.

Hazel Sive is a pioneer in analysis of the extreme anterior domain (EAD) of the brain, a unique and important embryonic region which she named. Another major focus of her research has been on the development of the nervous system’s patterning. She is committed to communicating the powerful contributions that education and scientific research make to society, and has taken an active interest in exploring the evolving role of faculty in teaching, and curriculum reform.

Dr. Sive is a MacVicar Faculty Fellow—which is MIT’s highest undergraduate teaching award—as well as a member of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research and an associate member of the Broad Institute. She is also a founder and director of MIT–Africa, an initiative that promotes mutually beneficial connections between MIT colleagues and their African counterparts, and serves as director of higher education for MIT’s new Jameel World Education Lab.

“Tavern Talk: Peculiar Encounters and Spectral Mayhem”

Tuesday, October 15
7:00 p.m.
Moose Room, The Fargo

The story-teller, who was just putting a glass of wine to his lips, as a refreshment after his toils, paused for a moment, looked at his inquirer with an air of infinite deference, and, lowering the glass slowly to the table, observed that the story was intended most logically to prove.

— The Legend of Sleepy Hollow post-script, Washington Irving, 1820

Join the Seward House Museum Education Department as they explore the haunted, menacing underbelly of the Finger Lakes region that, while scenic by day, has attracted all sorts of bizarre and peculiar encounters. These tales of spectral mayhem, grizzly true crime stories, possible possessions, and other spooky accounts, drawn from local folklore and history, will be told around the tavern over drinks, as they would have been in the 19th century. And as you listen to these strange tales, discover the same possessive elements of the area which drew famed spooky-story writer, Washington Irving, to central New York in the autumn of 1838.

This event is open to all and requires pre-registration. Seating is limited to 25 people. $15 advance ticket purchase includes tavern bites and a complimentary glass of beer, wine, soda, coffee or tea. $20 cash at the door if seating remains. 315-364-8050 or www.innsofaurora.com/activities
“A Bookbinder’s Journey: My Analog and Virtual Life in the Book Arts”

Thursday, October 17
6:00 p.m.
Hostetter Lecture Hall (Stratton Hall 209)

The Wells College Book Arts Center is pleased to welcome noted bookbinder, conservator, and librarian Peter D. Verheyen to campus, where he will present the 48th Susan Garretson Swartzburg ’60 Memorial Book Arts Lecture. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Verheyen will give an illuminating talk about his career as a bookbinder, conservator and academic librarian. Along with examples of his work, he will discuss the materials and techniques he uses to craft his bindings, with selections of his bindings for attendees to explore. He will also discuss in depth a recent project which ties together the many threads of his long and accomplished career.

Wells College Sustainability Speaker Series
“Drawdown Rising: Solutions, Leadership, and a Path Forward for the Climate Crisis”

Thursday, October 17
7:00-8:30 p.m.
Phipps Auditorium, Macmillan Hall

Humanity has faced urgent threats in the past, but never one as all-encompassing as the climate crisis. In this keynote, Katherine Wilkinson, VP of communication and engagement for Project Drawdown (drawdown.org) will speak to both what we can do and who we can be, in order to effect the changes that are required. She will share highlights from Project Drawdown’s pioneering assessment of climate solutions, as well as insights about catalytic climate leadership from various people, organizations, and movements.

Wells College Science Colloquium Series
“A Brief History of Wells College’s Science Facilities”

Christopher Bailey
Professor of Chemistry and Chair, Biological & Chemical Sciences, Wells College

Friday, October 18
12:25 p.m.
Stratton Hall, Room 206
Halloween Movie Madness!

Friday, October 18
6:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.
Howland Farm Museum

Share in my love for holiday movies and join me for any or all of this triple feature outdoors on the big barn screen!

From 7:00-8:30 p.m., I'll be watching one of my favorites, kid friendly, The Witches.
From 9:00-10:40 p.m., I'll continue the Jim Henson theme with another favorite, Labyrinth
From 11:00 p.m.-12:30 a.m., we will show the classic horror, Night of the Living Dead!

Please be considerate - if arriving for second or third movie, do not pull into parking area until the previous movie has ended, as headlights and car noise will disturb final moments of movie! This is an outdoor event, so dress in layers, wear a hat, bring a blanket to snuggle! It can get chilly at night! Bring a camp chair if you have it. I will be making hot apple cider, but you can bring your own food and beverages.

Fall Open House

Saturday, October 19
1:00-4:00 p.m.
Howland Stone Store Museum and Opendore

Bright Leaf Vineyard's First Annual Harvest Festival

Saturday, October 19
12:00-5:00 p.m.
Bright Leaf Vineyard, 1250 Clearview Road

We will have food from the 10-10 BBQ, music by Madd Daddy, harvest-themed games, and wine specials to warm you up! We will also be hosting a vendor market that will include hand made goods from all over Cayuga Lake. Join us to celebrate the best part of autumn and all it has to offer! For more information on being a vendor contact ruby@brightleafvineyard.com.

Chasing Neon Band

Saturday, October 19
6:00-9:00 p.m.
Treleaven Wines

Enjoy the final days of fall with live music, wine, beer, and delicious food! Chasing Neon makes their debut performance on the Treleaven stage.
Aurora Free Library presents
Emerging Visions
Short films by new and rising women film makers
Saturday, October 19th at 7:30 pm

Aurora and Central New York has long been known for its active role as a place for women to develop their wisdom, skill and talent into strong voices that speak truth and project a vision that changes the world. Join us as we experience and celebrate these emerging talents. Tickets are free, but donations are much appreciated. A brief question and answer period will follow.

We are still accepting submissions through October 12th. Please contact Ed at eeaster@aurorafreelibrary.org.
“The Loomis Gang” with Sue Greenhagen

Sunday, October 20
1:30 p.m.
Rural Life Museum, King Ferry

Upcoming Autumn Programs

Sunday, November 3 at 1:30 p.m. – “Got Milk?” with Tom Kanalley (milk bottles, etc. of the past)
End of November (date TBD) – “Barbershop Chatter and History” with Gene Tobey

Hosted by the Genoa Historical Association. All programs at the Rural Life Museum in King Ferry.

Donations appreciated.

The Restoration of Historic Lead Windows

Sunday, October 20
4:00 p.m.
Howland Stone Store Museum

Jerome Durr of Jerome Durr Studios in Syracuse, NY restored the diamond panel windows from Opendore with donated funds from Westminster Presbyterian Church. He has worked on windows from many area churches including St. Matthews in Moravia and Willard Chapel.

Wells College Sustainability Perspectives Series
“Purpose-Led Careers: Fact or Fiction?”

Monday, October 21
12:20-1:20 p.m.
DeWitt Lecture Room 106, Zabriskie Hall

Is it important to you to work for a company with values that align with yours? Are you interested in a career that can have a positive impact on your community and perhaps even the rest of the world? Monica Touesnard, associate director of the Center for Sustainable Global Enterprise at Cornell University’s SC Johnson College of Business, will share with you a framework for thinking about jobs in the sustainability sector and provide some tips to help get you started.
Wells College Sustainability Film Series  
*A Fierce Green Fire*  
Tuesday, October 22  
7:00-9:00 p.m.  
De Witt Lecture Room, Zabriskie Hall 106

This is the first big-picture exploration of the environmental movement, spanning fifty years from conservation to climate change. The film tells vivid stories about people fighting - and succeeding - against enormous odds. The film is divided into five “acts”:

- **Act 1**: the conservation movement of the `60s, narrated by Robert Redford
- **Act 2**: the new environmental movement of the `70s, narrated by Ashley Judd
- **Act 3**: alternative ecology strands, narrated by Van Jones
- **Act 4**: global resource issues and crises of the `80s, narrated by Isabel Allende
- **Act 5**: concerning climate change, narrated by Meryl Streep

Running time: 101 minutes. Free organic popcorn and butter.

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*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*  
Friday, October 25 & Saturday, October 26  
7:30 p.m.  
Phipps Auditorium

*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, with music and lyrics by William Finn, book by Rachel Sheinkin, and conceived by Rebecca Feldman, will be presented in Phipps Auditorium at Wells College.

*Spelling Bee* is an energetic, contemporary musical about six hopeful, quirky middle schoolers competing for first prize at their county spelling bee. Each character is searching for identity and purpose—including the three adults who run the event. These youths and adults are seeking to prove their worth to themselves and those around them, battling their inner insecurities and outside obstacles in order to climb up the ladder of success to discover their inner champion.

Running time is approximately two hours. Admission is free—reservations are not required.

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**Pumpkins on the Porch!**  
Saturday, October 26 & Sunday, October 27  
11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
Howland Farm Museum

Stop by during this time to help me carve all the pumpkins on my porch into jack-o-lanterns! My goal is to have over 50 jack-o-lanterns lit up on my porch for the days leading up to Halloween! I have a variety of carving knives, including kid friendly. The jack-o-lanterns will be lit at dark on Sunday, October 27th through the 31st.
Super Mario Smash Bros. Gaming Tournament

Saturday, October 26
3:30 p.m.
Aurora Free Library

We have a Switch™. We have a big screen.

We have Super Mario Smash Bros. ™. We have pizza. We have a $25 gift card. LET'S HAVE A TOURNAMENT!

The Aurora Free Library will be hosting a gaming tournament for ages 13 and up. Registration is free. The winner will receive a $25 Visa gift card.

Brackets will be randomly selected on day of event. Please email Ed at eeaster@aurorafreelibrary.org to register or with any questions. To register submit your name, age, and contact information. You can also register in person at the front desk of the Aurora Free Library.

Boos and Brews Halloween Party

Saturday, October 26
6:00-9:00 p.m.
Treleaven Wines

Join us for a smashing good time at our Boos and Brews Halloween Party! Enjoy plenty of wine, beer, festive music and delicious food from Simply Cookie’s Kitchen. Prizes awarded for best costumes. Come on out for what promises to be a spooktacular evening! Free Admission, no outside food or alcohol permitted.

Haunting the Streets on Halloween?

Thursday, October 31
5:00-7:30 p.m.
Creep into The United Ministry
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