

Pretending to fish: 'Reservoir Year' a quiet Catskills adventure full of light and grace

The Ashokan Reservoir is a weird, wonderful place, fiercely protected yet encircled by busy-ness, its stunning panoramas spotted with traces of human doings. Historic markers indicate the 12 drowned towns that existed until the New York City Board of Water Supply impounded the Esopus Creek, poignant amid the magnificence of the High Peaks, a reminder that everything and nothing changes.

A century after this lake was filled, writer Nina Shengold – a local who'd visited the reservoir on and off for years – set herself a challenge: to walk there daily for a full year and see what she would see. Thus was born "Reservoir Year: A Walker's Book of Days."



Book Review

Anne Pyburn Craig

The year chronicled, beginning in September 2015, seems oddly distant now: no President Donald Trump, no paved rail trail alongside the reservoir, no pandemic. In Shengold's life, it was a year of several uncontrollable transitions at once: Her daughter away at Bennington, her parents' rapid aging, and her own 60th birthday gave her much to mull over. She began the project with considerable

doubt about whether she'd actually see it through. Every day? Do freelancers actually do anything every single day?

But the trips to the res – some idyllic, some ordinary, a few excruciating – kept drawing her back, sometimes with friends, most often alone. She walked in sleet and baking sun, at sunrise and after midnight and in the full and populous afternoon. She christens the eagles Fabio and Xena and watches them raise an eaglet, she comes up



Go to www.ninashengold.com for the Zoom launch party on Aug. 3 at 5pm, and lots of great events in cyberspace.

with nicknames for her fellow res regulars (and wonders what they call her). She plays cat and mouse with DEP police, obtaining a fishing license and "prop pole" so she can explore more places and stay within the letter of the law.

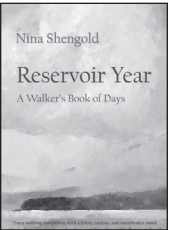
Shengold had rules of her own: no camera, no notebook. She would write down only the stuff that stuck.

Some walks get only a few lines; others are epic, and a few epic lines. Along with woodpeckers and whitetail, there's a rich mix of humanity, impacting and being impacted by the surroundings. She encounters (and gracefully avoids interrupting) a deer in labor, humans making out, tourists from everywhere, families and couples in assorted states of delight and confusion. There are rare moments of instinctive fear that she wisely obeys, irritations that she equally wisely keeps to herself.

Her simple commitment brings her stress and relief, misery and bliss, suspense and hilarity. Her warm, clear reflections make this a book about much more than walking; it's a portrait of place and time and a rich meditation on existence, precisely because she doesn't try to make it that way but allows it to unfold. There is a sprinkling of diverse, evocative illustrations by Kate McGloughlin, Carol Zaloom and Will Lytle;

Now that someone has done it, it becomes glaringly obvious that this project was deeply necessary: a portrait of the reservoir at 100, vibrant, humming, formed from need and suffering, brimming with beauty, surrounded by love and lunacy, brought to life on the page with unsparing, honest love. "Reservoir Year" is a walk you'll neither regret nor forget.

Signed copies of "Reservoir Year" are available at the Golden Notebook in Woodstock and Oblong Books and Music in Rhinebeck (shipping very much available), and the book can be found online at Syracuse University Press (<https://press.syr.edu/supressbooks/2980/reservoir-year/>), ABA indie bookseller support platform Bookshop (<https://bookshop.org/>) and "the usual suspects," to quote the author. **ESP**



cover

BlueStone Kudos

Scholar kudos

Ryan Bremer of Stone Ridge graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Western New England University in May 2020. Bremer was among over 950 students who received degrees from 25 states and six countries. The top five fields of study were mechanical engineering, criminal justice, sport management, psychology and accounting.

A Salute to Undergraduate students of the class of 2020 featuring a driving parade of the Western New England community

T. Hoyt of Tillson was among more than 2,000 students named to the University of Scranton's dean's list for the 2020 spring semester. A student must have a grade-point

average of 3.5 or better with a minimum number of credit hours during the semester to make the dean's list. Hoyt is a senior neuroscience major in the University's College of Arts and Sciences.

The following local residents made the dean's list at Rochester Institute of Technology for the 2020 spring semester: Matthew Simonetty of Esopus, who is in the biomedical sciences program; and Brendan Smailer of Stone Ridge, who is in the industrial design program.

Degree-seeking undergraduate students are eligible for dean's list if their term GPA is greater than or equal to 3.400; they do not have any grades of "incomplete", "D" or "F"; and they have registered for, and completed, at least 12 credit hours. RIT is home to leading creators, entrepreneurs, innovators and researchers. Founded in 1829, RIT enrolls about 19,000 students in more than 200 career-oriented and professional programs, making it among the largest private universities in the U.S.

Among those who have been named to the spring 2020 dean's list at Adelphi University were the following local students: Anne Marie Cipolla of Kerhonkson and James Murphy of Stone Ridge.

The dean's list includes full-time students registered for 12 or more credits who have completed at least nine graded credits and achieved a GPA of 3.5 or above for the semester. This recognition becomes part of the student's academic record and is entered into the individual's transcript. Adelphi University is a highly awarded, nationally ranked, powerfully connected doctoral research university offering exceptional liberal arts and sciences programs and professional training with particular strength in its Core Four-Arts and Humanities, STEM and Social Sciences, the Business and Education Professions, and Health and Wellness.

Makaylah Mutz, of Kerhonkson, has been named to the spring 2020 dean's list at American International College. Dean's List students are full-time students who have achieved a 3.3 to 4.0 GPA. The College commends the extraordinary achievement and commitment of this scholar's accomplishment during an unprecedented time.

Students recently completed the requirements for graduation from their academic degree or certificate programs at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy. The college's Class of 2020, which also includes students who completed their degree requirements in fall 2019, graduated from more than 80 degree or certificate programs. Among the more than 1,400 graduates were Deana Kaiser of Rifton, who has graduated from the dental hygiene academic program; Erik Nelson of Stone Ridge, who has graduated from the electrical construction and maintenance academic program; and Riley Tompkins of Kerhonkson, who has graduated from the electrical construction and maintenance academic program

Meghan Davis of Stone Ridge was recently initiated into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Davis was initiated at The Sage Colleges.

Davis is among approximately 30,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann, who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. The Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States and the Philippines.

SUNY New Paltz announces its dean's list for the spring 2020 semester, a recognition for students who excel academically and earn at least a 3.3 grade-point average in a semester with a full-time course load. The following students made the spring 2020 dean's list: Paige Bogart of High Falls, Christopher Cancelliere of Accord, Jason Cavallo of Tillson, Tyler Corsette of Kerhonkson, Andrew Cymbal of Kerhonkson, Victoria Cymbal of Kerhonkson, Konrad Dalland of Stone Ridge, Wilfredo De Leon Maldonado of Kerhonkson, Joshua Dingman of Rosendale, Alexandra DiSanto of Accord, Aidan Dubitsky of Rosendale, Sarah Greene of Stone Ridge, Liam Greenhall of Accord, Eric Henn of Esopus, Rachel Hermance of High Falls, Ericka Julian of High Falls, Kaya Keller of Rosendale, Elana Kellerhouse of Rosendale, Rebecca Konwerski of High Falls, Nicole Kortright of Kerhonkson, Danielle Kruchowy of Kerhonkson, Jean Luc Ludwig of Accord, Tomas Ludwig of Accord, Matthew McCormick of Olivebridge, Geoffrey McGlenn of Tillson, Alyssa Mead of Rosendale, Taylor O'Connor of Tillson, Jamie Owens of Rosendale, Nicholas Pacht of Accord, Joli Perfit of Olivebridge, Nicholas Plumeri of High Falls, Tyler Rearick of Tillson, Mary Sommer of Accord, Aleah Speller of Accord, Emma Spiegler of High Falls, Sarah Swift of Accord, Nina Triplo of Stone Ridge, Elyssa VanBenschoten of High Falls, Kaylin Vermilyea of Rosendale, Jake Viertel of Stone Ridge, Freda Walzer of Rosendale and River Wasserman of High Falls.

Tyler Gilbert of Kerhonkson, Rondout Valley High School Class of 2018, was named to the dean's list at the Thomas J. Watson School of Engineering and Applied Science for the 2020 spring semester at SUNY Binghamton with a GPA of 3.5.

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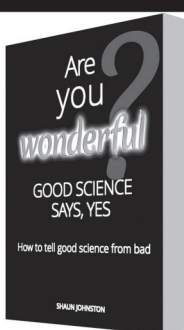


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