

community calendar



Whimsical wildlife

POTTER SANDRA LANCE'S glazed ceramic hedgehog, porcelain fruit-shape mugs, crystal-glaze tiled mirror, and other creations at her Lincoln studio during the two-day Addison County this Saturday and Sunday. Many of their studios for public viewing over the weekend.

Sep 26

MONDAY

Weekly bridge class in Middlebury. Monday, Sept. 26, 6-7:30 p.m., Ilsley Library. Louise Acker, experienced bridge instructor, teaches this weekly course suitable for absolute beginners but open to more experienced players as well. Free registration required. Info: 388-4095 or kirby@ilsleypubliclibrary.org.

Vermont Ukulele Society meeting in Middlebury. Monday, Sept. 26, 7-9 p.m., Howden Hall. Play and strum with other ukulele players. Hints for beginners at 6:30 p.m. from 7-9. Info: vtukes.webs.com

Sep 27

TUESDAY

Hip-hop dance in Middlebury. Tuesday, Sept. 27, 10:45 a.m., Mahanay Center. A B-girl and hip-hop artist who performs internationally will lead two classes, one for the public on a space at 443-5245 or info@middlebury.edu. Info: 388-4095 or chris@middlebury.edu.

Book discussion in Middlebury. Tuesday, Sept. 27, 7 p.m., Ilsley Library. Louise Acker, experienced bridge instructor, teaches this weekly course suitable for absolute beginners but open to more experienced players as well. Free registration required. Info: 388-4095 or chris@middlebury.edu.

Look Good Feel Better in Middlebury. The Lodge teaches techniques to help you feel better. Info: 388-4095 or info@middlebury.edu.

Sep 28

MONDAY

Vermont Adult Learning orientation in Middlebury. Monday, Oct. 3, 12:30-3 p.m., Community Services Building, 282 Boardman St. Learn about free classes and tutoring options in basic reading, writing and math; GED and adult diploma; college prep; English for speakers of other languages; and more. For people 16 and older. Info: 388-4095 or chris@middlebury.edu.

Ukulele class in Middlebury. Monday, Oct. 3, 7-9 p.m., Howden Hall. Play and strum with other ukulele players. Hints for beginners at 6:30 p.m. from 7-9. Info: vtukes.webs.com

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Look Good Feel Better in Middlebury. The Lodge teaches techniques to help you feel better. Info: 388-4095 or info@middlebury.edu.

Colorful Apparel & Gifts in Middlebury. The Lodge teaches techniques to help you feel better. Info: 388-4095 or info@middlebury.edu.

Sat 10-5 • Sun 11-4 in Middlebury. The Lodge teaches techniques to help you feel better. Info: 388-4095 or info@middlebury.edu.

SEPTEMBER 25 in Middlebury. The Lodge teaches techniques to help you feel better. Info: 388-4095 or info@middlebury.edu.

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SEPTEMBER 29 in Middlebury. The Lodge teaches techniques to help you feel better. Info: 388-4095 or info@middlebury.edu.

SEPTEMBER 30 in Middlebury. The Lodge teaches techniques to help you feel better. Info: 388-4095 or info@middlebury.edu.

OCTOBER 1 in Middlebury. The Lodge teaches techniques to help you feel better. Info: 388-4095 or info@middlebury.edu.



"LOTUS LIVES"

New opera blends the familiar with the foreign

The original chamber opera "Lotus Lives," by composer Su Lian Tan and librettist Anne Babson, will receive its world premiere on Friday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. in the Mahaney Center for the Arts Concert Hall at Middlebury College.

"Lotus Lives" challenges the artifice forced on Chinese-American women and offers hope to those who would overcome stereotypes. With elements of rap, Chinese folk music, and dance-club music incorporated into its high-art classical melodies, "Lotus Lives" offers seemingly contradictory elements blended into a delicious and exuberant romp.

Composer Su Lian Tan is known to the Middlebury College community as a professor in the Department of Music, but she has also earned numerous distinctions worldwide as a flutist, teacher and conductor. Among the other collaborators are award-winning poet and librettist Anne Babson, whose work has been published in the U.S., England, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia and Turkey, and mezzo-soprano Brenda Patterson, whose career has been described by *The New York Times* as "a voice you want to hear and, even more, an artist you want to follow."

The Meridian Arts Ensemble takes the place of a traditional orchestra for "Lotus Lives." This sextet of five brass players and a percussionist is America's leading brass group exploring the music of today. The rest of the production team includes violinist David Bowlin, choreographer and dancer Arika Yamada, dancers Denys Drozdyuk and Sonia Hsieh and director Claudio Medeiros.

At 4 p.m. on Saturday, Tim Bartlett, the video set designer, and Tan will give an informal talk in the concert hall on creating and composing the new chamber opera. Images and music from the opera will be shown and discussed. Following this presentation, there will be the opportunity to ask questions. In addition, on Sunday there will be a pre-concert talk by Stephen Whiteman at 2:15 p.m.

The performances and talks are free and open to the public; no tickets

are required. For more information, call 443-3168 or go to middlebury.edu/arts.

OF MICE AND MEN AT THT

Middlebury Actors Workshop brings John Steinbeck's classic tale "Of Mice and Men" to the stage at Town Hall Theater, starring Middlebury's premier acting duo, Harry McEnery and Steve Small at 8 p.m. on Thursday. Repeat performances will take place at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and at 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

arts beat

BY GREG PAHL

"Of Mice and Men" is a searing portrait of an unlikely friendship

in the lonely world of Depression-era migrant workers. George Milton (McEnery) and Lennie Small (Small) have known each other since childhood. Lennie is a powerful man with the mind of a child and George is committed to looking out for him. They are constant companions as they move from job to backbreaking job along the ranch circuit. What sustains them throughout is a dream of one day saving up a little stake, buying a small farm of their own and "living off the fat of the land." Their dreams are close to being realized when tragedy forces George to make an agonizing decision.

McEnery and Small have formed a strong acting partnership over the 10 years through their work with (See Arts Beat, Page 11)



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