OPEN HOUSE January 15 - Galapagos Islands – Natural Wonders
Members and Non-members are Welcome
Please invite your friends and family

David Pressler, Connecticut photographer, world traveler, artist and designer, shares a dynamic presentation, documented during his recent adventures in the Galapagos Islands. Viewed through his visual awareness are unique birds and animals, landscapes, botanicals and geological formations. His goal is to encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to become visually conscious of the world around them. So, bring an open mind and... don’t forget to come with your eyes wide open!

David Pressler earned a degree in Industrial Design from the Rhode Island School of Design, where he first studied photography with the famed photographer Harry Callahan. His creative professional career has been in corporate identity and branding; product and package design and experimental educational material development. He has exhibited widely in Fairfield and Westchester Counties, judged numerous photography competitions and is a member of the Connecticut Association of Photographers.

Click Below for the Open House Video
https://vimeo.com/490032121/f8f2f05089

January 22, 2021 - The Clara Barton Story

Clara Barton may be one of the great American figures of the nineteenth century, though most Americans know only a small part of her story. She was the "Angel of the Battlefield" during the Civil War, founder of the Red Cross and a
"feminist" figure revered by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Stanton. Yet, she long suffered from depression and anxiety, and was criticized by some for embellishing her battlefield heroics and her leadership of the Red Cross - so much so that she was removed from its presidency eight years before her death.

Bob Machson began his career as a radio talk host, news director and later as an attorney representing national retailers, restaurants and cinemas. During that time, he was a frequent speaker before corporate and trade groups. As he nears retirement, Bob has been focusing on his passion, the study of the Gilded Age, which currently includes a finished screenplay and one in process. He has since lectured on topics from that period including The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson and The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Three Robber Barons.

January 29, 2021 - Romanticism in the Opera

Napoleon told Goethe that he had read Goethe’s 1774 novella The Sorrows of Young Werther seven times. “Werther” spread a wave of intense romanticism like wildfire throughout Europe. Young men gave gifts of small glass vials filled with (supposedly) their tears to show their girlfriends how sensitive they were. Much later, in 1892 Massenet wrote his opera Werther. We see excerpts of a terrific production featuring today’s tenor superstar Jonas Kauffman which is paired with another great romantic opera, Gounod’s Romeo and Juliet, with a very young Roberto Alagna. Both of these are very beautiful, emotional love stories and are prime examples of this opera genre, saturated with lush romantic music and wonderful voices.

David Shafer has over 250 operas on CDs and over 100 on DVDs and has been an opera nut for almost 60 years. He has been to opera houses all over Europe and the U.S. and teaches opera courses locally.

February 5, 2021 - The Rohingya Crisis in Southwest Myanmar

In August 2017 in Southwest Myanmar, the Burmese army conducted a ruthless campaign against Burmese Muslims, killing, raping and destroying their homes. Over 700,000 of them fled to Bangladesh where they now reside. This talk, with slides, explains the long history in Myanmar
of this ethnic and religious minority and their interaction with local Buddhists. We cover the conflict between these local Buddhists and the majority Bamar Burmese Buddhists, who dominate that country’s army. The military’s relationship with Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of Myanmar’s government, is discussed. Current court cases and other possible solutions to this difficult situation are explored.

**Paul Sarno** is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the Columbia Law School. He was a civil trial lawyer in New York City. From his undergraduate days, he has nurtured a fascination with Southeast Asia. Through readings, sixteen visits (the most recent in July-August 2019 to Indonesia), membership in area societies and as a Trustee of the Burma Studies Foundation, he has been engaged in a systematic effort at better understanding these countries and their relationships with the super-powers. He has taught senior citizens in Norwalk and Sarasota, FL over the last sixteen years.

**February 12, 2021 - Collecting Bees: Discover What Is Going on In the Bee Colony**

The sweet reward of fresh honey is by no means the only reason folks are attracted to beekeeping. For a long time, agriculture has recognized the value of pollination by bees. In fact, without the bees’ help, 1/3 of everything we eat would suffer dire consequences. But in the last several years, millions of colonies of honey bees have been wiped out by something called “Colony Collapse Disorder.” Honey bees are facing a crisis. Learn more about the remarkable honey bee...the colony’s amazing social structure, and the multitude of benefits that honey bees bring to our everyday lives. Understand why the bees are vanishing, and what you can do to help reverse this grim situation.

**Howland Blackiston** is the author of *Building Beehives for Dummies* (2013 John Wiley & Sons), and *Beekeeping for Dummies* (Fourth Edition 2017 John Wiley & Sons). A New Canaan native, he has been a backyard beekeeper since 1983. He has written hundreds of articles on beekeeping and has appeared on television and radio and in numerous magazines. Howland is the past President of Connecticut’s Back Yard Beekeepers Association, one of the nation’s largest regional clubs for the hobbyist beekeeper.