



In this issue...book reviews, politics and more!

Berlin High Welcomes New Principal

By Gina Scalaro and Abby Ferland
Redcoat Review Writers

Although Mrs. Eustis is new to Berlin High School, the students and staff never fail to see her. Whether she is speaking at an assembly or greeting students in the halls, she has been open to meeting everyone.

In a recent interview, we asked Mrs. Eustis a series of questions related to work and her personal life.

Scaloro/Ferland: How has your time been at Berlin High so far? What do you love the most about it?

Mrs. Eustis: My time has been great. I have thoroughly enjoyed it. I love the positive energy and how welcoming everyone has been and getting to meet everybody.

Mrs. Eustis was previously an assistant principal at Conard High School in West

Hartford and Simsbury High School. The upcoming school year will be Mrs. Eustis' 30th year in education. Before moving into administration, she was a middle school English and math teacher.

Scaloro/Ferland: How does Berlin High differ from other schools you were at before?

Mrs. Eustis: It's definitely a smaller high school than previous ones I've worked at, which I like. It is easier to know people and feel a sense of a community as a whole. It's nice to see the rich, long-standing traditions that are unique to the community.

Aside from her school life, she loves to spend time with her family. The Patriots and Red Sox are both notable teams in the Eustis house. Berlin High School is fortunate to welcome a principal who is enthusiastic and ready to change the school for the better.



Photo credit: Mrs. deRito
From left BHS sophomores Gina Scalaro and Abby Ferland pose with Mrs. Eustis in her new office.

Acclaimed Author Visits BHS

By Nick Spinali
Redcoat Review Writer

On September 24, Mary-Ann Tirone Smith, author of the memoir *Girls of Tender Age*, made a visit to Berlin High School to meet with the students.

Smith, born February 6, 1944, was raised in Hartford. She was the first person in her family to graduate from college, earning a Bachelor's Degree and a degree in English Language and Literature/Letters from Central Connecticut State University.

Her memoir, *Girls of Tender Age*, is a story that has received much praise since it was published in 2005 and countless accolades and awards over the years, including being optioned for film by actress Roma Maffia and author/personality Rosie O'Donnell.

As Smith sat facing a crowd of over 250 students, most of whom were sophomores, her ability to express her life through her memories and her stories quickly became apparent. She carried a unique sense of humor and was very direct and personal with the audience -- something uncommon among most people.

Being able to recount the preeminent experiences that drove her to become an



Photo credit: Mrs. Rice
Author Mary-Ann Tirone Smith, originally from Hartford, CT, speaks to students about memoir writing in the Library Media Center at the high school.

author in the adult years of her life, it was obvious why her eventual occupation after college would be to become an author.

Smith masterfully recalled what life had been like growing up in the north side of Hartford during the 1950s when United States conflict had been at its peak following the Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbor and World War II. She also recapitulated her experience of living with an autistic sibling and accepting one of her classmates being murdered while she attended Mary Hooker Magnet Elementary School, which ultimately became the main narrative behind *Girls of Tender Age*.

"Why do readers love memoirs?" Smith asked the auditorium packed with students. "It gives them an

opportunity to try on someone else's life. To experience a unique intimacy like no other... We memoirists are obsessed. We are obsessed with visiting an episode in our lives that will not go away, but we know that in the telling of this episode we must wear the analytical hat of a... mathematician, writing and rewriting that episode until finally finding the key to unlock what we are trying to understand, to grasp, to make sense of, to cope with."

Smith herself admitted that while growing up in the 1950s, things that simply did not need to be made public were kept private. This was the case with the loss of Smith's childhood classmate, who had been murdered.

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Democrats Poised To Take House Control

By Justin Lamoureux
Redcoat Review Writer

With several weeks to go until the Congressional Midterms, an election which will not only serve as a national referendum on President Trump and his administration but also test the strength of Trump's base and the Republican Party as a whole, the Democrats appear poised to take control of the House of Representatives.

A recent poll released by FiveThirtyEight, a prominent polling website, shows the Democrats with a 4-in-5 (or 80.0%) chance of taking control of the House -- their first time doing so in nearly a decade.

The Senate, meanwhile, may well be a different story. A poll released by FiveThirtyEight on the same day shows the Republicans have a 7-in-10 (or 68.9%) chance of retaining control of the United States Senate. This is largely because

unlike the House, where all members are up for re-election this year, the Senate is staggered, meaning that only a small number (roughly a third) of members are up for re-election. And of those seats that will be contested this November, a vast majority are currently held by Democrats. Simply put, the Democrats have more at stake than the Republicans.

Democrats' success in retaking Congress will be heavily dependent upon their ability to energize voters and effectively excite their base about the task that lies before them. The Democratic electorate is comprised primarily of younger and urban voters, as well as African-Americans and Hispanics.

An increase in Hispanic voters in recent years is largely why elections in many historically red states (e.g. Arizona and Texas) are becoming more competitive.

Practical knowledge, based on opinion

polls and the historic tendency of a president's party to experience considerable losses in midterms, suggest a strong victory for the Democrats at the congressional level (the so-called "blue wave") -- at least in the House. However, if the last two years have taught the American people anything, it's that we are inherently faced with an infinite range of possibilities.

Polls are simply statistics, the outcome of which depends almost entirely on who picks up the phone, clicks an ad that pops up on the screen of their computer or answers a survey via email.

There is little science behind the process itself. For that reason, even with factors such as Trump's relative unpopularity (his disapproval rating is 53%), and that of his colleagues in Congress, we won't truly know where he or the "Grand Old Party" stand with voters until November 6.



Photo credit: Mrs. Rice

Former Connecticut resident Mary-Ann Tirone Smith reads excerpts from her memoir, *Girls of Tender Age*.

Tirone Smith gives students tips

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It was not until the Hartford Courant asked Smith to write an article of her experiences growing up during the 1950s that she questioned who the true murderer of her friend was, resulting in the writing of *Girls of Tender Age*.

"We are driven to make sense of it all, to find meaning or an explanation of the aching persistence and put it into a coherent story for all of you, often creating in the writing of [the story] unbearable tension and suspense, and even, almost always, pain. Not just pain to us writing, but pain to all of you who we have to express this turmoil to. Even if the story is a tragic one -- sad, upsetting -- at the same time, it has to be exhilarating. It has to make the reader walk away and say, 'I've been there... I know what she's talking about... That's me she's talking about,'" said Smith.

Following her speech in the

auditorium, Smith visited the library to work with sophomores and conduct a session designed in the format of a writers workshop. There, she explained the importance of different literary elements and how to properly execute them when writing a memoir.

Because a memoir is simply a recollection of a certain time or experience in one's past, Smith stressed the importance of using dialogue to show action and develop the plot of the story. She also highly recommended writing things as you remember, meaning that if you don't exactly recall an exact aspect or thing from the experience, write what you remember of that aspect or thing.

One Berlin student said that the experience with Smith "taught me the difference between showing and not telling while writing," while another noted he "learned a lot about using dialogue and the art of recollection when it comes to storytelling."

Up the Down Staircase sure to delight

By Emily Kobus
Redcoat Review Writer

If you are looking for something to do in November, come see the BHS play *Up the Down Staircase* by Bel Kaufman, directed by Mr. Recore and Ms. Corallo.

This show, consisting of 30+ students in the cast and 20+ students involved in stage crew, perfectly shows many struggles experienced by students and teachers in high school.

Come and you will see a classroom of students, who definitely do not have easy lives, try to find a way to overcome their pain with their first year teacher, Ms. Sylvia Barrett.

This show will keep you on your toes and keep you laughing from opening curtain to the last line.

From Lou Marten's comedic personality, Harry A. Kagan's sucking up to the teacher, Alice Blake's intense feelings for a teacher, and finally to Joan Ferone's struggles at school and on the streets, *Up the Down Staircase* manages to keep a comedic aura while still maintaining the sometimes brutal honesty that needs to be heard -- school is not perfect, but a great teacher can change a life.

The dates of this play are Thursday, November 15th at 6:30pm, Saturday, November 17th at 7pm, and Sunday, November 18th at 2pm in the Robert P.



Long Auditorium at Berlin High School.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, and \$8 for students. You don't want to miss out on this amazing opportunity! We hope to see you there.

Berlin Upbeat: A Time For Growth

OPINION PIECE

By Jennifer Mouser
Redcoat Review Writer

In 1988, Upbeat began through a federal grant to promote sobriety through schools, cultivate community service, and give leadership opportunities to students. Today, it's run by Mr. Jack Rudy, a Berlin High alum, former Senior House leader, and a pillar of the Berlin community, with the help of a series of coordinators -- Suhanee Patel, Nicole Pinto, Aidan Rich, Maya Patel, and Christian Damiana.

In the past, the club has been criticized for having a lack of open communication, but change is quickly approaching. With new committees, a renovated newsletter, and the creation of a documentary, a comfortable feeling descends upon students. For the first time, Upbeat feels as if it is at a crossroads, improving for the better for all.

The main contention with the group is the meetings. Students come in, sit down, converse, play games, and get to sign up for service events, but to some, there's a lack of direction to it. I recently spoke with Erin Ferris and Taylor Droste, both of whom left Upbeat during their sophomore and junior year.

When I mentioned Upbeat, the floodgates appeared to open, eliciting a series of complaints that very much mirrored the same thoughts I had back in my freshman year. "I wasn't doing anything," Droste admitted. "You sit there and they talk and then you split up into your group and then you don't do anything. And you don't get volunteer hours."

This confession is the experience echoed by many I spoke to, from current Upbeat members to "Upbeat dropouts" as Bo Dehm Wicklund teased humorously. In a conversation with Emilia Miloszewski and Haylie Wirth, one a former member and the other a House leader, the two had similar criticisms, but at the end of the day, thought positively of the club. "I think Upbeat is a really great



Photo Credit: Mr. Viteri

The cafeteria is filled with students for the September 5th Upbeat meeting.

thing for service hours," Wirth stated. "It's fun. It's not like a waste of time to be in it. When I hear Upbeat now, I feel like people don't know what it's really about." Wirth's candor certainly contains a great level of truth.

Some individuals, like me, entered Upbeat without any real knowledge of the main components of the club. Some do not even know that it is also a program to emphasize sobriety. Upbeat, however, is aware and is attempting to right the wrongs that have warped its perception.

Communication is one facet of the program that is being addressed. Students with a strong desire to give back and maintain a certain number of hours can now easily do so with Upbeat's changes over the years. For instance, there are houses like Hospital House and "Going the Extra Mile" House (known commonly as GEM) that both have weekly events. In addition, each House is tasked with having two projects a month that are specific to its interests.

These opportunities have existed in the past but are now being better communicated through emails from Mr. Rudy, informing individuals of projects, and Outreach committees newsletter. This gives students who find themselves not contributing enough to be able to take on any and all projects Upbeat has to offer.

While the available projects are being better presented to members, the issue of the meetings and their lack of significant purpose still remains. I reached out to Suhanee Patel, one of the coordinators, regarding this concern.

"I can understand why people have thought our meetings were pointless, because I've seen that in the past," Patel stated. She mentioned that the coordinators and Mr. Rudy have been reaching out to the other seniors, saying, "We've also talked to house leaders about what has worked and hasn't worked in the past in terms of meetings so we can improve on our future meetings."

This open dialogue and the invitation of student initiative is a welcomed approach that Upbeat has maintained. Students are tasked with creating engaging meetings with their experience under their belt. It is a refreshing stance that Upbeat has continued to emphasize and preserve.

Opportunities are now flooding in for underclassmen as well. Recently, there was the creation of committees -- Morale, Operations, Outreach, Media, and Large-Scale Projects -- each spearheaded by a coordinator. Underclassmen can find themselves with additional responsibilities and tasks in order to gain leadership positions. This not only allows underclassmen a chance to move up the ladder, but it also allows them to be vocal and vital members of Upbeat, which wasn't always the case previously.

By adding this layer to the club, underclassmen who often felt alienated by meetings can contribute to committees with set details and goals while the upperclassmen strive to create substance to meetings using their House leader privileges. This dynamic allows for more opportunities and ensures that the next generation of House leaders already have the experience to help Upbeat continuously improve.

Like most clubs, Upbeat has flaws, yet the members and Mr. Rudy are aware, and as a result, the club is consciously attempting to change, to grow, and to be better.

So, if Upbeat intrigues you, consider joining. Form your own opinion, and help Upbeat grow, because this is the year of change and they need your help to do it.

Way of Kings Worth Reading

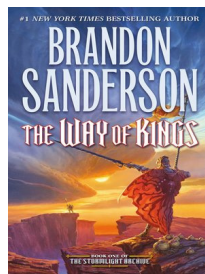
By Samuel Turgeon
Redcoat Review Writer

Brandon Sanderson's fantasy novel *The Way Of Kings* is honestly one of the best fantasy novels I've ever read. The story takes place in the fictional country of Alethkar. Alethkar is a feuding country that is controlled by a group of Highprinces, who all serve under a king. The Highprinces frequently war with one another, fighting over large crystals that are left behind by Chasmfiends, monsters native to the area.

The story follows three main characters, the first of whom is Kaladin.

Kaladin is a dark eyed slave. In Alethkar, the caste system is based upon the color of one's eyes, with light-eyed people ranking higher than the dark-eyed. Kaladin is slave to Highprince Sadeas. Sadeas is particularly cruel and greedy and shows complete disregard for the safety of his slaves.

Kaladin is assigned to bridge duty, which means that he will be assisting in transporting Sadeas's army across the



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Mac Miller among top rap albums of 2018

By Jake Holmes
Redcoat Review Writer

The Criteria: To get into this top 3, the albums were viewed on lyricism, word-play, and meaning. These are the 3 best rap albums of 2018.

1. *Swimming* - Mac Miller

Before the break down of this album gets underway, let's start out with an RIP to Mac Miller. Mac Miller was an icon and legend that should be remembered forever.

His album *Swimming* was his last and one of his best pieces of work. Miller conveyed so many messages through his artwork, going from his past relationships, his battle with addiction, dealing with fame, and just enjoying life in general.

Mac Miller's lyricism is best showcased on the song "Hurt Feelings": "I pay the cost to see apostrophes/ That means it's mine, keep to myself, taking my time/Always into some bulls***, and out of line/ Driving with my eyes close, missing all the signs."



This exemplifies how Miller's mind was so creative. He was able to play with driving, lines on the road, and signs on the road. He also had the clever use of apostrophes, saying that he did so much to get rich and now it's his, like an apostrophe claims something.

This album feels how getting older feels. Miller's main goal is to learn how to live with yourself as you are. This is represented on the song "2009": "Every day I wake up and breathe / I don't have it all, but that's alright with me," Miller sings at a calm and cool pace. The production for this song included beautiful piano keys, light and smooth sounding finger-snaps, and the needed snares here and there.

Album rating: 9.2/10

2. *KOD* - J Cole

The number 2 spot for rap album of the year goes to the King of the rap game J Cole and his album *KOD*. J Cole's acronym stands for three things: kids on drugs, king overdose, and kill our demons.

This means that in today's society kids are using drugs to try to cope with their emotions, which is to kill our demons.

However, they result in overdosing, which is the king overdose. J Cole uses king to show that he has also gone through this, meaning that he is one of the kings of overdose. Throughout this album, Cole provides examples of this

theme with clever lyrics and word play.

This is shown through the song "Once An Addict": "But now it's I AM and my mama dialin' my phone I know she intoxicated and soon this high that I'm on comes crashin' down."

Cole shows all three messages in these bars. Kill our demons is shown through J Cole's mom dealing with her own pain through drinking. However, this made Cole try to kill his demons through smoking.

King overdose is also exemplified through Cole acknowledging that he has dealt with drugs. Kids on drugs is also shown through the fact that Cole was a kid in college experimenting with drugs due to his surroundings and problems that needed coping.



There are people trying to find ways to cope with their problems in everyday life. Some resort to drugs, which Cole understands since he has done so himself. Except, in every song Cole clearly states to choose wisely, meaning choose your coping methods appropriately.

All you are going to do is put you and the others around yourself in more pain if you choose drugs. There are many other ways to defend one's problems; drugs are not the answer.

The lyrics that intertwine in this verse are also intriguing. Cole was able to rhyme dialing with calling, which made it flow smoothly. His main point through this album was to show the problem with society and drug abuse and address it.

Album rating: 8.6/10

3. *Kamikaze* - Eminem

The final spot of this top three goes to Eminem and the album *Kamikaze*. Marshall Mathers was back at it again antagonizing the rap game with his vicious word play and lyricism. Eminem is on everyone's top 10 rapper list, and he shows why on this album.

His lyricism and word play is best exemplified on the track "Lucky You" featuring Joyner Lucas: "You got a couple of ghost writers But to these kids it don't actually matter They're askin' me, 'What the f*** happened to hip-hop?' I said, 'I don't have any answers.' 'Cause I took an L when I dropped my last album It hurt me like hell but I'm back on these rappers... The inability to pen humility Hatata batata, why don't we make a bunch of f***** songs about nothin' and mumble 'em?'"



Eminem's lyricism is the best to ever come through the rap game, and it is proven on this track. Eminem says the words writer, matter, actually, askin' answer, L, album, and hell all in a certain way so they rhyme and flow smoothly. Even though these words do not actually rhyme, Eminem says it in a way that they do rhyme which makes him so versatile on the microphone.

Eminem's meaning behind this track is questioning the rap game and wondering how it got to a point of mumble rap. The main theme of *Kamikaze* is him acknowledging Revival was not Eminem level but responding to critics at the same time.

Album rating: 8.1/10

Club Highlight - Art League

BHS Student Art League is a student-driven creative space that is open to artists of all skill levels. This club's goal is to create a community of students who love art and want to share that interest.

There is a variety of activities for everyone to attend such as fun projects for the community, fundraising, an open studio, and a pumpkin carving on October 25th.

Meetings are in Ms. Galasso's room every Thursday from 2:15-3:00. Join in at the next meeting. We hope to see you soon!

Submitted by
Redcoat Review Writer Sam Goode

Meet Our Staff

The Redcoat Review writing team includes a variety of writers, photographers and graphic designers. Students may contribute regularly or simply submit a special one-time report.

In this issue, the following students contributed: Sophomores Nick Spinali, Samuel Turgeon, Samantha Goode, Abby Ferland, Gina Scalaro, Tyler Rice, and Emily Kobus; Juniors Justin Lamoureux, Jake Holmes, and Senior AJ Khan worked as a mentor.

We mostly work virtually through Schoology and welcome new contributors. If you are interested in joining or would like more information on the Redcoat Review, please contact Mrs. Rice or Mrs. Glass.

Spotlight On Redcoat Sports

Looking for a good read?



Photo Submitted by: Gabby Foster

Members of the Berlin High School Boys and Girls cross country team celebrate their success following the 40th Annual Robert Haddad Windham Cross Country Invitational on September 8th. The girls team finished in first place, and the boys finished in third.



Photo Credit: Gina Scalaro

It was a beautiful night at Sage Park for the Berlin High School football game against East Catholic on September 13th. The Redcoats won 50-0. The team is undefeated at 5-0 and play Friday night vs. RHAM in the annual Homecoming Game.



Photo Credit: Gina Scalaro

The women's soccer team huddles up during the Redcoats' game on September 7th vs. Platt. The Redcoats won 9-0 at Sage Park. The Redcoats play Monday, Oct. 22 against Maloney at Sage Park.

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plateaus that litter Alethkar. Kaladin and his squad do this by carrying the bridge upon their backs, often straight into the line of sight of enemy archers, who mercilessly target the defenseless bridgemen as their downfall will prevent the enemy army from reaching the other end of the plateau. The story closely follows Kaladin's relationship with his fellow bridgemen, as they attempt to escape from Sadeas's army.

The second character that the story focuses on is Dalinar. Dalinar is a light-eyed Highprince who is very traditional and is known for being incredibly kind to his men. Dalinar is very much opposed to Sadeas's sacrifice of the bridgemen, preferring to use traditional mechanical bridges. Dalinar is one of the few Highprinces who advocates for a unified Alethkar, saying that Alethkar needs to be united in order to better defend themselves from outside attackers, such as the Parshendi.

The Parshendi are a race of humanoid creatures that have been warring with the people of Alethkar. Dalinar believes that defeating the Parshendi would be easier if the Highprinces worked together, but the other Highprinces are too greedy to agree to sharing the spoils of war. Dalinar's side of the story focuses on the politics of Alethkar as he attempts to convince the other Highprinces that teamwork is necessary.

The third and final main character is Shallan. Shallan is a light-eyed scholar whose family went bankrupt after the death of her father. Shallan traveled to Alethkar in order to apprentice under Jasnah Kholin, Dalinar's niece. Shallan's true goal is to rob Jasnah in order to pay her family's debt. Shallan's story focuses on poverty and the lengths that people will go to in order to escape it.

Sanderson's masterpiece is a truly amazing story. It contains a beautifully crafted world with too many moving pieces for me to properly explain here. It contains a large number of incredibly well written characters, each with memorable personalities and motives. It explores multiple thought-provoking themes such as greed, racism and deceit.

All of these different components work together to make the 1200 page novel feel short and leave the reader craving more of the story.

Rating: 9/10