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County, State Officials Take Oath in Carmel

Furor over pistol permits injected into otherwise tranquil event

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Democrats and Republicans convened on New Year's Eve in Carmel in bipartisan bonhomie to swear in recently elected Putnam County and New York state officials. But amid references to cross-party cooperation and the virtues of government service, the volatile issue of gun rights surfaced, with blistering words from one official and a standing ovation for another who refused to make handgun-permit records public.

The early evening event in the historic old courthouse included the oaths of office of new District 1 Putnam County Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra, a Republican, and re-elected New York State Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, a Democrat, both of whose districts include Philipstown. Others sworn in included county coroners and other county legislators.

Two other Democrats, new State Sen. Terry Gipson, and Sean Patrick Maloney, slated to join the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington this week, addressed the gathering briefly, in between a few remarks from the officials sworn in.

"Today to me is the people's day and it's the people's ceremony," with elected officials behooved to "put aside" partisan differences, said Putnam County Personnel Director Paul Eldridge, a Philipstown resident and former interim county executive, in opening the event and setting its tone.

County Executive MaryEllen Odell, a Republican, continued the theme, announcing that with the *(Continued on page 3)*



Dennis Sant, Putnam County clerk, explains his reasons for refusing to release records on gun permits. Behind him, left to right: County Executive MaryEllen Odell, State Sen. Greg Ball, and Assemblyman Steve Katz

Photo by K.E. Foley

Garrison School Reviewing Security Procedures

Fiscal-cliff decision on education cuts delayed

By Jeanne Tao

At the first meeting of the Garrison School Board of Education since the shootings in Newtown, Conn., the board on Wednesday night (Jan. 2) observed a moment of silence to remember those who were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary on Dec. 14. Board members also reflected on the tragedy and discussed safety procedures, as well as attended to the finalization of the board's goals and objectives and the shaping of the budget amid anticipated education cuts both at the state and federal levels.

Security post-Newtown

In her remarks, Superintendent Gloria Colucci explained that Garrison School

has been and remains a locked-in school district, wherein all visitors must be buzzed in, sign in and wear a badge. She attests that the school secretary has been "vigilant and diligent" in identifying all visitors before buzzing them in, speaking to those unfamiliar to her over the intercom before allowing entry. Board Member Christine Foertsch noted that she feels thankful for the district's size, since administrators and staff are usually familiar with those who come to the school's door, and she expressed her gratitude for their diligence.

The school's safety committee, made up of administrators, teachers, parents and the insurance carrier's representative, met shortly after the shootings and will continue to meet to review the school plan, which outlines procedures for all possible events, from a chemical spill on the road outside the school to an incident such as occurred in Newtown. The school also practices these procedures in at least two drills per year — one evacuation and one other type — in addition to the 12 fire drills that are required each year.

The superintendent had also attended the Putnam County Sheriff's Dec. 19 security meeting of school and government leaders following the shootings, where Colucci accepted the offer from the sheriff's office to conduct a security review at the school. The school's insurance provider will also conduct a separate security review. Any recommendations made by either review will be brought to the board for approval.

Board Member Charlotte Rowe mentioned being touched by the students' response to the tragedy, in the Girl Scouts' efforts to make snowflakes to decorate the school for Sandy Hook students and in their expressions of concern for them.

Fiscal cliff and budget woes

Although Congress decided on Jan. 2 to extend tax cuts for all but the wealthy, the decision on education spending cuts has been *(Continued on page 5)*

Putnam County Clerk Says No to Gun-Info Request

Odell supports decision promising 'no surrender'

By Kevin E. Foley

Putnam County officialdom rallied behind its long-serving elected county clerk this past Thursday, Jan. 3, as Dennis Sant declared that he would not comply with a Freedom-of-Information-Law request from *The Journal News* newspaper for the data on registered gun owners in the county, including Philipstown.

Sant's counterparts in Westchester and Rockland counties have already complied with the Westchester-based *Journal News* request, and the daily paper has posted the information, including names and addresses, with an interactive map on its *lohud.com* website.

The Journal News posting has drawn considerable attention and given rise to debates over whether the intent of the law, which makes the information public, is against the privacy rights of gun owners. Protests from gun-rights advocates, law-enforcement officials and individuals among the thousands named on the website have grown in recent days, and the Putnam stand has provided a rallying point.

Standing with Sant at a scheduled noon press conference in the old Putnam County Courthouse were County Executive Mary Odell, State Senator Greg Ball and State Assemblyman Steve Katz, all of whom praised Sant for his refusal to provide the information, despite clear-cut state law that it is public information.

The normally staid bureaucratic functions of the clerk's office were temporarily bathed by a celebrity spotlight on a man clearly uncomfortable in the role, as he stood before a bank of television cameras and the constant whirl of flash photographers.

"I follow the rule of law, but I have a conscience and a heart," declared Sant, who was introduced by Odell.

Sant argued that the law governing the situation was written before the era of social media and that the availability of tools such as Google Maps and Facebook provided a degree of intrusion into neighborhoods and lives not contemplated by lawmakers. "Now you can tell who has a weapon and who doesn't," he said.

The clerk said he had received over 300 phone calls, many from Rockland and Westchester, saluting his stand and offering anecdotal evidence of the potential damage from release of the information. He said an abused woman with an order of protection had lived for two years in peace and was now receiving threatening phone calls since the release of her address.

"I am refusing this request because I couldn't live with myself if one of my registered permit *(Continued on page 3)*



Barbara Scuccimarra takes her oath of office, surrounded by family and officials, including County Executive MaryEllen Odell, lower right.

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

Mouths to Feed

Secrets, Lies, and Recipes

By Celia Barbour

Most food lovers I know don't like to admit they use recipes. There seems to be a kind of disgrace in it, like disclosing that you can't hum a tune without sheet music, or that you need garanimals tags to get dressed in the morning. This has resulted in some awkward conversations — for example, when I ask an acquaintance if she'd mind sharing the source of a particular complicated, unusual recipe, and she acts as if the idea for it just came to mind unbidden, prompting her to head into the kitchen and spontaneously throw together, say, hominy, tomatillos, chicken and pulverized pumpkin seeds. The more questions I have, the more bizarre the scenario becomes, until I'm like: Really? You were just inspired to do that?

I confess I've bowed to this pressure myself at times, talking to colleagues as if what goes on in my kitchen is just 100 percent nonstop improvisation, all Charlie Parker genius at the cutting board. But the truth is that even the dishes I now make by instinct, the ones I've prepared so often that they have become a part of my own personal repertoire, mostly trace their roots back to recipes I followed closely once upon a time.

Recipes are the best way to explore and imagine new foods, and to keep stretching and growing as a cook. My favorites are not just step-by-step instructions but seem almost like poems, containing enormous wisdom and experience in condensed, shorthand form.

But even if following recipes is not

shameful, it is tiresome. I resent constantly having to shift back and forth between the food and the page, trying to re-find my place and scanning to double-check that I haven't missed anything. It interrupts the flow of cooking. Which is why, when I find a dish I like, I'll often make it several times in a short span, paying close attention to each step, so that it works its way into my muscle memory. Because I've discovered that cooking becomes way more fun when I close the book and wing it.

Many years ago, I came across a recipe for caramelized kale in *Sunday Suppers at Lucques*, a superb cookbook by L.A. chef Suzanne Goin. Actually, that's not technically the recipe's name, which is "Farro with Kabocha Squash and Cavolo Nero," but the kale portion of it is so good that I excised it from the rest and have used it that way for years, adding white beans or French lentils, serving it with farro or rice. In the beginning, I even served it over pasta, thinking that this would help my kids like it, but that proved unnecessary.

My kids are passionate about it, and when they get like that, I have to brace myself. When I started out, I used two bunches of kale, but they wanted more. So I upped it to three, then four, and still they insisted it wasn't enough. But I held my ground, if only because standing in the checkout line with five bunches of kale makes me feel vaguely lunatic.

The process is fairly easy, requiring in the way of preparation only that you slice an onion and a clove of garlic, and that you wash the kale and strip the leaves from the stems — which you do by grabbing the stem in one hand and sliding the other along it, from stem end to tip,



Photo by C. Barbour

pulling off the leaf in the process. The rest is just a matter of amassing your ingredients.

The original recipe calls for lacinato kale, a delicious variety. But I've used regular and red Russian, too, and it comes out fine. It also calls for chile de

arbol, a slightly cooler cousin to cayenne. When I don't have one, I'll substitute a pinch of cayenne and a generous shake of New Mexican chile, and a couple of times I've even used smoked paprika. Occasionally, I'll add the merest dash of mild vinegar at the very end if the dish needs a little perking up. Otherwise, my recipe is fairly faithful to the original, and I'm not ashamed to admit it.

Not terribly ashamed, anyway.

Caramelized kale

"Caramelized" here means that the kale is cooked for a long time, until it is dense, chewy-soft and as dark as raisins. Once you have blanched the kale in the first step, you can use that cooking water, which is full of vitamins, to cook up some rice, pasta or farro to serve alongside.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 3 bunches of kale, preferably lacinato (but it doesn't much matter) | ¼ tsp New Mexican chile powder or smoked paprika |
| ¼ cup olive oil, plus more if needed | 1 medium onion, thinly sliced or chopped |
| 1 sprig rosemary | 1 clove of garlic, sliced |
| pinch cayenne | salt and pepper |

Bring a pot of salted water to boil. Wash the kale and strip the leaves from the toughest part of the stems, as described above. Discard the stems. Tear or roughly chop the kale. When the water is boiling, add the kale and cook it for 3-4 minutes. Drain (but save the water to make a grain or pasta, if you like).

Meanwhile, heat your largest skillet over medium. Add the olive oil, the sprig of rosemary, and the cayenne and chile powders. Let them sizzle in the pan a minute, then add the onion and garlic, sprinkle with a little salt and pepper, and turn the heat down to medium-low. Cook, stirring often, until the onion is soft and turning gold, about 5 minutes.

Transfer the kale to the skillet, toss to coat with the oil and spices, add more oil if needed, plus salt and pepper, and cook over low heat, stirring occasionally, for about 30-40 minutes, adding a splash of the cooking water if the pan seems to be getting dry. You want the kale to sizzle and stew, by turns.

When the kale is dark, almost black, taste and add more salt, pepper, olive oil if needed. Serve warm, with grains and beans on the side.



Photo by C. Barbour

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Putnam Clerk Says No

(from page 1)

holders faced a dangerous situation as a result of releasing the information,” said Sant, who received hearty applause before and after his remarks from a bevy of county officials and employees as well as approximately a dozen citizens attending the event.

Sheriff Donald B. Smith and several members of the county legislature among others were there lending support.

“This issue is strictly about the privacy and safety of law-abiding citizens,” said Odell, who stressed the matter was unrelated to the recent shooting deaths of children and adults in Newton, Conn.

Odell pointed out that Putnam County is home to many retired police, military and other government personnel with registered firearms, and she argued they should not be subjected to public disclosure of their names and addresses in this context.

Anticipating a legal battle with *The Journal News*, Odell asserted that “we will take this to the very end, wherever it leads us. We are shoulder to shoulder. I will not retreat. I will not surrender.”

For his part, Ball said he was introducing state legislation to amend the law to prohibit journalistic publication of gun-ownership records while allowing law enforcement access to the files. Acknowledging his penchant for hyperbole, Ball declared to Sant, “I will fight with you until hell freezes over, and then we will fight on the ice.”

At press time it was not clear what steps *The Journal News* might take to counter Sant’s refusal to provide the requested data.

County, State Officials Take Oath

(from page 1)

ceremony, “Putnam County government begins with a new administrative team in place, with people ready to serve you, the people.”

After taking her oath, Scuccimarra repeated pledges of her campaign. “I will work tirelessly and always remember to put people before politics,” she said at the podium, surrounded by her family, including her husband, Thomas, a judge of the New York State Court of Claims, who administered her oath. She also expressed gratitude to her supporters, including Vincent Tamagna, retiring from the District 1 job, whom she praised not only for his campaign guidance but “for finally stepping down!”

“Term-limits!” made that happen, an attendee called out.

In the State Senate, Gipson said, “I look forward to working with” fellow State Sen. Greg Ball. “The election is over” and regardless of party affiliation, “I’m committed to working with all of you.” Gipson observed that Putnam County now has two state senators and urged members of the public to call upon him, even if they are not in his district, to accomplish things for the common good of all.

For his part, Ball called politics “a very tough business,” expressed disdain for some of the mudslinging of campaigns, and cited his intent on “working with all of you. Let’s just try to work together; let’s all work together.” Until redistricting, Ball, a Republican, represented Philipstown, along with other parts of Putnam County and the region.

In describing government, Maloney acknowledged that “we may love to hate it and complain about all the people in it.” Yet the vast majority of those in government “want to make things better,

want to make your lives better,” he assured the audience. He asked the public to get involved and not leave everything to elected officials. “Think about your families, your towns, our country. We have real problems to solve, but with your help, we can ... if we just work together.” He took his own oath of office Thursday, Jan. 3. “I won’t let you down,” he promised.

Galef, who represents the 95th State Assembly District, told the approximately 100 attendees that being in government “is the most wonderful place to be, to be able to give, to help people, and, hopefully, make good decisions.” Unlike most of the others sworn in, she went beyond general remarks to outline some of the work ahead at the state level. Among other tasks is implementation of new health care measures, which “is going to be very significant,” she said. Also, whether or not the state allows hydraulic fracturing or “fracking,” a hotly debated means of extracting fuel from underground rocks, “we’re going to have to deal with” disposal of fracking wastewater, she said. Furthermore, New York must determine “what we can do to make our schools safer, to make everyone safer. We’re going to have to look at gun issues, at mental health issues,” concerns brought to the fore by the massacre of schoolchildren in Connecticut in mid-December.

Gun-owner rights

However, Assemblyman Stephen Katz, Galef’s counterpart in the 94th District, used his oath of office to denounce *The Journal News*, a Westchester-based daily newspaper, for publishing the names of area handgun owners, a list compiled from records of permits in Westchester,

Rockland, and Dutchess Counties after the Connecticut murders. “Law-abiding gun owners are being singled out,” complained Katz, a Republican. “The bad guys now know where the guns are and where the guns are not.” He praised Putnam County Clerk Dennis Sant for refusing to give out information on handgun permits in Putnam County. Most of the audience then jumped up to give Sant a loud standing ovation.

The Journal News reported Dec. 22 in an article on the gun-permit survey that “Putnam is still putting together its records and could not immediately provide any data. The map will be updated when that data is released.” Gun-licensing laws do not apply to such non-handguns as rifles and shotguns.



Assemblywoman Sandy Galef makes a point during a short talk.
Photo by L. S. Armstrong



One of many citizens supporting Dennis Sant’s decision. The sign reads: “Legal gun owners are not criminals.”
Photo credit K.E. Foley

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PUBLISHER

Gordon Stewart

MANAGING EDITOR

Kevin E. Foley

ARTS/FEATURE EDITOR

Alison Rooney

SENIOR CORRESPONDENTS

Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Michael Turton

LAYOUT EDITOR

Kate Vikstrom

CALENDAR EDITOR

Chip Rowe

calendar@philipstown.info

COPY EDITOR

Jeanne Tao

REPORTERS

Mary Ann Ebner

Christine Simek

Pete Smith

PHOTOGRAPHER

Maggie Benmour

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Michele Rubin

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LETTERS

County's answer to Butterfield is 'no'

Dear Editor:

The critical question surrounding the Butterfield Hospital property is whether or not Putnam County is going to pay for facilities there. County Legislators Mary Conklin and Sam Oliverio have presented factual answers to that question, but our Village Board, with the exception of Trustee Matt Francisco, appears not to care.

They should care, especially when the answer amounts to "No, Putnam County has no real plan in place to fund facilities."

While this answer may disappoint Mayor Gallagher and our Cold Spring senior citizens, it's a real answer, based in fact. Wishful thinking isn't going to get us a senior center. Real dollar commitments from Putnam County will. And despite a lot of talk from other legislators and the county executive, those real dollars have not been committed. Of the five Village Board members, only Trustee Francisco followed up Conklin's letter to the Village Board to confirm these facts.

Meanwhile, we have a mayor and several Village Board members moving ahead, not based on facts, but on fantasy. Our citizenry deserves better.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Hawkins
Cold Spring

County Ends Pickup of Electronic Trash at Philipstown Recycling Center

Town Board sets dirt road workshop for Jan. 16

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Broken electronic Christmas gifts? Unwanted computers? They'll have to land somewhere other than the Philipstown Recycling Center: Putnam County has ended its pickup of cast-off electronic goods at the town site on Lane Gate Road, effective immediately.

Putnam had been partnering with Philipstown in handling e-trash, allowing residents to bring their rejects to the town facility for county collection and disposal. No more — at a Town Board meeting on Thursday, Dec. 27, Board Member Betty Budney informed her colleagues that the Putnam County Board of Health, overseer of the program, had just informed her of its termination. Board members expressed concern and decided to draft a letter to county officials, urging a reconsideration of the decision. Until further notice, though, a ban on electronic junk at the town center remains in effect.

"Municipalities are not required to have this kind of service. It's kind of an expensive proposition," Budney observed. Nonetheless, "it's been very vital" to Philipstown, she added.

As of Friday, Dec. 28, the county website page on the disposal program remained in place and continued to list the Lane Gate Road facility as a collection point. A request to the county for more details on the change did not produce immediate results.

Dirt road discussion

The board confirmed plans to hold a workshop on Wednesday, Jan. 16, to discuss dirt road problems. "We'll be licking our wounds for a week after that," Supervisor Richard Shea predicted. Since his announcement in November that the town government intends to pave trouble-prone stretches of dirt roads, local debate has flourished online, with establishment of a Facebook group and launching of a petition "to preserve Philipstown dirt roads."

In his comments in November, Shea said the town would focus on areas "where we've had no success in maintaining the drainage because everything just washes out." He also referred to environmental threats from unpaved roads. "People think of dirt roads as be-



Old Albany Post Road near Philipse Brook Road

Photo by K.E. Foley

ing green," he said at the time. "They're not. They use chemicals 12 months of the year. It's a constant source of not only physical pollution but chemical pollution."

Butterfield, American Legion sites

Asked their current thinking on the Butterfield redevelopment project, following the Cold Spring Historic District Review Board's Dec. 19 approval of demolition of the old hospital, Town Board members said they continue to be open to the possibility of taking space in a multi-government building at Butterfield — and to the alternate idea of providing town services at the American Legion headquarters behind Town Hall.

Given the closeness of the American Legion to current town offices and the possibility of a governmental campus there, that site "may ultimately be a better fit" than Butterfield, Shea said. He emphasized that "for me, it's always been about the seniors" and getting an adequate senior-citizen center for Philipstown. "There aren't a lot of options here in town" for something like that, he said.

Board Member Dave Merandy suggested that completion of new facilities at Butterfield is still a long way off, with questions to resolve about the costs and design of a building there and other uncertainties. "I think we have to be honest" about that, he said.

"There are a ton of open questions" yet about Butterfield, Shea agreed. "It's a

work in progress."

"It depends on the bottom line," Board Member Nancy Montgomery said. While the Town Board on a preliminary basis backed the idea of a town government presence at Butterfield, "by no means have we made a commitment to being there," she said.

Ed Doyle commendation

The board also presented a plaque commending retiring attorney Ed Doyle for some 31 years of service to the town government. Shea described Doyle's tenure as not one marked by a few flamboyant highlights but by ongoing diligence. "Ed is the kind of person who's just steady and dedicated, keeping us on the road all the time. Without it we would have gone into the ditch a number of times," he said.

Montgomery said Doyle reminded her of Atticus Finch, the small-town lawyer hero of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, while Merandy told Doyle that "just getting a little plaque doesn't sum up the appreciation" the Town Board has for him.

Doyle expressed his gratitude for three decades on a job "that's been both challenging and rewarding."

The board did not reveal its plans for obtaining legal advice going forward.

Haldane Board Reviews 2013-14 Spending Plan

Draft budget won't be presented until March

By Michael Turton

The numbers of the Haldane Central School District's draft budget for 2013-14, presented when trustees met on Wednesday, Jan. 2, don't really constitute a budget at all. "This is a spending plan, not a budget," said Michael Junjulas, president of the Haldane Board of Education.

Final revenue figures required for a complete budget won't be known for some time. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo is expected to announce the

state budget by mid January. That will provide details regarding state aid, although that is not expected to be good news. Trustees and administration are bracing themselves for what will almost certainly be an aid package that is over \$500,000 below what has been the traditional funding level for many years. In addition, property assessment values for Philipstown won't be known until August, as is always the case.

The district will use estimated figures and adjust the budget accordingly at that time. Because the district budgets conservatively, that final adjustment has often resulted in a slight reduction in the impact on taxes when the budget is finalized. Residents vote to approve or reject the proposed budget in May. At Wednesday's meeting, Superintendent of Schools Mark Villanti said he expects to present a draft budget sometime in March.

Staying under tax cap

Business Manager Anne Dinio pre-

sented estimated figures for a draft spending plan that currently totals \$18,093,957. That would result in a maximum allowable tax levy increase of 3.62 percent. The state imposes a tax cap of 2 percent statewide; however, the actual amount varies from district to district. A 3.62 percent increase would mean that for a home valued at \$500,000, property taxes would increase by \$244. By way of comparison, last year's tax levy increase of 2.44 percent would result in a tax increase of \$145 for the same home. A tax levy increase at or below the maximum level allowed by the state must be approved by more than 50 percent of voters. The district can, in theory, propose a budget that exceeds the maximum allowable tax levy; however, it would require approval by 60 percent of voters in order to be adopted.

Trustee Evan Schwartz commented that a budget that exceeds the maximum allowable tax levy "would be a tough sell" on the heels of the \$2 million capital project that was approved by voters late last fall. The project will make improvements to the main sports field, the auditorium and locker rooms.

Bargaining with cuts

Villanti said that as budget negotiations continue, he will not recommend an increase that exceeds the maximum allowable tax levy. With the district facing difficult budget cuts, Villanti said that some teachers have suggested using capital funds to reduce the impact of the reductions in state aid. Junjulas and Villanti both emphasized that capital funds cannot be used to offset operating costs.

The district is in discussions with both its unions regarding the budget. Both bargaining units have approved contracts. However, trustees have hinted at the need for concessions depending on the severity of cuts required. When he

was elected as a trustee, Peter Henderson said that he would ask staff to accept a wage freeze if state aid continued to be reduced as it has in the past.

State legislator visit

New York State Assemblywoman Sandy Galef and newly elected State Sen. Terry Gipson will attend the Haldane School Board on Tuesday, Jan. 15, to discuss state aid to school districts. Villanti said that while he thinks state legislators understand the impact of reduced aid on a state level, "I don't think they understand how it affects individual districts." The meeting will be held in the Merrit building.

Fields project and athletics

Trustee Jon Champlin, who co-chairs the PLAY Haldane committee that is raising \$100,000 for the fields project, reported that cash and pledges received now total \$63,000. He said that outstanding grant applications could result in "significant dollars" being added to that total. He also said that a cash raffle is being planned along with the sale of engraved bricks or tiles to be placed in the area of the refurbished field. Champlin said that if all goes as planned, the field should be ready for use next September, although some improvements around the periphery may not be complete by then.

Trustees approved sports merger applications for 2013-14 with the Beacon School District for girls swimming and with Garrison Union Free School District for modified lacrosse and modified softball.

Trustees also discussed but took no action on the Landtek Group's "Energy in the Bank" program, which calls for the possible installation of electricity-generating solar panels at the sports field and on school rooftops.



Kate Jordan holds up a sign for Newtown, Conn., at the North Highlands Firehouse, where Girl Scouts made snowflakes for Sandy Hook students, on Sunday, Dec. 29.

Photo by Maggie Benmour

Garrison Reviewing Security (from page 1)

delayed until March. This means that school districts will not learn of cuts in federal aid until then. The Garrison School District anticipates cuts in Title I (for students living in poverty) and special education funding (which goes toward salaries of special education teachers), which could total around \$100,000. That money will have to be replaced if not provided through federal aid.

At the state level, Colucci reported that Gov. Andrew Cuomo has received a report from his Education Reform Commission, and he is expected to address the commission's eight recommendations at his State of the State address on Jan. 9. None of those points speak to mandate relief.

Draft board goals

The superintendent presented the draft goals with the changes recommended at the last meeting, Dec. 12. Minor changes were suggested again Wednesday night, which will be reflected in a draft of the goals and objectives to be posted on the school's website, gufs.org. The board invites public comments on the draft and hopes to approve them at the next meeting on Jan. 16.

Remembering some parents' comments from prior discussions, Foertsch said that she approved of the draft goals and objectives but wanted to make sure that progress is being made toward the goals with regular reports from administration, possibly every two months.

School Board President Raymond O'Rourke noted that the superintendent's remarks (as well as those of the board) in the future should be made in reference

to the goals whenever possible, instead of demanding another report from the already overtaxed administrators.

Rowe remarked that, despite discussion of opposition to standardized testing and governments' increased micro-management of school districts, some parents had requested metrics or measurable data on progress toward the goals. While there does need to be some accountability, she said, she was not sure whether monitoring to that extent would be useful. Board Member Diana Swinburne agreed that the board should be careful not to micromanage the school administration.

In response, Colucci said that she would report on any activities that are taking place toward the goals and objectives.

Parent involvement

O'Rourke asked Colucci about the progress of the school's technology review. Colucci said that the consultant had met with focus groups in early December and had held a parent meeting, but because only four parents had shown up, the meeting has been rescheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 23. After collection of data is complete, the consultant will present a report to the board and the school will come up with a plan to improve technology.

The sole parent in attendance, Gerard McCarthy, had the only end-of-meeting public comment: "Where's all the rest of the rabble-rousers?" He said he was expecting a show, to which the board responded, "You've got to make it yourself."



Masonic Compact

Because I am a Freemason ...

- ... I believe that **freedom of religion** is an inalienable human right and **tolerance** an indispensable trait of human character; therefore, I will stand in my Lodge with Brothers of all faiths, and respect their beliefs as they respect mine, and I will demonstrate the spirit of Brotherhood in all respects of my life.
- ... I know that **education** and the rational use of the mind are the keys to facing the problems of humanity; therefore, I will bring my questions and my ideas to my Lodge, and strive to advance the growth of my mind alongside my Brothers.
- ... I know that the rich **tradition of Freemasonry** and its framework of **Ritual** are important platforms for growth and learning; therefore, I vow to stand upon these platforms to improve myself as a human being, and I vow to help in the mission of the Craft to provide tools, atmosphere, challenges and motivation to help each Brother do the same.
- ... I know that **charity** is the distinguishing human virtue, and that **personal community service** is the best demonstration of one's commitment to humanity; I acknowledge that words without deeds are meaningless, and I vow to work with my Lodge to provide service to the community, and to promote charity, friendship, morality, harmony, integrity, fidelity and love.
- ... I know that my obligation to community extends beyond my local sphere and is partly fulfilled in my **patriotism**: love of my country, obedience to its laws and celebration of the freedoms and opportunities it symbolizes.
- ... I know that **leadership** is best demonstrated by **commitment to serving others**; I will therefore participate in, and help work at improving individual leadership skills, and serve the Brothers of my Lodge to the best of my ability.
- ... I know that **friendship, fidelity and family** are the foundation of a well-lived life; I therefore vow to be a faithful friend to my Brothers, as I expect my Lodge to respect my personal obligations, and to treat my family as though my family were their own.
- ... I know that the last great lesson of Freemasonry – **the value of personal integrity and the sanctity of one's word** – is a lesson for all people in all times; I therefore vow to be a man of my word.
- ... I know that Masonry's power is best exercised when its light is shared with the world at large; I therefore vow to bring the best of myself to my Lodge, in order that my growth might be fostered and nurtured, and to present myself to the world as a working Freemason, on the path to building a more perfect temple.

Because I am a Freemason, these values and aspirations are guideposts for my progress through life.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

The Paper Interviews: Retiring Philipstown Town Attorney Ed Doyle

Thirty-one years ago, Garrison resident Ed Doyle followed in his father's footsteps and began serving as town attorney for the Town of Philipstown. Doyle, who is 65, stepped down at the end of 2012. He recently spoke with The Paper's Michael Turton about his career, his observations on local politics and his plans for the future.

The Paper: When did you begin your duties as the Philipstown Town attorney?

Doyle: Jan. 1, 1980.

The Paper: Who was town supervisor then?

Doyle: Tony Mazzuca, Bill's brother.

The Paper: What is behind your decision to move on? Why now?

Doyle: I'd like the opportunity to pursue other interests while I still have my health and can enjoy them.

The Paper: Are you retiring from practice completely or simply no longer serving as town attorney?

Doyle: I closed my practice in Peekskill. A firm in White Plains has taken over the estate planning and estate administration.

The Paper: What other forms of law did you practice in Peekskill?

Doyle: It was a general practice. In addition to the estate work I did real estate, some business law and in my early years some criminal defense. Before coming to Philipstown I did code prosecution for the City of Peekskill and served as assistant town attorney for the Town of Cortlandt.

The Paper: Where did you attend law school?

Doyle: I graduated from Fordham in 1973.

The Paper: Does the town find itself the target of more legal actions now than 31 years ago?

Doyle: Maybe more than 31 years ago, but for the past 10 to 15 years it's been very consistent. I didn't see any great spike. And in court we've been very successful as a defendant.

The Paper: Have the types of legal issues that the town deals with now changed much during your tenure?

Doyle: It's mostly zoning and planning, and again it's been very consistent over the past 15 years. Maybe there are more issues in New York City or other urban areas. We've been fortunate that way — as a more rural community.

The Paper: This may be a stupid question to ask a lawyer, but do you think people often turn to lawyers too quickly in disputes with municipalities?

Doyle: I don't sense that. Land is often the most valuable asset people have. People should go to a good attorney who knows the law. If there's not a viable case, the lawyer won't advise the client to pursue it. I'm not afraid of individuals going to a lawyer at all — I promote it.

The Paper: In your time with the town, what would you say was the thorniest issue you had to deal with from a legal perspective?

Doyle: One of the trickiest was the old gravel mine on Route 9 — Glassbury Court. Handling that was intricate; negotiations went on for several years.

The Paper: You always seemed very cool, calm and collected at the front of the council chambers. Do you feel that way inside when things got really heated as they sometimes did?

Doyle: Probably no more than anyone else! It's one of the great challenges of being a lawyer. They teach you that in law school — you're not supposed to be emotional. You analyze, you know the law and you give advice.

The Paper: Your father was the town attorney before you. How long did he serve in that position?

Doyle: My father, Charles Edward Doyle Jr., was town attorney from 1964 to 1979. He was the attorney for the Village of Cold Spring for a while as well.

The Paper: How big an influence was he in your decision to become a lawyer?

Doyle: I'm sure he was a very big influence. My grandfather was also a lawyer.

The Paper: What would your advice be to a young person contemplating a career in law today?

Doyle: It's a very demanding profession. It requires extremely long hours and a lot of work, but I think you can say that about any pursuit today. If a person loves what they do, the long hours don't hurt so much. I do think that the youth today are more aware of a need for balance in their lives — work, family, exercise, fun.

The Paper: What's the last book you read for fun?

Doyle: I just read *Vineyard Prey* by Philip Craig. He wrote a series of 14 or



Ed Doyle retired at the end of 2012, having served as town attorney for the Philipstown for 31 years.

Photo by M. Turton

15 murder mysteries, all set on Martha's Vineyard. It's fun to read his detailed descriptions of the Vineyard; we go there every year.

The Paper: Do you have firm plans for your retirement?

Doyle: I have certain interests I'd like to pursue. My wife and I would like to travel more — go back to Europe and see more of the National Parks. If you were to ask me the single most awesome thing I have seen, it is to look down the Yosemite Valley. It is magnificent.

The Paper: You just came back from a bicycling vacation in New Zealand. What surprised you about that country?

Doyle: The number of dairy farms — I think they have surpassed sheep. And in Christchurch the damage from the earthquake a year and a half ago is still very evident. Areas are still roped off. Buildings will still have to be taken down.

The Paper: If you could rewind the tape and choose a different career path, what might you have chosen?

Doyle: Law would still be number one. But I think I would have enjoyed being a high school English teacher. I majored in English in college.

The Paper: Local elected officials often receive some pretty intense criticism. Why do you think most people seek public office locally?

Doyle: My observation of the Town Board over the years is that they are an

extremely dedicated group of individuals. They want to contribute something to their community — they have very strong feelings for the community. The job has required more and more time over the years. It's a significant part-time job. I think we've been lucky to have such a group, and it's been a privilege to serve under them.

The Paper: Have you ever considered running for public office?

Doyle: No. I've enjoyed being the town attorney immensely. It's given me an opportunity to give back to the community. My training has been as a lawyer, and I've enjoyed using that training and my profession in the civic arena.

The Paper: What is your favorite pizza topping?

Doyle: Cheese. My wife and I like plain pizza.


The Paper: What was the craziest, wildest, most emotional moment that you witnessed in your 31 years of attending Town Board meetings?

Doyle: Well, there have been a few, but I think they were all handled reasonably and the issues resolved.

The Paper: Very fitting that you would answer the last question in such a lawyerly way.

Doyle: [No comment - just smiled]

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The Calendar

Depot Docs: *Which Way Home*

Unaccompanied child migrants who try to cross the U.S.-Mexico border

By James O'Barr

“Poor Mexico, so far from God and so close to the United States.” So said Porfirio Diaz in the 19th century, and so it is today. The tortured history of the two countries and the long border they share is not the subject, but the necessary subtext of Rebecca Cammisa’s absolutely remarkable, multi-award-winning documentary, *Which Way Home*.

Screening at the Philipstown Depot Theatre on Friday, Jan. 11, the scheduling is strangely apposite, coming as it does almost a month after the killings of the children of Newtown. The film records the perilous efforts of unaccompanied child migrants from Mexico and Central America to get to the United States. With our eyes fixed on the horror so close to home, and our attention focused, at least for a few minutes, on the awful questions it asks of us as a people and as a culture, it would be forgivable, for once, to look away from the destitution, hunger, violence and hopelessness that characterize the lives of the far-too-many children in the world less privileged than our own. But *Which Way Home* is cinema at its most verité; it tells the truth and does not let us look away.

Of the many hundreds of thousands of people from all over Latin America who, despite the incredible dangers of the journey, annually take their chances on making it across the U.S.-Mexico border for work to support their families at home, or to find relatives, or to find a better, more secure life in the United States, it is estimated that 5 percent are unaccompanied children.

The kids Cammisa and her intrepid crew (including cinematographers Eric Goethals and Lorenzo Hagerman, production manager Alejandra Liceaga and field producer Sascha Weiss) focus on and follow over the 1,400 miles from the Guatemala-Mexico border to the border with the U.S., come from Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico. Among the riskiest of the risks they take along the way is hitching rides on the freight trains, known to them collectively as “The Beast,” that ply those routes. Jumping on and off the moving trains, riding on top of or in boxcars or clinging to the sides, the kids treat the trains like playgrounds rather than the killing machines they can become at any moment. To vividly illustrate that death is an all-too-possible outcome that the migrants must face, the filmmakers give some attention to the loss of life along the way, not only on the trains, but at the hands of criminals or the smugglers who are paid to take them across or the police, or in the attempt to swim the Rio Grande or to survive the treacherous deserts on

(Continued on page 10)



Film still from *Which Way Home*

Courtesy of Depot Docs

Music Tracks: Brian Hade and Scott Williams, Comforting and Confronting

Songs relating the ‘everyday challenges of life and how God’s word applies’

By Alison Rooney

By his admission, Scott Williams, along with his partner in song Brian Hade, tore it up some during their 20s, performing “up on the mountain” (Woodstock) with tearing-it-up bands like J. Geils and Edgar Winter. As they got married and started families, their lifestyles changed and their music, turning more to the folk-rock tradition, reflected those changes. The pair, with decades of performing behind them, will play their first 2013 date for their God’s Family Tour at the Depot Theatre’s Music Tracks on Saturday, Jan. 12 at 8 p.m.

Williams calls their music “Christian contemporary” and explained that while most of the Christian music produced today is “worship music,” i.e., the object of the music is to worship God, their music is about the “everyday challenges of life and how God’s word applies.”

“What we do,” he said, “is like a journal of daily life: what you and I go through and how we apply the challenges. We address things going on in our own lives, and there’s a 9-of-out-10 chance that we’re not the only people dealing with these things — it’s the challenge of being a human being in our culture.”

This concert and tour will be all-acoustic, something Williams said the music lends itself to. Over the years, Hade and Williams have played

together off and on, but they have never before toured behind the material, which Williams further described as “being in the James Taylor; Eagles; Crosby, Stills and Nash; easy-listening; singer-songwriter style — there’s nothing generic to any specific age group.”

They are trying something new this time around and have already gone into the recording studio and recorded the parts written for the backing vocalists who often accompany them. “Normally we write for a big vocal constituency,” Williams explained, “but since it’s just the two of us this time, we tried this.” They’ll be giving the audience a background on each song in concert, helping the audience “understand where the writing comes from,” he added.

Most of the music on this tour has

been penned by Williams, although earlier efforts featured the work of both equally. The pair met in the 1980s when both worked for an advertising agency on the JVC Jazz Festival campaign. They started playing together and in the years since have played up and down the Hudson Valley, a highlight being a chance to perform with Pete Seeger. Both are excited about playing at the Depot Theatre; Williams has performed there and enjoys the “intimate space.” Calling this area “a great enclave of musicianship,” he said, from speaking with musicians, “it seems like everyone’s moving there.”

Above all, said Williams, “Our intent, what we want to do, is to offer a little bit of comfort, to have the audience come away uplifted. Brian and I, per se, aren’t important

(Continued on page 10)



Scott Williams



Brian Hade

Photos courtesy of Scott Williams and Brian Hade

SITTING on
the BENCH
❖ by Tara ❖



I can imagine the shock rippling through Philipstown and beyond when my devoted readers opened their latest copy of *The Paper* and as usual went immediately to enjoy my column. It wasn't there. They must have been distraught, wondering if something had gone wrong with the world.

Here's the apologetic truth. Instead of composing my prose I was spending too much time browsing through the scores of columns I wrote for the *PCNR* when it was run by the peerless Brian. Out of nostalgia, I wanted to select my favorite but found it was tres difficile. They were all magical although there was the occasional reference to unkind readers who suggested my ego was out of control as though I was a modern version of blustering Mr. Toad of Toad Hall. Still, I did find one which was entirely relevant in 2013. It concerned my Labrador ancestors who, as I previously described, used to plunge into the Atlantic to carry ropes between ship and shore to help fishing boats dock in Newfoundland.



The question was asked, as it surely is today, why Labradors came from Newfoundland, not Labrador. The possible answer was supplied by research scientist Robert Hutchinson, then a Garrison resident, who had published a splendid and definitive volume about my family, "For The Love Of Labrador Retrievers." Mr. Hutchinson, a fan of mine, speculated that we are named for a Portugese animal, Castro Laboreiro, brought to the New World by Iberian fisherfolk in the 16th century. If true, it means the Labrador region was probably named after us rather than the other way around.

One of the sadder columns I found was one describing my youthful joy in jumping to retrieve from thin air a Frisbee flung by the boss. Time ages all, including Labradors, and today as my 12th birthday approaches I can no longer race after a Frisbee. On the plus side, I am much wiser and, as everybody knows, I am as modest and — I must be frank — as fetching as ever.

Equally fetching are the items on the shelves of the Country Goose where almost all of the Crabtree & Evelyn items are on sale. The boss is bringing in a brilliant new line of toiletries, Bronnley, from the U.K.and needs room to display these new items.

TheCountryGoose



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The Calendar

Looking for things to do in and around Philipstown? Grab The Calendar and go. For more details and ongoing events, visit philipstown.info. Send event listings to calendar@philipstown.info. See you around town!

ONGOING

Apocalypse
FRIDAY TO SUNDAY THROUGH JAN. 6
3 - 8 P.M. FRIDAY, NOON - 6 P.M. SATURDAY & SUNDAY
Beacon Artist Union (BAU)
506 Main St., Beacon
845-440-7584 | baugallery.com

As the Crow Flies
DAILY THROUGH MARCH 2
9 A.M. - 5 P.M. MONDAY TO THURSDAY
11 A.M. - 5 P.M. SATURDAY, NOON - 5 P.M., SUNDAY
Beacon Institute
199 Main St., Beacon
845-838-1600 | bire.org/events

Blue Collar Blues: Celebrating the Struggle and Satisfaction of Our Labor
SATURDAY & SUNDAY THROUGH JAN. 27
1 - 5 P.M. FAITH IN ART GALLERY
50 Liberty St., Beacon
845-831-5322 | beaconpresbychurch.com

European Sensibility: Near and Far
THURSDAY TO SUNDAY THROUGH JAN. 27
NOON - 6 P.M. GALLERY 66 NY
66 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5838 | gallery66ny.com

Student/Faculty Exhibition / Gene Garfinkle: Paintings, Pastels, Drawings
TUESDAY TO SUNDAY THROUGH JAN. 6
10 A.M. - 5 P.M. GARRISON ART CENTER
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Wine Tasting
4 - 7 P.M. ARTISAN WINE SHOP
180 Main St., Beacon
845-440-6923 | artisanwineshop.com

Wine & Cheese
5 - 8 P.M. ANTIPODEAN BOOKS
29 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3867 | antipodean.com

January Star Party
7:30 P.M. LAKE TAGHKANIC STATE PARK
1528 Route 82, Ancram | midhudsonastro.org

Calling All Poets
8 P.M. HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Health, Sports & Outdoors
Haldane Ice Hockey vs. Yorktown
5:20 P.M. BREWSTER ICE ARENA
63 Fields Lane, Brewster
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Army Hockey vs. Robert Morris
7 P.M. TATE RINK, WEST POINT
845-938-2526 | goarmysports.com

Haldane Boys' Basketball vs. Pawling
7 P.M. HALDANE HIGH SCHOOL
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Art & Design
European Sensibility: Near and Far (Opening)
6 - 9 P.M. GALLERY 66 NY
66 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5838 | gallery66ny.com

Music
Real Rough Diamonds
7:30 P.M. BEAN RUNNER CAFÉ
201 S. Division St., Peekskill
914-737-1701 | beanrunnercafe.com

Live Music
8 P.M. WHISTLING WILLIE'S
184 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2012 | whistlingwillies.com

Derek Dempsey
9 P.M. MAX'S ON MAIN
246 Main St., Beacon
845-838-6297 | maxsonmain.com

Meetings & Lectures
Free Computer Help
2 P.M. DESMOND-FISH LIBRARY
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Beginner AA Meeting
8 P.M. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

Religious Services
Service at Beacon Hebrew Alliance
7:30 P.M. 331 VERPLANCK, BEACON
847-831-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Service at Reform Temple of Putnam Valley
8 P.M. 362 CHURCH, PUTNAM VALLEY
845-528-4774 | ny069.urj.net



Garrison Art Center's show of Gene Garfinkle's works, along with the student/faculty exhibition, ends Sunday, Jan. 6. *Photo courtesy of GAC*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

Kids & Community
Cold Spring Farmers' Market
8:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN COMMUNITY CENTER
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
csfarmmarket.org

Food Pantry
9 - 10 A.M. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILIPSTOWN
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

Winter Birds at Your Feeder
10 A.M. OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CENTER
100 Muser Drive, Cornwall
845-534-5506 | hnnaturemuseum.org

Meet the Animals
1 & 2:30 P.M. WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTER
25 Boulevard, Cornwall
845-534-7781 | hnnaturemuseum.org

Wine Tasting
3 - 6 P.M. ARTISAN WINE SHOP
See details under Friday.

Health, Sports & Outdoors
Caregiver Support Group: Budgeting for You, Mom & Dad
9:30 A.M. DEMPSEY HOUSE
1992 Crompond Road, Cortlandt Manor
914-734-3794 | vhhc.org/events

Army Men's Basketball vs. Columbia
3 P.M. CHRISTI ARENA, WEST POINT
845-938-2526 | goarmysports.com

Dzogchen Meditation Retreat with Lama Surya Das (Opening)
3 P.M. GARRISON INSTITUTE
14 Mary's Way, Garrison
585-348-7125 | garrisoninstitute.org

Army Hockey vs. Robert Morris
7 P.M. TATE RINK, WEST POINT
845-938-2526 | goarmysports.com

Art & Design
Dia:Beacon Tour
1 P.M. 3 BEEKMAN ST., BEACON
845-440-0100 | diabeacon.org
Free with admission.

Wild Cats and More (Opening)
2 - 5 P.M. HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org
Through Jan. 27

Theater & Film
Movies for Kids: Cloak and Dagger
NOON. JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER
364 Marville Road, Pleasantville
914-747-5555 | burnsfilmcenter.org

Jack Hanna & Animal Friends
3 P.M. TARRYTOWN MUSIC HALL
13 Main St., Tarrytown
914-631-3390, Ext. 100 | tarrytownmusichall.org

Music
Live Music
8 P.M. WHISTLING WILLIE'S
184 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2012 | whistlingwillies.com

The Howlin' Wolves
8 P.M. HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Live Music
9:30 P.M. MAX'S ON MAIN
246 Main St., Beacon
845-838-6297 | maxsonmain.com

Meetings & Lectures
Introduction to Buddhism
10 A.M. - 1 P.M. GRAYMOOR SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER
1350 Route 9, Garrison
914-522-9044 | maevetx1@optonline.net

Free Computer Help

2 P.M. DESMOND-FISH LIBRARY
See details under Friday.

Religious Services

Our Lady of Loretto

5:30 P.M. MASS
24 Fair St., Cold Spring
845-265-3718 | ourladyoflorettocs.com

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

Kids & Community

Snakes Alive!

10 & 11:30 A.M. OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CENTER
100 Muser Drive, Cornwall
845-534-5506 | hhnaturemuseum.org

Farmer's Market

11 A.M. - 3 P.M. SCENIC HUDSON'S RIVER CENTER
Long Dock Drive, Beacon
845-234-9325 | thebeaconfarmersmarket.com

Not Your Mama's Sunday School (Ages 8-16)

11 A.M. - 2 P.M. SCHOOL OF JELLYFISH
183 Main St., Beacon
845-440-8017 | schoolofjellyfish.com

Meet the Animals

1 & 2:30 P.M. WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTER
See details under Saturday.

Health, Sports & Outdoors

Hudson Valley Co-Ed Soccer

7:45 A.M. FISHKILL RECREATION CENTER
793 Route 52, Fishkill
meetup.com/hudsonvalleycoedsoccer

Theater & Film

Movies for Kids: Cloak and Dagger

NOON. JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER
See details under Saturday.

Music

Ukulele Group

3 - 5 P.M. ARTS ON THE LAKE
640 Route 52, Lake Carmel
845-228-2685 | artsonthelake.org

First Sunday Jazz

5 - 8 P.M. WHISTLING WILLIE'S
184 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2012 | whistlingwillies.com

Meetings & Lectures

Brave New Gita With Madan Oppenheimer

4 P.M. BEACON YOGA CENTER
464 Main St., Beacon
347-489-8406 | beaonyogacenter.com

Religious Services

Our Lady of Loretto

7:30, 9, & 11:45 A.M. MASS
24 Fair St., Cold Spring
845-265-3718 | ourladyoflorettocs.com

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

8 & 10:30 A.M.
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-2539 | stmaryscoldspring.org

St. Philip's Episcopal Church

8 & 10:30 A.M.
1101 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org

Grace United Methodist

8:15 A.M. & 10 A.M.
337 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley
845-526-3788

St. Basil's Academy Greek Orthodox Chapel

8:30 A.M. ROUTE 9D, GARRISON
845-424-3500 | saintbasilacademy.org

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

9 A.M. 65 OSCAWANA LAKE RD., PUTNAM VALLEY
845-528-8858 | stlukesputnamvalley.org

First Presbyterian Church

9 A.M. ADULT BIBLE STUDY
10:30 A.M. SERVICE
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

South Highland Methodist Church

9:30 A.M. 19 SNAKE HILL ROAD, GARRISON
845-265-3365

Quaker Friends Worship

10 A.M. WHYATT HOME
845-424-3525
Call for directions.

St. Joseph's Chapel

10:15 A.M. 74 UPPER STATION ROAD, GARRISON
845-265-3718 | ourladyoflorettocs.com

Fourth Unitarian Society

10:30 A.M. 1698 STRAWBERRY ROAD, MOHEGAN LAKE
914-528-7131 | fourthuu.org

Church on the Hill

10:30 A.M. 245 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING
845-265-2022 | coldspringchurchonthehill.org

United Methodist Church

11 A.M. 216 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING
845-265-3365

MONDAY, JANUARY 7

Kids & Community

Bridge Club

9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Indoor Tot Park

NOON - 2 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Health, Sports and Outdoors

Youth Basketball Skills/Drills (Grades 6-8)

6:15 - 7:15 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Men's Basketball

7:30 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Music

Community Chorus

7 P.M. HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Jazz Open Jam Session

8 P.M. TURNING POINT MUSIC CAFÉ
468 Piermont Ave., Piermont
845-359-1089 | turningpointcafe.com

Meetings

Cold Spring Boat Club Member Meeting

7 P.M. COLD SPRING BOAT CLUB
5 New St., Cold Spring
845-265-2465 | coldspringboatclub.com

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8

Kids & Community

Knitting Club

10 A.M. HOWLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Highland Knitters

NOON. DESMOND-FISH LIBRARY
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Indoor Tot Park

NOON. PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
See information under Monday.

Kids Craft Hour

4 P.M. DESMOND-FISH LIBRARY
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Health, Sports & Outdoors

Breast and Ovarian Cancer Support Group

10:15 A.M. EAST FISHKILL LIBRARY
348 New York 376, Hopewell Junction
800-532-4290 | supportconnection.org

Haldane Boys' Basketball vs. Bronxville

6 P.M. HALDANE HIGH SCHOOL
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Music

Old-Timey Jam Session

7 P.M. HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Open Mic Night

7:30 P.M. BANK SQUARE COFFEEHOUSE
129 Main St., Beacon
845-440-7165 | banksquarecoffeehouse.com

Meetings & Lectures

Daytime Book Club: The Archivist

1:30 P.M. HOWLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Hudson Valley Fiction Writers Workshop

7 P.M. BARNES & NOBLE
2518 South Road, Poughkeepsie
meetup.com/Hudson-Valley-Fiction-Writers-Workshop

NHFD Organizational Meeting

7 P.M. NORTH HIGHLANDS FIRE DEPARTMENT
504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring
845-265-9595 | nhfd21.org

Cold Spring Board of Trustees

7:30 P.M. VILLAGE HALL
85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

Cold Spring Planning Board

7:30 P.M. VILLAGE HALL
85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

Women's AA Meeting

7:30 P.M. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

Religious Services

Bible Study

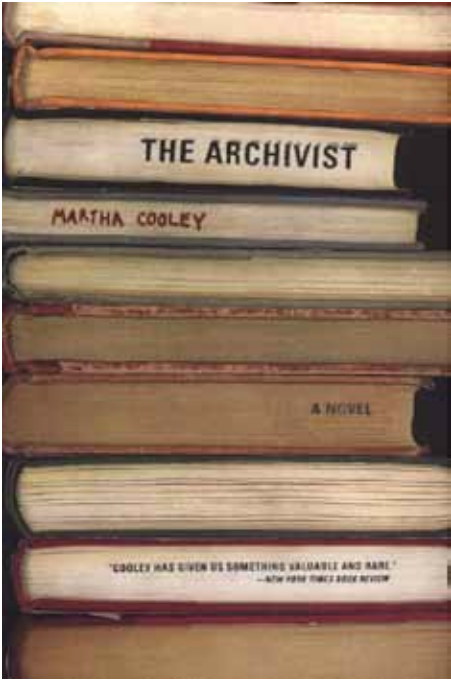
7 P.M. OUR LADY OF LORETTO
24 Fair St., Cold Spring
845-265-3718 | ourladyoflorettocs.com

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9

Kids & Community

Indoor Tot Park

9 - 11 A.M. & NOON - 2 P.M.
PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com



The Howland Public Library's Daytime Book Blub reads *The Archivist* by Martha Cooley on Tuesday, Jan. 8.

Mah Jongg Open Play

10 A.M. - 1 P.M. VFW HALL
34 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Senior Bus Trip to Fishkill

10 A.M. PICKUP AT CHESTNUT RIDGE
10:15 a.m. Pickup at Perks Plaza, Cold Spring
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Music & Movement for Toddlers

10:15 A.M. DESMOND-FISH LIBRARY
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Preschool Story Hour

1:30 P.M. DESMOND-FISH LIBRARY
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Health, Sports & Outdoors

Free Flu Vaccine Clinic

3 - 7 P.M. PUTNAM COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
1 Geneva Road, Brewster
845-808-1332 | putnamflu.com
Registration required.

Young Women's Breast Cancer Support Group

7 P.M. SUPPORT CONNECTION
40 Triangle Center Suite 100, Yorktown Heights
914-962-6402 | supportconnection.org

Theater & Film

Dear Governor Cuomo plus Q&A

7:30 P.M. DOWNING FILM CENTER
19 Front St., Newburgh
845-561-3686 | downingfilmcenter.com

Music

Open Mic Night

8 P.M. WHISTLING WILLIE'S
184 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2012 | whistlingwillies.com



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For more information:

www.dancingdialogue.com
suzitortora@mac.com; 845-265-1085
8 Marion Ave Suite 1 Cold Spring, NY

WINTER CLASSES BEGIN in JANUARY

The Calendar (from page 9)

Meetings & Lectures

Men’s Group

6:30 P.M. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILIPSTOWN
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

Putnam and Beyond Book Club: An Invisible Thread

6:45 P.M. RUCHI INDIAN CUISINE
1853 Main St., Peekskill | meetup.com/P-B-B-C

Sci-Fi, Fantasy & Horror Writers’ Group

7 P.M. BARNES & NOBLE
2518 South Road, Poughkeepsie
meetup.com/The-Mid-Hudson-Sci-Fi-Fantasy-Club

Life Support Group

7:30 P.M. ST. PHILIP’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1101 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org

Town Board Workshop

7:30 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN TOWN HALL
238 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

Historic District Review Board

8 P.M. VILLAGE HALL
85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

Religious Services

Contemplative Prayer

7 A.M. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILIPSTOWN
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

Morning Minyan

8:30 A.M. BEACON HEBREW ALLIANCE
331 Verplanck Ave., Beacon
847-831-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Bible Study

7 P.M. CHURCH ON THE HILL
245 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2022 | coldspringchurchonthehill.org

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10

Kids & Community

Indoor Tot Park

NOON- 2 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Haldane PTA Meeting

3:30 P.M. HALDANE SCHOOL
15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldanepta.org

Children Read to Dogs (Ages 7-10)

4 P.M. DESMOND-FISH LIBRARY
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Health, Sports & Outdoors

Caregiver Support Group: Budgeting for You, Mom & Dad

6 P.M. DEMPSEY HOUSE
See details under Saturday.

Haldane Girls’ Basketball vs. Putnam Valley

6 P.M. HALDANE HIGH SCHOOL
15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Adult Co-Ed Volleyball

7:30 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Free Wellness Talk

7:30 P.M. THE LIVING ROOM
103 Main St., Cold Spring
845-270-8210 | coldspringlivingroom.com
With Marika Blossfeldt, author of *Essential Nourishment*

Special Board for a Comprehensive Plan/LWRP

7:30 P.M. VILLAGE HALL
85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

Music

Open Mic Night

8 P.M. 12 GRAPES
12 N. Division St., Peekskill
914-737-6624 | 12grapes.com

Meetings & Lectures

NHFD District Meeting

7 P.M. NORTH HIGHLANDS FIRE DEPARTMENT
504 Fishkill, Cold Spring
845-265-9595 | nhfd21.org

Religious Services

Hill Top Visionaries (Young Adults)

6:30 P.M. CHURCH ON THE HILL
245 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2022 | coldspringchurchonthehill.org

Depot Docs: Which Way Home (from page 7)

both sides of the border.

Perhaps this all sounds too dark, and it would be if the filmmakers hadn’t taken the time to cultivate relationships with several of the children and their families, tell their remarkable stories, and follow the various arcs that their lives and journeys take over time. First amongst equals is Kevin, 14, from a small village in Honduras, traveling with his friend, 13-year-old Frito. They eventually team up with two Mexican teens, Jairo and Yurico, who’s spent 15 of his 17 years living on the streets. The high spirits, determination, courage, fearlessness, generosity, devotion to their families and determination to help them, and the combination of innocence and street smarts they display in the face of the most daunting, dangerous and unforgiving circumstances, provide a cast of characters that we can sympathize with, pull for, and finally care about. When that happens, the distance between Newtown and Nuevo Laredo, you may notice, will be shortened exponentially.

Which Way Home will be shown at the Philipstown Depot Theatre, Garrison’s Landing, at 7:30 p.m. Special guest Rebecca Cammisa, the film’s director/producer, will be present for a Q-and-A and a reception after the screening. For tickets or to make a reservation, call the theater at 845-424-3900 or go to philipstowndepottheatre.org.

Music Tracks: Brian Hade and Scott Williams (from page 7)

— the message is what is important.” Visit glorylandmusic.com to learn more about Williams’ music and to listen to audio tracks from his last CD. Concert tickets cost \$15 and are available through Brown Paper Tickets, brownpapertickets.com/event/301535.

Programs for Children at Desmond-Fish

Upcoming children’s programs at the Desmond-Fish Library offer a warm respite from outdoor activities.



Lily reads to Fredo during Tail Waggin’ Tutors at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison. This program resumes on Thursday, Jan. 10, from 4 to 6 p.m. and continues every second Thursday of the month.

Music and Movement for toddlers with Gabriella Johnson and Polly Townsend begins on Jan. 9 at 10:15 a.m. in the library’s program room. Children between 6 months and 4 years of age and their caregivers sing along with Johnson and Townsend, play instruments and move to simple songs. They also will play with the library’s parachute and the toys and climbing structures in the program room.

The craft hour each Tuesday at 4 p.m. features crafts like felting and making things with fabric and yarn. A nutritious snack is provided for the children.

The story hour for preschool-age children is held each Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. Children’s Librarian Townsend reads several stories, and then the children do a related craft. This program continues every Wednesday except during school vacations.

The Desmond-Fish Library is located at 472 Route 403 in Garrison. For more information, call 845-424-3020 or visit the website, desmondfishlibrary.org.

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# Still Donating Recycled Bikes to Kids Who Need Them

By Alison Rooney

Since our original story on Guinan’s Aurora was published July 19, 2011, Jay Vitale’s search for a storage home for all the donated bicycles has proved successful: He now has the use of a barn on Pat O’Dell’s Old Albany Post Road property as well as space at Ken Rhodes’ place on Indian Brook Road — space he is very grateful for, as the continued person-to-person recycling of bicycles keeps on going.

Recently, Vitale has facilitated the donation of over 65 bikes to the Fresh Air Fund organization, Cystic Fibrosis, and to Dutchess Social Services. In December, he was off to bring 15 bikes to veterans at the Montrose Common Ground facility. Vitale has been able to provide bikes to Army and Marine veterans and is about to add the Coast Guard. He also has “a dozen ready to go to New York City, a place called Bronx Works — we were happy that the Fresh Air Fund recommended us.” Word continues to spread through Guinan’s Aurora’s Facebook page and webpage, guinansaurora.org, and donations are steady.

He is moved by donors and recipients alike, relating that “a lady called from Connecticut; she had read about us and asked us to come to her house. When I got there she had six bikes for me. She had a 50-acre horse farm, a barn, stables and she was losing it all because of the economy, but she went out and gave me six beautiful bicycles.” He added, “The recipients get me every time.”

Vitale takes care to only give away “beautiful bikes.” He’ll take “anything with wheels, pedals, a seat,” but will break bikes down for parts rather than give anything away that looks less than perfect. For anyone doing a New Year’s cleaning of attic or garage: Please donate your bikes. Vitale can be reached via email at vital-ejay@hotmail.com or by phone, 845-424-6078 — phone is best.



Only bikes in great condition are donated, but parts can always be used.

## Recycling Bicycles for Sick and Underprivileged Kids, July 19, 2011

Think of all the garages out there with a grown-out-of bicycle stashed in the corner, waiting for the yard sale that never gets organized. Or maybe you have a mountain bike with a broken chain, and your urge to ride it has dwindled because you haven’t got round to fixing it. There is hardly a street in Philipstown or anywhere else where one of these scenarios isn’t taking place. Jay Vitale knows this, and has come up with one of those “How come no one has thought of this before?” ideas about what to do with all of these bikes languishing and waiting for riders.

Vitale, of Garrison, is a cancer survivor. A regular at Guinan’s, the now-shuttered fixture at Garrison’s Landing, he was friendly with multiple generations of the Guinan family and was determined to lift the spirits of John Guinan, who was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer at age 52, soon after taking over the business. Vitale explained the beginning of his idea: “I know, from experience, how people with cancer can fall into a depression. I invited him to lunch. John said, ‘I am really pissed that people are throwing repairable bikes out and cluttering landfills.’ I told John that we could make

a good business model and do something fantastic, but ‘you have to stick around.’” Unfortunately, that did not occur, but Guinan’s death spurred Vitale on.

Vitale explained further: “I decided to test this model: bikes wanted for disadvantaged children. Within the first three days I received 11 bikes. This proved it would work. With permission from the Guinan family, I decided to call it Guinan’s Aurora — Aurora being the name of John’s baby granddaughter. So I decided to search for bikes. I went to landfills in the area. Louis Lombardo [of Lombardo Carting] gave me 25 or 30 bikes. I went to all the bike shops in the area and each of them agreed to help; some gave me bikes on the spot. Down Bikes in Croton suggested I go to the Croton Police Department. There they had confiscated about 25 bikes. They usually auction them off, which takes a lot of staff time. They referred me to the Croton Town Board, where one lady said, ‘Why are we fooling around?’ So now I’ve got all these bikes from Croton and probably 25 or more coming.”

Vitale has been in touch with the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department, seeking to make contact with local police divisions to get this program up and running in many locations. He’s also re-

cruiting volunteers, thinking about the project’s suitability for Boy Scouts, other service organizations, inmate programs, and kids who attend BOCES, with the technical skills to help with the repairs. As word has spread, so have the bike donations: three brand new bikes came from a house on Fishkill Road; still more from a man from Moffat Road who is a representative for a bike company. Other kinds of donations, just as necessary as the bikes themselves, have been forthcoming as well, with Jamie Copeland of the Garrison Volunteer Fire Company seeking to give Vitale a bay at the Upper Station Road firehouse to use as a location for repairing the bikes.

Vitale has a specific goal for all of these bikes, once repaired: giving them to kids. Kids with cancer and other illnesses top the list, and also kids

from disadvantaged backgrounds who are good students. The bikes are distributed “without bias as to race, religion or gender.” Vitale is passionate about what this simple gift can bring, knowing, specifically, how hospital and medical bills can drain a family’s disposable income: “Children with cancer go right to the head of the list. These bikes can breathe life back into their bodies and help them with remission.” Vitale has worked with Vassar Brothers Hospital and Goodwill Industries, amongst others, to locate children who fit these parameters; there are many.

What Vitale is most in need of now is a permanent “home” to store all of the donated bicycles. He’s presented this plea to the Philipstown Town Board at one of their recent meetings. He explained, “I’m trying to close a perfect circle. On the one hand I’ve had overwhelming participation, but I need a home. It can be in complete disrepair — I’ll put a new roof on it or anything — but I need a space to do this. This is now a 501(c)3 nonprofit; I’ve got MJ Guinan and Dan McNally on the board and everything is going great, but I need that home, and I need sponsors, too.”

HELP WANTED

Reporter Position Available

Philipstown.info/The Paper seeks an individual with proven journalistic experience for regular story assignments, involving both news event coverage and longer form news features.

Send expression of interest and resume to editor@philipstown.info.



HELP WANTED

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Philipstown Depot Theatre presents:

Depot Docs: *Which Way Home*  
Friday, January 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Q & A and reception following film  
Tickets \$20

.....

Music Tracks: *Hade and Williams*  
Saturday, January 12, 8 p.m.  
Tickets \$15

Tickets: [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) or 845.424.3900  
[www.philipstowndepottheatre.org](http://www.philipstowndepottheatre.org)  
Garrison Landing, Garrison, NY (Theatre is adjacent to train station)



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

‘Last Chance’ Flu Clinic

Vaccinations given Jan. 9

The Putnam County Department of Health reports that flu activity is now widespread — reaching all 56 counties in New York state, plus all five boroughs of New York City. Total reported cases, as well as hospital cases, continue to rise. Individuals age 3 and older who live or work in New York state and who have not received their flu shot can take advantage of the last public vaccination clinic held by the Health Department, set for Wednesday, Jan. 9, from 3 to 7 pm at its main office at 1 Geneva Road in Brewster.

“The flu season can run another four months,” said Dr. Allen Beals, Putnam County’s commissioner of health, “so if you have not yet received your shot, it is still important to do so.” Beals and County Executive MaryEllen Odell received their flu shots back on Sept. 11 when the Health Department kicked off its immunization schedule. Since then, more than 3,500 residents have been immunized by the Health Department at public and school-based clinics.

The fee for the flu vaccine is \$10, which covers the cost of the vaccine. Those 60 years and older or with a Medicare card can receive the vaccine free of charge.

Appointments are not necessary, but online preregistration is strongly encouraged. To register, participants can go online at putnamflu.com or visit the county website at putnamcountyny.com. Registrants can choose from four time slots: 3 - 4 p.m., 4 - 5 p.m., 5 - 6 p.m., or 6 - 7 p.m.

A snow date has been set for Wednesday, Jan. 16, also from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Health Department’s main office at 1 Geneva Road. Call the flu hot line at 845-808-1390 or visit the PCDOH’s Facebook page, facebook.com/putnamhealth, for notification of a postponement.



An American Crow Courtesy of PHAS

Audubon Society Holds Crow Program and Party

Birdseed pickup and sale Jan. 12

The Putnam Highland Audubon Society announces its Annual Bird Event at the Taconic Outdoor Education Center, Saturday, Jan. 12, from 3 - 5 p.m., rescheduled from Nov. 3. Orders from the fall birdseed sale can be picked up 2 - 5 p.m. Some seed will be available for sale on the day of the event.

At 3 p.m., Douglas A. Robinson, assistant professor of biology at Mt. St. Mary’s College in Newburgh, will present *The Uncommon Life of the American Crow*. Robinson has studied and written extensively on crows and will provide insights into their behavior and family structure as well as a “bird’s eye” view of the crow’s world.

An early dinner will follow the program at 4 p.m., featuring Chef Mike’s famous vegetarian chili, dessert and apple cider. Audubon birders will be available to discuss the care and feeding of birds over the winter months and will be happy to suggest varieties of bird seed for attracting common and uncommon bird species. There will also be some bird feeders for sale with suggestions on where best to place them to discourage squirrels!

To cover the cost of the presentation and food, the suggested donation is \$15. All proceeds support further PHAS programs. For program and chili reservations and questions, contact Paul Kuznia at 845-265-3773 or concoyote@aol.com.

The mission of the PHAS is to preserve and maintain those lands and waters that have been entrusted to our stewardship; to inform and educate the public on issues involving birds, wildlife and the environment; and to encourage membership in the chapter and participation in its activities.

European Art Opens at Gallery 66 NY

Gallery 66 NY presents a group show of European sensibilities with established German artists, introducing emerging local artist Donna Blais and accomplished guitarist Ron Soodalter. *European Sensibility: Near and Far* will be on exhibit from Jan. 4 through Jan. 27, with an opening reception on Friday evening, Jan. 4, from 6 to 9 p.m. at 66 Main St. in Cold Spring.

The show is a broad survey of various artists creating contemporary visual art. Italy is represented through the eyes of emerging photographer Donna Blais, Spain is represented through a lyrical and musical performance by Ron Soodalter, while Germany is represented by artists currently living in Germany, curated by Carla Goldberg.

German artists cover a variety of work from figurative to lyric abstraction. Sonja Tines and Lupe Godoy approach their work in the form of Surrealism and multilayered storytelling. Artist Hego Gövert, a former rock and blues drummer, continues his musical exploration of mood in his artwork, “riffing” on such topical subjects as the Fukushima nuclear power plant or his own series of heart attacks. His paintings feature pure and bright acid tones, or as he calls them, “screaming colors,” piercing through more murky ground. Manfred Holtkamp’s wood panels and sculptures play on the natural properties of various woods he chooses while adding artificial “grain” of paint, ash, acid or other media as a counterpoint to the nature of the wood itself.

Emerging artist Donna Blais lives in New Paltz. Although photography has been her passion for the past 30 years, she has only recently shown her work. This year she achieved first place in the

open category at the Garrison Art Center’s *PHOTOcentric* 2012 competition, juried by Elizabeth Opalenik and gallery owner Robert Mann. Juror Deborah Willis selected one of her images as one of the Juror’s Selection in Professional Women Photographers’ competition this fall. Traveling through Italy, Blais was inspired by the relaxed lifestyle and colorful characters in Italy, so much so that she began photographing her travels throughout Italy.

Ron Soodalter of Cold Spring brings Spain to life through his guitar and the flamenco. Soodalter was a professional guitarist from the age of 13 and studied with Carlos Montoya. Soodalter will make a special appearance at Gallery 66 NY for this European tribute.

For more information call 845-809-5838 or visit gallery66ny.com.

Sculpture Group Show Opens Jan. 5

Theo Ganz Studio announces that they will start the New Year with *Form and Function*, an exhibition of work by several artists, opening on Saturday, Jan. 5, from 4 to 6 p.m.

The sculptures include the figurative abstractions with mirrors of Sarah Haviland; chairs — one in steel by Insun Kim and one in maple and walnut by Margaret McDuffie; jewelry by Kit Burke-Smith; twig inlay furniture by Bo Stevens; and the Japanese-inspired nesting stools by Jessica Wickham.

To read more about the artists, visit the website, theoganzstudio.com. The gallery, at 149 Main St. in Beacon, is open Friday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and by appointment at 917-318-2239.

The studio is also announcing their first Call for Artists for a group exhibition with the theme “Elegy” to take place in March. All categories including limited performance, video and sound are acceptable, and any artist is invited to submit work that hasn’t been shown in Beacon in the last 12 months. For the complete prospectus, visit theoganzstudio.com/exhibitions.

Free Talk on Food

Award-winning author, speaker and health coach Marika Blossfeldt will offer a free talk on Jan. 10 at 7:30 p.m. at The Living Room, 103 Main St. in Cold Spring as the kickoff event for her upcoming Wellness Workshop.

In her free talk, titled *Energize Your Body and Mind by Making Smart Food*

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Italy is represented in Gallery 66 NY’s group show by the photography of Donna Blais. Photo courtesy of Gallery 66 NY



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

*Choices*, Blossfeldt will address how to prevent dips in energy and concentration, how natural foods can boost motivation and clarity of mind and what are the best foods to eat for blood sugar balance and weight loss.

Those who would like to delve deeper into the subjects can sign up for Blossfeldt's six-session Breakthrough Wellness Workshop starting Jan. 24 at 7:30 p.m. at The Living Room. In the workshop Blossfeldt will share food and lifestyle fundamentals. With heightened awareness regarding one's food choices and a basic knowledge as to how foods affect our bodies and minds, participants will be able to design their own way of healthy eating, one that feels natural to them and can be maintained for the rest of their lives without strict rules or regulations or sacrificing taste and pleasure. Blossfeldt will cover topics such as blood sugar balance, the food-mood connection, choosing fats and oils, the acid-alkaline balance of the body, losing weight the healthy way — without dieting or counting calories — and how to create simple yet nourishing meals from whole foods. One workshop session will be a hands-on, natural foods cooking class.

Remaining workshop sessions will take place Jan. 31, Feb. 7, March 7, 14 and 21. The workshop fee includes handouts, recipes and food samples. Early-bird registration is \$227 when paid by Jan. 15; after Jan. 15, the workshop cost is \$267. Single sessions cost \$50 each. For more information and to register, call 646-241-8478 or email marika@delicious-nutrition.com.

Blossfeldt offers one-on-one coaching, group health programs, whole-foods cooking classes and wellness workshops in the Hudson Valley during the winter months. In the summer she facilitates yoga, wellness and cooking retreats at her farm in Estonia. Her book *Essential Nourishment, Recipes from My Estonian Farm* won the Gourmand World Cookbook Award (Paris) and the Living Now Book Awards gold medal (U.S.). For more information, visit the author's website, MarikaB.com.

Minnewaska Provides Winter Activities

The Minnewaska State Park Preserve is offering outings throughout the month of January. Preregistration is required for participation in all public programs. For more information, call the park office at 845-255-0752.

For outings, please wear appropriate clothing and footwear and bring snacks and water. A parent or guardian over the age of 18 must accompany children wishing to participate in any programs. Unless otherwise noted, all programs meet at the Nature Center. The Park is at 5281 Route 44-55 in Kerhonkson.

Sunday, Jan. 6, 1 – 3 p.m.

Cross-Country Ski to Kempton's Ledge

Environmental Educator Laura Conner will lead a 4-mile cross-country ski outing to Kempton's Ledge, where scenic views of the Palmaghatt Ravine abound. This modestly challenging outing will follow along Lake Minnewaska Carriage

Road and Castle Point Carriage Road, a well-groomed route that does include two challenging hills. Participants must provide their own ski equipment and must have previous cross-country skiing experience. If there is no snow, this outing will be a hike.

Tuesday, Jan. 8, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Snowshoe Mossy Glen

Use snowshoes on this nearly 4-mile-long walk in the woods along the edges of the Peter's Kill stream.

This trail offers a relatively flat route for people just learning to use snowshoes; however, there are two unimproved stream crossings. Snowshoes may be rented from the park office, located at the Peter's Kill Climbing Area. Early arrival is suggested for snowshoe rental. If there is no snow, this outing will be a hike. Meet in the Awosting parking lot. (This outing will also occur on Monday, Jan. 14, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

Saturday, Jan. 12, 1 – 3 p.m.

Snowshoe and Winter Tree ID

This moderately challenging 2-mile excursion includes a tree-identification workshop not just for winter but any season. Snowshoes may be rented from the park office, located at the Peter's Kill Climbing Area. Early arrival is suggested for snowshoe rental. If there is no snow, this outing will be a hike. This program will meet in the Peter's Kill Area.

Beacon Loop Trail Call for Logo and Name

The Beacon Loop Trail needs a logo (and a name). The Beacon Loop Trail Committee is looking for artists, graphic designers or creative individuals who live and/or work in Beacon to submit logo designs for the branding of the Beacon Loop Trail. The logo will be used for signage and publicity and recognized on the Beacon Loop Trail website. The committee is also open to suggested names for the Beacon Loop Trail.

The objective of the logo is to represent the theme of the Beacon Loop Trail. The loop will connect the waterfront to the Fishkill Creek, to Main Street, and to the train station. Certain off-road segments, such as the Klara Sauer Trail along the waterfront and the Madam Brett Trail along the Fishkill Creek, are already built and suitable for pedestrians and bicycles. The loop will also utilize existing roads, which lack the facilities necessary for safe bicycling. Phase 1 of the Bicycle Sharrow project in the spring of 2013, along Main Street, will provide necessary signage, shared lane bike markers (sharrows), and bike posts for the on-road portions for the loop.

Future phases include connections from Route 9D/Main Street to the Beacon Trail Station and from east Main Street along Tioronda Avenue to Madam Brett Park. In addition, a bicycle education program will be developed by Bike Beacon and a logo and style guide will be developed for the loop, with plans for future bicycle tours.

Currently the name is the "Beacon Loop Trail," but the committee is open to changing the name. Some suggestions include: Shore to Shops (Loop) Trail,

Marsh to Main (Loop) Trail, Beacon Scenic Route, City Scenic Way, Scenic Way, Beacon City Scenic, Beacon Byway, Beacon Scenic Byway.

Specifications:

- Include "Beacon Loop Trail" name in the logo
- Design to be used by events, signage in Beacon, website, Facebook, press releases, etc.
- Good in color and black and white
- Scalable to different sizes and media
- Final format to include with various formats including a stencil version

Logo submissions should be made on a CD with jpgs, 300 dpi, with up to six images. Include name, address, email and phone. Mail to BeaconArts, P.O. Box 727, Beacon, NY 12508. The deadline for submissions is midnight Feb. 1. The chosen designer(s) will receive an honorarium of \$500 for their creation from the Beacon Sharrow Grant.

The Beacon Loop Trail/Sharrow Committee consists of Mark T. Wildonger, Stowe Boyd and Mark Roland.

New Program for Children With Autism and Disabilities

Putnam ARC, the leading provider of services for children and adults with developmental disabilities in Putnam County, is pleased to announce the establishment of PARC Pals, an after-school program for children with autism and developmental disabilities.

The program, which takes place at PARC Center, 1938 Route 6 in Carmel, is for children ages 5-12 and is offered Monday through Friday from 3 to 6 p.m. PARC Pals is a fun and inviting space for children to make new friends, play, create and read, all with trained staff supervising activities. PARC Pals currently has openings, and families are encouraged to visit and apply for this program.

After-school hours have been identified by many Putnam County parents as an important time for respite care. PARC Pals staff members are trained to care for children with many different disabilities. The ratio of staff to children is usually 1 to 3, and the program is able to adjust for high-need children.

PARC Pals is free to children and their families who are eligible for the NYS Office for People with Disabilities (OPWDD) Home & Community Based Services Waiver.

For more information about PARC Pals or to arrange a visit, please call 845-225-5650, ext. 1177, or log onto our website, PutnamARC.org.



Margaret McDuffie - Westport Chair

Photo by Howard Goodman

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# Mad Scientists Take Over Garrison School

*Second annual science-filled week is prelude to March's science fair*

By Alison Rooney

The Garrison School science fair, a longstanding March or April tradition, now has an innovative lead-in, Mad Science Week, designed to get students started, thinking, and engaged with science and excited about devising their science fair projects. *The Cougar's Pride*, the Garrison PTA newsletter, states: "We hope that the week will bring science to life, inspire kids to understand how the world works and increase participation in the Science Fair."

This year's program, the second annual, begins on Monday, Jan. 7, with the presentation of two assemblies — one for the elementary grades and another for middle school students — put on by Philadelphia's renowned Franklin Institute Science Center.

With a focus on chemistry this year, the assemblies promise to "differentiate between physical and chemical properties through fun, engaging demonstrations. The chemistry show explores everything from everyday chemistry to the chemical 'detective' work performed by laboratory scientists," according to Franklin Institute's description. The assemblies will bring all the students together, while in individual elementary school classrooms, parent volunteers will come in and perform experiments pertaining to specific topics advised in writing by the teachers. On average, each classroom will enjoy two or three such visits during the course

of the week. Parents were provided with a number of ready-to-use experiments, or they were invited to devise their own experiments with input from their child's teacher. One in-class parent experiment will include digestion, using acid in flasks simulating the human stomach.

Dr. Robin Whyatt of the Columbia University School of Public Health (and Garrison resident) will spend the day Tuesday with the middle schoolers sharing her experience choosing science as a career and the ways her research on pesticides has impacted public awareness and legal action, and mentoring the students in planning experiments to answer science questions that interest them.

In the middle school, the classroom component will be focused around *Mythbusters*, the Discovery Channel's popular science series. Rather than the parents coming in and showing them things, the middle school students will create myths themselves and then "bust" them as well. They will present their findings as part of the week's culminating evening on Thursday, Jan. 10. Participation in the regular school science fair is mandatory for middle schoolers and optional for elementary students.

Throughout the week, science will be threaded into different parts of life at the school, according to Garrison PTA President Angela Smith, who has helped organize the program along with co-



Garrison School students enjoy science activities during last year's Mad Science Week.

chairs of Mad Science Week (and parents) Marilyn Walker and Derek DuBois. All of the teachers will offer an enhanced science curriculum during the week. "As the kids go throughout their school day," said Smith, "science will surround them in and out of the classroom." Exhibits scattered throughout the school will include a telescope and a combination of hands-on and presentational material. The cafeteria will have television screens streaming different science channels.

Thursday evening is Family Night, and beginning at 6 p.m., (*The Paper's* "Mouths to Feed" columnist) Celia Barbour and her team will be making dinner for the families, who will then adjourn upstairs, allowing families to visit the gym at 7 p.m. to experience a range of hands-on science stations. These will include:

- Testing your cycling watt output vs. that of triathlete Mike Bakker; Bakker will also talk about how he uses science to improve his performance as an ironman triathlete.

- Table exhibits of animal bones and "other cool stuff"
- A weather science show by Radley Horton
- Pediatric medicine with Dr. Peter Gergely
- Videos of cardiac ultrasound presented by Derek DuBois from material supplied by his cardiologist brother
- Two presentations from the Carmel Discovery Center
- Demonstrations from the middle schoolers of their mythbusting findings (some of which may involve watermelons, duct tape and lots of water)
- A giant electromagnet that last year was used to lift third graders and kindergartners

Smith, who is in her first year as the head of the PTA, calls the teachers "very receptive" to the program. "Actually, the teachers have been receptive to everything we've done as a PTA." It is hoped that this will continue through the years as an annual event.

### Mad Science Week Schedule

All week: parent-led interactive experiments in the classroom

Monday, Jan. 7 – Assembly at 9 - 9:45 a.m. for grades K-4; 10 - 10:45 a.m. for grades 5-8 with the Franklin Institute on a chemistry theme

Thursday, Jan. 10 – Celia Barbour and her team will provide dinner from 6 to 7 p.m. in the cafeteria. The cost is \$5 per person or \$20 per family; pay at the door. Interactive exhibits in the gym follow from 7 to 8 p.m.



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Then and Now



Philipstown Town Hall in the late 19th century, left, and current Town Hall



Photo by Maggie Benmour

Open Space Institute to Connect Fahnestock, Hudson Highlands Parks

The Open Space Institute announced Monday, Dec. 17, the acquisition of two properties totaling 13.6 acres that will help the New York State Office of Parks fill in the gap between Clarence Fahnestock Memorial State Park and Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve.

The acquisition of the two parcels, which are located on Jaycox Road in Philipstown, Putnam County, builds on the goal to create a hiking corridor between Fahnestock and Hudson Highlands — parks to which OSI has added thousands of acres over the past three decades.

“OSI has added nearly 7,000 acres to Fahnestock State Park — more than doubling its size — and we’ve added close to 1,500 acres to Hudson Highlands,” said Kim Elliman, OSI’s president and CEO. “It has been a longtime goal to link these two state parks, and the public is now one step closer to being able to hike from the Hudson River to the Appalachian Trail entirely on publicly accessible property.”

The parcels were acquired by OSI’s land acquisition affiliate, the Open Space Conservancy, and are adjacent to a 50-acre property recently acquired by the Hudson Highlands Land Trust. That

parcel, which is also part of the envisioned hiking corridor, will be added to Fahnestock State Park.

“Both OSI and HHLT have been working together on this hiking corridor for many years, so we’re pleased that our partnership has resulted in these important acquisitions, furthering the original vision to connect the two parks,” said Andy Chmar, the executive director of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust.

OSI intends to transfer the land acquired today to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation as an addition to Fahnestock as well.

The Open Space Institute protects scenic, natural and historic landscapes to provide public enjoyment, conserve habitat and sustain communities. OSI has protected more than 116,000 acres in New York state. Through its Northern Forest Protection Fund and Conservation Capital Program, OSI has assisted in the protection of an additional 2.2 million acres from Quebec to Georgia. Please visit [osiny.org](http://osiny.org) for more information.

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# Nature Museum and Land Trust Are Bullish on Bears

*Presentation on American black bears urges treating them with respect*

By Alison Rooney

Hudson Highlands Nature Museum (HHNM) Environmental Educator Carl Heitmuller began his presentation on American black bears (ABB) by asking audience members why they attended. The predominant answer was along the lines of, “We hike a lot and want to know what to do if we see a bear.” The talk and PowerPoint display, co-sponsored by the museum and the Hudson Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) as part of a wildlife-education partnership, covered that question and more.

Heitmuller began with a general discussion — sort of an American Black Bear Basics 101. Above all, he said, “These

by three inches of fur, giving them their powerful ripping and breaking abilities. Not all American black bears have black fur, by the way. The name was given to them by European settlers who saw only the black-covered variety, but in fact the same breed also comes with brown, cinnamon, blond and even white fur.

Correcting an assumption, Heitmuller stressed that these bears do not hibernate, but rather go into a deep sleep. Their body temperature does not lower to the extent that, say, a woodchuck’s does. They actually can come out of this sleep, and it is not a good idea to shine a light on a bear encountered sleeping, as they can run 30 miles per hour within a minute of waking up. They pack themselves tightly into very small dens, filled with leaves; sometimes a den is simply a tree which falls over.

Babies — usually two to three, often twins — are born in these dens in January. By February and March, the mother bears have exited the den, looking for food. In April or May, if a female has no cubs, she goes out to find a mate. If a female has cubs and a male goes out seeking a mate, he will kill the cubs, and sometimes kills his own cubs. The mother bear will generally take care of her cubs for a full year, with the babies going off on their own and the mother getting pregnant again the following spring. ABBs can live 25 years in the wild, with an average life span of 18 years.

The range of the ABB extends throughout the northern reaches of the North American continent, including all of Canada and

Alaska, where they overlap with grizzly bears, and the northern United States and extending all the way down to Florida. A male can cover a range from eight to 60 miles, while a female’s is smaller, at just one to 15 miles. Thus if one sees a particular bear in Philipstown, that same bear could be seen in Poughkeepsie, for they will travel that far to obtain food.

The habitat of the ABB is generally a deciduous, coniferous forest, categorized by the thick understory vegetation that yields them so much food. Within that habitat, the bears can employ their extremely keen sense of smell, which they use to detect danger, locate mates and find foods. They are capable of walking more than 40 miles to reach a prey animal they’ve detected and can detect human scent more than 14 hours after the person passed on a trail.

Contrary to popular belief, bears can see “fairly well, although they are a touch near-sighted” according to Heitmuller. They are able to see color and are born with blue eyes, which turn to brown during their first year.

Posing and then answering a few common questions about the ABB, Heitmuller said that humans are completely unable to outrun these bears, “so if you see one, don’t try to outrun it.” The bears



Carl Heitmuller recently spotted a bear high up in a tree near where he lives.

Photo courtesy Carl Heitmuller

can climb trees, a statement well-illustrated by a very recent encounter with a cub Heitmuller had near his home (see photo). In fact, they can climb as far as 50 feet up. They can also swim, and, yes again, humans cannot out-swim bears, though they may be able to out-paddle them if in a canoe or kayak.

### What to do if you encounter a bear

Assuring attendees that bear attacks on humans are extremely rare, Heitmuller said bears will nip and cuff bad-mannered humans, as they would another animal. However, if startled they can cause injury; alerting the bear through clapping or using bells is useful. His advice is: “Don’t panic, don’t approach, don’t shoot. Pick up small children and restrain dogs. If a bear lunges, snaps its jaws or brushes his paws, it means it feels threatened and you are too close. Do not run; back away slowly with your arms over your head, thereby giving the appearance of being bigger; avoid direct eye contact; speak in a calm and sooth-

ing voice. If a bear stands up, he is not preparing to attack but is trying to get a better look or sniff. Never go near a cub.”

Heitmuller also warned the group to never leave food in a car, as the bear will not only break into the car, but will chew everything (including the upholstery) inside the car to determine what might be a food source.

Closing by asking the audience if they had questions, Heitmuller responded to one asking if ABB populations were rising or decreasing by saying he was unsure. “People think there are more since they are seeing more, but ... we’re not sure if the population is up or simply condensed into a smaller area because of development. Preserving land protects the bears.”

There will be more programs co-sponsored by the HHNM and the HHLT in 2013. Visit hhnaturemuseum.org, or call 845-534-5506, Ext. 204 for more museum details, or go to hhl.org, 845-424-3358 for the HHLT.



Close-up of the bear cub in a tree near Heitmuller’s home

Photo courtesy of Carl Heitmuller

bears are big, but you don’t have to be scared; respectful, yes, but not scared.”

He described their girth as “huge”—males range from 125 to 600 pounds, while females tip the scales at 90 to 300 pounds. The largest recorded weight is 880 pounds.

Illustrating his discussion of the anatomical features of the ABB with visual images as well as a skull and a skin, which were passed around to attendees, Heitmuller started at the top noting the typical round ears, not pointed, of the ABB. The head is quite wide at the top but becomes far narrower in the muzzle, with a well-defined eyebrow ridge, forward-facing eyes, and broad nostrils. The jawbone hinge is large, accommodating the heavy jaw muscles that allow them to hunt and kill good-sized animals, though this is not their main diet, as they favor berries, nuts, grasses, insect larvae and carrion. Hunting large animals causes the bears to expend large amounts of energy, and it’s easier for them to just find other food sources.

Moving down the body, Heitmuller noted the typically humped back and wide-set hips of the ABB, those hips helping to allow them to stand on their back feet, something they can’t do for long, but long enough to usually get something they want. A close-up of a bear claw revealed thick pads of feet covered



Skull and jawbone of an American black bear, shown at the talk

Photo by A. Rooney