Residents of Dirt Roads Express Opposing Views on Paving

Both sides invoke safety in their arguments

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Residents of Philipstown’s dirt roads jammed Town Hall on Wednesday night (Jan. 16) with impassioned arguments for or against the paving of dirt roads, with both camps grounding their arguments in concerns about safety.

Drawing at least 70 participants, the three-hour discussion occurred about two months after Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea announced that he expects the town to pave some trouble-prone dirt-road sections this year to address maintenance and environmental problems and save money. Likely targets include the Saunders Hill stretch of Old Albany Post Road and the western end of South Mountain Pass, as well 450 feet at the southern end of Old Albany Post Road, in the works for more than three years. His statement in November galvanized an ad hoc anti-paving group into action but also elicited a favorable response from those who support paving—at least on some parts of some roads.

Shea informed everyone Wednesday that “this is not an end. It’s a beginning. The Town Board does not make snap judgments” and wants good input. He observed that the dirt-roads issue has been around for years “and everybody gets very excited” as claims proliferate “that it’s a plot to pave every road. It’s not.”

He said, “One of the drivers of this is cost. That’s not the main driver for me. I have grave concerns about the environmental issues.” Streams often run along dirt roads, and “our road material is in those streams. They’re being filled in.”

Also raising environmental issues, Councillor Nancy Montgomery said, “I love the dirt road, but what I love most is the stream next to the dirt road. And the dirt road isn’t there anymore. I see the fish eggs being suffocated by the Item 4, a treatment used on dirt roads.

Shea said the (Continued on page 5)
Egging Myself On

By Celia Barbour

Sometimes I cannot cook. For days on end, everything I make comes out wrong. The lentils are mushy, the braised cabbage too sweet, even the simple green salad is oversalted. For the past week, I’ve introduced every meal with an apology.

Meanwhile, my family is supposed to be on a post-holiday frugality regimen, in which we nullify December extravagances, financial and otherwise, by engaging in January asceticisms—PB&Js and walks in the woods to cancel out pork loin and ski trips, for example. So I can’t just throw my cooking disasters in the compost and order a pizza, because that would be wasteful. Instead, I grit my teeth and carry on: overcooked pasta, burnt grits. And the more I mess up, the more I stress out. The worse I cook, the more I stress out. And the more I stress out, the worse I cook.

Yesterday, through the fog of failure came a familiar voice from long ago. “Let go of the wheel,” it said. The wheel in question was the steering wheel of a vintage Karmann Ghia convertible, a car already older than me on the spring morning that I opened the passenger door and climbed in. This car belonged to — nay, was adored and obsessed over by — my friend Margo’s big brother Rob, a guy we’d known previously only as an aloof figure who wanted nothing to do with us kids. But now it was May, the school year almost over, and we had just stayed up all night, all night, in his carriage house. As the sky lightened, someone suggested we go to the Jersey shore, and, miraculously, Rob not only agreed to come along, he offered to drive me.

At 17, I wanted nothing more than to have a life, so I said yes instead of piling into Margo’s sedan like everyone else. Halfway there, Rob pulled over onto the shoulder of the highway, announced that he was tired and asked me to drive. I take a deep breath even now as I write this, because here’s the thing about that car: Rob had cranked the steering mechanism so absurdly tight that a touch, the merest vibration from my hand, would send it veering off towards the median, and my attempts to correct it would only make things worse, rocking the car towards the woods. I swerved down the mercifully empty highway in a keen panic, Rob having immediately dozed off in the passenger seat. But whenever the oscillations would get truly out of hand, he would say, without opening his eyes, “Let go of the wheel.” It was the hardest thing in the world to do, utterly counterintuitive, but the moment I did, the car righted itself. By the time we arrived at the beach, I could actually drive the high-strung beast.

And that, friends, is the story of the actual wheel, which I recall vividly no doubt because adrenaline etched it onto my brain. These days, I’m happy to possess this memory because it reminds me how to handle life’s metaphorical wheels, which I have a habit of gripping too tightly whenever things go off course. I apply myself to some task, it goes wrong, so I try harder, and when that makes things worse, I try even harder, and so forth. It takes a while for me to remember to let go and allow things to right themselves — which they inevitably do.

I realize this has nothing to do with food, but keep in mind that it might be best for everyone’s sake if I stay away from food at the moment. With the possible exception of eggs, because the kids are getting hungry, and frying up some eggs for supper is almost like doing nothing at all, only better for you. Especially since there is a bag of spinach in the fridge, and a nice rind of parmesan to grate over top, and toast to pile it on top of. It is a combination that tastes surprisingly, deliciously perfect, the way that things do when you finally let go.

Spinach and eggs

At suppertime, I often leave the garlic in the oil, but for breakfast, it’s nice to take it out after it has warmed just a few minutes so that the flavor isn’t overwhelming.

Ingredients:

- 2-3 cloves garlic, peeled and gently crushed
- 1 pound spinach, washed and stemmed
- 2-3 tablespoons olive oil
- ½ ounce parmesan
- 4-6 eggs
- salt and pepper

Instructions:

In a skillet over low heat, warm the olive oil and crushed garlic cloves for several minutes, until the garlic smells fragrant and begins to turn translucent. Shake most of the water from the spinach and add it to the skillet along with a sprinkle of salt and a few grindings of pepper. Toss the spinach with the oil, turn the heat to medium, and sauté until most of the water is evaporated.

Lower the heat, push the spinach to the sides, add more oil if the pan seems dry, and break the eggs into it. Cook until the whites are set and the yolks still a bit runny. Sprinkle with salt and pepper, flip the eggs over and break the yolks if desired, then cook for about one minute more. Grate parmesan over everything and serve immediately, on pieces of buttered toast.
bills for a month just from the business I did on preview day.” When the auction gallery moved to Beacon in 1992, the revenue went with it.

The antiques shops are not alone in seeing a challenge to their business. “In the beginning,” Burton recalled, “we mainly sold kitchenware and specialized in gift baskets. Then Wal-Mart opened up, undercutting my prices; ever since, my business has focused mainly on the gift baskets. We’re holding our own, but our customers now are mainly over 40. People still come to shop, but not like before. Younger people will come in, see something they like, take a picture of it with their iPhone and order it online for less money. Recently, I threw a party for a client to photograph a postcard of Bannerman’s Island, rather than pay the 65 cents!”

Burton said that a number of high-end suppliers, such as Crank & Eben, are no longer filling local orders, preferring to sell their products directly in such mega-shopping centers as Woodbury Common. In order to cope with current trends, a number of business owners, including Cooke and Burton, have gone online to enhance their trade. “We use the social media,” said Burton, “including Facebook, to get people interested.”

Some change is evident. Barbara Galaz-zen, local resident, artist and recent founder of Main Street’s Gallery 66 NY, commented, “This gallery used to be a beautiful little bookstore, until Barnes and Noble and Borders opened up. The bookstore simply couldn’t compete.” Looking ahead, she said, “It’s known that Beacon has a lot of art galleries. Now, with more than one in the village, as well as exhibitions at Boscobel and Garrison, Cold Spring can become a destination for art collectors as well.”

Cold Spring Mayor Seth Gallagher sees art galleries as “a new thing, important to the village. They appeal to both weekend and evening traffic, and are good for locals and visitors alike.” Michael Armstrong, chairman of the Special Board for a Comprehensive Plan, agreed: “The artist community is growing as more galleries open their doors.”

As Teri Barr, long-time owner of Hudson Valley Outfitters, sees it, “We’re getting as many people as always, but the amount of money they have to spend has changed dramatically.” Barr established her business on the sale of outdoor clothing and equipment to hikers and kayakers, the promotion of guided river tours, and the sale of kayaks. According to Barr, sales have declined since 2008, which ironically was when kayaking went mainstream. “The market became flooded with kayaks, many of lesser quality — and lower prices — than those we offered.” Barr stopped selling kayaks and now focuses on retail clothing sales, boat rentals and river tours. “Rentals and tours continue strong, and we have a solid market of shoe sales to the local kids. We give personalized service, which is something the Internet can’t do. Still,” she said, “there’s less money in our pockets.”

Making things better

There is no lack of suggestions by the Main Street merchants when it comes to improving the appearance and services of Cold Spring, to make it more attractive to visitors. Many feel the village is looking rundown and could use a facelift. “The village could bury its phone and electric lines and address the issue of signage,” said Barr. “People already think this is a charming spot; spraying it up can only make it better.”

Armstrong considers the current signage “God-awful and inadequate, and encourages their revision for the sake of both appearance and function. Cold Spring’s Comprehensive Plan lists a number of areas in need of improvement, including consistent signage, better lighting and more ‘user-friendly’ sidewalks and crosswalks.

According to Mayor Gallagher, a number of the issues listed in the 103-page plan are currently being addressed. “Between 20 and 25 percent of the suggestions made in the Comprehensive Plan are either implemented already or in the process. We’ve got a project going on for Main Street,” he added, “including handicap access and sidewalk repairs. It’s a million-dollar project and should take a few years to complete.” The project is being funded on the federal level, and the plan needs to be approved and monitored by the federal Department of Transportation. “I must remember,” said Gallagher, “that we have a 19th-century Main Street, working hard to accommodate the 21st century. And while I welcome and support visitors coming here, my job as mayor is to represent the people who live here. I don’t want Cold Spring to turn into another New Hope (referring to a heavily tourist-oriented Pennsylvania town). It’s a tricky balance.”

Parking

One issue that strikes an almost universal sour note among merchants, residents and visitors alike is the parking situation. “If the merchants park on Main Street, there’s no room for visitors’ cars. And forget tour buses; busses come here from Stonecrop and Boscobel, and there are simply no provisions for them. One bus driver recently got a parking ticket for putting his bus in the only space he could find,” said Burton.

Regina Be, co-owner of the 180-year-old Hudson House, concurred. “Everybody agrees it’s a problem. It’s awful for people to make the trip here only to get a ticket.” “It’s unfortunate,” added Barr, “when the first person a visitor sees is the guy who swipes his tires with white chalk.”

Professional photographer Cali Gor-ecovic observed, “Parking has become very challenging in the 12 years since I moved to Cold Spring. It used to be just tourist weekends that were so frustrating, but now it is a constant fact of life here. Is any- one addressing this problem?”

According to Pataki, the issue is, in fact, being addressed. “A task force is being put together as we speak to look into bus routes as an alternative to car traffic, to increase service to various points of inter- est in Philipstown. A park-and-ride ser- vice would greatly alleviate many of the parking issues in Cold Spring.”

A few years ago, Armstrong conducted an extensive study of the parking situ- ation in the village and reports that he counted 2,000 spaces — enough, he feels, to accommodate the village’s parking requirements. He is a strong proponent of metered parking, both as a means of “maintaining order” and as a source of revenue. “There are plenty of available spaces,” he stated. “They are just not be- ing managed properly. The Metro-North lot has around 227 spaces; it represents a great, untapped resource. Although the lot fills up on weekdays, it offers lots of opportunity for parking on the week- ends. Also,” Armstrong added, “a second lot east of the tracks would benefit both Metro-North and the village, by adding another 100 spaces.” He pointed out that some parking is available near the playing field on Fair Street. Many visitors, however, feel this is beyond reasonable walking distance to Main Street. And there are no signs in the village to indicate that park- ing is available either on Fair Street or in the train lot.

Mayor Gallagher acknowledged that “there are not a lot of options regarding parking,“ but he believes that space can usually be found somewhere in the vil- lage. He is, however, less sanguine on the subject of metered parking. “I’m willing to be convinced, but I personally would find it inconvenient.”

Contact Mike Armstrong, Chair, 845-265-3240 or armstrongmichaeljohn@gmail.com

Referrals will be served. Questions? Contact Mike Armstrong, Chair, 845-265-3240 or armstrongmichaeljohn@gmail.com

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

The Paper Jan. 18, 2013 3

Main Street Views on Cold Spring Tourism (from page 1)

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Coping with Sea Level Rise and Climate Change in Cold Spring

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2 – 4 p.m.
Haldane Music Room

This free workshop will help us understand possibilities for action and help the Special Board develop a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) that truly meets the needs of the community. An expert from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation will present information on how sea level rise might affect Cold Spring, and possible solutions. We want to hear your concerns and ideas!

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On Dunkin’ Donuts menu board

Dear Editor:

So it appears that the sad saga of Dunkin’ Donuts has closed with a final insult by the HDBR in approving a large, backlit menu board. After going to such trouble to fix the rear of Foodtown, they have caved to Fast Food, Incorporated, condoning a garish pink altar that will shine out over Marion Avenue for all to see.

Mr. Downey, according to reports, commented on the decision that those who move near a commercial strip must pay the price, being “fully aware they bought property behind Foodtown.” For heaven’s sake! If that isn’t the least friendly thing anyone could say in this awful situation.

State Reps on School Funding

(from page 1)

to the cuts Haldane and other school districts are experiencing — including state deficits of as much as $10 billion in recent years. When she indicated that aid to “high needs” areas in the state was cut by 6 to 8 percent while other areas were cut by 11 percent, Villanti commented, “We were cut 20 percent by the Gap (Elimination Adjustment).” Gafel responded, “No one is selecting you (Haldane) to be cut; it is formula-based.”

Possible savings

Gafel pointed to some areas where school districts can save money. “Pension reform is significant. And new hires, over time, will save funds,” she said, referring to increases in employee contributions (and decreases in district contributions) to pension funds. Gafel also said there are funds available to districts that “lean toward shared services and consolidation,” and singled out Sullivan County as an area where school districts have used BOCES services as a way to cut costs. She also suggested that school districts lobby Putnam County in order to receive a share of funds that increase in the county sales tax.

Consolidation has often been mentioned locally by those who believe money could be saved. Instead they dealt with such things as longer school hours, pre-kindergarten,” she said.

Gafel said that there is a movement to eliminate the unfunded mandate that districts must conduct internal audits — a task that costs Haldane approximately $10,000. Trustee Evan Schwartz pointed out that while some mandates are relatively small in cost, they add up over time and remain in place even if the state is cutting costs. “We have allocated money to those initiatives and are not assuming an unfunded mandate,” he said.

The need for change

“Toward the end of the meeting, Gafel again emphasized the need for a more collective approach. “We have to look at ourselves,” she said. “We need to consider) regional negotiations — that’s what they do in other states. There are economies of scale to be realized in areas such as administration, she said. “I really think BOCES could be a key,” once again referring to Sullivan County as a potential model. She also suggested that a “hybrid” form of funding that includes both property taxes and income taxes may be worth investigating.

Evelyn Carr-White, a vice president with the Haldane PTA, expressed concern that those affected by the mammoth storm in aid to school districts. Even the optimism about a possible increase in aid to school districts. Even the optimism about a possible increase in the state will have to set aside to assist those affected by the storm in the state was cut by 6 to 8 percent while other areas were cut by 11 percent, Villanti commented, “We were cut 20 percent by the Gap (Elimination Adjustment).” Gafel responded, “No one is selecting you (Haldane) to be cut; it is formula-based.”

Gaffel said that has long been a financial thorn in the side of school districts across the state — unfunded mandates — and was critical of a report from the New York State Commission on Education.

“I should have mentioned it to the Commission would have addressed mandate relief, instead they dealt with such things as longer school hours, pre-kindergarten,” she said.

Gafel said that there is a movement to eliminate the unfunded mandate that districts must conduct internal audits — a task that costs Haldane approximately $10,000. Trustee Evan Schwartz pointed out that while some mandates are relatively small in cost, they add up over time and remain in place even if the state is cutting costs. “We have allocated money to those initiatives and are not assuming an unfunded mandate,” he said.

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Evelyn Carr-White, a vice president with the Haldane PTA, expressed concerns that may go to the heart of what many local residents fear. “I am so worried about the education of our kids, that (cuts) will mean 28 kids in a classroom, that sports and the arts (will be cut). What is the likelihood of sweeping change?” she asked.

“I think it will take something really big to make a difference,” Gibson said, adding that in his view, switching to income-tax-based funding for education “would generate an enormous amount of money” and is more fair to property owners. “A radically different path in where I’m interested in going, I’m more interested in looking at the big things rather than (trimming) around the edges.”

— nothing has paid off more than education. It produces wealth,” he said, referring to the considerable funds that the state will have to set aside to assist those affected by the mammoth storm that hit the shores of New York and New Jersey in October. She did, however, refer to possible new tax credits which she initiated would benefit those who contribute to the Haldane School Foundation, which supports local education programs.

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The Paper
Residents of Dirt Roads Express Opposing Views on Paving (from page 2)

Town Board wants to gather data and pursue “best practices. In some cases, paving is the best practice.” However, he emphasized, “The public has given strong input that it won’t work with dirt roads.”

Gordon Stewart, who lives on Chap- man Road near a piece of Old Albany Post Road proposed for paving, cited “two irrefutable behavioral factors with speed: people will drive it. Already we have people who are going at 40 or 50 miles an hour. “We need to have dead people all over the road.”

Gordon Stewart's statement shows the need for safety on dirt roads. The Town Board is considering paving as a solution to improve safety and reduce accidents. However, the decision to pave or not depends on the data and community input. The Town Board wants to gather more data and pursue best practices for paving dirt roads to ensure safety for all residents.
The ancient Greek masks of comedy and drama overlap and interwine, courtesy of the happily demented mind of playwright Charles Ludlam, who headed the Ridiculous Theater, a fixture in Greenwich Village at the Sheridan Square Theater during the 1970s and '80s. Ludlam adapted the ancient Greek tragedy, written by Euripides in 431 B.C., tappity easily into its eternal theme of revenge and justice in an unjust society to tell the tale through the scrim of a parody on melodrama, but never losing sight of the power of the original.

Weaving his trademark "wit, parody, poignant melodrama, satire, detailed literary references, gender politics, clever manipulation of language and image ... and a plethora of acting styles" (David Kaufman, The Life and Times of Charles Ludlam) into one of the canons of Western theater, the plot closely follows the original as Medea, a barbarian woman brought to Athens by her husband, the great warrior Jason, finds her position in his world threatened by his liaison with a princess who gives him access to greater political power.

Described as a "possessor of a personal yet influential vision of modern American stage comedy as a synthesis of wit, parody, vaudeville farce, melodrama and satire," Ludlam had "pursued this vision as a superb actor, inventive director, delightful designer and — most significantly, prodigious playwright, with a year-round company dedicated exclusively to producing his works" (Steven Samuels, "Charles Ludlam, A Brief Life"). In 1964, the Ridiculous Theatrical Company had its greatest commercial success with The Mystery of Irma Vep, which, incidentally became the most produced play in the United States in 1991 and became the longest-running play ever produced in Brazil. Ludlam's death, from AIDS, at age 44 in 1987, cut short his rising career.

World's End Theater is presenting this work, one of about 30 plays of Ludlam's, all of which satirized a particular genre or literary style, as part of its 20th-Century Classics play-reading series, which takes place monthly at the Philipstown Depot Theater. The series is suggested, as previous readings have had large turnouts.

Director Alison Rooney (Philipstown. info/The Theater's arts editor and reporter) has assembled a cast that she calls a "winning, hammy and very adept" cast headed by Christine Brooks Bokhour as Medea. Bokhour was seen in World's End's full production of The Way of The World last year and who has appeared on Broadway in Chicago and Cuts. Joining her, playing an assortment of good kings, not-so-good kings, a messenger, tutor and nurse will be Dan Anderson, Michael Heintzmann, George Kimmel and Sterling Swan.

Haldane High School students Alison Duncan, Mina Elwell, Aidan Gallagher and Emma Kimmel will be commenting constantly on their peers, as teenagers are known to do, as the Greek Chorus.

Concerns about history being obliterated arose, too.

In talking about paving a road like Old Albany, "You're talking about paving history," Garrison resident Christine Fortecht said. "I built there because of what this place looks like. Is the only answer paving?"

"I would say if we pave one section of one road, we're not going to destroy the character of Philipstown ... or destroy our heritage," Merandy said.

The ramifications of paving for inter-governmental relations likewise came up. Terry Zaleski, a lawyer, warned of unnecessary costs. "I would say if we pave one section of one road, we're not going to destroy the character of Philipstown ... or destroy our heritage," Zaleski said.

The ramifications of paving for inter-governmental relations likewise came up. Terry Zaleski, a lawyer, warned of unnecessary costs. "I would say if we pave one section of one road, we're not going to destroy the character of Philipstown ... or destroy our heritage," Zaleski said. "The National Park Service has expressed a real concern to me" because of the proximity of the Old Albany Post Road to the Appalachian Trail. Binding could prove problematic and the state Department of Transportation could be unhappy if — as critics contend — paving would be a short-term solution only and state money were involved, he said, raising the specter of allegations of "material misrepresentation" as a result. "Town folks need to understand the consequences," Zaleski said.

Shea objected to "veiled threats" and told Zaleski, "You're suggesting we could never pave another road. We have had success in paving roads, and they have been durable." Besides, he said, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has a low tolerance for municipalities seeking repeated aid. "You can't keep going back to FEMA. They won't fund you. None of this is taken lightly," he said of the town decision-making on dirt roads. "We don't side-step the law." One dirt roads aficionado, Old Road Society Vice President Noel Kropf, said the group is "willing to co-fund, with the town," a review of alternatives to paving, "to try it out." He noted that a five-year work plan prepared by Highway Superintendent Roger Chirico (who did not attend the workshop) calls "for paving half of Old Albany Post Road. So that's a concern." Nonetheless, he also said, "I personally am very open to the idea of the road being better-off paved."
An American Eye Amidst European Sensibilities

Donna Blais’ photographs of Italy contrast with works produced by overseas artists

By Alison Rooney

Donna Lee Blais has an addiction to which she is quick to admit. She is a serial traveler to Italy — six times in the past seven years, up, down all over the country. There have been a few constants with these trips: She’s done all of them with the same friend (a friend with an even deeper addiction — she has traveled there 17 times); they have largely, but not entirely, stayed clear of the big cities and tourist attractions; and, most importantly, Blais has always packed her camera. These trips have yielded a trove of photographs, initially landscapes and now largely “people-scapes,” which are now on display at Gallery 66 NY as part of the group show European Sensibility: Near and Far, now on view through Jan. 27.

European Sensibility, which occupies the four rooms of the gallery, aims to be an eclectic survey of contemporary art created in Europe, largely by European artists. Blais represents the eye of the traveler, seeing Italy with a foreigner’s appreciation for its colors and the life of its streets in addition to its as-always superlative landscapes.

A newcomer to having her work shown in a gallery, by day Blais, who lives in New Paltz, is the sales director for the Glassbury Estates development on Route 9, which was home to the ArtFull Living Designers’ Show House last year. It was her involvement, initially solely as a representative of the developers, which led to her sudden interaction with the art community. Whilst coordinating the project with showhouse creator Barbara Galazzo, and working with many interior designers there, Blais mentioned her photographs. After Galazzo saw them, she decided to include them in the show house.

Emboldened by their inclusion, Blais then submitted a work to the PHOTOcentric competition at the Garrison Art Center, where it competed against international submissions, some from professional photographers. She wound up, in her first competition, with a first-place award in the open competition. This was followed by the selection of one of her images, by juror Deborah Willis, in the Professional Women Photographer’s competition this past fall.

Despite the lack of gallery experience, Blais has been what she calls a “serious photographer” for many years. Self-taught, she began early on when given a camera by her parents at age 10. Interested throughout her youth, at 25 she bought her first serious 35 mm camera, and brought it along with her “24/7, everywhere.” She developed darkroom techniques until the advent of digital camera technology, but she still does very little software tweaking of.

(Continued on page 15)

A Song Is Born Series Continues With Todd Giudice and Kathleen Pemble

Second in the series takes place on Jan. 26 at 69 Main

By Alison Rooney

The second of Philipstown.info’s A Song Is Born series takes place at 8 p.m. on Jan. 26 when Philipstown songwriters Todd Giudice and Kathleen Pemble join up for a look into lyric, melody, harmony and collaboration — tied neatly into a bundle of playing songs individually as well as together, and talking to the audience about how each song came to be.

Giudice and Pemble haven’t actually sung together often, but they have collaborated on occasion and have “been running songs by each other for over a decade,” said Pemble. “We’re both really direct critics with each other — a great combination.” Pemble described Giudice, who is a guitarist, producer, “great at making suggestions about chord changes which change the meaning of the moment, sometimes from major to minor. He’s more structured, using an A-B-A form; I wander. He’s very good with nuts and bolts while I’m good with embroidery.”

Pemble described her music as “a lot of percussive guitar; the language is finely-honed and kind of fierce — fiercely sad, fiercely happy, fiercely comical. Make a big splash in the first couple of lines so the listener goes, ‘What?’”

Pemble described Giudice’s music as “roots-inspired Americana. He’s a really good songwriter and an excellent harmony singer. He decided to put down the guitar and writing because he wanted to drum. He has a fantastic studio and he’s an amazing producer.”

Here’s Giudice on Pemble: “She has very inventive chord shapes, different tunings — she brings a lusciousness to the sound; she doesn’t use standard guitar tunings. This brings a whole new dimension to her songs. I like to sing with her; we get along vocally, with timbre especially.”

Giudice called his music “Americana, with scratchy guitars and all that,” and referenced Tom Petty as in a similar vein. He described his music as evolving: “My last record has a real acoustic singer/songwriter sensibility, but now I’m going for less controlled, a little more steppin’ out energy.”

Kathleen Pemble: Distillation

Pemble’s songs need to be peeled back like onions. Their exteriors are a fragile skin and appear literal. But take that skin off and the core is exposed. She said: “Storytelling can be veiled — sometimes the songs are (Continued on page 16)
Country Goose 115 Main St Cold Spring NY 845-265-3227 www.csaadisadads.com

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

As the Crow Flies 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 | beacon.org/events Ends March 2

Bluebird Blues: Celebrating the Struggle and Suffering of our Labor 1 - 5 P.M. SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 50 Liberty St, Beacon 845-833-5322 | beaconpresbychurch.com Ends Jan. 27

European Sensibility: Near and Far NOON - 6 P.M. THURSDAY TO SUNDAY GALLERY 46 NY 66 Main St, Cold Spring 845-809-5838 | gallery46ny.com Ends Feb. 3

First Exhibition of 2013 3 - 8 P.M. MONDAY NOON TO 6 P.M. SATURDAY AND SUNDAY BEACON ARTIST UNION (BAU) 506 Main St, Beacon 845-440-7584 | bauartistunion.com Ends Feb. 3

Fluid Cuts 6 - 9 P.M. SPIRE STUDIOS 45 Boeckman St, Beacon 845-235-3775 | spirestudios.org Ends Jan. 20

Form and Function 11 A.M. - 6 P.M. FRIDAY TO SUNDAY THOM GANZ STUDIO 149 Main St, Beacon 917-318-2239 | theoganzstudio.com Ends Feb. 3

Member Exhibition 10 A.M. - 5 P.M. TUESDAY TO SATURDAY GARRISON ART CENTER 23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison 845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org Ends Jan. 20

Kids & Community

Indoor Tot Park NOON - 2 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER 107 Glenn St, Garrison 845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Free Admission for Grandparents 1 - 5 P.M. MID-HUDSON CHILDREN’S MUSEUM 75 N. Water St, Poughkeepsie 845-471-0589 | mhcm.org

Children Road to Dogs (Ages 7-10) 3:30 P.M. DESMOND-FISH LIBRARY 472 Route 403, Garrison 845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Pizza Night and Ice Cream Social 4 - 8 P.M. NORTH HIGHLANDS FIRE DEPARTMENT 504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring Forte take out, call 845-265-9595

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

Wine & Cheese 5 - 8 P.M. ANTIPODEAN BOOKS 29 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison 845-424-3967 | antipodeanbooks.com

Community Fellowship Supper 6 - 8 P.M. ST. MARY’S CHURCH 1 Chestnut St, Cold Spring 845-265-2539 | smaryscoldspring.org

Free Community Skate 6 - 7:30 P.M. BEAR MOUNTAIN SKATE PARK 845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com Registration required

Health & Fitness

Red Cross Blood Drive 1 - 6 P.M. EAST FISHKILL FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS 2502 Route 52, Hopewell Junction 800-223-7662 | redcrossblood.org

Advanced Stage Cancer Support Group 12:30 - 2:30 P.M. YORKTOWN JEWISH CENTER 2966 Crompond Road, Yorktown Heights 800-532-4590 | supportconnection.org

Sports

Haldane Ice Hockey vs. Byram Hills 3:30 P.M. BREWSTER ICE ARENA 63 Field Lane, Brewster 845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Haldane Girls’ Basketball vs. North Salem 7 P.M. Haldane HIGH SCHOOL 15 Catskills Drive, Cold Spring 845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

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

Theater & Film

For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/ When The Rainbow is Enuf 8 P.M. THE BEACON THEATRE 445 Main St, Beacon 845-453-0278 | thebeacontheatre.org

Music

Local Bands Rock 6 - 10 P.M. ARTS ON THE LAKE 640 Route 52 Lake Carmel 845-228-2885 | artsontelake.org

Kirk Rael 8 P.M. WHISTLING WILLIE’S 184 Main St, Cold Spring 845-265-2012 | whistlingwills.com

Talking Machine 9 P.M. MACK’S ON MAIN 246 Main St, Beacon 845-838-6297 | maskinsmain.com

Meetings & Lectures

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

Alternative Energy Solutions 7 P.M. BEACH SLOP LOUNGE 2 Field St, Beacon 845-463-4660 | beaconslopleague.org

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

Religious Services

Service at Reform Temple of Putnam Valley 7 P.M. SERVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE 8 P.M. SERVICE 362 Church, Putnam Valley 845-629-4774 | ny069@urj.net

Attic sale charity: cold spring library 115 Main St, Cold Spring NY Attic sale charity: cold spring library 115 Main St, Cold Spring NY 

ATTIC SALE CHARITY COLD SPRING LIBRARY

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!
Thursday, January 19

Kids & Community
Scrapsbookers Winter Retreat
8 A.M. – 5 P.M. Homewoodsuites
180 Breunig Road, New Windsor
meetup.com/scrapsbookers-offthecommunity

Cold Spring Farmers’ Market
8:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN COMMUNITY CENTER 107 Grafton St, Garrison
ctfarmmarket.org

Food Pantry
9 – 10 A.M. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILIPSTOWN | 10 Academy St, Cold Spring
845-627-3205 | presbychurchatcoldspring.org

Wacky and Wild Weather (ages 5 and older)
10 A.M. OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CENTER 100 Muser Drive, Cornwall
845-634-5506 | hhnaturemuseum.org

Meet the Animals
1 & 2:30 P.M. WILDFIELD EDUCATION CENTER 25 Boulevard, Cornwall
845-634-7781 | hhnaturemuseum.org

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

Free Admission
5 – 6 P.M. MIDSURU CHILDCARE’S MUSEUM 75 N. Water St, Poughkeepsie
845-471-0589 | mrhm.org

Health & Fitness
Open House
10 A.M. – 4 P.M. YOGA AT THE ROUNDHOUSE
2 East Main St., Beacon
roundhousebeacon.com

A& Design
DiaBeacon Tour
1 P.M. 3 BECKMAN ST, BEACON
845-440-0100 | diabeacon.org

B&W Darkroom Photography (First Session)
1:30 P.M. GARRISON ART CENTER 25 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Fluid Cats: 4 Cats on Stage + 4 Cats on the Stage
5:30 P.M. PUTNAM HISTORY MUSEUM 63 Chestnut St, Cold Spring
845-265-4001 | putnammuseumhistory.org

Religious Services
Our Lady of Loreto
5:30 P.M. MASS
24 Fair St., Cold Spring
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

First Presbyterian Church
5:30 P.M. JAZZ VESPERS
10 Academy, Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchatcoldspring.org

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

Kids & Community
Introduction to Beekeeping
10 A.M. OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CENTER
100 Muser Drive, Cornwall
845-634-5506 | hhnaturemuseum.org

Farmer’s Market
11 A.M. – 3 P.M. SCENE HUDSON’S RIVER CENTER Long Dock Drive, Beacon
845-234-9325 | thebeaconfarmersmarket.com

Music
The Met: Live in HD: Donizetti’s Maria Stuarda
8 P.M. BARDOVON OPERA HOUSE
35 Market St., Poughkeepsie
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

Sandy Relief Benefit Concert
7 P.M. KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 25 Townsend St, Beacon
510 donation, 21 and older

The Trapps
8 P.M. WHISTLING WILIE’S
184 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2022 | whistlingwildees.com

Bert Rechsfelder Jazz Trio
9 P.M. CIVIL WINE BAR
173 Main St., Beacon | 845-765-0885

For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf opens at the Beacon Theatre Jan. 18.

Meet the Animals
1 & 2:30 P.M. WILDFIELD EDUCATION CENTER
See details under Saturday.

Snowy Banana Hill
1 P.M. MINNESOTA STATE PARK PRESERVE Route 44/55 five miles west of intersection with Route 295, Gardner | 845-255-0752

All Things Clay Workshops for Kids
2 – 4 P.M. HUDSON VALLEY CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART
1701 Main St, Poughkeepsie
914-788-0100 | hwca.org

Kids’ Open Mic Night
8 – 10 P.M. 12 GRAPE
12 N. Division St., Poughkeepsie
914-737-6024 | 12grapes.com

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

Rediscovering America on the Hudson
5 P.M. PUTNAM HISTORY MUSEUM
63 Chestnut St, Cold Spring
845-265-4001 | putnammuseumhistory.org

Religious Services
Our Lady of Loreto
5:30 P.M. MASS
24 Fair St., Cold Spring
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

First Presbyterian Church
5:30 P.M. JAZZ VESPERS
10 Academy, Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchatcoldspring.org

Brave New Gita With Madan Oppenheimer
10 A.M. COLD SPRING LIBRARY 24 Fair St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchatcoldspring.org

Church Services
St. Mary’s Episcopal Church
9 & 11:45 A.M. MASS
24 Fair St., Cold Spring
845-265-3718 | owlundculturecenter.org

St. Mary’s Episcopal Church
8 & 10:30 A.M. 1101 ROUTE 9D, GARRISON
845-244-3571 | stmaryscarlspolis.org

Grace United Methodist
8:15 & 10 A.M.
337 Peasak Hollow Road, Putnam Valley
845-526-3788 | graceumcputnamvalley.org

St. Basil’s Academy Greek Orthodox Chapel
8:30 A.M. ROUTE 9D, GARRISON
845-424-3950 | stbaspulislandcath.org

St. Luke’s Lutheran Church
9 A.M. 65 OSCAWANA LAKE RD., PUTNAM VALLEY
845-526-8858 | stlukeputnamvalley.org

First Presbyterian Church
10:30 A.M. SERVICE
10 Academy St, Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchatcoldspring.org

Dancing Dialogue
Suzi Tortora’s Baby Cues Baby Moves

For more information:
www.dancingdialogueregional.org
suzitortora@mac.com; 845-265-1085
8 Marion Ave Suite 1 Cold Spring, NY

WINTER CLASSES BEGIN IN JANUARY
**South Highland Methodist Church**
9:30 a.m. 19 Snake Hill Road, Garrison
845-265-3365

**Quaker Friends Worship**
10 a.m. What? Home? | 845-424-3525
Call for directions.

**St. Joseph’s Chapel**
10:15 a.m. 74 Upper Station Road, Garrison
845-265-3718 | ourladyofforetucc.com

**Fourth Unitarian Society**
10:30 a.m. 1698 Strawberry Road, Monroe Lake | 914-528-7131 | fourthuu.org

**Church on the Hill**
10:30 a.m. 245 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2002 | coldspringchurchonth hill.org

**Unidad Methodist Church**
11 a.m. 216 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3365

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**MONTDAY, JANUARY 21**

**School’s Out Mini-Camp (K-3)**
9 - 11:30 a.m. WILDERCE EDUCATION CENTER 25 Boulevard, Cornwall-on-Hudson
845-534-7781 | hhnaturemuseum.org
Registration required.

**Bridge Club**
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER 477 Main St., Beacon
845-835-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

**The Ebony Hillblives**
2 p.m. DESMOND-FISH LIBRARY
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

**Rivertown Kids Celebration for Social Justice (Musics)**
7:30 p.m. HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER 477 Main St., Beacon
845-835-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

**Health & Fitness**

**Breast Cancer Support Group**
7 p.m. HUDSON VALLEY HOSPITAL CENTER 1980 Crompond Road, Cortlandt Manor
800-532-4290 | supportconnection.org

**Theater & Film**

**Ocean’s Eleven**
10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. vFW hall
845-809-5539 | livingyogastudios.com

**Knitting Circle for Women With Cancer**
6:30 p.m. st. Philip’s Episcopal Church
1101 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org

**Religious Services**

**Bible Study**
7 p.m. Our Lady of Loretto
241 Fair St., Cold Spring
845-265-3718 | ourladyoflorettocs.com

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23**

**Kids & Community**

**Indoor Tot Park**
9 - 11 a.m. & NOON - 2 p.m. PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER | See details under Friday.

**Animals and Nature Together (Ages 2-3)**
10 a.m. & 11 a.m. WILDERCE EDUCATION CENTER | See details under Tuesday.

**Mah Jongg Open Play**
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. VFVM Hall
34 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

**Senior Bus Trip to Fishkill**
10 a.m. PICK-UP AT CHESTNUT RIDGE 10:15 a.m. PICK-UP AT PERKS PLAZA 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

**Young Naturalist Program Open House**
3:30 p.m. Wildlife Education Center
25 Boulevard, Cornwall-on-Hudson
845-534-7781 | hhnaturemuseum.org

**Religious Services**

**Contemplative Prayer**
7 a.m. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 1101 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org

**Morning Minyan**
8:30 a.m. BEACON BEHAVIOR ALLIANCE 331 Verplanck Ave., Beacon
847-831-2012 | beaconbewahaliance.org

**Bible Study**
7 p.m. CHURCH ON THE HILL
245 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2002 | coldspringchurchonthill.org

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 24**

**Kids & Community**

**Brain Games for Adults**
10 a.m. HOWLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY 313 Main St., Beacon
845-835-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

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**Music**

**Open Mic Night**
8 p.m. WHISTLING WILLIE’S 184 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2012 | whistlingwillees.com

**Religious Services**

**Cross-Country Ski to Echo Rock**
1:30 p.m. DESMOND-FISH LIBRARY
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

**Meetings & Lectures**

**Knitting Club**
10 a.m. HOWLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY 313 Main St., Beacon
845-835-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

**Open Air Concert**
7 a.m. ST. PHILIP’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 1101 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org

**Board of Trustees Workshop**
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 1101 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org

**Religious Services**

**Bible Study**
7 p.m. OUR LADY OF LOROTTO 241 Fair St., Cold Spring
845-265-3718 | ourladyoflorettocs.com

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7 p.m. CHURCH ON THE HILL
245 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2002 | coldspringchurchonthill.org
Utensil Kitchenware Mixes Modern and Classic Ingredients

By Alison Rooney

A kitchenware store's reach extends to both sides of the fork in the broad of cookery: goods for those who are passionate about it, and necessities for those for whom making dinner is a chore. So says Emily Burke, owner of Beacon's new store Utensil. The ability to provide both needed and wanted goods for both the 'Hudson Valley foodie tribe people and for residents in need of good quality basics' supports her goals for the business.

Burke has "long wanted to do this — I've been thinking about it for about 30 years." After years spent working in marketing for places like Saks and Fragments jewelry, jobs she "enjoyed but wasn't completely drawn to," in 2001 Burke relocated to London, where her husband was working, and found a job managing a retail shop.

It was there that she realized that what she wanted to do. Interrupted by the trajectory of returning to Lower Manhattan, having two children and moving up to Beacon about seven years ago, Burke spent that period "waiting for the right time." With both of her children now in school, that time is now.

Drawn to Beacon initially through an interest in Hudson River towns, Burke has taken note of "the fluctuations with businesses there — some have opened and closed, but many have opened and are thriving," and she has cast a watchful eye on commercial potential. "I've cultivated this idea for a long time before it became brick and mortar," she said. "Knowing my needs as a resident and a Main Street shopper who loves to cook, I see the practicality behind it. In a kitchenware shop, you can always find something — for $5 or $500, there's something here you can use."

"Main Street is fabulous," she said, "and I want to provide something that's a need, not just a want. With this store, we can provide both. It can be a simple thing like a new dishtowel or strainer, just to brighten things up, and I also have people in aprons running in from a nearby restaurant, needing a muffin tray."

Pots, pans, baking dishes, mixing bowls, containers, gadgets and yes, utensils, fill the bi-level space to the brim with very browse-able gadgets and yes, utensils, fill the bi-level space to the brim with very browse-able

It can be a simple thing like a new dishtowel or strainer, just to brighten things up, and I also have people in aprons running in from a nearby restaurant, needing a muffin tray."

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Pots, pans, baking dishes, mixing bowls, containers, gadgets and yes, utensils, fill the bi-level space to the brim with very browse-able gadgets and yes, utensils, fill the bi-level space to the brim with very browse-able proportions as the store was designed; he also made the countertops of the two long tables in the lower room.) Burke is "trying hard to keep prices affordable," as well as keeping an eye on design, fusing the "modern and tried and true classics."

It's important to Burke that "things be fairly understandable. I'm not a huge fan of tools that are supposed to do a hundred things. A few really good cook's tools will get you far," she said.

Researching a great deal, Burke tries out most of what she sells, and she also welcomes suggestions from customers and can do special orders. Although the products are sourced from "all over," she tries to incorporate, where possible, a lot of goods made in the U.S.

She also stocks a number of things made by local Beacon artisans, including Jessica Wickham's boards and Joseph Joseph's line of accessories. Local restaurants have also been ordering specialty items.

Beginning now with "a good representation of the basics," eventually Burke hopes to expand into tabletop items, linens and gift registries. She has a whole basement in which to do so. For now, she is taking in her customer base and "seeing what people really like."

She's also enjoying experiencing Beacon from a very new perspective. "There's a different sense of Beacon being a shop owner rather than someone who lives here," she explained. "There's an incredibly supportive group of storeowners, too. On the day we opened, a nearby florist sent flowers. Beacon has a real sense of community, and Main Street is a whole other community within the Beacon community."

Utensil is located at 480 Main St. in Beacon and can be reached at 845-202-7181. The store is open every day except Tuesdays. For more information, visit utensilkitchenware.com or the Facebook page.

Tu B’shevat New Year of the Trees

Tu B’shevat Seder and Pot Luck Dinner follows Shabbat Candlelighting with Rabbi Claire Ginsburg Goldstein

Friday, January 25, 2013 at St. Mary's Parish Hall
(corner Routes 9D & 301, Cold Spring)
5:30 gather / 6:00 service begins

ALL ARE WELCOME

The Tu B’shevat seder is a kid favorite $15 per family suggested donation RSVP’s appreciated

For more info or to RSVP: call 845-265-8011 or e-mail philipstownreformsynagogue@gmail.com

www.philipstownreformsynagogue.org
Local Knights of Columbus Free-Throw Champs Advance

Eight boys and girls from Philipstown were named local champions of the 2013 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship and have earned the right to compete at the district level, to be held in February, with an eye toward moving on to the regional, state and national levels of competition. Loretto Council #536 sponsored the local competition at the Capuchin Youth and Family Ministries Gym on Saturday, Jan. 12. There were a total of 21 participants. Matt Champi won the 10-year-old boys' bracket by making 10 out of 15 shots, and Olivia McInerney shot 7 for 15 to take the 11-year-old girls' bracket. Kyle Kisslinger won the 11-year-old boys' bracket by shooting 13 out of 15, and Zoe Lyons-Davis shot 7 for 15 to take the 11-year-old girls' bracket. Sam Curtis won the 12-year-old boys' bracket, shooting 11 for 15, and Luke DiFucchi shot 8 for 15 to win the 13-year-old boys' bracket. Will Heintzman took the 14-year-old boys' bracket by shooting 8 for 15, and Sofiya Petri shot 5 for 15 to win the 14-year-old girls' bracket. Each youngster who entered the competition received a certificate of participation. The local champions will each receive an engraved trophy and championship certificate from Loretto Council.

PRS Celebrates Tu B’Shevat, New Year of the Trees, Jan. 25

On Friday evening, Jan. 25, the Philipstown Reform Synagogue (PRS) will welcome friends and congregants to celebrate Tu B’Shevat, the Jewish New Year of the Trees. Guest Rabbi Claire Ginsburg Goldstein will lead the observances, including a special Tu B’Shevat “seder.” Guests are invited to gather at St. Mary’s Parish Hall at 5:30 p.m. Observances will begin at 6 p.m. with Shabbat candlelighting and a short service, followed by the meal and a potluck dinner. With its emphasis on fruit, the Tu B’Shevat seder is a special favorite for kids and family members of all ages.

Tu B’Shevat may have originally been an agricultural festival, marking the emergence of spring. The theme most commonly ascribed to the holiday today is the environment. It is considered a festival of nature, full of wonder, joy and thankfulness for God’s creation and renewal of the natural world. It is also a tree planting festival in Israel, in which both Israelis and Jews around the world plant trees in honor or in memory of a loved one or friend. The Tu B’Shevat seder can be traced back to the Jewish mystics of the 17th century, who created a special ritual modeled after the Passover seder, to celebrate God’s presence in nature.

In the current political climate, the Jewish educator at various synagogues, including Congregation Beth Israel/Beth Sholom in Teaneck, N.J., and Temple Israel of Ridgefield, N.J., all are welcome to attend this event.

The Philipstown Hash House Harriers and PRS are offering a 5k run on the evening of Saturday, Jan. 26, at 4:30 p.m., starting at the Beacon Theatre in Beacon. Registration is $25 per person and all proceeds will benefit PRS.”

Tibetan Musician Performs at St. Philip’s

Tibetan musician, storyteller and activist Loten Namling will present a concert of Tibetan songs and stories at St. Philip’s Church in Garrison at 7 p.m. on Jan. 31.

Namling has performed all over the world, playing his dranayen (Tibetan lute) and singing traditional Tibetan songs. Currently based in Switzerland, Loten is touring the United States playing Tibetan music and telling stories about his life. He presents a rare opportunity for American audiences to connect directly with a culture that is in danger of vanishing. His songs and stories take the listener on a complex journey through the landscape of Tibetan history and spirituality.

In 2012, the musician undertook a 50-day pilgrimage across Switzerland walking and prostrating himself for over 150 miles, dragging a black coffin symbolizing the death of Tibet. He performed concerts along the way to bring awareness of the drastic situation in Tibet. Now he is extending that pilgrimage to the rest of the world. In October 2012, Namling was given the Free Spirit Award for this “Journey of Freedom” in McLeod Ganj, home of the exiled Dalai Lama.

St. Philip’s Church is located at 1001 Route 9D (across the street from the Garrison School). Admission is open to all and is free of charge, with donations requested.

What Would King Say?

MLK celebrated at Desmond-Fish

The Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison will present its 17th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day observance, Bring the Dream Home: Civil Rights and the Dream, with a potluck supper and speaker’s program for adults Sunday evening, Jan. 20, at 6:30 p.m., and a concert for children and families Monday afternoon, Jan. 21, at 2 p.m.

Had he lived, Martin Luther King Jr. would be turning 84 this week. What would he have thought and done about the key issues confronting Americans today—the economy, national security, the environment? That is the theme of this year’s Sunday evening potluck supper, speaker’s program and discussion, featuring nationally recognized civil rights historian Stewart Burns.

Burns’ book includes his award-winning 2004 MLK biography To the Mountain-top, his Montessory bus boycott history Daybreak of Freedom, which was made into the HBO dramatic film Boycott, and his forthcoming Regeneration, on how King’s legacy could help build a democracy capable of confronting poverty, racism, war and climate change.

At the library, Burns will show excerpts from the film and answer questions about his views in Regeneration, on how contemporary issues and social movements, from Afghanistan to Occupy to climate change, relate to King’s actions and teachings and legacy that we can apply to the key issues confronting Americans today—the economy, national security, the environment. He couldn’t have anticipated climate change, say the triple perils of poverty, racism and war and never for a second stopped to think of the economic and environmental crises facing the country, the shift to a knowledge economy, the rise of the Islamic world, the growth of global environmental movements.

Burns spoke of the ‘triple perils’ of poverty, racism and war and never for a second stopped to think of the economic and environmental crises facing the country, the shift to a knowledge economy, the rise of the Islamic world, the growth of global environmental movements.

“What would he have thought and done about the key issues confronting Americans today—the economy, national security, the environment?”

“I would be honored! As an African American woman, I would be excited to do a show that centers around race.”

“The most wonderful thing about how it came to be that I would direct For Colored Girls was that I was asked by the producers of the Broadway production of For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf, directed by AnnaCash Warren. Seven local and visiting actresses will dramatize seven characters, each dressed in their signature rainbow color.

This Southern Dutchess debut production weaves together poetry, movement and music, enveloping the themes of “love, abandonment, rape and abortion” as re-lated to various stages in the playwright’s life. The play was originally adapted into a hit film directed by Tyler Perry, starring Felicia Rashad and Janet Jackson.

“The most wonderful thing about how it came to be that I would direct For Colored Girls was that I was asked by the producers of the Broadway production…”

Local Knights of Columbus Free-Throw Champs Advance

Eight boys and girls from Philipstown were named local champions of the 2013 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship and have earned the right to compete at the district level, to be held in February, with an eye toward moving on to the regional, state and national levels of competition. Loretto Council #536 sponsored the local competition at the Capuchin Youth and Family Ministries Gym on Saturday, Jan. 12. There were a total of 21 participants. Matt Champi won the 10-year-old boys' bracket by making 10 out of 15 shots, and Olivia McInerney shot 7 for 15 to take the 11-year-old girls' bracket. Kyle Kisslinger won the 11-year-old boys' bracket by shooting 13 out of 15, and Zoe Lyons-Davis shot 7 for 15 to take the 11-year-old girls' bracket. Sam Curtis won the 12-year-old boys' bracket, shooting 11 for 15, and Luke DiFucchi shot 8 for 15 to win the 13-year-old boys' bracket. Will Heintzman took the 14-year-old boys' bracket by shooting 8 for 15, and Sofiya Petri shot 5 for 15 to win the 14-year-old girls' bracket. Each youngster who entered the competition received a certificate of participation. The local champions will each receive an engraved trophy and championship certificate from Loretto Council.

PRS Celebrates Tu B’Shevat, New Year of the Trees, Jan. 25

On Friday evening, Jan. 25, the Philipstown Reform Synagogue (PRS) will welcome friends and congregants to celebrate Tu B’Shevat, the Jewish New Year of the Trees. Guest Rabbi Claire Ginsburg Goldstein will lead the observances, including a special Tu B’Shevat “seder.” Guests are invited to gather at St. Mary’s Parish Hall at 5:30 p.m. Observances will begin at 6 p.m. with Shabbat candlelighting and a short service, followed by the meal and a potluck dinner. With its emphasis on fruit, the Tu B’Shevat seder is a special favorite for kids and family members of all ages.

Tu B’Shevat may have originally been an agricultural festival, marking the emergence of spring. The theme most commonly ascribed to the holiday today is the environment. It is considered a festival of nature, full of wonder, joy and thankfulness for God’s creation and renewal of the natural world. It is also a tree planting festival in Israel, in which both Israelis and Jews around the world plant trees in honor or in memory of a loved one or friend. The Tu B’Shevat seder can be traced back to the Jewish mystics of the 17th century, who created a special ritual modeled after the Passover seder, to celebrate God’s presence in nature.

In the current political climate, the Jewish educator at various synagogues, including Congregation Beth Israel/Beth Sholom in Teaneck, N.J., and Temple Israel of Ridgefield, N.J., all are welcome to attend this event. St. Philip’s Parish Hall is at the corners of Routes 9D and 301 in Cold Spring. There will be a suggested donation of $15 per family at the door. Those wishing to bring a dish should contact PRS. Drinks are BYOB. Reservations are appreciated for planning purposes. At all PRS gatherings, donations of canned goods and money are collected for the Philipstown Food Pantry.

PRS is marking its 10th year anniversary. The synagogue was created in 2002 with the purpose of creating an inclusive venue to investigate the practice of Judaism, both intellectually and spiritually. PRS hosts monthly services and holiday events, provides religious education and offers opportunities to participate in social welfare activities. PRS can be found on the web at philipstownreformsynagogue.org and contacted by calling 845-265-8011 or by email at philipstownreformsynagogue@gmail.com.

Tibetan Musician Performs at St. Philip’s

Tibetan musician, storyteller and activist Loten Namling will present a concert of Tibetan songs and stories at St. Philip’s Church in Garrison at 7 p.m. on Jan. 31.

Namling has performed all over the world, playing his dranayen (Tibetan lute) and singing traditional Tibetan songs. Currently based in Switzerland, Loten is touring the United States playing Tibetan music and telling stories about his life. He presents a rare opportunity for American audiences to connect directly with a culture that is in danger of vanishing. His songs and stories take the listener on a complex journey through the landscape of Tibetan history and spirituality.

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EagleFest Opens Boscobel Grounds for Eagle Viewing
Free admission on Saturday, Feb. 9

Each winter, between December and March, bald eagles from Canada and northern New York fly south to the Hudson Valley to feed on fish and waterfowl found in unfrozen waters. The bald eagle, which was considered an endangered species prior to 1995, shed its federal threatened status in 2007. Today, biologists estimate that about 150 bald eagles overwinter in the lower Hudson Valley. Every year the bald eagles’ return affirms the continued health of the Hudson River and nearby habitats for wildlife and people.

Boscobel is honored to be a part of the Teatown Lake Reservation’s annual EagleFest event in 2013. Various festivities will be held on the third Friday of the month from January through May. The first program is called Alternative Energy Solutions, featuring three local speakers.

Christina Ragen, a NABCEP certified project planner with Hudson Solar, will present “Solar 101,” explaining how solar photovoltaic systems work, their environmental benefits, and incentives and economic factors for residential and commercial systems.

Saul Rozinsky will speak on grid-independent systems, which can provide power to remote locations, portable applications, and backup power systems for lighting and personal communications equipment. There will be a hands-on workshop in the spring where participants can learn to build their own system.

Vane Lashna, a member of the Geothermal Energy Association, will speak on direct electricity generation from deep geothermal energy. Technical and economic challenges still exist for this emerging technology. Vane will discuss the need for a national effort to refine and develop new techniques to exploit this resource.

This free event will be held on Friday, Jan. 18, 7 p.m. at the Beacon Sloop Club, 2 Flynn Drive, Beacon (adjacent to the harbor). In the event of inclement weather, check the website at beaconsloopclub.org. For further information, call 845-463-4660 or 914-879-1082.

EagleFest at Boscobel opens on Saturday, Feb. 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (snow date Feb. 10), Boscobel offers free grounds admission for eagle viewing. There will be eagle experts with scopes to assist visitors, as well as a heated tent and complimentary hot cocoa for warming up. Free, keepsake maps will be available, showing all the eagle-viewing locations.

Boscobel is located on Route 9D in Garrison, just one mile south of Cold Spring and directly across the river from West Point. For more information, visit Boscobel.org or call 845-265-3638.

Beacon Sloop Club Presents Alternative Energy Solutions
The Beacon Sloop Club’s winter free lecture series will be held on the third Friday of the month from January through May. The first program is called Alternative Energy Solutions, featuring three local speakers.

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Peekskill Project V Offers Workshops and Yoga
The Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art (HVCCA) in Peekskill continues Peekskill Project V programming at the center as well as around town. HVCCA is located at 1701 Main St. in Peekskill. The museum is open Fridays 12 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12 - 6 p.m., and Tuesday through Thursday by appointment. For more information, contact HVCCA at 914-788-0100 or info@hvcca.org, or visit their website, hvcca.org.

Sunday, Jan. 20, 2 - 4 p.m.
All Things Clay With Jo-Ann Brody
Workshop #1 will take inspiration from the work of Peekskill Project V artist Brie Ruais. The class starts with a look at a video of Ruais creating her piece, and then participants use their hands and fingers to experience pushing, pulling and manipulating colored clays on a board. The results will be fired and glazed and can be picked up mid-February.

Workshop #2 explores the Hudson Valley landscape. Participants will choose an image to draw and paint on a clay tile in glaze. The resulting tiles will be fired and assembled into a mural on South Street in Peekskill.

The workshops are open to kids of all ages, but parents must supervise children under 5. They are free with HVCCA admission ($5 adult, $4 seniors, $2 students), but members are always admitted free. Space is limited for both workshops; reserve places by contacting Cora Harris at charris@hvcca.org.

Thursday, Jan. 24, 4 p.m.
Support the Arts Vinyasa
Partnering with iHARTyoga, HVCCA will begin offering a vinyasa yoga session open to all levels on Thursdays at 4 p.m. Drop-ins cost $15; the six-class series is $80. A minimum of 10 people is needed to run the series. Portions of the proceeds are donated to HVCCA. For more information or to make reservations, call 212-767-9979.

Visit www.philipstown.info for news updates and latest information.

This photograph by Sara Hart is part of a Peekskill Project V exhibit at the Peekskill Coffee House through Jan. 31. Photo courtesy of HVCCA.
PCBs by the Trainload Dredged From the Upper Hudson River

Steady progress in cleaning the river, say govt officials and environmental advocates

By Kevin E. Foley

Federal and state environmental sci-
cists, engineers and health offi-
cials, along with all the key Hudson Valley environmental groups, gathered last Wednesday, Jan. 16, to assess the progress the General Electric Company (GE) is making (under strict supervision) in dredging the Upper Hudson River of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

The meeting, with over 200 hundred interested people in attendance, took place along the river in Poughkeepsie at the Cornell Boathouse on the Marist College campus.

1976 was the year the New York State Department of Environmental Protection (DEC) first ordered GE to stop dumping PCBs into the Hudson River from their manufacturing plants in Hudson Falls and Fort Edward, N.Y., along the upper region of the watershed.

PCBs are a complex grouping of indi-
vidual chemical compounds that have been linked to causing cancer and oth-
er health problems and were federally banned from usage in manufacturing around the same time as the DEC order to GE.

Decades passed with extensive and acrimonious litigation among GE, vari-
ous government agencies and environ-
mental groups before in 2002 the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a Record of Decision for the des-

cial sites where the sediment is treated
different kinds of fish and their relative risk factors as well as preparation and cooking techniques.

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 Brothers 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.
An American Eye Amidst European Sensibilities (from page 7)

Mending the Nets, by Donna Blais

Instead, renting apartments and driving around, stopping suddenly when she spots an interesting shot, she has captured such varied slices of Italian life as a mime, an ad hoc sculptural assortment of locks, graffiti-scarred walls resembling contemporary frescoes, a statue of St. Francis of Assisi seemingly ministering to the mist and beyond, and two large landscapes. For one of these landscapes, Blais used an HDR (High Dynamics Range) melding technique, wherein she sets her camera at a fixed spot (she doesn’t travel with a tripod) and then shoots photos at different exposures, including one in the “normal” mode and then melds them, achieving what she calls a “surreal look. It’s a process photographers are playing with,” she said.

Attending her first artists’ opening reception as one of the artists, Blais was excited to get the feedback on her work, much of which focused on the vivid colors throughout. She is planning her next trip already.

The photography exhibit complements the rest of the works being shown under the umbrella of European Sensibility. These include the works of seven disparate artists currently living in Germany, as curated by Carla Goldberg. On a brief tour through the collection, Galazzo spoke of the different relationships of day-to-day life and the creation of art in Germany and the United States. The artists shown are working in a variety of media including wood panels, sculpture and painting. Also being shown are sculptures from leading Lithuanian sculptor Vladas Vildziunas.

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Gallery 66 NY is located at 66 Main St. in Cold Spring. For details and opening hours, visit gallery66ny.com or call 845-809-5838.

Mending the Nets, by Donna Blais

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about me, sometimes about someone else. Things can be really concrete in them — shockingly so — you’d never know it. I try to keep the emotional content universal so whoever is listening can tap in. Songwriters fall down when they’re only talking about themselves. I’m better at distillation; taping into the human experience is what makes people willing to listen and can make the difference between an engaged and a disengaged audience.

It may surprise those who have seen her perform confidently on many stages in this region over the past decade or so, but Pemble didn’t start playing in front of people until the age of 35. Growing up in Westchester, her mother was a piano teacher, and circumstances meant that during a tough stretch, their Steinway piano needed to be sold, “because she needed to feed us. So I picked up the guitar instead.”

“I’d play piano,” said Pemble, “but guitar is my first instrument.” (She’s now added banjo, bass and, recently, ukulele.)

Encounters with Joni Mitchell Made Easy and the Carly Simon and Fleetwood Mac counterparts developed her songwriting interest, and she began making up songs and music that you can dance to: bass, drums, guitar, sax — me and two other women doing Andrews Sisters-type harmonies today, in my studio.”

Pemble went to her first open mic at age 39, describing herself as unwilling to do so “until I was brave enough to sing in front of people as well as I could in my dining room.” Stricken with continued stage fright, her knees would shake and her voice wasn’t up to par, and she kept making mistakes initially. “I was told it was a muscle — that I should go to lots of open mics and just sing.” So, she did, and kept on doing, until she grew more comfortable onstage.

“My head went up; went to friends’ gigs and finally asked (at Danny’s Café in Ossining) for a gig. I got 20 people to play with me — a huge cluster of a band. That was the start.” Since then, Pemble has “played in some big, major places, but I’ve realized than even though you get that ‘next big room,’ there’s no ladder to climb — it’s a trap you go around.”

Pemble stated, “All I ever wanted to do was to be as good as I could be. I wasn’t hungry for anything but comfort. People sense when you’re trying to be the next big thing.”

Nowadays, Pemble combines performing with private teaching to children as young as 3 through teenagers and adults. She taught early childhood music for 20 years and still does one class each week at Philipstown Rec, where she calls herself less a music teacher than a facilitator. Her future plans include recording her third CD, at Giudice’s studio, and also working on what she calls her “swing project.” It’s “comical swing music that you can dance to: bass, drums, guitar, sax — me and two other women doing Andrews Sisters-type harmonies.”

Pemble’s earlier recordings can be found on iTunes and on Amazon — her “passion for playing music but no idea about production, working with people, about making mistakes initially. ‘I was told it was a muscle — that I should go to lots of open mics and just sing.’”

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