



The Paper Philipstown.info

FRIDAY, January 31, 2014

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Above, Pete Seeger at the Beacon Sloop Club's Strawberry Festival (Photo courtesy of Clearwater; photo by Econosmith.com) Right, a replica of Seeger's banjo with its assertion "This machine surrounds hate & forces it to surrender." (Photo by Rick Gedney)



Pete Seeger on July 4, 2009, at Cold Spring's waterfront Photo by Maggie Benmour



Boat Club Discussion Produces Few Results

Specific plans uncertain

By Michael Turton

The standing-room-only crowd that gathered at the VFW hall for the Tuesday (Jan. 28) meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board anticipated a pivotal discussion on the future of the Cold Spring Boat Club but probably went home largely disappointed. With Mayor Ralph Falloon absent due to illness, a lengthy discussion that often seemed to lack direction produced little progress regarding how the club will cope with the aftermath of coal cleanup on the site — a project that requires the club's only building to be razed. Also undecided is whether or not a committee formed by the Special Board for the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan will help produce a concept plan for a new building.

DEC deadline

Trustees met a Jan. 31 deadline by approving a letter required by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), indicating that the village will condemn the boathouse, enabling site remediation to begin. The letter requests that the coal tar be abated to "the highest level ... possible" and that Best Management Practices (Continued on page 3)

Hudson Highlands Hero Dies

Enduring influence on music and river

By Kevin E. Foley

Pete Seeger, Beacon's favorite son, a champion of the Hudson River's rescue from destructive pollution, died this week of natural causes. He was 94 years old.

Seeger was known worldwide for his folk singing, music writing and political activism. Locally he was seen as a neighbor and friend to many; someone who might on any day be encountered standing alone in a supermarket, drug store or the train station offering a smile or a friendly word. He was known as someone always willing to pitch in for a worthwhile cause. He appeared at many a Beacon Main Street storefront or classroom or church to show solidarity with others seeking justice or reform or to just play music.

Seeger was an iconic national figure who eschewed the trappings and poses of American celebrity. He was often quoted as saying he liked things simple. When not playing music on the road he preferred the familial hearth and swinging an axe for firewood. But he wasn't shy about using his influence or presence to further a cause he believed in.

As with anyone whose life spanned nine



Seeger leading a holiday sing-along at Beacon Sloop Club, December 2012 Photo by Kate Vikstrom

decades Seeger witnessed many changes in American life. The difference with him was his willingness to effect the changes.

He saw the ravages of the Depression and sided and sang with union organizers, served his country in the military during the Second World War, reached stardom at the top of the pop music charts as a member of the Weavers, found himself blacklisted from television and accused of contempt of Congress for refusing to answer questions about his association with communist organizations, developed a successful solo

touring, songwriting and recording career, participated in the civil rights movement and stood with the anti-Vietnam War and subsequent war protestors. Already in his 90s, he visited with the Occupy Wall Street protestors in New York City.

For all his association with leftist politics and the condemnation sometimes associated with it nationally and locally, Seeger eventually accepted accolades and honors from presidents and national cultural organizations as his views became more mainstream and his musical contributions were more deeply appreciated by subsequent generations. He has left an indelible footprint in the worlds of music and activist politics. He viewed the two involvements as inextricably linked and made no compromises in one for the other.

A Beacon resident for over a half century, Seeger's most enduring contributions locally will be first his advocacy for cleaning the Hudson River and helping people see it

as a living organism rather than a repository for industrial waste and residential sewerage. While protecting the river's ecology is now a consensus public perspective, it was hardly the case when Seeger first promoted the cause with his sailing boat, the sloop Clearwater.

Secondly, Seeger also had an abiding influence on many local musicians whatever their personal styles of playing. He spent many hours listening, critiquing, collaborating and playing music with a wide variety of people.

Our other stories, on pages 1 and 7, explore these contributions with those who worked and played with Seeger.

City of Beacon Mourns Loss

Environmentalists recall his leadership

By Sommer Hixson

Pete Seeger made fewer public appearances the last few years. His absence was noticed last week at the Martin Luther King Jr. musical parade, a first-time event for Beacon that he

envisioned. When his wife Toshi died six months ago, people mused and feared that he would soon join his life-long partner. A troubadour of peace for multiple generations and a local hero, Seeger has left the planet he cared for so passionately. With his legacy, he leaves a city in mourning and a lot of work still to be done.

Responding to news of Seeger's death are the water (Continued on page 16)

Philipstown's New Skating Rink

Joel Conybear, right, chair of the Philipstown Winter Carnival, and John Maasik, chair of the Philipstown Recreation Commission, donned their skates to shovel the ice at the new outdoor skating rink at the Claudio Marzollo Community Center in Garrison. (See story on page 5.)

Photo by Michael Turton



Mouths to Feed

A Gingerbread Woman

By Celia Barbour

Dear Friends,
Starting next week, I am taking a sabbatical from this column. In the meantime, Joe Dizney will be filling this space with his wonderful cooking tales and recipes.
Eat well,
Celia

It was one of those things you didn't realize you wanted until you tasted it. After that, you were prone to chronic, recurrent cravings for the warm gingerbread served at the Paris Commune, a small restaurant that used to inhabit a tiny storefront in the West Village. Even at brunch — when my friends and I would line up on the sidewalk for half an hour to get a table, our woozy, hungover brains clinging to the idea of restorative omelets or obliterating French toast — the gingerbread proved irresistible. As soon as we sat down, I'd request an order, and it would arrive dusted with confectioners' sugar and accompanied by a slouching pile of whipped cream. I frequented the Paris Commune for many years before I purchased an apartment two stories above it, thereby becoming, with my neighbors, its landlord. It was wonderful having the Paris Commune as a tenant, despite occasional is-

sues with vent fans or fish delivery. The proprietors were natural hosts — they loved people, loved creating a convivial environment — and I felt safe living above them, as if, when I tucked into bed at night, my extended family were downstairs having a lively, never-ending party. I thought I would stay there forever. But things change. I acquired an actual family; we moved. So did the Paris Commune, which relocated a few blocks west and then, in 2011, closed for good. The other day, I saw a photograph of gingerbread and was hit by a surge of nostalgic longing. The picture was in an English cookbook — not surprising, because the English have loved ginger since the Middle Ages, when they began using the spicy, pungent rhizome in dishes both savory and sweet. Indeed, I've sometimes wondered if I owe my ginger obsession to my half-Scottish father. I set out to find a recipe as good as the one I remembered. The Paris Commune's was never published, however, and the phone number I had for the former proprietor is no longer in service. Trawling online, I discovered an appealing recipe by Claudia Fleming, who was the founding pastry chef at the Gramercy Tavern and one of my early culinary heroes. Her version contains Guinness Stout — something the Paris Commune version surely lacked, but which sounded so intriguing I had to try it. It was excellent — caramelized on the outside, and simultaneously moist, rich, bouncy, and airy within. Moreover, like all great gingerbreads, it had hints of darkness, thanks to the bittersweet, almost medicinal flavor of molasses. It seemed to me the perfect dessert for this season, its abundant spices conveying warmth long after it emerged from the oven. Right away, my family came down with versions of my early addiction, devouring the whole cake in two days,



Winter gingerbread Photos by C. Barbour

something that rarely happens in this house (we are not big dessert eaters). But to me it was *too* dessert-like: Too sweet and lacking in ... something. But what? Fruit cakes and plum puddings sprang to mind — my mother used to make the latter at Christmastime using Jiffy Gingerbread Mix and canned plums, in a half-hearted but surprisingly tasty nod to my father's heritage. I wondered about adding fruit to mine: pulverized raisins or grated pear perhaps? I also decided to decrease the sugar and replace half the flour with whole wheat — I wanted

something that could be eaten at breakfast or snack time, as well as after supper. I was just about to bake up a couple test batches when Hugo, a former Paris Commune owner, replied to me on Facebook. After catching up (we hadn't spoken since 2006) he told me the secret: his gingerbread contained grated carrots. Carrots, ginger, and beer! An insane combination, and just right for this insane winter. I adjusted my recipe, and baked my way straight into a sweet chapter of my past — which is gone of course, but, given the right ingredients, not altogether irretrievable.

Winter Gingerbread

Adapted from Claudia Fleming.
This is particularly good with not-too-sweet whipped cream alongside.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 cup Guinness Stout | 3 eggs |
| 1 cup dark molasses (not blackstrap) | ¾ cup dark brown sugar |
| ½ teaspoon baking soda | ¾ cup sugar |
| 2 cups flour (1 cup white, 1 cup whole wheat) | ¾ cup mild vegetable oil or melted butter |
| 2 teaspoons baking powder | 1 cup finely-grated carrot (from about 2 medium carrots) |
| 2 tablespoons ground ginger | 2 tablespoons grated fresh ginger, optional, from a 1-inch piece of ginger |
| 1 teaspoon cinnamon | confectioners' sugar |
| ¼ teaspoon each ground cloves, nutmeg, and cardamom | |
- Heat oven to 350°. Thoroughly butter a bundt pan and dust with flour.
 - In a large saucepan, bring stout and molasses to a boil. Remove from heat, stir in baking soda (take care, as it will foam up), then set aside to cool to room temperature.
 - Sift together the flours, baking powder, and spices in a large bowl. In another bowl, whisk eggs, then add sugars and whisk vigorously to combine. Whisk in oil or melted butter, grated carrots and ginger, then molasses mixture. Add to flour mixture and whisk just until combined.
 - Pour into buttered bundt pan and bake until a tester comes out almost clean, about 50 minutes. Cool cake in pan on rack 5 minutes, then turn out onto rack and cool completely. Serve dusted with confectioners' sugar.

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Galef and Constituents Discuss Education, Fracking, and Marijuana

Assemblywoman addresses state push for consolidation

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Area residents defied cold winds and snow last Saturday (Jan. 25) to tell Assemblywoman Sandy Galef their concerns about education funding, fracking, marijuana, and more. Galef, whose district in the lower chamber of the New York State Legislature includes Philipstown, hosted a public forum at the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring. The two-hour event drew about 15 hardy participants, including a critic who occupied a corner chair and said nothing but displayed a sign reading “resign Galef: 35 years of BAD government.”

The assemblywoman presented highlights of initiatives pending in Albany, including the push by fellow Democrat Gov. Andrew Cuomo for consolidation of local governments and governmental districts. Galef explained that Cuomo proposes to keep local property taxes at the current level for two years if municipal and school district tax increases do not exceed the state’s 2 percent cap the first year and if in the second year along with compliance with the cap such jurisdictions begin to consolidate operations or

share services. “He’s trying to freeze your property taxes,” Galef said of Cuomo.

School districts could streamline by no longer handling such tasks as purchasing and payrolls individually and instead cede authority to their BOCES (regional Board of Cooperative Educational Services), Galef suggested.

She also recalled that when the superintendents of the Haldane Central School District and Garrison Union Free School District resigned this year, she sent letters to both districts reminding them that they could share a new superintendent. “Nobody really picked up on that,” she added.

Mary Boyle, a teacher in Peekskill, attacked limits on tax hikes. “The tax caps are killing the schools. You’re bleeding the schools dry,” at a time of increasing student need, said Boyle. “There’s a lot of unfunded mandates” and expenses that must be borne. “That’s not the fault of a teachers’ union. That’s a fault of Wall Street” refusing to pay its fair tax share and of unscrupulous or illegal practices in the financial sector, Boyle alleged. “Those guys should have went to jail,” she argued.

Other attendees likewise called for tougher regulation of the financial sector, including stronger laws and penalties for those engaging in fraud and other misconduct. “Put them in jail,” one

man urged, noting, however that “the judge can only put people in jail if the law says they go to jail.”

Galef promised to check to see what relevant regulatory proposals might be pending in Albany.

Another audience suggestion involved state limits on the number of administrators a small school district can employ. “Here at Haldane for 800 students” there are multiple principals, plus a superintendent and other officials, a constituent told Galef. “For a small district, this seems particularly top-heavy.”

As the state takes up the budget this year, Galef said, “there’s going to be a lot of maneuvering among people that want different things,” with a “tug of war going on between these different school districts” over allocation of education aid. “You never get what you want [totally]. It’s all a balance,” she observed. “All of it has a ripple effect, whatever we do.”

Fracking

Galef urged residents worried about fracking, a controversial method of extracting fuel from underground rock formations, to continue informing Cuomo of their opposition, before the state adopts a policy. After seeing the problems attributed to fracking in other states, “I think it’s good we waited,” she said.

District 1 Putnam County Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra raised the issue of possible use in New York of fracking wastewater in road-surface treatments. “I think anything that could threaten our water supply — you can’t let it happen,” she said. “It [water] is just too precious.”

Fracking waste “does eventually wind up in the drinking water” if used on roads, said Dr. Peter Bach, a veterinarian who practices in Cold Spring.

Marijuana

Galef predicted that New York would soon legalize medical use of marijuana, regarded as a helpful tool in cancer treatment, but “I don’t think there’s anything [planned] about legalizing marijuana generally.”

“We have to be very cautious,” Scuccimarra said. She described marijuana as “a gateway drug” — one often leading to use of other illicit drugs and drug abuse.

Bach warned that marijuana remains potent in the human body about three times as long as alcohol. “If we’re going to lower the threshold of marijuana, I think we need to inform people of what we’re getting into,” he said. For one thing, Bach said, “we have enough traffic deaths already” from accidents involving substance abuse. “I don’t think we should tolerate any more.”

Boat Club Discussion Produces Few Results *(from page 1)*

be used including “tenting” the site to ensure that noxious fumes are contained as much as possible. It also asks DEC to work with the boat club in anticipation of a new building being constructed.

The property is owned by the Village of Cold Spring and is leased to the boat club with the current agreement running through 2024. The club pays no rent or taxes to the village. In contrast, the Hudson House pays a total of approximately \$8,000 in annual rent and taxes for use of a parking lot on the property. The village Comprehensive Plan calls for finding ways to generate increased revenue for the village on site.

Views differ on new committee

Mike Armstrong chairs the Special Board that drafted the Comprehensive Plan and which continues to work toward completion of a Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan. The Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2012 after a five-year process that began with a village-wide survey of residents in 2007. Armstrong said that the plan specifically supports continued existence of the boat club and calls for “rethinking” how the property is used once the building is removed. He described the current situation as a “great opportunity” for both the club and com-

munity. Armstrong said that at a meeting last week the Special Board moved toward forming a group to examine potential uses of the boat club site. Former Cold Spring Mayor Anthony Phillips is among those interested in serving on the committee. Armstrong said \$6,000 is available to hire a consultant to assist in drafting a concept plan for the property. Public restrooms, meeting space, showers and a cafe were among amenities he said could potentially be included.

Some in attendance questioned the need for a new committee or consultant. Claudio Marzollo, a boat club member, said that a new committee would only “muddy the waters” and expressed doubt as to how much could be accomplished by a consultant given the relatively small amount of funding available. He suggested that negotiations be limited to talks between the club and the Village Board. Boat Club Vice Commodore Brad Petrie agreed saying, “It doesn’t seem to be appropriate for the Special Board to insert itself” into the process. Deputy Mayor Bruce Campbell, who chaired Tuesday’s meeting, also questioned the value of establishing a new committee.

Process remains unclear

While there may be little support for

a new committee to draft a plan for the boat club property, the process for determining the club’s future seems unclear. Boat Club Commodore Mark Patinella stressed the urgent need for an action plan, including fundraising, adding that after the cleanup the club will be left with a vacant lot. “What are we coming back to? We can’t have a meeting or even plug in a saw,” he said. Petrie said that boat club leadership “...can’t go to our members until we know what’s acceptable to the village.” Trustee Matt Francisco responded saying, “I’d turn that back around” indicating in essence that the Village Board can’t respond to a plan that doesn’t exist yet. Petrie said the club does have an “outline of a plan” that he anticipates club membership will support. Throughout the meeting Francisco repeated his view that, “We really have to be guided by the Comprehensive Plan.”

Conflict of interest?

Near the end of the meeting *The Paper* asked if having two Village Board members who are also members of the boat club constitutes a conflict of interest. Charles Hustis, an associate member of the club, said he doesn’t intend to renew his membership. He has also indicated he will not seek reelection in March. Campbell, a full member of the club, responded that he does not feel he is in a conflict position. *The Paper* pointed out that in past meetings Campbell has spoken passionately about how important the club is to him personally and that twice while chairing during Tuesday’s meeting he spoke “as a club member.” Earlier in the meeting Campbell said that some residents have told him he should recuse himself from discussions regarding the future of the boat club.

POSITION AVAILABLE

The Town of Philipstown has a vacancy on the Recreation Commission.
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OPINION

Remembering Pete

By Phil Ciganer

In the early ‘70s, when I came to the Hudson Valley to open the Towne Crier Café, I heard Pete Seeger lived nearby, in Beacon, and I hoped to meet the great man. Sure enough, when one of our first scheduled performers was detained by car trouble, Pete showed up and volunteered to “fill in.” That, I soon came to learn, was “typical Pete.”

It was the beginning of a relationship that spanned four decades. As we got to know each other, I became involved with the Clearwater organization and Pete’s passion to reclaim the Hudson River. “Phil,” he said, “if you want to change the world, you start at home.” My role for the next four years was to help turn their annual folk picnic into what has become the Clearwater Festival — Great Hudson River Revival.

One year, I was instrumental in booking Pete at the New Orleans Jazz Festival. As we landed in New Orleans, I worried that I had blundered by bringing a folk icon with his banjo to a loud party of a festival. But sure enough, Pete charmed them immediately with his spirit and won them over with his songs. That’s when I realized how much he had come to mean to us all.

Pete graced our stage many, many times over the years, sometimes on behalf of a specific cause — but always in the name of music and its power to build community and change the world.

It’s no exaggeration to say Pete was a major reason we moved to Beacon, and he made us feel right at home with his neighborly visits. In fact, Pete “played” the Towne Crier even before we opened, setting up an impromptu stage outside with some musical friends during our annual Spirit of Beacon Day.

Although he was ailing, Pete took to the Towne Crier stage in November for “The Weavers at 65,” a fundraiser for the Beacon Sloop Club. He seemed genuinely joyful that night, in his hometown, among friends, never tiring in his mission.

We knew then, as Pete knew, his time would not be long, that this day would come. Like all of you, I mourn his passing, deeply. But I celebrate his long, vibrant, meaningful and fruitful life.

Pete was that rare person who lived up to his ideals. Ever humble (“I don’t like ‘big,’” he once told me), unyielding in his convictions, he had a song to sing, and he sang it. It was about the hammer of justice, the bell of freedom, and the love between his brothers and his sisters all over this land.

Peace on Earth.

Ciganer is the owner of the Town Crier Café in Beacon.

LETTERS

Trustee Francisco asks right questions now on Butterfield

Jan. 27, 2014

To the editor:

I thank Trustee Francisco for his open meeting last Saturday. It was surprising to learn how his actual views on Butterfield differ from coverage by “the paper of record” in our town. But when he says that he asks “the hard questions” I have to disagree with him. Mr. Francisco is asking the easy questions — and refreshingly not pretending to know all the answers — and I’m starting to wonder why some of the other trustees haven’t been asking these same questions. For example, what tax implications will condos, which are taxed at a much lesser rate than single-family homes (as much as 60 percent less but with almost all the same service needs) have on the rest of the village? If this development requires upgrades in infrastructure — sewage and water, fire protection — who will pay for them? Sometimes these financial burdens fall on the developer, sometimes on the municipality. Do we really want that potential tax hike? Maybe so, if we like what’s proposed, and maybe not, but presently we’re still uninformed as to what Mr. Guillaro actually wants to build. If a fire hose can’t reach the top floors of this development, which could be up to four stories from the 9D side of the site given the steep drop in grade, who will be responsible for the new underground piping and fire equipment? There’s no reason these questions can’t be answered so that this development can finally go forward, but someone has to ask them so that they are ultimately addressed and I thank Mr. Francisco for sticking his neck out and being the one to do so. Thankfully, Trustee Francisco has reiterated several times that if the majority of the village wants something, even if he personally feels it unwise, it’s his job to vote for it.

In the *PCNR’s* reporting and the considerable spin-off chat-room noise, I’m hearing very little about resolving these questions to the benefit of us, the taxpayers of Cold Spring. What I am hearing is how late Trustee Francisco was to one meeting and that he did not attend a Planning Board meeting, for which he is liaison. This is curious since the other trustees and even the mayor himself arrive late for meetings, are absent or need to reschedule meetings to accommodate their needs — understandably they have other jobs to support their habit of public service. Furthermore I wonder how many members of the Village Board have not attended their respective liaison meetings. Has the HDRB had its liaison present to all, or even most of their meetings? How about the Rec. Committee? If the *PCNR’s* reporter were actually keeping score on Mr. Francisco’s hours vs. that of the other trustees he might not like the final tally. And if the attendance record is so newsworthy why is it not being reported for all trustees?

I believe that Trustee Francisco is setting a useful example for us all, of asking the right questions now, so that we’re not left with a giant tax bill later.

Michael Robinson, *Cold Spring*

Francisco keeps an open mind and cares about place we call home

Jan. 29, 2014

To the editor:

I have known Matt Francisco for eight years, since my family and I moved in next door to him and Joe. Matt and I talk regularly, in a neighborly fashion, and I voted for him two years ago when he ran for the Village Board.

But if I only got my information from the *Putnam County News & Recorder*, I might not have voted for him. This is because the *PCNR* has a habit of painting Matt out to be an obstructionist with some mysterious secret agenda. In reality, Matt is a cooperative guy who works extremely well with others, who speaks his mind but always keeps that mind open.

Boards, like any aspect of governance, have what we might call a gas pedal and a brake pedal. A responsible board uses the brake pedal to make sure they’re not going to spin out of control and end up costing us, the taxpayers, a lot of money.

We don’t have to drive far to see what it looks like when board members don’t use the brake pedal. Mini-malls built alongside historic homes. Housing projects that swamp the resources of the school district. Communities without charm, without character, and without solvency.

I’m sure it would be easier for Matt to just rubberstamp everything the *PCNR* headlines or editorials told him to. But that’s not why the majority of voters elected him. So he keeps doing his job, despite the nasty attacks, because he cares about this place we call home, and knows that the majority of us who live here do, too.

Yours sincerely,
John Plummer, *Cold Spring*

NY Alert

For the latest updates on weather-related or other emergencies, sign up at www.nyalert.gov.

Post Office in Transition: Trailer Open For Business



Cold Spring Post Office retail operations moved to the newly installed trailer adjacent to Foodtown on Wednesday (Jan. 29). Postmaster Lesley Delamater, pictured here assisting a customer, said that initial transactions that morning were cash-only, but that by midday computers were up and running, making the facility fully operational.

Photo by Michael Turton

Cold Snap a Boon to New Outdoor Ice Rink

Winter Carnival set for Feb. 8

By Michael Turton

A new outdoor skating rink, centerpiece for the First Annual Philipstown Winter Carnival scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 8, is almost ready for its first skaters. The 140-foot-by-64-foot rink was flooded on Jan. 26, thanks to Phil-

ipstown's four volunteer fire companies whose tanker trucks provided the water. The recent cold snap has helped ensure a quick freeze and good quality ice.

Philipstown Recreation Director Amber Stickle said she hopes the rink can accommodate skaters even before the upcoming carnival. On Wednesday however portions of the ice were still not totally solid and milder weather is predicted for this weekend. "People should check the Philipstown Recreation website and Face-

book page for updates," she said. Stickle wants to set up a skate exchange in the future but for now people need to bring their own skates. "We also recommend that people wear a helmet," she said. Skate sharpening will not be available but the rink at Bear Mountain State Park offers that service.

John Maasik, chair of the Philipstown Recreation Commission, said the rink will be open daily for skating once it swings into full operation. Casual "sticks



All four local fire companies provided a tank truck and volunteers to help flood Philipstown's new skating rink on Sunday (Jan. 26). Photo courtesy of Garrison Fire Company

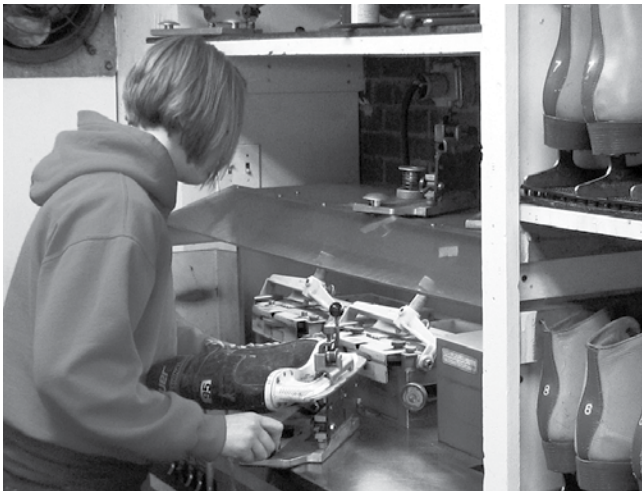
and pucks" hockey will also be allowed although he said that the priority will be family-oriented skating. No hockey will be permitted when skaters are using the rink. Maasik said rules governing use of the facility will be posted.

The carnival, hosted by Philipstown Recreation Department, Hudson Highlands Land Trust (HHLT), and Friends of Philipstown Recreation will be held at two Garrison locations. Family-friendly activities will be offered at the Philipstown Recreation Center at 107 Glencllyffe Drive just off of Route 9D, and at Winter Hill located at 20 Nazareth Way. Food, beverages and parking will be available at

both sites and a shuttle bus will provide free transportation between locations.

Activities include skating on the new rink, snowman building, an ice sculpture demonstration, snow golf, sledding, a snowshoe demonstration and lessons, and a scavenger hunt. Closing ceremonies will be held at the Philipstown Recreation Center and will include a raffle drawing, music and evening bonfire.

Participants will receive a special button, entitling them to a 10 percent discount at a number of local stores and restaurants during Carnival Week, Feb 8-16. The carnival raffle will feature prizes donated by several sponsoring businesses.



Need your skates sharpened for the Winter Carnival? The rink at Bear Mountain State Park offers that service for \$5.

Photo by M. Turton

Putnam County Launches 'Year of the Senior' and Ad Campaign

Odell lists senior center in Cold Spring as goal

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

An overflow crowd of older residents — many arriving without prior notice — filled the Putnam County Golf Course clubhouse Wednesday for a donuts-and-coffee breakfast, speeches, and lunch as county officials proclaimed 2014 the Year of the Senior and announced a new Putnam County TV campaign.

In written remarks printed in the program, County Executive MaryEllen Odell also promised seniors the county would "move forward to keep you mobile by means of our revamped public transportation system, to improve your Carmel Friendship Center [senior-citizen center] and to build one in Cold Spring." She did not elaborate. An adequate senior center, comparable to those in other Putnam towns, has long been a Philipstown goal and is seen as a potential occupant of a re-developed Butterfield Hospital property or an improved American Legion building.

The free "gala" (contributions of \$3 were welcomed) drew at least 330 mostly-aged participants, far more than anticipated, forcing organizers to set up extra

tables in the foyer. The turnout included at least 15 Philipstown residents, according to local senior activist Donna Anderson, who was subsequently saluted as one of Odell's liaisons on senior concerns.

"People showed up who didn't reserve" a place, but "we're not going to turn them away," Odell observed, as she greeted seniors relegated to the dining hall's upstairs balcony, alongside the press, before the official activities began. "This is the first of many, many events" this year. "So far, so good," she said.

Subsequently welcoming everyone from the podium, Odell briefly lauded senior citizens for their contributions and noted the upcoming 100th birthday of her grandmother, whom she credited with inspiring the Year of the Senior (highlighting programs and challenges for Putnam's elderly).

Pat Sheehy, director of the county Office for the Aging, provided two nuggets of relevant data. "This year Putnam County becomes the fastest-growing senior population in New York State," she said. "Also this year, one in every four residents in Putnam County is going to be 60-plus. So there's a lot of us out there." Sheehy urged the diners to lobby Congress to renew the nearly five-year-old Older Americans Act to support se-

nior citizen programs.

Libby Pataki, a Garrison resident who directs the Tourism Office, introduced the county's new TV spot, scheduled to air in New York City, Albany and Connecticut markets this spring. She also pointed to photos submitted in the county's first photo contest, many showing Putnam's outdoor attributes. "All these beautiful, beautiful places have a very important role to play in the local economy," Pataki said. Parks and historic and scenic sites drive the Hudson Valley's \$4.3 billion tourism economy, which employs 80,000 people, she said. "In Putnam County alone, tourism generates over \$54 million in spending annually and that sustains well over 100,200 jobs," she added.

In comments to *Philipstown.info/The Paper* as lunch got underway, Pataki outlined other Tourism Office initiatives this year. These include:

- A new focus, in conjunction with the county health department, for Restaurant Week, to emphasize healthy eating
- Continued efforts with others in regard to the pending Hudson Fjord Trail, West Point Foundry Preserve, and other projects and sites
- A planned meeting of environmental groups, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and the Constitution Is-

land Association to consider possibilities for Constitution Island

- The Putnam Classic Cycling competition

Moreover, the Tourism Office has just created a Putnam County Television and Film Commission, to link historic and scenic sites and villages (including Cold Spring) with TV and film industry crews seeking locations for productions. Overall, under Tourism Office auspices "we've got a lot of initiatives going on," she said. "This year, we'll have some sort of program every month."

District 1 Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra, who represents Philipstown, endorsed both the Year of the Senior and the TV spot. "Since Cold Spring is the gateway to tourism" in the county, visitors will come to Philipstown first, and "I hope our shops will benefit," she said.

State Sen. Greg Ball, a Republican whose district includes part of Putnam County (but not Philipstown) also showed up, circulating table-to-table to greet attendees and — one later said — giving away cookies. He was not on the agenda and is rumored to be considering a run for county executive this fall. If Odell, also a Republican, seeks re-election, Ball's insurgent candidacy could divide their party.



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Philipstown Comprehensive Plan Review Begins

Determining what still needs to be done after eight years

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Eight years after its adoption, Philipstown’s Comprehensive Plan is set for a thorough review – not to rewrite it, but to determine what’s been accomplished and what remains to be done.

The Philipstown Town Board kicked off the process Jan. 22 at a workshop with members of an ad hoc panel (informally created by a handful of Planning Board members and residents) joined Wednesday by a couple more interested citizens.

After going through a preliminary list of 41 topics addressed in the Comprehensive Plan and tentative designation of current status, workshop participants concurred that the Town Board should promptly seek applicants for a new review committee.

The town Comprehensive Plan does not cover the villages of Cold Spring and Nelsonville.

In such undertakings, participants “are not suggesting rewriting the Comprehensive Plan,” said Andrew Chmar, a resident and executive director of Hudson Highlands Land Trust, expressing a view shared by others around the table at Town Hall. “It’s a review of the Comprehensive Plan and what still needs to be done.”

One major project that the Comprehensive Plan called for, a revision of the town zoning code, was finished in 2011 after three years and numerous drafts.

Town Board Member John Van Tassel added that the new review could also consider matters that came up after the Comprehensive Plan’s adoption. The group provided ready examples for exploration (though not necessarily ultimate action), including definition of an appropriate house footprint size to offer guidance in potential cases of behemoth structures which developers present as single-family homes but which resemble warehouses; sustainability and energy conservation questions; inclusion of a farmland scheme in an overall natural resource plan; affordable housing; and senior citizen concerns.

Local resident J. Carlos Salcedo advised that the review reflect “learning from what we did before” and avoidance of old pitfalls, such as those encountered during the protracted rezoning debate. He said that an inadequate socialization or understanding by the public of what was going on encouraged erroneous ideas and statements made in ignorance on all sides, until everyone eventually came together and realized that they didn’t have many differences after all. He believes the public collaboration ultimately produced a better document.

This time, Planning Board Member Kim Conner put in, “it shouldn’t be long and drawn out” like the rezoning process.

Chmar recommended “a prioritization” of what to tackle first, among the many things the town could pursue. “It’s too big to bite off all this simultaneously,” he cautioned.

Evolution of the Comprehensive Plan

The Town Board adopted the Comprehensive Plan on March 9, 2006, after a lengthy process of public forums, and brainstorming sessions, working group

studies, consultation with experts, and compilation of the basic document and accompanying reports. As its introduction states, the Comprehensive Plan “is not the law.” Rather, “a guide to decision-making on important land-use issues,” it “sets the direction and goals for the community and recommends in a general way how these can be accomplished.”

The plan seeks to “conserve Philipstown’s rural, historic and river-community character,” enhance its socio-economic diversity, expand recreational opportunities, “control real property taxes and ensure they are reasonable and equitable;” protect Philipstown’s natural resources; improve both the safety and aesthetics of roads, “locate new development where it can be supported by existing infrastructure” and streamline the governmental approval process. Its introduction notes that in order to have weight, the Comprehensive Plan’s recommendations “must be translated into zoning laws, budget allocations, public investments, and other actions that have the force of law.”

Philipstown’s Comprehensive Plan should not be confused with the separate plan launched in the Village of Cold Spring four months after the town plan’s adoption.

Burrowing In: the World of Groundhogs

‘Big day’ on the horizon for Marmota monax

By Alison Rooney

In that ritual of early February, Groundhog Day is nearly upon us. Once again, on Feb. 2, a *Marmota monax* becomes the focus of more attention in a few hours than his breed receives in any other capacity. Then it’s back to relative obscurity for 364 days.

Most people don’t know much about them — they’re not even 100 percent certain about the age-old furrowed brow question: “Is a groundhog the same thing as a woodchuck?” (Yes — one of 14 species of marmot.) The word woodchuck is thought to be a misinterpretation of their Native American name, *wuchak*, roughly translated as “the digger.”

Hudson Highlands Nature Museum (HHNM) is hosting a Groundhog Day Celebration on Sunday, Feb. 2, at their Wildlife Education Center (WEC) in Cornwall-on-Hudson. Usual goings-on will ensue as the master of ceremonies consults with a groundhog, Hudson Highlands Harry to be precise, for a prognostication about the remaining weeks of winter.

The tradition of Groundhog Day began in Europe in the 1800s when hedgehogs and badgers were used for a similar purpose. When European settlers arrived here it was continued with groundhogs and served as an important indicator of

the weather, more critical then in terms of putting away enough fodder and making sure root cellars were well stocked. Importance may have diminished, but the fun hasn’t and at this year’s WEC festivities there’ll be crafts, games and a guided walk to search for shadows. Pam Golben, WEC’s director of education, assisted this reporter in providing a picture of these creatures, the largest members of the squirrel family, thriving in this area.

With a widespread range across much of North America, groundhogs are found in a variety of habitats and ecosystems. They prefer lowland areas, often where woodlands meet open spaces. Unlike the cause and effect human/animal interaction with other species, human encroachment into more and more forested land has increased food access for groundhogs causing their numbers to flourish. Never far from cover, they are partial to loam and sandy loam soils for burrowing.

Using their strong, clawed forelimbs and large teeth, they construct burrowing dens, some with as many as five entrances. These dens can be up to 45 feet long, extending as far underground as 5 feet. There are separate areas for sleeping, lounging and eliminating. Groundhogs are territorial, and will defend their burrows.

Winter retreat

Groundhogs hibernate all winter long, relying solely on body fat for survival. Hibernation, deep within the burrow, reduces their metabolic processes and

causes a pronounced body temperature drop — from about 96 degrees Fahrenheit to about 38 — and a slowing of the heartbeat from 100 beats per minute to four. While hibernating, the groundhog rolls itself into a ball and tucks its head between its hind legs. It does not eat, nor eliminate and its teeth and hair do not grow. Hibernation generally begins in October and ends in March or April, with males emerging first to establish territories and search for mates. With the exception of mating season, groundhogs are non-social. Somehow they seem to know when to wake, but actual emergence depends on daily temperature.

Groundhogs usually weigh no more than 14 pounds, and are about 25 inches long, including the tail; males larger than females. Their fur is cinnamon-brown to greyish-black. They have short, powerful legs and a bushy tail; their curved nails help with digging. With broad flat heads, small black eyes, and rounded ears, they often stand on hind legs, projecting a taller appearance. Their body is covered with white-tipped guard hairs giving them a grizzled appearance.

Groundhogs breed late in winter and generally females give birth to four or five young in early spring. Males have multiple mates each season. As birth approaches, the male leaves the den. Newborns stay with the mother for the first few months, and then start to find their own territory.

Generally, groundhogs live four to six years in the wild but, due to predation and disease, often do not live past age three. They may live up to 10 years in captivity.

Solitary, diurnal animals, groundhogs are usually seen on the ground, but can



Prognosticating at the 2013 Groundhog Day Celebration at the Wildlife Education Center
Photo by Maureen Moore

climb trees and are capable swimmers. Although usually asocial, they sometimes greet each other nose to nose. Groundhogs respond to threats arching their bodies, baring teeth, and raising their tail. They also communicate via scent glands and vocalizations. Teeth grinding and chattering are common when they are cornered. They use sight to detect predators, which include gray wolves, coyotes, domestic dogs, red foxes, black bears, lynx, bobcats, hawks and snakes. They will make noise with their incisors and use short, sharp whistles to warn other groundhogs of danger.

Preferred forage includes alfalfa, clover, and dandelion and other grasses, ferns, leaves of bushes and fruit. Other foods include bark, leaves, insects, and bird eggs. An adult groundhog can consume over a pound of vegetation each day, often destroying crops and pastures.

The HHNM Groundhog Day Celebration takes place from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and costs \$8 for adults, \$6 for children, with discounted rates for museum members. Advance, pre-paid registration is required. WEC is located at 25 Boulevard, Cornwall-on-Hudson. Visit hhnaturemuseum.org or call 845-534-5506, ext. 204.

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The Calendar



Left, Pete Seeger plays at Beacon's Strawberry Festival in 2013. (Photo by Rick Gedney) Above, from left, Carol Sharar, Andrew Revkin, and Dar Williams lead a group sing-along at a Pete Seeger "Hoot" at *The Paper*, at 69 Main St., Cold Spring, on Tuesday, January 28. (Photo by Aleeta Wolfe)

Pete Seeger's Musical Legacy

Local musicians play in tribute and reflect on lasting inspiration

By Michele Gedney

Two nights this week, musicians spontaneously held tributes to celebrate what Pete Seeger has always done, bringing people together through music. Seeger long served as the musical touchstone for the communities of Beacon and Philipstown. The need for everyone to gather, share stories and sing together was immediate and the outpouring of grief and gratitude for the iconic man clearly resonated.

Philipstown resident and film editor

Toby Shimin on Tuesday (Jan. 28) initiated an "Impromptu Hoot for Pete" at *The Paper's* office at 69 Main St., drawing about 50 people. "I knew Pete as many did as an integral part of my childhood," she said. "I went to the Little Red School House in New York City and every Thursday at assembly we sang Pete Seeger songs. [I wanted] to pay respect to his passing and honor the Hudson River neighbors who he made feel like family. It seemed like a sing-along farewell was the most natural thing in the world to do."

Among the musicians who led the group were Andrew Revkin and Dar Williams, both of whom had musical relationships with Seeger. "Pete's greatest gift, even while singing loud

and clear, was to generate enduring and radiating circles of song — from the local to the global scale — without keeping himself in the middle," said Revkin. "One thing I'll always treasure about him is how he cupped his hand to his ear as a signal for the audience to drown him out!"

Williams spoke of Seeger's impact upon her own sense of social responsibility through music: "I woke up the morning after hearing the news and thought, 'Now it's all up to us.'"

Freddie Martin sang a song he was co-writing with Seeger called "Peace

Will Prevail" and the group joined in on the chorus. In his last conversation with Seeger regarding changes to the lyrics, Martin said Seeger said, "... you keep on," a message he intends to live up to.

Ned and Liz Rauch of Garrison played guitar and violin with the group. Ned said, "I've always thought of him as essential to all of us. He was like a redwood tree, there for a century's worth of people."

Dogwood

Simultaneously, Dogwood in Beacon hosted people to sing along and share their stories. "The place was packed with over 100 people, all out to honor Pete. I think we would all agree that Pete's presence was palpable in the room. For me there was no better way to honor Pete than (Continued on page 16)

Calling All Poets at Howland Cultural Center

'It's all about the poets' and offering a comfortable place to read work

By Alison Rooney

For nearly 15 years now, on the first Friday of every month, poetry rises up to the soaring rafters of Beacon's Howland Cultural Center (HCC) in the form of *Calling All Poets Series* (CAPS).

The evening begins with readings from established poets and concludes in an open mic in which anyone attending may participate. With an average of 35 people on hand, 15 to 20 of whom participate in the open mic, the atmosphere is convivial and has a goal, as it always has, of making people feel comfortable, regardless of their prior experience as either writer or interpreter. Now the series is extending



From left, Jim Eve and Mike Jurkovic of Calling All Poets

Photo by A. Rooney



its digital reach, streaming in out-of-town poets and expanding its online and print presence. Its organizers believe it is the second-longest running poetry reading series in the Hudson Valley, exceeded only by Warwick's Poetry On The Loose.

CAPS began in 1999, when Jim Eve, who formerly by day (and sometimes night) worked for IBM, but whose passion was poetry, initiated it. After moving to Beacon he ventured into HCC, curious as to what it was. He instantly "fell in love with it, started going to events there, made friends" and soon was asked to join their board. Eve had been writing poetry since the age of 12, though he "never thought of it as poetry — at that age it was just a bunch of words I put down. It was one way of not getting in trouble; writing for me was a therapeutic thing — that was it," he recalls. His (Continued on page 11)

BEHIND *the*
COUNTER

❖ by Tara ❖



Well, that’s over, mon Dieu! What a trial. I knew something was up when Herself went off with a little overnight bag. Luggage signals disaster for my routine. From the car, I watched her step into the revolving door of the Hudson Valley Hospital and scolded myself for not paying more attention when she’d repeatedly explained her upcoming absence. I must confess sometimes her words just sound like “blah, blah, blah”. It’s not that I don’t understand; listening interferes with my efforts to meditate. She did store in a pile of marrowbones which I misunderstood as compensation for a job well done not a guilty bribe. I do thank my dear friend Charlie Bob for sharing the bones regardless of whether he was consulted prior to the raid on his stash.

Before the story becomes embellished as it travels the Twilight Bark (or grapevine as you humans call it), I will admit the first night without the Missus was a bit rough. All right, yes, I howled. Loud and long. A girl’s gotta get it out and have a big ugly cry before she can shake it off and get all four paws back on the ground. Once I realized my chauffeur was in charge now of my daily necessities, I could calm down and as they say, carry on. The Boss came back home within three days; apparently she could not bear to be apart from me.

❖ ❖ ❖

Can’t say I mind the change to my work routine in this bitter cold. I meekly suggest a revolving door for our shop; the polar vortex seems to center now right at our stoop instead of Siberia. If I was working, I might need to relocate from behind the counter to inside the bathroom — the coziest spot above the furnace — and call my column *Inside The Bathroom* ... well, you understand why that might not go over. However, I am plenty busy at home supervising nurses and physical therapists; once I have conducted a thorough sniff, I will let you know my rulings on each. I have been observant of their every move and expect to be awarded an honorary nursing degree for bringing about the speedy and full recovery of my charge.

Do stop by The Country Goose to visit the women holding down the fort. Word is they are despondent without me at their feet but are being kept busy unpacking all the new goodies the boss ordered before she went away.

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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!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

Kids & Community

Chinese New Year Blessing Ceremony

5 a.m. Drumming Ceremony
5:30 a.m. Morning Service and Prostration
10 a.m. Repentance Ceremony and Dharma Talks
1:30 p.m. Mangala Sutra Changing, Auspiciousness Thread Blessing
5 p.m. Evening Bell and Drum Service
9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monastery Open
Chuang-Yen Monastery | 2020 Route 301, Carmel | 845-225-1819 | baus.org

Wine Tasting

4 - 7 p.m. Artisan Wine Shop | 180 Main St., Beacon | 845-440-6923 | artisanwineshop.com

Community Fellowship Supper

6 p.m. St. Mary’s Church | 1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring | 845-265-2539 | stmaryscoldspring.org

Winter Dining Series

6 - 11 p.m. The Garrison | 2015 Route 9, Garrison
845-424-3254 x15 | thegarrison.com

Putnam County Chambers of Commerce

Trailblazer Awards

6:30 p.m. Villa Barone Hill Top Manor
466 Route 6, Mahopac
845-228-8595 | putnamchamberny.org

Owl Prowl

7 - 9 p.m. Wildlife Education Center
25 Boulevard, Cornwall-on-Hudson
845-534-7781 | hhnaturemuseum.org

Health & Fitness

Navigating Healthcare Options

10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon | 800-453-4666
misn-ny.org | Appointment required.

Sports

Haldane vs. Henry Hudson (Boys’ Basketball)

7 p.m. Haldane School
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Art & Design

Angelika Rinnhofer: *a priori*

6 - 8 p.m. Matteawan Gallery
454 Main St., Beacon
845-440-7901 | matteawan.com

Hot in Paris Painting Workshop

7 p.m. Eat. Paint. Love.
331 Main St., Beacon | eat-paint-love.com

Music

IM Rhythm

8 p.m. Bean Runner Café | 201 S. Division, Peekskill | 914-737-1701 | beanrunnercafe.com

The Chowderheads

8 p.m. Whistling Willie’s | 184 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-2012 | whistlingwillies.com

Live Music

8 p.m. Cold Spring Depot
1 Depot Square, Cold Spring
845-265-5000 | coldspringdepot.com

The Garland Jeffreys Band

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café
379 Main St., Beacon
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Petey Hop and the Jackrabbits

9 p.m. 12 Grapes
12 N. Division St., Peekskill
914-737-6624 | 12grapes.com

Chris Jensen

9 p.m. Max’s on Main | 246 Main St., Beacon
845-838-6297 | maxsonmain.com

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Take Your Child to the Library Day

Kids & Community

Project FeederWatch

8 -10 a.m. Croton Point Nature Center
1 Croton Point Ave., Croton-on-Hudson
914-862-5297 | parks.westchestergov.com

Cold Spring Farmers’ Market

8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. St. Mary’s
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring | csfarmmarket.org

Food Pantry

9 - 10 a.m. First Presbyterian Church
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

Recycling Center Open

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. 59 Lane Gate Road, Cold Spring
coldspringny.gov

Canstruction JR Hudson Valley (Opens)

10 a.m. Galleria
2001 South Road, Poughkeepsie
845-462-7600 x110 | canstructionhv.com

Fun Being Green

10 a.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Drive, Cornwall
845-534-5506 | hhnaturemuseum.org

Green Workshop

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. School of Jellyfish
183 Main St., Beacon
845-440-8017 | schoolofjellyfish.com

Soup Kitchen

11 a.m. Presbyterian Church
50 Liberty St., Beacon
845-831-5322 | beaconpresbychurch.com

Foodmaker Fair

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Fishkill Farms
9 Fishkill Farm Road, Hopewell Junction
845-897-4377 | fishkillfarms.com

Valentine’s Day Pet Photos

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Brewster Feed Barn
1515 Route 22, Brewster
845-225-7777 | puthumane.org

Meet the Animals

1 & 2:30 p.m. Wildlife Education Center
25 Boulevard, Cornwall-on-Hudson
845-534-7781 | hhnaturemuseum.org

Make a Colorful Walking Stick

2 p.m. Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art
1701 Main St., Peekskill | 914-788-0100 | hvcca.org

Wine Tasting

3 - 6 p.m. Artisan Wine Shop
See details under Friday.

Yertle the Turtle & Change Reaction (Children’s Theater Company)

3 p.m. New Era Creative Space | 1031 Elm St., Peekskill | 914-325-1053 | necspace.com

Owl Prowl

7 - 9 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Drive, Cornwall
845-534-5506 | hhnaturemuseum.org

Health & Fitness

Tai Chai

9 a.m. St. Philip’s Parish House
1101 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3571 | stphiliphighlands.org

Caregiver Support Group/Open House

9:30 a.m. - Noon. Hudson Valley Hospital
1980 Crompond Road, Cortlandt Manor
914-734-3896 | hvhc.org/events

Tai-Chi Chuan

9:30 a.m. Arts on the Lake
640 Route 52, Kent Lakes
845-228-2685 | artsonthelake.org

Sh’Bam (Class)

10:15 a.m. All Sport Health & Fitness
17 Old Main St., Fishkill
845-896-5678 | allsportfishkill.com

Sports

Army vs. Loyola Maryland (Women’s Basketball)

1 p.m. Christl Arena, West Point
845-938-2526 | goarmysports.com

Art & Design

Cabin Fever Workshops

10 a.m. Ask the Photographer
10 a.m. Experimental Drawing
Garrison Art Center | 23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison | 845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Free Admission for Beacon Residents

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Dia:Beacon
3 Beekman St., Beacon
845-440-0100 | diabeacon.org

Photography Workshop

1 - 5 p.m. Beahive Beacon | 291 Main St., Beacon | 845-765-1890 | beahivebzzz.com

Anna Mecugni on Alighiero e Boetti

2 p.m. Dia:Beacon | 3 Beekman St., Beacon
845-440-0100 | diabeacon.org
Rescheduled from Dec. 14.

African-American Artists of the Hudson Valley (Opening)

3 - 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Art by Ezra Anders Picard & Sandy Henke (Opening)

6 - 9 p.m. Beale Street Barber Shop
907 South St., Peekskill
914-402-1700 | bealestreetbarbershop.com
7 p.m. Music by Joe Duraes

Theater & Film

Blue is the Warmest Color (2013)

Noon. Downing Film Center
19 Front St., Newburgh
845-561-3686 | downingfilmcenter.com

Erica Herd: *Alzheimer’s Blues*

8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

Music

Music Seminar: A Taste of Jazz - How Do they Do That?

2 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

The Samkofa African Dance & Drum Troupe

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

(To next page)



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Susan English *Blue*, 2014, on view at the Matteawan Gallery in Beacon Feb. 8 - Mar. 1

Image courtesy of Matteawan Gallery

Kersten Stevens

8 p.m. Bean Runner Café
See details under Friday.

Boomkat

8 p.m. Whistling Willie's
See details under Friday.

Popa Chubby Band

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café
See details under Friday.

Crash N Burn

9:30 p.m. Max's on Main
See details under Friday.

Electric Beef

9:30 p.m. 12 Grapes
See details under Friday.

Meetings & Lectures

Overeaters Anonymous

8:30 a.m. Graymoor | 1350 Route 9, Garrison
917-716-2488 | oa.org

Dharma Training and Practice

10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Graymoor (Fourth Floor)
1350 Route 9, Garrison
maevetx1@optonline.net

Ham Radio Club

1 p.m. East Fishkill Library
348 Route 376, Hopewell Junction
914-582-3744 | qsysociety.org

Members' Gathering

7 p.m. Arts on the Lake
640 Route 52, Kent Lakes | 845-228-2685
artsonthelake.org | Rescheduled from Jan. 25.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Groundhog Day

Kids & Community

Project FeederWatch

8- 10 a.m. Croton Point Nature Center
See details under Saturday.

Meet a Groundhog

10 a.m. Wildlife Education Center
25 Boulevard, Cornwall-on-Hudson
845-534-7781 | hhnaturemuseum.org

Groundhog Day Program

11 a.m. Bear Mountain State Park
Meet at Merry-Go-Round.

Green Workshop (ages 8-14)

11 a.m. - 2 p.m. School of Jellyfish
See details under Saturday.

Beacon Farmers' Market

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Scenic Hudson River Center
Long Dock Drive, Beacon
845-234-9325 | thebeaconfarmersmarket.com

Winter Tree Walk with Craig Stevens

Noon. Croton Arboretum
Fox Road, Croton | crotonarboretum.org

Meet the Animals

1 & 2:30 p.m. Wildlife Education Center
See details under Saturday.

Yertle the Turtle & Change Reaction (Children's Theater Company)

3 p.m. New Era Creative Space
See details under Saturday.

Annual Super Bowl Party

5 p.m. Towne Crier Café
379 Main St., Beacon
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Art & Design

Drop-In Art Sessions

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Drawing and Painting from Life (Long Pose)
1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Printmaking Club
1:30 - 4:30 p.m. Basic Etching
Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Free Admission for Beacon Residents

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Dia:Beacon
See details under Saturday.

Over the Pond (Opening)

3 - 7 p.m. Spire Studios | 45 Beekman St., Beacon | 845-797-5210 | spirestudios.org

Still Life Drawing and Painting (First Session)

3 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Theater & Film

The Art of Flight: 3D

Noon. Jacob Burns Film Center
364 Manville Road, Pleasantville
914-747-5555 | burnsfilmcenter.org

Music

Peter Yarrow & Friends (Fundraiser)

1 p.m. Towne Crier Café
379 Main St., Beacon | momsdemandaction.org

Ukulele Group

3 - 5 p.m. Arts on the Lake
640 Route 52, Kent Lakes
845-228-2685 | artsonthelake.org

Open Mic Jam

5 - 9 p.m. Virgo's Sip N Soul Café
469 Fishkill Ave., Beacon
meetup.com/Sunset-Sundays-Open-Mic-Jam

Meetings & Lectures

Friends of Fishkill Supply Depot

1 p.m. Hampton Inn
544 Route 9, Fishkill | fishkillsupplydepot.org

Brave New Gita Class

4 p.m. Beacon Yoga Center
464 Main St., Beacon
347-489-8406 | beaconyogacenter.com

Religious Services

See philipstown.info/churches for Sunday listings

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Kids & Community

Cooking Class: Taco Fiesta

9:30 a.m. Philipstown Community Center
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Bridge Club

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Literacy Connections Class

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-452-8670 | literacyconnections.org

Free Tax Assistance for Seniors and Low Income

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org | Registration required.

Indoor Tot Lot

Noon - 2 p.m. Philipstown Rec Center
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Drop-in Homework Center (grades 1-8)

3 - 5 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 x103 | beaconlibrary.org

Board Game Night

7 p.m. Cup and Saucer | 165 Main St., Beacon
meetup.com/Beacon-Board-not-Bored

Health & Fitness

Red Cross Blood Drive

1 - 6 p.m. Galleria | 2001 South Road, Poughkeepsie | 800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org

Basketball at Philipstown Rec

6:15 p.m. Youth Skills/Drills (grades 3-8)
7:30 p.m. Adult Men's Pickup
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Sports

Haldane vs. Clark Academy (Boys' Basketball)

4:30 p.m. Haldane School | Details under Friday

Art & Design

Drop-In Drawing & Painting from Life (Short Pose)

9:30 a.m. Garrison Art Center
See details under Sunday.

Theater & Film

Blue is the Warmest Color (2013)

2 & 7 p.m. Downing Film Center
See details under Saturday.

Music

Community Chorus

7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Open Mic Night

7 p.m. Towne Crier Café
See details under Friday.

Andrea Wolper Trio (Jazz)

8 p.m. Quinn's
330 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-8065

Meetings & Lectures

Entrepreneurial Assistance Program (First Session)

6 p.m. Orange County Chamber of Commerce
30 Scott's Corners Drive, Montgomery
orangenyeap.com
Open to Putnam and Dutchess residents

Justice Court

6:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

Beacon City Council (Scheduled)

7 p.m. Municipal Center (Courtroom)
1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon
845-838-5000 | cityofbeacon.org

Member Meeting

7 p.m. Cold Spring Boat Club
5 New St., Cold Spring
845-265-2465 | coldspringboatclub.com

Member Meeting

7 p.m. Putnam Valley Grange
128 Mill St., Putnam Valley
845-528-2565 | putnamvalleygrange.org

PTA Parent Support Group

7 p.m. 35B Garrison's Landing, Garrison
914-522-9044 | facebook.com/ptalearnndiff

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Kids & Community

Philipstown Recreation Center

9- 11 a.m. & Noon - 2 p.m. Indoor Tot Lot
6:30 p.m. Foot in Mouth Players (ages 12-19)
See details under Monday.

Senior Day Center

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mother Lurana House
166 Old West Point Road East, Garrison
845-424-3184 | graymoorcenter.org

Howland Public Library

10:30 a.m. Baby & Me (ages 0-2)
3 - 5 p.m. Drop-in Homework Center (grades 1-8)
7 p.m. Library Board Meeting
See details under Monday.

Kindergarten Registration

1 - 3 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D, Garrison | 845-424-3689 | gufs.org



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The Calendar *(from page 9)*

For the Birds! Workshop (grades 2-4) (First Session)
4 p.m. Stony Kill Farm (Barn Classroom)
79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls845-265-2601 x15 | cmacs@audubon.org

Kids Craft Hour
4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Health & Fitness

Heart Disease Support Group
12:30 p.m. Putnam Hospital Center
670 Stoneleigh Ave., Carmel
845-279-5711 | health-quest.org

Hudson Valley Hospital
2 p.m. Diabetes Support Group
6:30 p.m. Newborn Breastfeeding Class
See details under Saturday.

Alzheimer’s Support Group
7 p.m. All Sport Health & Fitness
17 Old Main St., Fishkill
845-471-2655 | alz.org/hudsonvalley

Sports

Haldane vs. Putnam Valley (Girls’ Basketball)
6 p.m. Haldane School | See details under Friday.

Theater & Film

Ruckus Ensemble Physical Musical Performance (First Session)
6:30 p.m. Beacon Music Factory
12 Hanna Lane, Beacon
845-202-3555 | beaconmusicfactory.com

Meetings & Lectures

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



Glass Wasps Nests by Natalie Tyler, on view at Gallery 66 beginning Feb. 7
Photo courtesy of Gallery 66 NY

Beahive Beacon
6:30 p.m. Solopreneurs Sounding Board
7 p.m. Digital Salon | 291 Main St., Beacon
845-765-1890 | beahivebzzz.com

Haldane School Board
7 p.m. Haldane School | 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring | 845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Board of Trustees
7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

Say No to Common Core Meeting
7:30 p.m. Cortlandt Colonial Restaurant
714 Old Albany Post Road, Cortlandt Manor
914-621-1837
stopcommoncorewestchester.eventbrite.com

Walkway Over the Hudson: Past, Present & Future (Lecture)
7:30 p.m. Cornwall Presbyterian Church
222 Hudson St., Cornwall
845-534-7781 | hhnaturemuseum.org

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Kids & Community

Howland Public Library
9:45 a.m. Come & Play (ages 0-3)
10:30 a.m. Toddler Tales (ages 2-3)
1 p.m. Flower Readings with Sue Adams
3 - 5 p.m. Drop-in Homework Center (grades 1-8)
See details under Monday.

Mahjong 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, Cold Spring
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Writing and Bookbinding Workshop for Seniors (First Session)
10 a.m. Friendship Center
4 Cedar St., Cold Spring | 845-424-3960

Desmond-Fish Library
10:15 a.m. Music and Movement for Toddlers
1:30 p.m. Pre-school Story Hour
See details under Tuesday.

Indoor Tot Lot
Noon - 2 p.m. Philipstown Community Center
See details under Monday.

Kindergarten Registration
1 - 3 p.m. Garrison School
See details under Tuesday.

New Year! New T-Shirt (grades 6-8)
3 p.m. Butterfield Library
See details under Monday.

Kripalu Kids Yoga
3:15 p.m. SkyBaby Yoga | 75 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-4444 | skybabyyoga.com

Rivertown Kids Chorus (ages 9-13)
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center | 477 Main St., Beacon | 845-264-3393 | rivertownkids.org

Cooking Class: Dressing Up Your Healthy
5 p.m. Dempsey House
1992 Crompond Road, Cortlandt Manor
914-734-3780 | hvhc.org/events

Health & Fitness

Breastfeeding Support Group
11 a.m. Dempsey House (Kitchen)
1992 Crompond Road, Cortlandt Manor
914-734-3896 | hvhc.org/events

Sports

Army vs. Lehigh (Men’s Basketball)
7 p.m. Christl Arena, West Point
845-938-2526 | goarmysports.com

Theater & Film

Groundhog Day (1993)
7:45 p.m. Jacob Burns Film Center
See details under Sunday.

Music

Open Mic Night
7 p.m. Towne Crier Café | Details under Friday

The People’s Choir with Cat Guthrie
7 p.m. Beacon Music Factory
12 Hanna Lane, Beacon
845-202-3555 | beaconmusicfactory.com

Meetings & Lectures

Managing Multiple Priorities in a Stressful Environment
9:30 a.m. Mahopac Library
668 Route 6, Mahopac
845-278-6738 | uwwp.org/management.shtml

Public Forum: Developing Dropout Prevention Strategies
6:30 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon
845-838-6900 | beaconcitK12.org

Lake Writers Group
7 p.m. Arts on the Lake | 640 Route 52, Kent Lakes | 845-228-2685 | artsonthelake.org

Putnam County Legislature
7 p.m. Putnam County Courthouse
44 Gleneida Ave., Carmel
845-208-7800 | putnamcountyny.com

Cold Spring Planning Board
7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

Garrison School Board
7:30 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D, Garrison | 845-424-3689 | gufs.org

Philipstown Board Workshop
7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

Life Support Group
7:30 p.m. St. Philip’s Church
1100 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Kids & Community

Indoor Tot Lot
9 - 11 a.m. & Noon - 2 p.m. Philipstown Community Center | See details under Monday.

Senior Computer Class Registration
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Koehler Senior Center | 180 Route 6, Mahopac
Putnam Valley Senior Center
117 Town Park Lane, Putnam Valley
845-628-6423 | putnamrsvp.com/clc

Howland Public Library
10 a.m. Brain Games for Adults
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Free Tax Assistance for Seniors and Low Income
10:30 a.m. Pre-K Story Time (ages 3-5)
3:45 - 5 p.m. Lego Club and Block Party
See details under Monday.

Senior Day Center
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mother Lurana House
See details under Tuesday.

Butterfield Library
10:30 a.m. Bouncing Babies (ages 0-2)
12:30 p.m. Little Bookworms (ages 2.5 to 5)
See details under Monday.

Meat & Egg Store Open
3 - 6 p.m. Glynwood Farm (Dairy)
362 Glynwood Road, Cold Spring
845-265-3338 | glynwood.org

Winter Eagle Roost Monitoring
3:15 - 5 p.m. Verplanck Dock
914-666-6503 | sawmillriveraudubon.org

Terrarium Making Workshop (ages 8-10)
6 p.m. Stony Kill Farm
79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls
845-831-1617 | stonykill.org

Kindergarten Parent Orientation
7 p.m. Haldane School
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Health & Fitness
Qi Gong/Tai Chi
8:30 a.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

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Thursday 1/30 7:30pm
CLAIRE LYNCH BAND

Friday 1/31 8:30pm
GARLAND JEFFREYS
guest **LATINI & NOWAK**

Saturday 2/1 8:30pm
POPA CHUBBY BAND

Sunday 2/02 1:00pm
PETER YARROW & Friends
Fundraiser to stop gun violence

Sunday 2/02 5:00pm
SUPER BOWL PARTY
drink specials and free snacks!

Thursday 2/6 7:30pm
MELANIE
with **BAU JARRED SCHEKERYK**, guitar

Friday 2/7 8:30pm
DONNA THE BUFFALO

Saturday 2/8 8:30pm
JAMES MCMURTRY

Sunday 2/9 7:30pm
NUALA KENNEDY TRIO
guest **LISA GUTKIN**

Thursday 2/13 7:30pm
DAVID WILCOX
guest **ANDY REVKIN**

Friday 2/14 8:30pm
BUCKWHEAT ZYDECO

Saturday 2/15 8:30pm
A Night of Guitar Ballads and R&B
JIM WEIDER
guest **AMY HELM**

Sunday 2/16 7:30pm
YARN
guest **LOST LEADERS**

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The Calendar *(from page 10)*

Breast and Ovarian Cancer Support Group
10 a.m. Support Connection
40 Triangle Center, Suite 100, Yorktown Heights
914-962-6402 | supportconnection.org

Hudson Valley Hospital
6 p.m. Living with Cancer Support Group
7 p.m. Women’s Prenatal/Postpartum Discussion Group | See details under Saturday.

Adult Co-Ed Volleyball
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center
See details under Monday.

Sports

Haldane vs. Pawling (Boys’ Basketball)
6 p.m. Haldane School | See details under Friday.

Theater & Film

McConkey (Documentary) with Q&A
7:30 p.m. Jacob Burns Film Center
See details under Saturday.

Art & Design

Marbling Workshop (First Session)
6:30 p.m. Garrison Art Center
See details under Sunday.

Music

Piano Bar Night
7 - 11 p.m. Bear Mountain Inn
55 Hessian Drive, Highland Falls
845-786-2731 | visitbearmountain.com

Melanie
7:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café
See details under Friday.

JP Patrick and Friends (Jazz)
8:30 p.m. 12 Grapes | See details under Friday.

Darling Czar & Time Travels
8:30 p.m. Dogwood | 47 E. Main St., Beacon
845-202-7500 | dogwoodbar.com

Karaoke Night
9:30 p.m. Max’s on Main | See details under Friday.

Meetings & Lectures

Astronomy Night
6:30 p.m. Planetarium show
7:30 p.m. Telescope observation
Kirk Planetarium, 1 Hawk Drive, New Paltz
845-257-1110 | newpaltz.edu/planetarium

Helping Individuals and Small Businesses Choose Health Plans (Panel)
7 p.m. Croton Village Hall
1 Van Wyck St., Croton | Hosted by Sandy Galef

Philipstown Board Meeting
7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Kids & Community

Free Tax Assistance for Seniors and Low Income
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Monday.

Sesame Street Live: Elmo Makes Music
10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Mid-Hudson Civic Center
14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie
845-454-5800 | midhudsonciviccenter.org

Music & Movement (ages 3-5) (First Session)
10:45 a.m. Beacon Yoga Center
464 Main St., Beacon
845-264-9565 | hudsonriverfeldenkrais.com

Coyote Hunt Contest (Opens)
11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Weigh-in at Fire House
Route 52, White Sulphur Springs | 845-482-4987
sullivancountysportsmensfederationny.com

Theater & Film

Tokyo Story (1953)
1:15 & 4 p.m. Jacob Burns Film Center
See details under Saturday.

ONGOING

Art & Design

Visit philipstown.info/galleries

Religious Services

Visit philipstown.info/services

Meetings & Lectures

Alcoholics Anonymous | Visit philipstown.info/aa

Calling All Poets at Howland Cultural Center *(from page 7)*

notion of the kind of evening he wanted was based on his own past experiences. “I wanted to make it a place where there wouldn’t be any worry about being turned away. The premise was to open our doors to any and all levels of writing.” Another poet, Bill Seaton, encouraged Eve — who was also involved with the Second Sunday Poetry Group and the Hudson Valley Writers’ Association, both at that time located in Poughkeepsie, and who formed the Mt. Beacon Poetry Society at Howland Library — to start CAPS.

Jurkovic joined forces with Eve in 1995 after founding the Voices of the Valley Poetry Performance Series, which was located in New Paltz and Kingston. Jurkovic had retired from a working life in music as a roadie, songwriter, musician and manager. “I got lazy. It’s a lot easier to carry around a notebook than to set up a synthesizer,” he jokes. His poetry has been published in numerous publications, and he served as president of the Hudson Valley Writers’ Association. “We both were doing readings, and traveling to New York City, where it seemed like you’d get a whole lineup full of angry young this or angry young that. Up here it is so much varied,” he says.

Together they honed what is still the format today. Doors open at 7:30 and the evening, hosted by Eve, Jurkovic or Robert Milby, begins at 8 p.m. sharp, with the first of two feature readers, each of whom reads for 30 minutes. In the early days the feature readers were not always “credentialed” i.e., published in some way, but now they almost always are. These poets read in a variety of styles, from the dramatic, to stand-up, to straight recitation. Some, like Philipstown’s Irene O’Garden, live locally, while others travel from New York City, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and points in between, up, down and all around the Hudson. Some poets find CAPS, while others are recruited in a



Looking out from the podium at Calling All Poets

Photo by Christopher Wheeling

casual way, through flyers, calendar listings and by publicizing the series at other poetry readings; poets recommend fellow poets. Jurkovic says it is a point of pride to him that the featured poets have always received a payment for their work, small but an important gesture.

Work read at CAPS has found its way into other arenas. Several of the characters O’Garden used in her off-Broadway play *Woman On Fire*, were developed at her readings there. Poet Eddie Bell read a series of poems at CAPS about lynchings, where they were recorded; he later used the recording as a CD accompanying his book *Eeny Meeny Miney Mo, Time to Lynch a Negro*.

After the two feature readings, the open mic allows anyone up to five minutes to share their writing. It’s gratifying for Eve and Jurkovic to watch the transition in returning readers. “We’ve seen people come in shy, and now they’re seasoned and writing prolifically,” says Eve. “That’s what I love about the diversity in readers; it’s encouraging.” Many are teachers in the area, including

a contingent from SUNY New Paltz.”

Lately their audience has been expanding, and both men believe it is because of their development online. They now try to record every feature and put that recording up on the site. At their next session, CAPS is introducing something new: the live streaming of an out-of-town poet, in this instance Michele Battiste, who lives in Colorado. It is hoped that reciprocity will occur, with local poets beamed out in return. More locally “we have a big base in Albany,” says Eve, “and we’re trying to bring them in to us via technology.” By summertime they hope to include a feature on their webpage where one can register for “cyber open mic” and perform and/or watch the entire proceedings.

Not everything is cyber, however. Each year they do an all-day poetry marathon — the 2014 edition will take place on Aug. 2, from noon until 11 p.m. They are looking to do a magazine, attached to CAPS, but not all CAPS, distributed nationally. They also hope to do their second anthology (the first came out 10 years ago) relying on a group of editors who are part of their base of poets.

“I don’t just want a poetry reading,” says Eve. “We’re moving out, we’re a blooming onion right now. There will be a lot of different avenues these things are taking us down: anthologies, podcasts. Hopefully people will say ‘hey — we want to be part of this’ ... although we’re breaking out this year, we’ve had a pretty good run and from here on it’s going to get even better.”

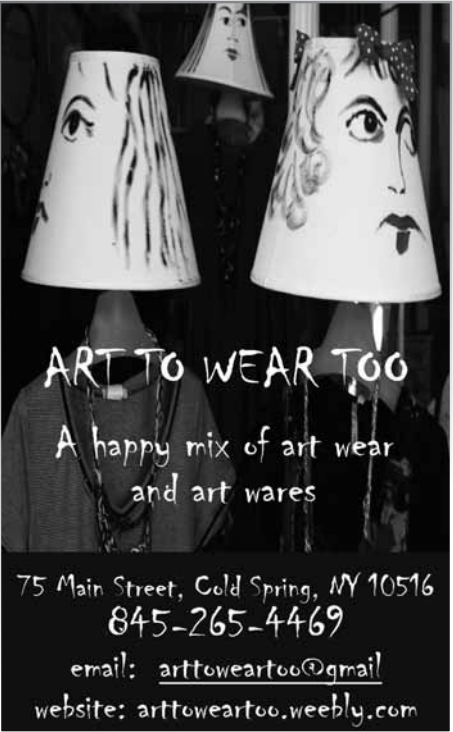
The next CAPS takes place on Friday, Feb. 7, at the HCC, located at 477 Main St., Beacon. The featured poets are Susan Konz and Guy Reed. Admission is \$5 and includes refreshments. Visit callingallpoets.net, which, Jurkovic and Eve admit, is not always up-to-date, but does include further contact information.

Scenic Hudson Praises Cuomo for Oil Transport Order

Scenic Hudson President Ned Sullivan Thursday praised Gov. Andrew Cuomo for taking steps to protect New York waterways, including the Hudson River, during crude oil transportation. Sullivan reacted to the governor’s new executive order instructing state agencies to immediately review safety procedures and regulations to protect communities and natural resources.

Cuomo acted after serious accidents involving the transportation of extremely flammable crude oil from North Dakota’s Bakken oil fields. The port of Albany handles about 40,000 carloads of Bakken crude oil, some of it subsequently shipped along the Hudson.

“The Hudson River and Hudson Valley, its people, and the natural resources we treasure are at risk every day to the potentially devastating impacts of a crude oil spill from the rail and oil tankers” going through river towns, Sullivan said. “Both federal and state agencies and our city and town emergency response departments are underprepared to respond adequately to a spill into the Hudson or an accident in one of our communities. Gov. Cuomo’s comprehensive executive order is just the action needed to mobilize state agencies to evaluate these risks and to recommend actions that will strengthen our readiness to respond.”



“Currier & Ives: More Than a Christmas Card”
A presentation by
Boscobel Executive Director Steven Miller
Saturday, February 8, 5 p.m.

Throughout the 19th century, New York City print publishers Nathaniel Currier and James Merritt Ives produced thousands of pictures of America, which are as popular today as they were when they were first produced. Currier and Ives tapped into the purchasing interests of a rising middle class who had the discretionary time and money to buy affordable pictures for various, new settings in which to display them. Steven Miller will explain the history of N. Currier and Currier & Ives companies and show the wide range of scenes they produced, beyond their most well-known winter scenes.

Admission: \$5 for the general public/ Members free
Free admission will also be given to attendees of the *West Point Foundry* book launch.
RSVP: info@putnamhistorymuseum.org
or call 845-265-4010.

The Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut Street, Cold Spring, N.Y.
www.putnamhistorymuseum.org



Steven Miller

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

EagleFest Set for Feb. 8

Putnam Highlands Audubon Society participates at Croton Point Park, Boscobel hosts viewing station

Putnam Highlands Audubon Society (PHAS) will participate in Teatown's Hudson River EagleFest at Croton Point Park from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 8 (snow date Feb. 9). Bald Eagles are abundant this time of year over and around the Hudson River, and EagleFest is the perfect opportunity to view these majestic birds in the wild. Hike out to the river, and then come back into heated tents where eagle presentations, raptor shows, and children's activities will take place. The PHAS table in the main tent will have Audubon information for all, eagle related guides and books for sale, and eagle handouts for children. Visit teatown.org for event details.

Boscobel House and Gardens will also open their grounds for the EagleFest event where visitors will find breathtaking vistas and viewing opportunities from the Belvedere overlooking the Hudson River. There will be eagle experts with scopes, a heated tent and complimentary hot cocoa. Grab a free keepsake map and head on to the next viewing station for a fun day of searching for our national bird in the magnificent Hudson Valley. Though it is not necessary, sign-up to spot eagles at Boscobel by registering at Boscobel.org.



Tom Mullane demonstrates the grip of eagle talons. Photo courtesy of PHAS

Glynwood Names Alexander Reese New Board Chairman

The board of directors of agricultural nonprofit Glynwood has announced the appointment of Alexander Reese as its new chairman. Continuing his family's legacy of environmental conservation, Reese has been active in sustainable agriculture and historic preservation in the region throughout his career.

"Alex shares our commitment to promoting sustainable agriculture and protecting the scenic landscapes of the Hudson Valley," said Glynwood President Kathleen Frith. "He has been an invaluable board member, and I look forward to continuing to work with Alex in his new position, as well as the rest of the board of directors, as we work towards realizing our vision of agriculture thriving in the Hudson Valley."

Reese resides at Obercreek Farm, an estate in Dutchess County that has been in his family for six generations. The farm operates with a commitment to grow sustainable, fresh vegetables for nearby Hudson Valley communities. Similar to Glynwood's Farm, Obercreek's land had been fallow for decades, and Reese has worked to restore the property and bring the land back into production since he took over ownership of the farm in 2005.

Reese has also been involved in real estate and venture capital investment with previous experience in European pri-

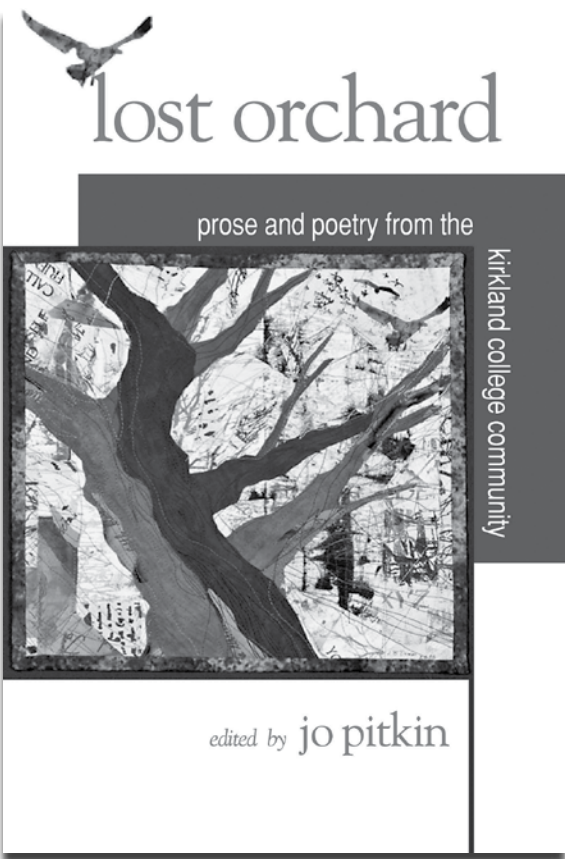
vate equity and energy finance. He also serves on boards of numerous organizations that share a common vision with Glynwood, including Scenic Hudson and Boscobel Restoration.

Frank (Chip) von Arx Allemann was Glynwood's previous board chairman. Over the five years of Allemann's leadership, Glynwood flourished.

"Chip has been a tireless ambassador for Glynwood and its programs throughout his years of distinguished service and leadership, and we all have tremendous gratitude and appreciation for him and the indispensable contributions he has made," Reese said.

New Anthology Celebrates Kirkland College

Drawn to a young college full of promise and unencumbered by traditional academia, the alumnae, faculty, and administration of Kirkland College were among the first generation to study creative writing, American studies, women's studies, and other disciplines. Known for innovation, Kirkland offered written evaluations rather than grades, independent studies, and self-designed concentrations. However, after a tumultuous merger with coordinate partner Hamilton College, Kirkland ceased to exist in May 1978.



Kirkland College anthology edited by Jo Pitkin Image courtesy of the author

With the knowledge that Kirkland's alumnae are finite, editor Jo Pitkin resolved to gather the Kirkland community together once again. She set out to help coordinate Kirkland Voices, the first-ever alumnae reunion reading. Pitkin then went a step further, soliciting work from the contributors to Kirkland Voices and utilizing social media, the Internet, and word of mouth to reach out to alumnae who had not been able to attend Kirkland Voices. *Lost Orchard* preserves the legacy of Kirkland College pioneers with poetry, drama, stories, creative nonfiction, and more.

Pitkin is the author of *The Measure* and *Cradle of the American Circus: Poems from Somers, New York*. She received her B.A. in creative writing and literature from Kirkland College and MFA in poetry from the Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa. She lives in Cold Spring.

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



The Miracle Worker Photo courtesy of County Players

County Players presents The Miracle Worker

County Players continues its 56th season with *The Miracle Worker* at 8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 7. An uplifting and powerful tale, *The Miracle Worker* tells the story of a young Helen Keller. Left without her hearing or sight after a devastating childhood illness, Keller's life changes when she meets her remarkable teacher, Anne Sullivan, and finally begins to connect with the world around her. *The Miracle Worker* is one of the most fascinating true stories ever brought to the stage, and is appropriate for all ages.

Christine Crawfis directs this inspirational drama, and is thrilled to be working with a talented cast and crew.

Subsequent performances will be Feb. 8, 14, 15, 21, and 22 at 8 p.m., and Feb. 16 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$14 for seniors/children under 12. Call 845-298-1491 for reservations or order tickets online at countyplayers.org. County Players Falls Theatre is located at 2681 W. Main, Wappingers Falls.

Cristine Kossow Pastel Exhibit Opens At Cathryn's Tuscan Grill

"I should warn you that I think in color, not in words." This was Cristine Kossow's fair warning to her future husband in the first five minutes of their first date. That date, and her whole life, unfolded



Exhibition by pastel artist Cristine Kossow Image courtesy of the artist

alongside the Hudson River — except for a six-year hippie hiatus on a farm in Maine. Thinking, and dreaming, in color, is the essence of her artist's statement.

Her whimsical signature is to punctuate work with a sneaky dash of her beloved periwinkle. On the other hand, Cris had a bitter feud with red for decades; but this past summer, at the urging of a bumper crop of tomatoes, called an emotional truce and began a cascade of red musings that, in hindsight, mystifies her. What blindness led to such an awakening? Words fail — yet again.

When not battling large rodents who wrongly presume that her Hastings-on-Hudson garden is theirs, Kossow settles into a rhythm

of pastels, dog walks, deep friendships, missions to Malawi, Africa, playing hammer dulcimer, and more pastels.

She is a signature member of the Pastel Society of America, and a member of Connecticut Pastel Society, with recent shows at the Garrison Art Center and Trinity Gallery, Lime Rock, Conn.

After a career in graphic design, it was time to return to her first love of painting. She is grateful to be on exhibition at Cathryn's Tuscan Grill, 91 Main St., Cold Spring. Call 845-265-5582. All works available for sale. Except maybe the tomatoes.

Constitution Marsh Offers After-School Birding Program

Constitution Marsh will offer an after-school program for grades two through four at Stony Kill Farm Education Center Barn Classroom this winter. For the Birds! teaches environmental awareness and appreciation of nature through the study of birds.

During this six-week session, students will learn about a broad range of topics including bird identification, habitat, behavior, adaptations, and migration. The classes will be held from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays: Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4, and March 11. The total cost for the six-week program is \$90 per student, and students should be available to participate every week. Space is limited to 20 students. To RSVP, call 845-265-2601, ext. 15, or email cmacs@audubon.org.

Canstruction® Event at Poughkeepsie Galleria Benefits the Hungry

Four area school teams will showcase canned food sculptures and compete in a public judging of their works to benefit the hungry in the Hudson Valley. The event will be held at the Poughkeepsie Galleria, Route 9, Poughkeepsie, from Feb. 1-7, under the auspices of Canstruction®, an international competition that raises awareness about world hunger while facilitating the donation of thousands of pounds of canned food to local food pantries.

The competition will feature the archi- (To next page)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

(from previous page) tectural designs of students in kindergarten through grade 12 from The Kildonan School, Oakwood Friends School, The Randolph School and Poughkeepsie Day School, which was selected by Canstruction® as the official organizer and promoter of the competition. The entry receiving the largest number of cans, as donated by visitors to the Galleria that week, will be declared the “People’s Choice” winner. All cans used in food sculptures and donated through this competition will go to the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley.

Says Poughkeepsie Day School’s community liaison, Christina Powers, “Poughkeepsie Day School is honored to be spearheading this community effort for the second year. We urge everyone to come down to the Galleria ... with their canned goods and vote! Last year, Canstruction® JR Hudson Valley collected 5,975 pounds of canned food. With everyone’s help, we can top this number.” Visit canstruction.org. Read more about the event at canstructionhv.com.

Gallery 66 NY Exhibition Features Glass and Ceramic Artists

All Fired Up opens Feb. 7

Chase away the cold of February with a celebration of art born of heat and fire. Gallery 66 NY recently sent out an open call to the nation’s foremost glass and ceramics artists, for participation in a fine art exhibition. Eminent jurors Ronda Schaer and Wendy Gilvey have selected 15 artists to be featured in the showing.

Schaer is the owner of RASgalleries, American Art Glass, Ceramics and Fine Art Gallery. Having a background in design, business, art history and advertising has served her well as a successful gallerist in the Napa Valley since 1990.

Gilvey started her career as the first full-time employee of the famous Polich Tallix Fine Art Foundry. Wendy and John Gilvey, Michael Benzer and Jennifer Smith founded Hudson Beach Glass in 1987 in Beacon.

Jurors’ choices were made based on originality of design and skill in execution.

Gallery 66 NY is located at 66 Main St., Cold Spring. *All Fired Up* will run Feb. 7 through March 2, with an open-

ing reception from 6 to 9 p.m. on Feb. 7. Regular hours are noon to 5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. Call 845-809-5838 or visit gallery66ny.com.

Assemblywoman Galef to Hold Health Care Forum

Small businesses and individuals still have time to sign up for health care

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef will host a forum to address the Affordable Care Act in New York State. Panelists will discuss the best way to identify a good fit for small businesses and individuals who have not yet set up health insurance through the New York State marketplace, who may have lingering questions, or who want to find out about how to avoid being the target of fraudulent schemes.

Expert panelists include John Ravitz from the Business Council of Westchester, Danielle Holahan from the New York State Health Benefit Exchange, and Michael Reisman from the New York State Attorney General’s Office.

“This is an opportunity for my constituents and small businesses to make sure they are in compliance with the federal law by the end of March 31 which is the deadline to sign up for health insurance,” said Assemblywoman Galef. “I hope this panel discussion, plus the navigators and enrollment specialists who will be in attendance, will be of great service to local residents and business owners and operators, and I encourage all who are interested and who may need this guidance to attend.”

The Affordable Care Act and the New York State of Health event will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 6, at Croton Village Hall, 1 Van Wyck St., Croton-on-Hudson 10520 (off of Old Post Road). If weather is inclement, call Galef’s district office at 914-941-1111 or the Village of Croton at 914-271-4781. Contact Galef at galefs@assembly.state.ny.us or by phone at 914-941-1111.

Celebrate with General George at Washington’s Headquarters

Celebrate Washington’s Birthday from noon to 4 p.m. on Feb. 15, 16 and 17. It’s a three-day birthday celebration that includes reenactments, historical topical talks, music, and crafts. And of course, George Washington will be there. After all, the general should be present to cut the first piece of his birthday cake each day. Be in good voice to sing *Happy Birthday* to Gen. Washington.



Gen. George Washington established his headquarters and residence in 1782 at the Hasbrouck family home in Newburgh.

Photo by Mary Ann Ebner

Bring family, friends and neighbors to this family-oriented three-day event. Admission is by donation. Call 845-562-1195. Washington’s Headquarters State Historic Site is located at 84 Liberty St., Newburgh.

Michelle LeBlanc Performs Valentine’s Day Weekend at Hudson House River Inn

Jazz vocalist Michelle LeBlanc returns to Hudson House River Inn in Cold Spring for Valentine’s Day weekend. Enjoy “jazz for lovers” from 7 to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 14 and 15.

LeBlanc and pianist Hiroshi Yamazaki played at the Hudson House on New Year’s Eve and look forward to their next appearance in the tavern room. Make reservations by calling 845-265-9355.

Beacon

Piano Duo to Perform at Howland Center

Continuing its Piano Festival 2014, the Howland Chamber Music Circle presents a concert of works written for two pianos featuring pianists Frederic Chiu, in a return engagement, along with his frequent collaborator Andrew Russo.

Chiu’s intriguing piano playing and teaching springs from a diverse set of experiences and interests: his Asian/American/European background, his musical training, and an early and ongoing exploration of artificial intelligence and human psychology.

Russo is known for his diversity of interests and experiences, whether music, business or politics. His appearance as a finalist at the 2001 Van Clyburn International Piano Competition drew attention when he became the first pianist to perform a significant work, George Crumb’s

A Little Suite for Christmas, using the inside of a piano.

For their concert at the Howland Center the two pianists have chosen to play Sergei Rachmaninoff’s *Suite No. 2 for Two Pianos, Opus 17, Four Movements for Two Pianos* by Phillip Glass and Igor Stravinsky’s own arrangement for two pianos of *The Rite of Spring*.

The concert takes place at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 9, at the Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St., Beacon, followed by a reception to meet the artists.

Tickets are \$30 (\$10 students). Call 845-297-9243. Visit howlandmusic.org.

Howland Public Library Offers Homework Help

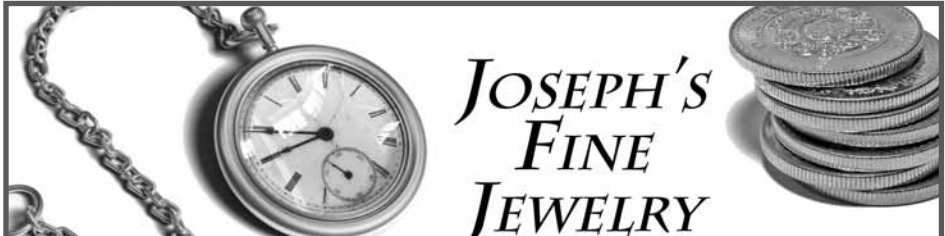
The Howland Public Library, 313 Main St., Beacon, offers an after-school drop-in Homework Center for students in grades one through eight. The center that operates Mondays through Wednesdays from 3 to 5 p.m. is a safe and supervised place for children to receive homework assistance. Homeschoolers are welcome, too. The Center runs around the Beacon City School District calendar, and is closed when schools are closed.

There is an open-door policy. Anyone can drop in after signing in. Seniors from the Beacon High School Honor Society (supervised by the Youth Services Librarian) are on hand to assist younger students. Services include: homework help and guidance in Common Core math and other subjects, help with writing assignments and school projects, and computer resources, including Internet and database services.

The Homework Center’s purpose is to assist children with their school work only; it is not one-to-one tutoring. No pre-registration is necessary for this free service. Contact Ginny Figlia, Head of Youth Services: 845-831-1134, ext.103 or youth@beaconlibrary.org.



Kiln-fired glass by Stephen Knowles
Image courtesy of Gallery 66 NY



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Engaging in Middle School Conversation

Haldane’s Community Reads Night explores compassion, acceptance

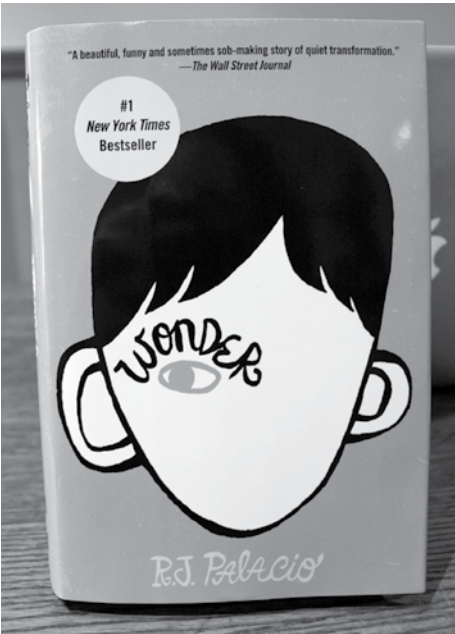
By Alison Rooney

Although the Haldane campus is an inclusive K-12 body, each of its three components seeks to forge its own identity. The middle school (grades six, seven and eight) may be the smallest, but it is determined to carve out its distinct place in the whole.

To bring middle school students, parents and teachers together, Haldane Elementary and Middle School Principal Brent Harrington, together with the Middle School Improvement Committee (MSIT) have come up with a Community Reads (CR) program, culminating in an event on Wednesday, Feb. 12, at the school.

“We wanted to promote a sense of community in the middle school by having a community read, and to foster a sense of literacy and engage in conversation about the middle school experience,” Harrington said.

The voluntary program has attracted more than 30 students, for a total of over 70 participants, exceeding the goal set in this first year it has been offered. Students may continue to sign up until the CR night takes place. “If you’ve read the book and are willing to engage in rich conver-



Wonder by R.J. Palacio, to be discussed by all at Haldane Community Read

Photo by A. Rooney

sation, we’ll make sure there’s a seat for you in the circle,” says Harrington.

It works quite simply: a book, *Wonder*, by R.J. Palacio, was chosen and student, parent(s) and teachers are expected to read the book. On CR night attendees will split into small, mixed grade student/parent/teacher groups. Each group will be seated in a circle with a Haldane teacher as a facilitator. The facilitator will put forth broad questions, which can be answered in many ways. Pece says

“The idea is not to have a debate, but a safe place in which to disagree, if you do. If the facilitator sees new questions emerging, he or she will pop in a new question based on the patterns shown.” The overall idea is for everyone to emerge having gained knowledge not only of what others think but maybe understanding or altering their own interpretation.

Haldane seventh grade English Language Arts teacher Danielle Pece has been the key teacher involved in planning for this inaugural event. She uses the “Socratic Method” in her classroom, with students often gathered round in a circle for sharing-type discussions. Pece is excited about the participation rate.

“It started out with 10 or 12 sign-ups and then the buzz got out and more and more kids decided to participate, which is great — it’s almost a positive form of peer pressure,” she says.

Wonder was brought to Harrington’s attention by Celia Thomas, the Haldane teacher assistant who oversees the elementary library. She read it and thought it would be perfect to use with fifth grade classes last spring. Thomas notes: “After working for many years with children and adults who have special needs, ranging from problems focusing to the severely autistic I have experienced many challenges. The book *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio is an easy read that is well written. This book is uplifting, humorous and unsettling all in one. I think that it is so important for children to be aware of how lucky they are and to accept those who are in some way challenged. This book shows how cruel kids can be and also how caring they can be. *Wonder* makes you laugh, makes you cry and makes you feel good all over!”

Pece says *Wonder* “really speaks to students. Its protagonist is a boy with a facial deformity who has always been home-schooled. Now he is entering school. Everyone is uncertain of how to handle the situation. The book is not only about the challenges he faces in becoming accepted, but is equally about how the students grow. It touches upon bullying and acceptance. Sometimes, with Young Adult literature you can hear the adult voice in the writing, but this one





really speaks to the kids. It’s a great book to use to discuss issues: it’s uplifting, inspiring and it motivates you to see your own problems in a universal light. These are issues that need to be talked about in middle school. The idea for Community Reads is for students to take time to be in a safe place, with their parents and teachers and just talk.”

MSIT member Maeve Eng-Wong is developing an array of questions for facilitators to use as discussion prompts. She says, “Each group will be guided by questions that allow the group to discuss the book as a whole and to also consider the perspectives of different community members. The groups will explore the multi-layered process of accepting and integrating one young boy with a distinct difference into a new school. A seemingly small and normal event that is so much more.” Some of the questions are quite straightforward, while others allow the students to consider a bit more, for example: “Do you think that Jack and Summer took a risk by choosing to be friends with Auggie? Explain.” Or, “What did Julian do to isolate Auggie? Do you think that the author, by not having Julian change at the end of the book, made the story more believable?”

Themes in this novel tie in with Haldane’s “Character Education” program, emphasizing the student as a whole and not just focused solely on academics. What separates this from other programs, says Pece, is that many “tell kids how they should be behaving, what they should be feeling, but on this community night they’ll have a chance to talk it out, bounce ideas around in a Socratic way, which will hopefully allow them to grow and understand it themselves. Students are much more receptive to peer ideas.”

The CR evening will begin in the auditorium, with a brief talk by Harrington. Two middle school students, Theo Bates and Justin Roffman, will show a video they are making, asking other students to reflect on *Wonder*. Melanie Campanile, a parent and member of the “Gang Up For Good” PTA sub-committee, which is focused on character education and building positive values, has arranged for a fun photo booth, in which kids can strike quirky poses, which will be shared — sparking another facet of community.

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Roots and Shoots

Protecting Natural Resources by Conserving Land From Development

By Pamela Doan

In the third of a series of conversations with local leaders about critical environmental issues, Andrew Chmar, executive director, and MJ Martin, director of outreach and development of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, discuss how preserving land and smart growth protect natural resources. Hudson Highlands Land Trust works with private landowners who want to preserve their properties and is celebrating their 25th anniversary this year. HHLT has helped to preserve 1,300 acres from development in the Hudson Highlands. When land is preserved, the conservation easement creates a permanent stewardship plan that HHLT oversees. There are many rules about how conservation easements are formed and their purpose ensuring that the land meet certain public benefit and conservation standards.

The 1,300 acres that HHLT has worked with local landowners to conserve are critically important. "Those protected lands create positive natural resource protections," Chmar said. "It improves clean water and helps protect drinking water supplies. A lot of work goes toward directly and indirectly protecting these open spaces and natural resources." Forests also help manage rainwater. In our changing climate in New York, over the past 60 years there has been more than a 70 percent increase in rainfall events when more than two inches falls in a 48-hour period, according to the National Climate Assessment. Forests capture that rainfall and decrease flooding. Research from Cornell Cooperative University shows that when just 10 percent of forest cover is lost to development and impervious surfaces are created, flooding increases in frequency by nearly 30 percent.

Chmar noted that the greatest problem in our area was the altered landscape from invasive species. In our for-

ests and waterways, invasive plants, wildlife and insects are crowding out and threatening the ecosystems of native species. The warmer temperatures are making a northward expansion easy to navigate. HHLT counsels landowners on stewardship plans to combat the impact of invasive species and helps to provide resources and this is an important front in the struggle to manage these issues.

The public benefits to staving off the threats of unchecked development come not only from the preservation of natural resources and adapting to climate change. In the Hudson Highlands, tourism and recreation drive our economy, which means that conserving land has an added benefit for our local vitality. Chmar said, "The public benefits undoubtedly through conservation easements. It helps protect the scenic enjoyment and protect the Hudson River. By protecting all of this scenic beauty, it serves to promote the idea that this is an area to attract tourists."

"Tourism and recreation are a \$4 billion industry in the Hudson Valley. There are five state parks in this immediate area. Just look to the north and south to see what can happen if we don't preserve the scenic beauty."

Martin added that, "Tourism and recreation are a \$4 billion industry in the Hudson Valley. There are five state parks in this immediate area. Just look to the north and south to see what can happen if we don't preserve the scenic beauty."

HHLT promotes the idea of smart growth. Placing checks on development doesn't mean that it's stalled or prevented. It simply means that forests



The scenic beauty of our area is worth conserving.

Photo by P. Doan

and wetlands and vistas are taken into consideration for the public good before new building is approved. As an environmental challenge, growth is one of the key issues we'll face in the future. "We always have to realize that growth has costs," Chmar said. "For example, how many straws go in the ground in terms of wells and septic systems? This impacts ground water. Growth should be done in a manner that doesn't materially and permanently affect the character of this community."

The natural landscape is the sum of the future legacy we all contribute to leaving behind for future generations. What is at stake is determined by how we manage present moment issues in a way that ensures both preservation and

conservation. It only takes a glance at news headlines to understand the crisis that develops when a watershed is contaminated like it was recently in West Virginia. Daily life grinds to a halt and fear and anxiety over the short and long term public health implications raise questions that might never be satisfactorily answered. Careful planning mitigates these effects, if not entirely erasing them. Stop by a committee meeting some night when the Comprehensive Plan is being reviewed and add your voice to the discussion. It's the place where decisions are made and that future legacy can be shaped.

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




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City of Beacon Mourns Loss (from page 1)

conservation organizations he helped to realize, young environmentalists inspired by his leadership, and Beacon residents who will miss a chance encounter with him on a street corner, at the post office, or one of the city's outdoor festivals.

"Pete will go on inspiring those who endeavor to heal us humans and our one lonely planet, long after we say our final goodbyes to the man himself," said Paul Gallay, President of Riverkeeper, in a prepared statement. "We promise to carry on his work and make the most of the gifts he left us."

Manna Jo Greene, Environmental Director for Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, saw her first Pete Seeger concert about 50 years ago. She was invited to join Clearwater, founded by Seeger, in 1999. She calls him her mentor.

"It was never about Pete. It was always about making this a better world, inspiring people to work together through the power of song," Greene said in an interview. "He had a vision that the Hudson River could be cleaned and restored to its natural state. It was unheard of at the time, when it was like a sewer from all of the industrial discharge. He reconnected people to the river with a boat (Sloop Clearwater), and took his message right into the halls of Congress."

Greene referred to a petition and impromptu concert Seeger organized in

Washington, D.C., in 1972. A few weeks later, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act was passed over President Richard Nixon's veto.

"It is a great honor to have a part in carrying out his legacy and to be sure it becomes manifest," said Greene.

"Pete Seeger is a heroic figure. He stood up for the Hudson River and the communities along its shores at a time when most people were indifferent about these special places. He personified the ideal that Scenic Hudson's founders fought for at Storm King Mountain — the belief that every person can take a principled stand, fight for a healthy environment and make a difference to save our planet," said Ned Sullivan, president of Scenic Hudson. "He was a potent inspiration to me, my wife Tara, and our daughters. He reached into the hearts of people of all ages and circumstances, including countless children who sailed on the Clearwater along his beloved Hudson. We will miss him, but the power of the lessons he gave us will endure."

Pete Seeger gave the Sloop Woody Guth-



Pete Seeger, left, with Scenic Hudson President Ned Sullivan at a community event

Photo courtesy of Scenic Hudson

rie to Beacon more than 20 years ago as a local version of the Clearwater and the Sojourner Truth, "floating classrooms" to raise awareness for water conservation on the Hudson River. The Beacon Sloop Club was founded by Seeger to maintain the boat and also organizes the annual Strawberry, Corn and Pumpkin festivals in Riverfront Park and other educational and recreational events.

Saul Rozinky, President of the Sloop Club, said that well into his 80s Seeger was present at every executive meeting. "When he was hale and hearty, he would come with his agenda items, and then he would stay for the circle of song that followed."

The Sojourner Truth, which belonged to Ferry Sloops, became unmoored from its docking in Hastings during a fair weather gale in September 2001 and was destroyed. The Woody Guthrie is in need of major repairs, for which the Beacon Sloop Club is in the middle of its largest fundraising campaign ever.

"Pete was an example of authenticity, he truly practiced what he preached," said Ava Bynum, executive director of Hudson Valley Seed and manager of Cold Spring Farmers' Market. She first met Seeger while working at Clearwater. "He taught me not just that everyone can make a difference but that everyone *does* make a difference, whether they are meaning to or not. That everything you say, believe and do is a chance to change the world for the better."

"No event was too small for him. If people were engaged, activated, and motivated to protect our communities and environment, then he was there to show his support," said Dana S. Gulley, community outreach and volunteer coordinator for Riverkeeper. In response to the outpouring of personal stories about Seeger on social media news-

feeds, Gulley added, "It is amazing how the death of someone who changed this world can affect so many of us so intimately."

Sam Anderson, a journalist and a Beacon resident since 2005, wrote an article about Pete Seeger in the magazine, *New York*, for his 90th birthday celebration at Madison Square Garden. "Every June he serves strawberry shortcake at a festival at our riverfront park, which natives tell me was some kind of flaming toxic waste dump before the Clearwater came around. He's visited my daughter's preschool class. I've even overcome my crowd-singing aversion, temporarily, to sing Christmas carols with him on Main Street. That's the power of Pete Seeger: No matter what he's doing, no matter what your level of resistance, he always finds a way to make you join in."

Connie Hogarth was a friend of Pete Seeger's for 45 years and his neighbor for 16 years. "He was a man of elegant humility with a simple idea: use the power of music and song to inspire change. His untiring commitment to the environment, to peace and to social justice has had an enormous influence on everyone who met him," she said.

Referring to the countless children who met Seeger and to the Rivertown Kids music group he started, Hogarth said, "Even when he wasn't feeling at his best, when he was in a room with kids, he would come to life with a burst of energy that was infectious. The younger generation was at the heart of his existence. They will carry Pete's vision for 'seven generations ahead,' a Native American ecological concept."

"Even though I didn't get to spend much time with Pete, he has been my power animal for my work in Beacon," said Sarah Womer, director of Zero to Go, a recycling and reuse consulting firm based in Beacon. "I never acknowledged it until now, but he's an unspoken part of the reason why I've worked so hard."

"Of course there's more to be done but, once people know how, they take it home and keep doing it," continued Womer. "I think the defining concept is contagion. Pete wanted everyone to participate — every voice in song, every hand clapping. It's a beautiful thing. We have to keep his song going and encourage more people to sing along with us."

Pete Seeger's Musical Legacy (from page 7)

to lead people in song," said singer Cat Guthrie. Musician and museum director David Ross added: "It was an important night for people in the area. It's no mistake that this community is so full of creative, talented and engaged people. Pete was leading by example."

At the Towne Crier in Beacon on Wednesday night, over 300 people filled the room, and listened to more than 40 musicians. David Bernz, lifelong friend and producer of some of Seeger's later work and a member of Work o' the Weavers, served as emcee for the evening and played a song he wrote for Seeger.

"Pete Seeger championed songs that sought to improve the quality of people's lives. And when he sang them, and got people to sing along with him, it really happened," said Mark Murphy, bass player and also a member of Work o' the Weavers.

Dan Einbender accompanied three of the Rivertown Kids in a song they had learned from Seeger and sung on his Grammy-winning *Tomorrow's Children* in 2010. A.J. Lukan, one of the kids, spoke about Seeger: "When I first met him, he seemed like a regular guy. When I got older and realized how famous he was, he was still the same regular guy, gentle and kind."

Tery Udell, director of Rivertown Kids, writes about the program, initiated by Seeger. "We are honored and humbled to have been blessed with eight years of Pete's guidance and mentorship. He was and will always be our inspiration in the power of collectively raising our voices in song in the hope of building a better world."

Musician Stacy Labriola witnessed Seeger's energy with kids at the annual Little Stony Point Hoot. "As a kids' music 'performer' I know how difficult it can be to wrangle them. He was still able to remember every verse (in order!) to *She'll Be Coming 'Round the Mountain*." Singer-songwriter Kathleen Pemble, also a children's music teacher, recalled how "45-plus years ago, my mom would often take me to see Pete at the Ossining Public Library. I remember thinking he was a total rock star. He had us singing rounds, in harmony ... such beautiful childhood memories."

Damon Banks, a bass player in Cold Spring, also remembered Seeger's influence. "The first time I met Pete and Toshi Seeger changed my life forever," he said. "My wife and I weren't 'comfortable' living in our town when we first moved up. There isn't a lot of diversity to begin with and we found out that this area has a lot of racist/anti-Semitic history. Pete saw me with my bass on the train platform one day, walked up to me and asked me: 'Do you live around here? Do you know about the history of this area?' I didn't recognize him at the time and I just rolled my eyes and said, 'Yeah, I heard about it.' He then began to talk about how because of his music, his environmental and political activism, and his 'friends' this area made it difficult for him to live in for many years. He said he stuck with it because of its natural beauty, his family and the strong friendships that developed. He thought that my presence as a local resident (and an African-American musician/teacher) was a very positive development for the community and it would be great if I 'stayed in the neighborhood.' He finally told me who he was (which blew my mind) and the three of us rode down to the Bronx together. That experience really inspired us to stay."

Stephen Clair, who runs Beacon Music Factory and Beacon Riverfest, summed up his feelings. "I don't feel like there's a hole in the community since his death. Instead, we're so full and so enriched by Pete, whether he's walking down the street or not. We don't even know yet the extent that he's impacted us."

Banjo over shoulder, cookie in hand, Seeger waves goodbye to friends at a Beacon Sloop Club fundraiser, August 2013. Below, Seeger's iconic signature

Photos by Kate Vikstrom

