City of Beacon Mourns Loss

Environmentalists recall his leadership

By Sommer Hisson

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)
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 wuzzy, hungover brains clinging to the idea of restorative omelets or obliterating French toast — my body craved 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’s 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 and one of my early culinary heroes. I wondered about my half-Scottish father. I wondered about the gingerbread contained grated carrots. Fleming’s gingerbread Mix and canned plums, in a bittersweet, almost medicinal hint of darkness, thanks to the grated fresh ginger, is particularly good with not-too-sweet whipped cream alongside.

Adapted from Claudia Fleming.

Winter Gingerbread

Winter gingerbread

3 eggs
3 cups flour
1 cup dark molasses (not blackstrap)
1 cup Guinness Stout
2 tablespoons grated fresh ginger, about 2 medium carrots
1 cup finely-grated carrot (from about 2 medium carrots)
1 cup finely-chopped dates
1 cup finely-chopped walnuts
1 cup finely-chopped dried apricots
1 cup bittersweet baking chocolate, chopped
2 cups brown sugar
1 cup sugar
3/4 cup mild vegetable oil or melted butter
1/4 cup sugar
3 cups milk
3/4 cup dark molasses (not blackstrap)
1/4 cup dark brown sugar
1/4 cup sugar
2 tablespoons ground ginger
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon each ground cloves, nutmeg, and cardamom
1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
Sift together the flours, baking powder, and spices in a large bowl. In another bowl, whisk eggs, then add sugars and whisk vigorously to cool to room temperature.

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.

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.

by Celia Barbour

By Celia Barbour

January 31, 2014

Mouths to Feed

Winter gingerbread

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.
Boat Club Discussion Produces Few Results

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

A fter 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 Putnam County 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 T-shirt reading “Resign Galef: 35 years of BAD government.”

The assemblywoman presented highlights of initiatives pending in Albany, including the push by fellow Democrat 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 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 superintendant. “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 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 share and of uninsured 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 (total- ly). 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 that climate change presents, Galef said, “there’s no point in me doing 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 (total- ly). It’s all a balance,” she observed. “All of it has a ripple effect, whatever we do.”

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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. “Pete,” 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 Festi- vale. We settled so in New Orleans, I wor- ried that I had blundered by bringing a folk icon with his banjo to a loud party of alcoholics. 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 be- half 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 Beac- on Zoo Club. He seemed genuinely joy- ful 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 pass- ing, deeply. But I celebrate his long, vi- brant, meaningful and fruitful life.

Pete was that rare person who lived up to his ideals. Even humble (“I don’t like ‘big’,” he once told me, explaining 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 surpris- ing to learn how his actual views on Butterfield differ from coverage by “the paper of record” in our town. When he says that he asks “the hard ques- tions” 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 start- ing to wonder why some of the other trustees haven’t been asking these same questions. For example, what tax impli- cations 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 in- frastructure — 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 un- derground piping and fire equipment? There’s no reason these questions can’t be asked now. 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 some- thing, even if he personally feels it un- wise, 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 — under- standably they have other jobs to sup- port their habit of public service. Fur- thermore 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 meetings or is it being ignored? 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 re- cord is so news worthy why is it not be- ing 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 twice 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 paint- ing Matt out as an obstructionist with some mysterious secret agenda. In reality, Matt is a cooperative guy who works ex- tremely well with others, who speaks his mind but always keeps that mind open.

Boards, like any aspect of government, have we might call it a gas pedal and a brake pedal. A responsible board uses the brake pedal to make sure they’re not going to get us out of a hole. When they 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 proj- ects 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. myalert.gov.
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 Feb. 8, is almost ready for its first skaters. The 140-feet-by-64-feet rink was flooded on Jan. 26, thanks to Philipstown'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 up-coming carnival. "On Wednesday however heavy 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 Facebook page for updates," she said. Skate sharpening will not be available but the rink will be open for skating once it swings into full operation. Casual "sticks and pucks" hockey will also be allowed although he said that the priority will be family-oriented skating. No hockey will be permitted when 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 Glenclyffe 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, a warm-up building, a sculpture demonstration, snow golf, sleding, 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.

Putnam County Launches ‘Year of the Senior’ and Ad Campaign

Odell lists senior center in Cold Spring as goal

By Liz Schevenhau Armstrong

A n overflow crowd of older resi-
dents — 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 pro-
gram, County Executive MaryEllen Odell also promised seniors the county would "move forward to keep you mobile by updating roads, sidewalks, and bike paths," and announced a new Putnam County Transportation System to improve your Carmel commute, County Executive MaryEllen Odell said.

"So far, so good," she said.

"This year, we’ll have some sort of program every month."

District 1 Legislator Barbara Scuccimarri, 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, visi-
tors will come to Philipstown first, and "I hope our shops will benefit," she said. State Sen. Greg Ball, a Republican 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 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 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 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 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.
**Philips-town Comprehensive Plan Review Begins**

**Determining what still needs to be done after eight years**

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

F

ight years after its adoption, Philips-town's Comprehensive Plan is set for a thorough review — not to rewrite it, but to determine what's been ac-

complished and what remains to be done. The Philips-town Town Board kicked

off the process Jan. 22 at a workshop with members of an ad hoc panel (inform-

ally 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 Compre-

hensive Plan and tentative designation of current status, workshop participants

concerned that the Town Board should promptly seek applicants for a new re-

view committee.

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

Keselvorm.

In such undertakings, participants "are not suggesting rewriting the Compre-

hensive 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 Compre-

hensive Plan called for, a revision of the town zoning code, was finished in 2011 and is currently undergoing a public hearing.

Town Board Member John Vas-

sel added that the new review could also consider matters that came up af-

ter the Comprehensive Plan's adoption.

The group provided ready examples for exploration (though not necessarily ulti-

mate action), including definition of an appropriate house footprint size to offer guidance in potential cases of behemoth structures which developers present as "family houses," human-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 Sabucedo ad-

vised that the review reflect "learning from what we did before" and avoidance of old pitfalls, such as those encountered in the protracted rezoning debate. He said that an inadequate socializa-

tion or understanding by the public of what was going on encouraged errone-

ous statements and misinformation.

This time, Planning Board Member Kid-

nover put it in a nutshell, "It's not long and drawn out" like the rezoning process.

Chmar recommended "a prioritiza-

tion" 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 Compre-

hensive 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 introduc-

tion 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 com-

munity and recommends in a general way how these can be accomplished.

The plan seeks to "preserve Philips-town's rural, historic and river-communi-

ty character," enhance its socio-economic diversity and encourage recreational opportuni-

ties, "control real property taxes and en-

sure they are reasonable and equitable," protect Philips-town's natural resources; improve both the safety and aesthetics of roads, "locate new development where it can be supported by existing infrastruc-

ture" 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 allo-

cations, public investments, and other ac-

tions that have the force of law.

Philips-town'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

I

nt that ritual of early February, groundhogs emerge from their dens. Once again, on Feb. 2, a Marmota monax becomes the focus of more atten-

tion in a few hours than his breed receives in any other capacity. Then it's the squirrel family, thriving in this area.

Local residents may have noticed them a grizzled appearance.

With white-tipped guard hairs giving

them a grizzled appearance.

The tradition of Groundhog Day began in Europe in the 1800s when hedgehogs and badgers were used for a similar pur-

pose. When European settlers arrived here it continued with groundhogs and served as an important indicator of the weather, more critical then in terms of putting away enough fodder and mak-

ing sure root cellars were well stocked. Important factors in this context are: 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 Golden, WEC's director of education, as-

sisted this reporter in providing a picture of the creature, the largest member 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 can be seen in open areas, where woodlands meet open spaces. Unlike the cause and effect human/animal interac-

tion, in forested areas, human resem-

blymation into more and more forested land can increase food access for groundhogs causing their numbers to flourish. Never far from water, they are partial to loam and sandy loam soils for burrowing.

Using their strong, clawed forelimbs and large teeth, they construct burrow-

es that can be as deep as 45 feet long. These are critical areas for shelter, sleep-

ing and lounging. 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 degrees. Slow-

ing of the heartbeat from 100 beats per minute to 10-15 beats per minute, the groundhog rolls itself into a ball and tucks its head between its hind legs. Maternal instinct kicks in and the

mata and its teeth and hair do not grow. Hibernation generally begins in October and ends in March. Groundhogs are active outdoors and indoors with males emerging first to establish territories and search for mates. With the excep-

tion 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 are larger than females. Their fur is cinnamon-brown to greyish-black. They have short, powerful legs and a bushy tail with curled hairs 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 gestation takes from two to 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 with good 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 climb trees and are capable swimmers. Although usually anxious, they sometimes enjoy human contact. 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 their nose to detect predators, which include gray wolves, coyotes, domestic dogs, red foxes, black bears, lynx, bobcats, hawks and owls.

They make their homes in ground

incisors and use short, sharp whistles to warn other groundhogs of danger.

Preferred forage includes alfalfa, clo-

ver, and dandelion and other grasses, ferns, leaves of bushes and fruit. Other foods include bark, leaves, insects, and bird eggs. Adult groundhog can con-

sume as much as a pound of vegetation each day, often destroying crops and pastures.

The Philips-town Groundhog Day Celebra-

tion 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 re-

du-ray access or expansion recreational opportunities.

Trade-offs, "control real property taxes and en-

sure they are reasonable and equitable," protect Philips-town's natural resources; improve both the safety and aesthetics of roads, "locate new development where it can be supported by existing infrastruc-

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Alzheimer's Blues

Performed by Erica Herd

February 1, 8 p.m., Tickets: $22 / $18 / $15

Tickets: www.brownpapertickets.com or 845.424.3900

www.philipstowndepottheatre.org

Garrison Landing, Garrison, NY (Theatre is adjacent to train station)
The Calendar

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 Rasch 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…”

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 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...
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. Reportance Ceremony and Dhama Talks 1:30 p.m. Mangala Sutra Chanting, Auspiciousness Thread Blessing 5 p.m., Evening Bed and Drum Service 9 a.m., 9:30 p.m. Monastery Open "Chang Yen Monastery | 2020 Route 301, Carmel | 845-225-1653 | baiz.org.

Wine Tasting 4 - 7 p.m. Artesian Wine Shop | 180 Main St., Beacon | 845-440-6923 | artesianwineshop.com

Community Fellowship Supper 6 p.m. St. Mary’s Church | 5 Chestnut St., Cold Spring | 845-269-2539 | stmaryscolodspring.org

Winter Dining Series 6 - 11:30 p.m. The Garrison | 2035 Route 9, Garrison 845-424-3254 x135 | 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 | putnammatter.org

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

Health & Fitness
Navigating Healthcare Options 10 a.m., 1:30 p.m. Howland Public Library 335 Main St., Beacon | 800-453-4666 | reser-nor.org. Appointment required.

Sports
Haldane vs. Henry Hudson (Boys’ Basketball) 7 a.m., Haldane School 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring 845-269-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Art & Design
Angélica Ronhoffer: a priori 8 - 4 p.m. Matteawan Gallery 454 Main St., Beacon 845-440-7901 | matteawan.com

IN Print & Painting Workshop 7 p.m. Eat. Paint. Love. 331 Main St., Beacon | eatpaintlove.com

Music
IM Rhythm 8 p.m. Bear Runner Café | 201 S. Division, Peekskill | 914-737-2705 | bearrunnergala.org

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. Terrace Creative Café 379 Main St., Beacon 845-850-1300 | terracecreative.ca

Pelty Hop and the Jackrabbits 9 p.m. 12 Division St., Peekskill 914-737-6624 | 12grapes.com

Chris Jenson 9 p.m. Main St. on Main | 246 St. Mary’s | 845-838-6297 | maxsonmain.com

SPECIAL EVENT, 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 | coldspringmarke=cv.org

Food Pantry 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. First Presbyterian Church 10 Academy St., Cold Spring 845-265-3220 | foodpantry.org

Recycling Center Open 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. 59 Lane Gate Road, Cold Spring, coldspringny.org

Construction IR Hudson Valley (Open) 10 a.m. Gallery 2001 South Road, Poughkeepsie 845-462-7400 x10 | candstructionhv.com

Fencl’s Fling Green 10 a.m. Outdoor Dinner Center 100 Muser Drive, Cornwall 845-534-5506 | ntranature.org

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

Sari Hitchens 11 a.m. Presbyterian Church 50 Liberty St., Beacon 845-631-5322 | beaconspresbyterian.org

Foodmaker Fair 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Fishkill Farms 9 Fishkill Farm Road, Hopewell Junction 845-697-4371 | fishkillfarms.com

Valentine’s Day Pet Photos 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Breeder Food Barn 1515 Route 22, Brewster 845-229-1777 | putnam.org

Meet the Animals 1 & 2:30 p.m. Wildlife Education Center 25 Boulevard, Cornwall-on-Hudson 845-544-7151 | ntranature.org

Meet the Trails & Walking Sticks 2 p.m. Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art 1701 Main St., Peekskill | 914-988-0100 | hoartspace.org

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

Yurtle the Turtle & Change Reaction (Children’s Theater Company) 3 p.m. New Era Creative Space | 1031 Elm St., Peekskill | 914-325-5053 | nrespace.com

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

Health & Fitness
Tai Chi 9 a.m. St. Philip’s Parish House 110 Route 9D, Garrison 845-424-7871 | stphilipshighlands.org

Caregiver Support Group/Open House 9:30 a.m. - Noon, Hudson Valley Hospital 1980 Compond Road, Cortlandt Manor 914-737-2900 | hvhs.org/events

Tai Chi Chuan 10:30 a.m. Art & Health Fitness 640 Route 52, Kent Lakes 845-896-5675 | alpurtkinfitki.com

Sports
Army vs. Loyola Maryland (Women’s Basketball) 1 p.m. Christ Arena, West Point 845-938-2526 | gearmysports.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

Danceمؤسسات for Beacon Residents 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. DialBean Beacon 3 Beacon St., Beacon 845-440-0100 | dialbeacon.org

Photography Workshop 1 - 3 p.m. Mosaic Beacon | 251 Main St., Beacon | 845-765-1890 | heatherbizzoz.com

Anna Mecugini on Alghiero e Boetti 2 - 5 p.m. 12 Grapes | 300 Main St., Beacon | 845-440-0100 | dialbeacon.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 | howlandcultural.org

Art by Eva Anders Picard & Sandy Honky (Opening) 6 - 9 p.m. Beale Street Barber Shop 907 South St., Poughkeepsie 914-325-1700 | bealesstreetbarbershop.com

7 p.m. Music by Joe Duras

Theater & Film
Blue is the Warmest Color (2013) Noon. Downing Film Center (2013)
1901 South Road, Poughkeepsie 845-462-7400 x10 | candstructionhv.com

Erica Herd: Alzheimer’s Blues 8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre 10 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison 845-424-3000 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

Music
Muzik 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 Sankofa African Dance & Drum Troupe 8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St., Beacon 845-831-4988 | howlandcultural.org
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Grounding Day

KIDS & COMMUNITY

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

Meet a Grounding,
10 a.m. Wildlife Education Center 25 Boulevard, Cornwall-on-Hudson 845-634-7781 | hhnaturemuseum.org

Grounding 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 Arbutum Fox Road, Croton 845-424-4618 | crotonarbutum.org

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

Ferri the Turbine & Change Reaction (Children's Theater Company)
3 p.m. Now Era Creative Space See details under Saturday.

Annual Super Bowl Party
5 p.m. Towns Crier Café 379 Main St., Beacon 845-859-1300 | townescrier.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

Monday, February 3

KIDS & COMMUNITY

Cooking Class: Taco Fiesta
9:30 a.m. Philipstown Community Center 107 Grinnell Drive, Garrison 845-424-4618 | philipstowncreation.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 845-453-9670 | 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 Grinnell Drive, Garrison 845-424-4618 | philipstowncreation.com

Drop-In Homework Center (grades 1-8)
3 - 5 p.m. Howland Public Library 313 Main St, Beacon 845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Board Game Night
7 p.m. Cup and Saucer 165 Main St, Beacon meetup.com/Beacon-Board-n-Not-Bored

Health & Fitness

Red Cross Blood Drive
1 - 6 p.m. Galleria 2001 South Road, Poughkeepsie 800-733-7767 | redcrossblood.org

Basketball at Philipstown Rec
6:15 p.m. Youth Skully Drills (grades 3-8) 7:30 p.m. Adult Men’s Pickup 107 Grinnell Drive, Garrison 845-424-4618 | philipstowncreation.com

Sports
Haldane vs. Clark Academy (Boys’ Basketball)
3:30 p.m. Haldane School See details under Saturday.

Art & Design

Drop-In Drawing & Painting from Life (Short Pose)
9:30 a.m. Garrison Art Center See details under Sunday.

Music

Peter Tavrow & Friends (Fundraiser)
1 p.m. Towns Crier Café 379 Main St, Beacon 845-859-1300 | momsdemandaction.org

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

Open Mic Jam
5 - 9 p.m. Vego’s Sign 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 845-228-2685 | fishkill supplydepot.org

Brave New Gita Class
4 p.m. Beacon Yoga Center 464 Main St., Beacon 845-489-8456 | beaconyogacenter.com

Religious Services
See philipstown.info/churches for Sunday listings.

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 Lorana House 1600 West Point Road East, Garrison 845-424-3184 | garmothercenter.org

Howland Public Library
10 a.m. - 3 p.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 1500 Route 9D, Garrison 845-424-3969 | gsf.org

Girls’ Basketball at Philipstown Rec
6:15 p.m. Youth Skully Drills (grades 3-8) 7:30 p.m. Adult Men’s Pickup 107 Grinnell Drive, Garrison 845-424-4618 | philipstowncreation.com

Sports
Haldane vs. Clark Academy (Boys’ Basketball)
3:30 p.m. Haldane School See details under Saturday.

Art & Design

Drop-In Drawing & Painting from Life (Short Pose)
9:30 a.m. Garrison Art Center See details under Sunday.

Music

The Art of Flight 3D
Noon. Jacob Burns Film Center 346 Mainville Road, Pleasantville 914-747-5555 | burnfilmcenter.org

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

Open Mic Night
7 p.m. Towns Crier Café See details under Friday.

Andrea Weiler Trio (Jazz)
8 p.m. Quinn’s 330 Main St, Beacon 845-831-8065

I love dining at the Garrison
A memorable dining experience can be found right here in the Hudson Highlands, at The Garrison. With fresh, locally-sourced cuisine, impeccable service, and incomparable Hudson River views, there’s no reason not to try The Garrison this weekend for dinner or brunch.
The Calendar (from page 10)

Breast and Ovarian Cancer Support Group
10 a.m. Support Connection
4010 Wiltwyck Center Suite 200, Yorktown Heights. 914-962-6402 | supportconnection.org

Hudson Valley Hospital
6 p.m. Living with Cancer Support Group
7 p.m. Women’s Pancreatic/Porstaurum 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 Hossian Ridge, Highland Falls
845-763-2173 | visitbearmountain.com

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

Karaoke Night
9:30 p.m. Main St. 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 VonWyck St., Croton | Hosted by Sandy Galf

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. Hudson Public Library
See details under Monday.

Sesame Street Live! Dino Makes Music
10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Mid-Hudson Civic Center
14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie
845-765-5000 | mhciviccenter.org

Music & Movement (ages 3-5) (First Session)
11:45 a.m. & 1:45 p.m. Jacob Burns Film Center
See details under Saturday.

“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 rural 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

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

Looking out from the podium at Calling All Poets
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 post 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 base in Albany,” says Eve, “and we’re trying to bring them in to us via technology.” By summertime they hope to start featuring CAPS 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 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 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 reached 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, much 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.”

Alcohols Anonymous
Visit philipstown.info/aa

Religious Services
Visit philipstown.info/services

Meetings & Lectures
Visit philipstown.info/galleries

Looking out from the podium at Calling All Poets
A contingent from SUNY New Paltz.
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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 1979.

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. 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.

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Constitution Marsh offers After-School Birthing 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 $80 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.

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Assemblagewoman Gafel to Hold Health Care Forum

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

A assemblagewoman Sandy Gafel 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 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.

“With the Affordable Care Act set to kick in on Jan. 1, small businesses and individuals need 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 Assemblagewoman Gafel. “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 10522 (off of Old Post Road). If weather is inclement, call the Village of Croton at 914-271-4781.

Contact Galef at galefs@assembly.state.ny.us or by phone at 914-941-1111.

George Washington Birthday Celebration

C elebrate Washington's Birthday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 15 and 16 at the Washington's Headquarters at Croton-on-Hudson. The event includes reenactors, music, historical talks, and crafts. Also, the general should be present at the first piece of his birthday cake each day. Be in good voice to sing Happy Birthday to Gen. Washington.

Bring family, friends and neighbors to this family-oriented three-day event. Admission is by donation. Call 914-562-1195.

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.

Howland Public Library Offers Homework Help

T he Howland Public Library, 311 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.303 or youth@beaconlibrary.org.

Henry George at Washington's Headquarters

C elebrate Washington's Birthday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 15 and 16. It's a three-day birthday celebration that includes reenactors, music, historical talks, and crafts. After all, the general should be present at the first piece of his birthday cake each day. Be in good voice to sing Happy Birthday to Gen. Washington.

Bringing families and friends close together for this family-oriented three-day event. Admission is by donation. Call 914-562-1195.

Washington’s Headquarters State Historic Site is located at 84 Liberty St., Newburgh.

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 ($30 students). Call 845-297-9243. Visit howlandmusic.org.
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 the two middle schools 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 different emotions, I felt it was important for children to be able to share their feelings in a safe environment. When you do that, it’s easier for them to understand other people.”

Thomas hopes that students, parents and teachers will be able to engage in meaningful conversations and to accept those who are different. Harrington agreed: “It’s an easy read that is well written. Wonder is the kind of book that makes you think, 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 emotions. The book Wonder by R.J. Palacio is an easy read that is well written. This book is uplifting, humorous and settling all in one. I think 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 integrated, but is really 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 on academic metrics. 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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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 direct 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 is the altered landscape from invasive species. In our forests and wetlands and vistes 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 water supplies. A lot of work goes toward direct and indirectly protecting these open spaces and natural resources.”

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, “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 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 water 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 scenic beauty of our area is worth conserving.

Photo by P. Doan
City of Beacon Mourns Loss of Pete Seeger, an American Legend (from page 1)

Conservation organizations he helped to realize, young environmentalists inspired by his leadership, 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 goodbye 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, said Pete Seeger for whom she has worked about 50 years ago. She was invited to join Clearwater, founded by Seeger, in 1999. She calls him her mentor.

"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 factories were pouring waste 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 idea that Scenic Hudson's founders fought for at the time of King Moutain — 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 two 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 Guthrie 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 Rozinsky, 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 sing 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 meaningful or not. That everything you say, believe and do is a chance to change the world for the better." Pete's event was too small for him. If people were engaged, activated, and motivated to protect our communities and environment, then he would want 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 80th 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 charming 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 unerring 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 friends 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." Pete wanted everyone to participate — everyone in song, everyone in hand clapping. "No event was too small for him. If people were engaged, activated, and motivated to protect our communities and environment, then he would want 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 inti..."