



The Paper



Textile designer
Suguru Miyagi
See Page 7

FRIDAY, February 5, 2016

161 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING, N.Y. | philipstown.info



Groundhogs across America seemed to agree: Spring weather's coming early. Indeed, at the Cold Spring waterfront, the grass is green. Only the fog is white [in this photo taken from under the eaves of a house on West Street].

Photo by Anita Peltonen

Cold Spring Election Date Moves to a Vote

Referendum will appear on March 15 ballot

By Michael Turton

The stage is set for a public vote on whether Cold Spring should stick with its traditional March election or move it to November, when residents would also cast votes for town, state and national candidates. At their Feb. 2 meeting, village trustees approved the referendum for the March 15 ballot.

A November election would be run by the Putnam County Board of Elections, at no cost to the village, which now pays for the March election. Besides that savings, proponents argue fall elections would give trustees more time to prepare the annual budget. Currently at least two trustees are elected each March, with an end of April budget deadline only weeks away. Those in favor of keeping the March elections say the savings and budget benefits are not significant enough to justify the loss of a village tradition.

Deputy Mayor Marie Early introduced the idea of a referendum several months ago, listing the pros and cons of a date

change. The issue was had been discussed during Ralph Falloon's time as mayor; the board opted to keep the March date but pay the county Board of Elections to run it.

Early leans toward change

Although she has not said how she will vote on the referendum, Early speaks positively of November elections. "If we can eliminate \$6,500 [in spending], we have to seriously consider that savings," she said. A change of date wouldn't take place until 2018, but she said the current board is feeling pressured by its late April deadline to draft the 2016-17 budget.



Marie Early

File photos by M. Turton

Budget pressure will no doubt be a factor in 2018, as well. The state-imposed budget cap will allow a spending increase of \$1,800 to \$3,000 next year and Early has said cuts will necessary.

"There will definitely be increases in some costs next year," she said. "We have little control over salary increases. And it's difficult to eliminate positions — we don't have many to eliminate." She cited health, liability and unemployment insurance premiums as likely to increase.

Early feels a date change could improve budgeting. "If residents vote for a November election it would give those seated on the board more time and control over the budget," she said. "Having people vested in the budget cycle earlier is a very positive thing."

She also said planning capital spending is a challenge as part of a tight budget. "We need to do a better job with infrastructure budget needs," she said. "If a garbage truck breaks down or we need a new police car it's a problem."

(Continued on Page 3)

Questions Raised About Putnam Tourism Office

Journal News reports Libby Pataki oversaw separate fund

By Kevin E. Foley

Putnam County Tourism Director Libby Pataki has come under scrutiny after the White Plains-based *Journal News* reported on Feb. 3 that besides her \$70,000 county job, she also receives a salary from a non-profit county tourism organization she created and controls.

The article by reporter David McKay Wilson, who writes the Tax Watch column for the Gannett-owned daily, reported that Putnam County legislator Barbara Scuccimarra, who represents Philipstown, was listed as the organization's secretary and treasurer and signed the required documents filed with the state Attorney General's office.

Scuccimarra told Wilson she didn't recall her involvement in the organization, Putnam Tourism Corp., which has 501(c)(3) status with the IRS that allows it to accept tax-deductible donations.

The *Journal News* report is posted at lohud.com. By late Thursday, Feb. 4, neither Pataki, Scuccimarra nor Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell had responded to requests from *The Paper* for their reactions to the article. Both Pataki and Scuccimarra live in Garrison.

The county tourism director job has
(Continued on Page 5)



Libby Pataki, second from left, with participants in bicycle event in Cold Spring May 5, 2013

File photo by Maggie Benmour

Small, Good Things

Needs Must

By Joe Dizney

When accusingly asked why she wrote about food and not about important things like love or the struggle for power and authority, M.F.K. Fisher responded:

"It seems to me that our three basic needs, for food and security and love, are so mixed and mingled and entwined that

we cannot straightly think of one without the others. So it happens that when I write of hunger, I am really writing about love and the hunger for it, and warmth and the love of it and the hunger for it ... and then the warmth and richness and fine reality of hunger satisfied ... and it is all one."

I would elaborate with another thought or two, the first referring to the headline of this column, the history of which is buried somewhere in the distant past in an idiomatic expression usually phrased, "Needs must when the devil drives." As The Bard

put it in *All's Well that Ends Well*: "My poor body, madam, requires it: I am driven on by the flesh; and he must needs go that the devil drives," generally accepted to mean "necessity compels" or in a modern vernacular: "Like I have a choice?"

Then there's this therapeutic catchphrase: "HALT: Hungry, Angry, Lonely, Tired," an acronymic-mnemonic rejoinder to stop and be mindful of your physical, mental and emotional needs before taking any drastic actions. (And, please, note the first reminder on the list.) These things are very important.

When queried on my own borderline obsessive interest in food, I invariably respond that there are few things in life you absolutely have to do in order to survive, let alone flourish, and eating seems to be a central one. Since it is so necessary to body, mind, soul and by extension, society, we had best make the most out of it.

How I got to this week's recipe from such airy thinking is both circuitous and direct: an emotional longing for specific

foods — in this instant, beets and caramelized onions, cheese; the snow on the ground suggesting some Savoyard or Germanic ideal of Alpine comfort food; the necessity of dinner.

It's odd to me that I could find no direct historical precedent for savory bread puddings, as obvious as they seem, but the classic gratin Savoyards, tartiflette and croziflettes of the Savoie pointed to areas worth exploring. So, layering custard-soaked sourdough-rye bread chunks with oven-roasted beets and sweet caramelized onions and binding the works with grated Gruyere seemed worth a try.

This casserole would make a fine simple winter meal with the addition of just a green salad. As the basis of an impromptu Thursday night potluck with people I love, it became a feast of the bread pudding, a cider-braised pork belly and greens vinaigrette (with one perfectly ripe pear) — not to mention companionship and conversation — that I believe the participants will cherish for a while. The warmth and richness and fine reality of hunger satisfied, indeed.

Savory Roasted Beet and Caramelized Onion Bread Pudding

4-5 medium beets; peeled, cubed, oiled and roasted at 425 degrees for 30 minutes. Reserve.
3 to 4 large onions, caramelized with 2 tablespoons olive oil over medium low heat, 30 minutes to 1 hour
3 tablespoons olive oil
1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar

14 ounces stale rye/sourdough bread (or dry fresh bread out in a 200 degree oven)
2 cups heavy cream (or combination of milk and cream)
6 large eggs
8 ounces grated Gruyere
¼ to ½ cup walnuts, lightly roasted and chopped roughly
2 tablespoons fresh dill for garnish

1. Prepare the beets as above. Caramelize the onions in a skillet with three tablespoons olive oil over medium heat. Stir frequently for 30 minutes to an hour. Salt and pepper to taste about halfway through. Stir in balsamic just before removing from heat. Reserve. Beets and onions can be prepared a day in advance.
2. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Tear or cut bread into rough one to two-inch pieces; reserve in a large bowl. Whisk together cream (or cream and milk) and eggs, salt and pepper to taste, and pour mixture over bread. Stir briefly to coat and let soak for 15 to 20 minutes to absorb some of the custard mixture. Butter a 1 to 1½ quart casserole.
3. In the buttered casserole, alternate thin layers of the moistened bread, beets, onions and cheese (in that order) until all the bread and beets are gone. (You'll end up with leftover onions, which will keep covered in the refrigerator for a week and make a nice addition to sandwiches, etc.) Pour the remaining custard mixture over all.
4. Bake in the center of the oven for 45 minutes. Begin checking after 30 minutes that the top doesn't burn. Serve warm, garnished with dill and even sour cream or crème fraîche if you have some.



Roasted beet and caramelized onion bread pudding

Photo by J. Dizney

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Cold Spring Election Date Moves to a Vote *(from Page 1)*

If we want to improve office efficiency through increased automation, it's a problem."

The state government also plays a role. "The state doesn't provide the tax cap or growth factor until January," Early said. "We need to restructure the budget calendar. It needs to be in our faces at the beginning of the year. We're now in the process of trying to get budget figures earlier." She said the state determines budget milestones, but "with regard to the latest completion dates, not the earliest."

Any benefit to budget?

Kathleen Foley, a village resident who has been following the budget process, supports holding the referendum, but not moving the elections. She said she isn't convinced by the argument that it would improve the budget process. "The board could do capital planning in July if they wanted to," she said. She said the operations budget, which she described as "cyclical and routine," could be dealt with earlier regardless of the election date.

"The budget is a public process done over a period of time," she said. "Someone is always going to be the new trustee. People considering running for the village board should sit in on budget discussions."

Foley said she questions the village board's decision last spring to take on a challenge from New York State to reduce spending by one percent a year for each of three years, which is one reason the cost savings of moving the election are appealing. Residents would receive a rebate check once the efficiencies are implemented. "The ramifications of not meeting those budget efficiencies was never made clear," she said. "The perception was that if the village didn't follow through with November elections and save \$6,000, the refund checks would be at risk. I'm not sure that was the case," she said, adding that adequate information was never presented.

Adding to the confusion, she said, are that efficiencies proposed by the Town of Philipstown and Haldane Central School District would be factored into the refunds. Foley said that trustees should consider whether a potentially small refund check was worth reducing services.

Giving trustees two-year terms deserve discussion as much as the election date,



Kathleen Foley

she said. "A four-year election cycle should be looked at," she said. "It would get us out of a perpetual election cycle that exhausts voters. It would also give trustees time to get their footing and get something done."

Foley agreed with those who feel a move to November would leave village candidates and issues "getting lost in a cacophony of town, state and national elections."

A "no" vote

Trustee Michael Bowman cast the lone "no" vote on the resolution to approve the referendum and has consistently opposed November elections. In an email to The Paper, he said he doesn't believe moving the elections "will do anything to increase interest or accountability in the budget process. He also expressed doubt about any cost savings associated with having the Board of Elections run the elections."



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November elections "are an attempt to push the Village ... into the realm of national politics," Bowman wrote. "It isn't a secret that Philipstown's political registrations weigh heavily to the Democratic side, and that in recent times [at all levels] it has been the exception that people will cross the aisle to vote for another party."

In the past, Bowman said, village candidates have run based on issues, not party identity. "If the election moves to November it is not far-fetched to imagine candidate's names alongside councilman, supervisor, legislator, governor or president not only in the ballot box, but also on signage throughout the Village," he wrote. "It will just be one more unique small town trait that we lose." He said he feared fall elections would "ramp up the party rhetoric locally, causing a more divided community."

"Superficial" reviews

Michael Armstrong, another village resident who closely follows the budget process, weighed in via email. "Apart from saving \$6,000 per year, moving (elections) to November would consolidate the noise and disruption of the election cycle from

two three-month periods each year to just one," he wrote. "Voters would go to the polls once, not twice."

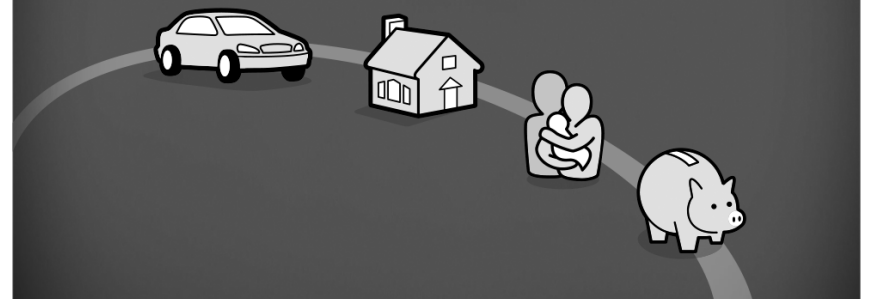
Armstrong said he disagreed with Foley that an improved budget process has nothing to do with election timing. November voting "would shift a highly disruptive event, the election, from falling just before the Village budget is due [in April], to a schedule that would provide an ample window for an in-depth review of the Village's objectives, constraints, and opportunities," he wrote.

He also challenged Foley's contention that trustees can begin the budget process earlier, regardless of the election date. "Just starting the budget process earlier would almost certainly fail," he wrote. "No business would endorse a calendar that regularly chose new leadership immediately after plans for next year are pulled from the oven."

November elections won't solve all the village's problems Armstrong conceded, "but as things stand today, we are almost certain to continue superficial budget reviews that pretend to be tough by arguing about the cost of toilet paper and police uniforms."

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Kevin E. Foley

ARTS/FEATURE EDITOR

Alison Rooney

SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

Michael Turton

LAYOUT EDITOR

Kate Vikstrom

CALENDAR EDITOR

Chip Rowe

calendar@philipstown.info

REPORTERS

Pamela Doan
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why has overpass project stalled?

Many of us in Putnam Valley and Philipstown have been concerned about the very dangerous intersection of Pudding Street and the Taconic State Parkway. It has been the site of accidents and near accidents over the years. There was a recent letter to the editor in another paper in which the writer wondered why nothing had been done about this.

For those who've either forgotten, or never knew, the recent history, Terry Gipson, who was our State Senator in 2013 and 2014, considered the safety concerns surrounding this intersection to be a top priority.

In 2013, Sen. Gipson secured a \$1 million Department of Transportation grant

to study the building of an overpass over the Taconic at Pudding Street. He held a community forum in August 2013 where the DOT gave a detailed presentation of how that \$1 million would be used for engineering studies. Sen. Gipson and his staff stayed on this throughout his term, continually pushing to move this project to the top of the DOT's schedule. Near the end of Gipson's term, the DOT had agreed to this and stated they were ready to go forward with an overpass as soon as the needed funding—about \$22 million—was available. Negotiations to secure this funding were underway.

That was the good news. But the bad news is that, in November 2014, our district elected a state senator who did not place this project as a high priority. There

is much competition for state funding of projects like this, therefore it is necessary that our state senator constantly pushes the project with the state to keep the momentum going. We don't have such a senator right now, and, as a result, the project apparently has stalled.

Terry Gipson served our district well, in this and many other matters, because he genuinely cares about the needs of the communities he serves and actually did the work required to get things done. I look forward to his return to office in 2017, after the November 2016 election, and I know that many in Philipstown, Putnam Valley, Kent and the rest of our Senate District agree.

Margaret Yonco-Haines
Garrison

Oliva Announces for Congress

*Longtime Astorino
advisor hopes to
challenge Maloney*

By Kevin E. Foley

A fourth Republican, Phil Oliva, has joined the race to oppose incumbent Democratic Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney in November for the 18th Congressional District seat. The primary election takes place in June. Oliva, who lives in Somers, announced his candidacy on Jan. 30 at a rally in Mahopac. He also launched a campaign website at philoliva.com.

"The country is heading in the wrong direction," Oliva told supporters. "Washington is broken and only strong, principled leadership will help get the country back on the right track."



Phil Oliva

Photo provided

"I am looking to break up the status quo and get us back to a smarter, more limited form of government that's focused on a strong national defense, a free enterprise economy that expands jobs creation and income growth, and securing the borders once and for all."

Oliva, a communications consultant, is also a longtime advisor to Westchester

County Executive and 2014 gubernatorial candidate Rob Astorino, who endorsed Oliva's candidacy. Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell also endorsed Oliva.

"I'm proud to enthusiastically support Phil's campaign because he is grounded and principled," Astorino said in a statement. "Washington won't change Phil. We can count on Phil to change Washington."

Having the public support of two county executives in the district establishes Oliva has a strong campaign early in the season. The other Republican candidates are former Orange County legislator Dan Castricone, Newburgh native Frank Spampinato and former Poughkeepsie School Board president Sakima Brown.

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Questions Raised About Putnam Tourism Office *(from Page 1)*

paid Pataki \$70,000 annually since her appointment in 2012 by Odell. Her salary is paid through the nonprofit Putnam County Visitors' Bureau, which is funded by the county and state governments. Until recently, Pataki has been on an extended leave as her husband, former New York Gov. George Pataki, ran in the Republican presidential race. Gov. Pataki withdrew from the race in early January.

In 2014 the Visitors Bureau received \$197,000 from Putnam County and \$108,000 from New York state. Besides Pataki's salary, its expenses included \$94,000 for advertising and \$55,000 for events.

According to documents filed with the IRS required of all tax-exempt organizations, Pataki also paid herself \$50,000 a year as part-time executive director of the Putnam Tourism Corp. However, the Journal News reported the non-profit apparently does not have a functioning board of directors, so that a board could not have authorized the payments, as required by state and federal law. When Wilson contacted the people listed as being board members, he reported they were either unaware of their role, could not recall any board meetings and did not realize Pataki drew a salary.

Further, Pataki acknowledged to Wilson that she did not disclose the existence of Putnam Tourism Corp. to Odell or the county legislature. Wilson reported that Pataki had founded the non-profit within seven weeks of her appointment with the help of Scuccimarra and a former aide in state government.

In response to McKay's inquiries, Odell said she had not known about Putnam Tourism Corp. or that it paid Pataki a salary but downplayed the importance of the revelations.

Scuccimarra, according to the article, also sits on the Visitor's Bureau board, which meets rarely to oversee funding

decisions.

In 2014, Putnam Tourism Corp. received \$97,000 in donations, including \$50,000 from the Lauder Foundation, \$20,000 from Trian Partners and \$20,000 from Christopher Buck, vice-chairman of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust and a board member of Philipstown.Info, Inc., the 501(c)(3) non-profit that runs The Paper and Philipstown.info.

Buck told *The Paper* he had contributed the money because he was asked personally by Pataki to support the annual Tour de Putnam bicycle event she was organizing. Besides Pataki's salary, in 2014 Putnam Tourism Corp. spent \$41,000 on events, contributed \$41,000 to other groups and had an additional \$3,000 in payroll.

The reporter's interest

In an interview with The Paper, David McKay Wilson said his report stemmed from his Tax Watch column. "I am very interested in how tax-exempt organizations work," he said. "I was looking at 990 reports [the annual IRS filings required of 501(c)(3) organizations] for Putnam. I typed in the Visitors Bureau and the other one [Putnam Tourism Corp.] also came up."

Wilson said he then turned to documents filed with the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau to understand how the second organization got started. That's when he discovered that Barbara Scuccimarra had signed as a founding trustee, an act she told Wilson she did not recall.

"How many meetings has she [Pataki] convened of these organizations?" Wilson said. "We don't know. People listed as members didn't know they were on a board. It's very troubling."

Wilson he said he was familiar with the strict standards required by the IRS of 501(c)(3) organizations from his own ex-



Putnam County Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra

File photo by M. Turton

perience serving as president of the non-profit Westchester Bicycle Club. "They are the gold standard, the best kind of non-profit to have," he said. "People get to deduct their contributions from their taxes. These two nonprofits have no real operating boards. That doesn't seem right."

The bike race

The hallmark of Pataki's three-year tenure as tourism head has been attempting to expand the annual Tour de Putnam bicycle event.

Wilson led the 1,200-member Westchester Bicycle Club for five years, from 2006 to 2011, and is still a member. He recalled that members enjoyed the bicycle event in the years before Pataki changed the tone of the event from a recreational ride into an international race.

"Five hundred to 600 people used to come out for that event," Wilson said. But the 2013 race in Cold Spring "was not welcoming to recreational riders," he said. "It was more expensive to register and the route was not particularly desirable even for experienced riders." Wilson said he and other bicyclists had been disappointed by the overly steep hills, dirt roads and a lack of refreshments despite a \$67 registration fee.

In January 2013 many Cold Spring merchants protested the staging of the race, arguing the extended closing of Main Street on a weekend day in 2012 had resulted in lost business rather than any anticipated windfall. Negotiations resulted in different procedures for the race and incentives for merchants to stage a flower-themed sidewalk festival. But many were still disappointed.

Pataki the moved the event to Brewster in 2014 on the eastern side of Putnam, where even fewer riders took part. There was no race in 2015.

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Little Whiskeys with a Big Following

Production thriving in Hudson Valley

By Michael Turton

The Putnam History Museum's first offering in its 2016 Salon Series held on Jan. 30 was a tasteful event. And the taste was whiskey.

More than 50 people attended the \$40 a ticket evening hosted by Ralph Erenzo, co-founder of Tuthilltown Spirits Farm Distillery in Gardiner. Erenzo, who is also the distiller at Tuthilltown, provided a historical tour of the American whiskey landscape, including, most recently, the rebirth of small-batch spirits produced at microdistilleries in the Hudson Valley and across the country.

The evening had an air of authenticity as small samples of unaged whiskey (known as "white dog") and baby bourbon were passed among the attentive audience. Cold Spring's Max Watman, author of *Chasing the White Dog: An Amateur Outlaw's Adventures in Moonshine*, was also on hand to dole out Manhattans mixed using Tuthilltown products.

Prior to 1920, there were some 1,200 small distillers operating in New York. Prohibition, which began in 1920, put an end to that. Federal law, known informally as the Volstead Act, made it illegal to man-



Author and mixologist Max Watman

Photo by M. Turton

ufacture, sell or consume alcohol.

"Prohibition was political," Erenzo said, "and it ended because people were literally dropping dead from drinking bad alcohol." After Prohibition ended in 1933, the industry came to be dominated by about 30 distillers that include household names such as Jim Beam and Makers Mark.

Law created industry

In 2007, the Farm Distillery Act enabled small distilleries to produce spirits and to distribute their own products. Under the law, microdistilleries are considered farm operations, while large distillers are industrial. In New York, seventy-five percent of the ingredients used at microdistilleries must originate within the state. "At Tuthilltown we use 100 New York State in-

gredients with the exception of our single malt whiskey which uses Canadian malt," Erenzo said.

Established in 2005, Tuthilltown was one of 10 microdistilleries that initiated what has become a growing trend nationwide. There are now 120 small distilleries in New York, including 25 in Brooklyn. Erenzo said that at first, Tuthilltown's distilling process was developed strictly by trial and error. "In New York we all started from scratch," he said. "There was no manual, no guidebook. When building inspectors looked at our new facilities they just threw up their arms." Some of the early methods were rudimentary.

Erenzo recalled using a forklift to raise a barrel of whiskey high enough so that it could be drained by gravity.

The Gardiner distiller has grown considerably in 10 years. In 2014 it produced 60,000 proof-gallons of spirits. The following year production increased to 75,000 and Erenzo anticipates that 2016 will see 100,000. Whiskey accounts for more than 95 percent of production.

The laws governing U.S. whiskey production require that the oak barrels used to age the spirit be used only once. Tuthilltown purchases its barrels from a cooperage in Kentucky and has also purchased a share of a second manufacturer in Minnesota. Erenzo said that he invested in the Minnesota cooperage after realizing that

with a burgeoning microdistillery industry, barrels would become more difficult and expensive to buy.

As a cost-saving measure, Tuthilltown breaks down its used barrels and ships the staves to Scotland where the barrels are reassembled and again used to age spirits. Scottish law permits reuse of barrels.

The little guys

Erenzo said that unlike the brewing industry, in which large beer producers fought the arrival of microbreweries, large distilleries largely ignored microdistilleries, believing they would not succeed. But there are now more about 1,000 small distilleries across the country.

Adding to the farm distillers' strength is that small distilleries are gaining importance as regional tourist destinations that contribute significantly to local economies. Erenzo used apples as an example. Before Tuthilltown began producing apple vodka, cider apples garnered six cents a pound for local farmers. "The same apples used in spirits increased their value to farmers eightfold." Tuthilltown purchases apples and grain grown within 10 miles of the distillery.

Tuthilltown Spirits is located in a gristmill built in 1788 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The facility includes a tasting room, tours and a restaurant serving seasonal cuisine featuring Hudson Valley products. Its product line includes six varieties of flagship Hudson Whiskey as well as liqueur, bitters, gin, wheat vodka and apple vodka.

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When - February 6, 2016

Desmond Fish Library

472 Route 403, Garrison, NY 10524

Time 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Snow date: Sunday, February 7, 2016

2:00PM - 4:00 PM

For more information contact:

Karen Ertl - Philipstown Garden Club

845-424-3343



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George Washington:

Tales in the Hudson Highlands with Jonathan Kruk

Saturday, February 13, 5 p.m.

George Washington did far more than pass through Philipstown. Here, he came a-courting, discovered treason, plotted battles, and lost a spoon. Garbed as a contemporary of the Founding Father, master storyteller Jonathan Kruk will tell intimate and lively tales of George Washington in Philipstown.

Admission is \$5. Free for members.

RSVP to shannon@putnamhistorymuseum.org.



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The Calendar

The CineHub

Beacon movie house makes space for filmmakers

By Alison Rooney

The CineHub is just that: a hub for those working in cinema. Much as collaborative workspaces for freelancers with desk jobs have flourished, The CineHub provides a creative and social center for filmmakers and video production professionals in the Hudson Valley. “We wanted to create a culture here,” explains Tara Latorre, who partners in the enterprise with Edward Roy. “We knew there were a lot of professionals in this industry working in the Hudson Valley, and wanted to bring them all together. We started with annual mixers, to get to know each other, and that led to developing this space.”

Its space, at the back of a Beacon complex a stone’s throw from the Metro-North station (making it convenient for a city commute), began “completely raw,” says Roy, who runs a production company, Stage 6 Media. The build-out began



The large studio room, equipped with professional lighting, at The CineHub
Images courtesy of The CineHub.

in January 2014 and the space is still, intentionally, a work in progress, transformable depending on the needs of the people using it at any given time. There is a large editing suite, as well

smaller private and semi-private editing rooms; a 700-square-foot soundstage studio/product photography room with green-screen capabilities, which, with the addition of benches, transforms into a

screening room; cubby work spaces; a common space which doubles as a green room; and a “huddle room” for conferences and client meetings. All of the components of the space are rentable, either on a flat-fee, project-based basis, or *(Continued on Page 9)*



Editing station at The CineHub

Doing the High-Low Thing

Suguru Miyagi elevates the “unnoticed”

By Alison Rooney

When Suguru Miyagi takes a stroll in an urban area, he registers the architecture, the pace, the people, but his eye also takes in the less obvious, or, as he describes it, “I notice the ordinary, and then I bring it to a different



Silk twill scarf designed by Suguru Miyagi.
Image courtesy of the artist

place.” The Garrison-based designer revels in the smaller things which punctuate these settings: torn-off strips of duct tape or remnants of posters removed from walls; the creases and folds of strewn plastic garbage bags. “I love the action, light, movement of them.” Miyagi has worked for years in the fashion industry, designing graphics used on textiles by labels like Calvin Klein, Kenneth Cole, Tommy Hilfiger and Levi’s, as well as working on logos and branding. More recently, he has created his own line, Suguru, which consists of luxury silk and silk-cotton printed scarves with imagery developed from what transfixes Miyagi: urban landscapes. With observations made in abandoned, then redeveloped yet not completely sanitized parts of New York City, where he used to live, and Beacon — which passes for urban, locally — Miyagi transforms them, using the Japanese concept of wabi sabi, which he describes as “beauty in imperfection.” Likening it further to a Zen Buddhist principle (though he tempers it by cautioning “not to make it too lofty or spiritual”), he explains: “The spiritual world emerges from poverty and desolation. If you turn it on, you can see things in ordinary things. I don’t use conventional beauty.” Or, as a fellow artist described it to him, “You do the high-low thing.” (For all his attraction to the beauty of grit, Miyagi’s Garrison home, which he shares with his partner and their French bulldog, is surrounded by woods, curtained off by trees during the verdant seasons.) Most of Miyagi’s designs are created digitally after a lot of drawing and conceptual thinking. Often, small touches of Japanese iconography are incorporated, as befitting someone who grew *(Continued on Page 11)*



Textile designer Suguru Miyagi wearing one of his own creations, accessorized by his color-coordinated French bulldog
Photo by A. Rooney

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Blood Drive
2 – 8 p.m. North Highlands Fire Department
504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring
800-933-2566 | nybloodcenter.org

Open House
5 – 8 p.m. Robert McCaffrey Real Estate
140 Main St., Cold Spring
845-249-2751 | mccaffreyrealty.com

Gallery 66 NY Openings
6 – 9 p.m. Group Show: *Survey of Regional Artists*
6 – 9 p.m. Cassandra Saulter: *Delphine's World*
66 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5838 | gallery66ny.com

George Knaus (1928-2015): A Retrospective (Opening)
6 – 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
121 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

August: Osage County
8 p.m. County Players
2681 W. Main St., Wappingers Falls
845-298-1491 | countyplayers.org

Calling All Poets
8 p.m. Center for Creative Education
464 Main St., Beacon
914-474-7758 | callingallpoets.net

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Beacon Theatre Kids' Classes (First Sessions)
9 a.m. Beginner/Intermediate Ballet
10 a.m. Beginner/Intermediate Tap
445 Main St., Beacon
845-453-2978 | thebeacontheatre.org

Hudson River Eaglefest Viewing
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-265-3638 | teatown.org

Cabin Fever Workshops
10 a.m. Introduction to Linoleum Painting
10 a.m. Winter Wonder Walk
Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

3rd Annual Philipstown Winter Carnival
1 – 5 p.m. Winter Hill
20 Nazareth Way, Garrison
4 – 8 p.m. Community Center
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
philipstownwintercarnival.com

How to Raise Solitary Bees
1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3343 | crownbees.com

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit philipstown.info.

Send event listings to calendar@philipstown.info.

Beacon Speaks Out Community Event
1 p.m. Memorial Building
413 Main St., Beacon | beaconspeakout.org

Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company:
***A Winter's Tale* in HD**
1 p.m. Bardavon
35 Market St., Poughkeepsie
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

21st Annual African-American History Art Exhibit (Opening)
2 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org
With fashion show by Michi Knitwear

Reception to Celebrate Life of George Knaus
2 – 6 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
See details under Friday.

Big Brew NY Beer Festival
4 – 8 p.m. Westchester County Center
198 Central Ave., White Plains
914-995-4050 | countycenter.biz

Find the Spy Mystery Game for Teens
6:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org
Rescheduled from Jan. 23

Sankofa African Drum and Dance Ensemble
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

August: Osage County
8 p.m. County Players
See details under Friday.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Classical Music Vocal Master Class
4 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

Bayou Maharajah: The Tragic Genius of James Booker (Documentary)
8 p.m. Dogwood
47 E. Main St., Beacon
845-202-7500 | dogwoodbar.com

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Howland Public Library
closed today for construction

Chinese New Year Ceremonies
5 a.m. – 6 p.m. Chuang-Yen Monastery
2020 Route 301, Kent | 845-225-1819 | baus.org

Decoding the Past: Civil War Treasures
Noon. Locust Grove Estate
2683 South Road, Poughkeepsie | 845-471-1630
dutchesscountyhistoricalsociety.org

Army vs. Colgate (Men's Basketball)
7:30 p.m. Christl Arena, West Point
845-938-2526 | goarmywestpoint.com

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
5 – 7 p.m. St. Luke's Episcopal Church
850 Wolcott Ave, Beacon
845-831-2643 | stlukesbeacon.org

Coloring Books for Adults
6 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Monday.

Digital Salon
6:30 p.m. Bank Square Coffeehouse
129 Main St., Beacon
845-440-7165 | banksquarecoffeehouse.com

Old-Timey Southern Fiddle Jam
7 – 10 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org.

Beacon Film Society: Song of Lahore (Documentary)
7:30 p.m. Beahive Beacon
291 Main St., Beacon | beaconfilmsociety.org

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

Garrison School Board
7:30 p.m. Haldane School | 15 Craigside Drive,
Cold Spring | 845-424-3689 | gufs.org

Gomez Mill House (Talk)
7:30 p.m. Cornwall Presbyterian | 222 Hudson St.,
Cornwall | 845-534-5506 x204 | hhnrm.org

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Mexican Cooking Workshop
10 a.m. Philipstown Community Center
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Career Assistance Sessions
11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon | 845-249-4642
dutchessonestop.org | Appointment required.

Kindergarten Registration
1 – 4 p.m. Haldane Middle School (Conference Room)
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Valentine's Day Craft Party
2 p.m. Butterfield Library
See details under Saturday.

Beads and Hearts Valentine's Jewelry (ages 6-10)
4:15 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Kindergarten Registration
1 – 4 p.m. Haldane Middle School
See details under Wednesday.

Battle of the Books Informational Meeting (grades 5-8)
4 p.m. Butterfield Library
See details under Saturday.

Happy Feet (2006)
5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Hudson Valley Wetlands: What Do We Have to Lose? (Talk)
6 p.m. Scenic Hudson River Center
Long Dock Park, Beacon
845-473-4440 x273 | scenichudson.org

Introduction to River Navigation Course
6:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library | See above.

Interfaith Exploration of Psalms
7 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance
331 Verplanck Avenue, Beacon
845-831-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Kazi Oliver's African Drum Project
9 p.m. Quinn's | 330 Main St., Beacon
845-831-8065 | quinnfbeacon.com

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Great Backyard Bird Count | birdcount.org

Free Admission for Grandparents
9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Mid-Hudson Children's Museum
75 N. Water St., Poughkeepsie
845-471-0589 | mhcm.org

Chocolate, Chocolate Everywhere! (for Teens)
6:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
See details under Saturday.

August: Osage County
8 p.m. County Players | See details under Feb. 5.

Abbott & Costello Go to Mars (1953)
7:30 p.m. Bardavon
35 Market St., Poughkeepsie
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

ONGOING

Art & Design
philipstown.info/galleries

Religious Services
philipstown.info/services

Support Groups
philipstown.info/sg

PHILIPSTOWN DEPOT THEATRE

Classical Music: Master Class with Gerald Martin Moore, Pianist Tom McCoy, and Vocalists, Laura Bach, Tess Dul and Tyler Mell
February 7, 4 p.m.

Play Reading: *Anne of Green Gables*
directed by Nancy Swann
February 13, 7:30 p.m.

I of the Storm, a one-man play with Richard Hoehler
February 20, 8 p.m.

Classical Music: An evening with pianist Jaiyan Sun
February 26, 7:30 p.m.

Classical Music: Opera with Neal Goren
February 27, 7:30 p.m.

AUDITIONS! See our website: www.philipstowndepottheatre.org
www.brownpapertickets.com

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The CineHub *(from Page 7)*

hourly to annually for freelancers and others with less extensive needs and requirements. The editing suites can be used for anything from sound to color grading; the “cubes” (cubby spaces) were being used by an editor and a cinematographer at the time of *The Paper’s* visit.

The sound stage, in its screening-room capacity, hosts films under the banner Cine Beacon every Second Saturday from April to November, showcasing Hudson Valley filmmakers and/or films made in the Hudson Valley as well as emerging filmmakers. It has been the site of Beacon International Film Festival events and can seat 60 to 70 people.

The CineHub also rents out equipment: tripods, cameras, microphones, lenses, filters, video monitors, teleprompters, light panels, dolly kits. Members can rent out their equipment (as most aren’t shooting things all the time) instead of having it gather dust in a corner.

Roy, who grew up in Washington state and spent time in the U.S. Air Force as a jet mechanic, came to New York for college, first studying filmmaking at Brooklyn College, then transferring to SUNY New Paltz and earning a communications degree. He worked in an animation studio in the city, then traveled, eventually returning there, working as a



Smaller “cubby” spaces are available for rent at The CineHub.

Image courtesy of The CineHub

freelance editor, producer and camera operator. Upon moving to Beacon in 2008 he discovered “a lot of disconnected filmmakers,” he says. “They would head into the city for jobs. There seemed to be a need to connect. So I started by doing mixers, then thought ‘Wouldn’t it be nice if there could be a place to come to work next to each other?’”

Latorre, who was working for Roy at Stage 6 Media after graduating from SUNY New Paltz with a degree in media production, recalls that they were looking for new office space. “We saw this and something just happened — we knew it wouldn’t be just office space,” she says. “We jumped in ... and since then it has always been transforming, which isn’t a bad thing.”

Roy concurs: “First we were a collaborative center, then after a year we became a resource center, because not everyone needs a long-term space and we found we couldn’t rely on that sort of participation alone. Collaborating, while one of the opportunities here, was too narrow a scope. As we build it, we see that many of our peers are missing company ... You come to work and get immersed.

“Unlike a place like the [collaborative workspace] Beahive, we wanted to focus on one particular industry. When we bring in qualified and busy professionals, they cross-pollinate.”

Latorre adds, “We’ve heard from members that they like looking over and seeing others working — it stimulates them.”

Most of CineHub’s business (about 75 percent) is commercial, with the remaining being “personal, passion projects,” according to Roy, who notes they also do some pro-bono work, most recently for the New York State Special Olympics taking place in Dutchess County in February. Much of the business has come “through getting people here during events, spreading the word via social media, things like that,” Latorre says.

“We’re just very connected with a lot of the filmmaking community.”

The pricing, much lower than that of similar facilities in the city, is an inducement, and with the ease of walking from the station, Roy and Latorre hope to attract more city-based production personnel. The CineHub is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and can also be booked for after-hours and weekend work. Events, screenings and workshops also can be booked.

The CineHub is located at 20 W. Main St., Suite 4. Visit thecinehub.com or call 845-440-7611 for information.

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34 MORNINGS
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**CJ CHENIER &
THE RED HOT LOUISIANA BAND**

Saturday, 2/13 8:30pm
MARY FAHL

Sunday, 2/14 7:30pm
SAWYER FREDERICKS
guest **HAILEY KNOX**

Thursday, 2/18 7:30pm
THE STEEL WHEELS BAND

Friday, 2/19 8:30pm
LEON RUSSELL
guest **J SCOTT THOMPSON**

Saturday, 2/20 8:30pm
SHILELAGH LAW

Sunday, 2/21 7:30pm
RUSTED ROOT

Friday, 2/26 8:30pm
THE HARVEST MOONDOGS
PLAY LENNON & MCCARTNEY

Saturday, 2/27 8:30pm
POPA CHUBBY BAND

Sunday, 2/28 7:30pm
DÀIMH from Scotland

Thursday, 3/3 7:30pm
ENTER THE HAGGIS

Friday, 3/4 8:30pm
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Cabin Fever Workshops

4 Saturdays in February 2016 Adults, teens & kids

Winter Wonder Walk, Feb 6, 10-2pm with Ethan Harrison

Bundle up and grab your camera! Come with us on a scenic walk around the Landing and to Constitution Marsh and Arden Point. Practice using different lenses and settings to get your ideal landscape photo. Ethan Harrison is a professional who shoots documentary style photos of events, farms and small businesses in the HV.

Introduction to Linoleum Printing, Feb 6, 10-1pm with Melissa Schlobohm

Learn how to cut, ink, edition and print your own relief print on paper with local printmaker and Art Center staff member, Melissa Schlobohm. Take this opportunity to explore one of the oldest art forms and machines: the printing press! No experience needed to try something different.

Simply Elegant Jewelry, Feb 13, 10-1pm with Ada Pilar Cruz

A cabin fever favorite! Participants will be introduced to basic metal-smithing techniques, learn to anneal and hammer wire into designs for pendants and earrings. This workshop is the perfect beginning to creating more advanced jewelry making.

Valentine's Soy Candle Making, Feb 13, 10-1pm, Helen Michelsen

Come decorate and pour scented, soy wax Valentine's Day candles for that special someone! Students will also have the opportunity to make their own collaged Valentine's day card and match box to go alongside their candles. This is the perfect fun and easy activity for you with your friend or child! (Children 12 and under only \$15/ea.)

Color: An Introduction, Feb 20, 12-4pm, with Emmett McLaughlin

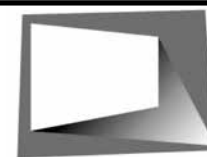
This class is a great intro to the properties, concepts, and effects of color. This course is a perfect fundamental knowledge base for improving traditional visual art color knowledge, personal interest, hobbies and crafts, home décor, or graphic work applications. Taught by Josef Albers. The goal of the class is for individuals to strengthen their color knowledge and sensibilities.

Introduction to Watercolor, Feb 27, 10-1pm, with Linda Barboni

Take this opportunity to try your hand at watercolor under some expert guidance. Students will be taught wet-on-wet techniques working from still life. Enjoy the spontaneity and transparency created by the free flowing style of watercolor.

Garrison Art Center
garrisonartcenter.org

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SUN 1:15 4:00 6:45, MON 7:15

TUE 1:15 4:00 7:15, WED & THU 7:15

Spotlight (R)

FRI & SAT 5:30 8:30, SUN 1:30 4:30

MON 7:30, TUE 1:30 7:30, THU 7:30

Brooklyn (PG13)

FRI & SAT 2:30, SUN 7:30

TUE 4:30, WED 7:30

Kung Fu Panda 3 (PG)

FRI & SAT 2:15 4:45 7:15

SUN 1:00 3:30 6:00, MON 7:00

TUE 1:45 4:15 7:00

WED & THU 7:00

Royal Wedding (NR) (1951)

MON (Feb. 8) 2:00

Doing the High-Low Thing (from Page 7)

up in Okinawa, Japan, where, he recalls, his “mother used to always wear silk scarves.” He moved to New York at 19 to study at the Fashion Institute of Technology, after a brief sojourn at a community college in upstate New York, which he hadn’t realized wasn’t New York City when he applied there. “The first winter was

shocking!” he recalls.

Miyagi returns every few years to Japan, where some of the scarves and stoles are hand-printed and hand-stitched; others are made in China — Miyagi’s background in the fashion industry aided him with the manufacturing. Some of the seven individual designs, each in a specific color, are inspired by nassen, a traditional, multi-step Japanese silk printing technique utilizing rice paste. These are set on either silk-twill or silk-cotton fabrics.



Silk twill scarf, top, and silk cotton stole (above) designed by Suguru Miyagi

Images courtesy of the artist

He began by marketing the scarves through his website; he has since expanded into wholesale and plans to reach out to retailers. He hopes to design pillowcases, as well. Miyagi participated in the three-year-old Beacon artisan fair Work:Shop during the past two years after attending the first as a customer.

That experience surprised him; “I’m a little shy and I didn’t think I would enjoy talking to people as much as I did,” he says. “I didn’t realize how receptive people could be about the subject matter [of the designs on the scarves]. I expected that in Williamsburg, not here, but paradoxically, being here you often think about the city — maybe it works that way. If I spend

more time in the city again, maybe I will start making nature designs.”

As for how to wear the scarves and stoles, Miyagi is considering doing a YouTube tutorial, but he says that, really, “it’s up to you. Most women wrap the silk ones in sort of a posh, Hermès-type way, but because my aesthetics are a bit rock ‘n roll grungy, I like them worn casually. With the silk-cotton blends, just throw them around your neck.” Above all, “feel happy wearing it, and confident.” That, he says, “is the best part of this.”

Miyagi’s scarves can be shipped worldwide. Visit sugurustudio.com, or The Roundhouse in Beacon also carries his designs at stackroundhouse.com.



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Jaanika Peerna in her Nelsonville studio

File photo by Alison Rooney

Cold Spring Artist Awarded International Drawing Prize

Jaanika Peerna "clearly the winner," says jury

Jaanika Peerna of Cold Spring has been awarded the Grand Prix FID 2016 by the Foire Internationale du Dessin (International Drawing Fair), an organization based in Paris.

FID (thefid.org) was founded in Paris in 2007 and is dedicated to the promotion of contemporary drawing. The pool of applicants for its 2016 award was narrowed to 49 nominees and 10 finalists before Peerna was selected as the grand-prize winner.

Brett Littman, executive director of the Drawing Center in New York and chairman of the jury, announced that "Jaanika Peerna is clearly the winner." Other members of the jury include Rebecca Kerlin of Gallery Joe in Philadelphia, Maurits van de Laar from The Hague, Serghei Litvin, founder of FID, and Philippe de Montebello, director emeritus of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

"It is an honor to receive this award," said Peerna, an Estonian-born artist living and working primarily in New York since 1998, "especially because I see all my work, whether installation, video, or performance, as fundamentally based in drawing. I am honored to be in the company of fellow artists who are pushing the medium of drawing into new territories as an independent art form."

Willie's Wins Three Prizes at Wingfest

Recognized for best wings, dessert wings, booth

Whistling Willie's in Cold Spring won three prizes on Jan. 30 at the ninth annual Hudson Valley Wingfest. More than 2,000 people attended the culinary event, held at the Motorcyclepedia Museum in Newburgh, and consumed 75,000 wings prepared by 30 area restaurants.

Willie's, located at 184 Main St., won third place for best wings, second place for best dessert wings (Mexican Hot Chocolate) and third place for best decorated booth.

The trophy for best overall wing went to the Crooked Rooster in Poughkeepsie. The judging panel for that category included John Barry of the Poughkeepsie Journal, Jordan Wilkinson of Yelp and David Barry, Scott Swartz and Dave McCue of the Culinary Institute of America.

How Do Animals Make It?

Presentation explains winter survival

The Fort Montgomery State Historic Site and Trailside Museums and Zoo will host a presentation at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 17, on how animals such as deer, wood frogs and praying mantis survive the winter.

The program, which takes place at Fort Montgomery, is designed for children ages 8 and older and will include a nature trek to search for animal tracks, hands-on furs and games. Registration is required; call 845-446-2134. The historic site is located at 690 Route 9W in Forth Montgomery.



Bucks in winter

Photo provided

Hudson Valley to Host Special Olympics Winter Games

Volunteers needed to fill stands and cheer

The Hudson Valley will host the Special Olympics State Winter Games for the first time later this month at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center in Poughkeepsie. More than 900 athletes are expected to compete.

The games begin at 8 p.m. on Friday,



A skiing competitor and guide Photo provided

Share Your News With Our Readers

Share news and announcements with the readers of *Philipstown.info* and *The Paper*. To submit your upcoming events and announcements for consideration in our Community Briefs section (in print and online) submit a text-only press release (250 words or less) along with a separately attached high-resolution photograph to arts@philipstown.info.

Feb. 19, with the opening ceremonies, a Law Enforcement Torch Run, a parade of athletes, motivational speeches and entertainment.

The competitions on Saturday, Feb. 20, include alpine skiing at the Holiday Mountain Ski Area in Monticello, figure and speed skating at the McCann Ice Arena in Poughkeepsie, cross-country and snowshoeing at Bowdoin Park in Poughkeepsie and floor hockey at the Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh. The Civic Center will host the closing ceremonies and a victory dance at 6:30 p.m.

To wrap up the weekend, Special Olympics New York will host the Fishkill Polar Plunge at Sharpe Environmental Center on Sunday, Feb. 21. Participants are asked to raise at least \$100 to receive a Polar Plunge sweatshirt. Register at polarplungeny.org. Last year the event raised more than \$135,000.

The Hudson Valley region will send 115 athletes to the Games from Putnam, Dutchess, Ulster, Sullivan, Orange, Westchester and Rockland counties. The co-chairs of the event are Mary Kay Vrba, president and CEO of Dutchess Tourism, Inc., and Frank M. Castella, Jr., president and CEO of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce. Athletes and their families attend at no cost.

Special Olympics New York is still in search of volunteers to fill the stands. Visit specialolympicsny.org to register, although walk-ups are welcome. State officials say Dutchess County has already broken the organization's volunteering record, with some 750 residents already committed to cheer.

Nominations Open for Seniors of the Year

Putnam County due Feb. 12 and Dutchess on Mar. 25

Officials in Putnam and Dutchess counties are looking for the 2016 senior citizens of the year. Each county will recognize two residents who are at least 60 years old for their civic engagement.

Putnam's winners will be honored at the annual Putnam County Senior Volunteer Ceremony in the spring, and Dutchess's winners at the Celebration of Aging luncheon in May. Winners from both counties will join seniors from each of New York's 62 other counties at a luncheon on May 10 in Albany.

The Putnam County nomination form can be downloaded at putnamcountyny.com/osr and mailed to Senior Award, Putnam County Office for Senior Resources, 110 Old Route 6, Building 1, Carmel, NY 10512 or emailed to sherrie.gilmore@

putnamcountyny.gov. The deadline is Friday, Feb. 12. (Government employees who provide services to senior citizens are not eligible to be nominated.) For more information, call 845-808-1700.

Dutchess County is looking for nominations for senior male, senior female and senior couple. Call 845-486-2555 or visit www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/Aging/soswinter20152016.pdf; the form is on page four. The form should be mailed to Advisory Board, Dutchess County Office for the Aging, 27 High St., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. The deadline is Friday, March 25.

Foundation Gives \$25K in Grants to Haldane

Fund workshops, tech and youth speaker

The Haldane School Foundation has given nearly \$26,000 in grants to the Haldane Central School District to fund field trips, writing and poetry workshops across several grades, as well as speaker Jeff Yalden, who will address students in grades 8-12 on the topics of teen depression and suicide.

The field trips include visits by the sixth grade to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the tenth grade to Washington, D.C., the eighth grade to a team-building overnight in the Catskills and the fifth grade to the Museum of Natural History.

Other grants funded 12 computers for project-based math lessons and science dissection equipment for the fifth grade. In addition, twice a year the foundation awards "innovation" grants to teachers, administrators and parents within the Haldane district for projects that fall outside what is available under the school budget.

Since its founding in 2000, the Haldane School Foundation has raised more than \$900,000 for district programs. On April 1, it will host a talent show at the Towne Crier in Beacon and on April 30 plans a fund-



Jeff Yalden

Photo provided

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

raiser at Glynwood Farm. For more information, visit haldaneschoolfoundation.org.

When Washington Passed By Museum to share local lore of first president

George Washington did far more than pass through Philipstown, notes storyteller and historian Jonathan Kruk. He came a-courting, discovered "treason of the darkest dye," plotted battles and lost a spoon. Dressed as a contemporary of the first president, Kruk will share intimate and lively tales of Washington's time in Philipstown at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 13 at the Putnam History Museum in Cold Spring.

Admission to the event is free for members and \$5 for non-members. Reserve a seat by calling 845-265-4010 or emailing shannon@putnamhistorymuseum.org. The museum is located at 63 Chestnut St.

Coaches Organizing AAU Basketball

*9D Hoops hopes to field teams for
grades 4-9*

Tyrone Searight, who coaches the Haldane girls' varsity basketball team and a 17U boys' team for the AAU New York Pride, and Jim McDermott, a Haldane parent who directs the Westchester Lady Bears AAU program, are organizing local AAU teams for the spring under a program called 9D Hoops. Early interest suggests there will be three girls' and possibly two boys' teams.

The season for girls in grades 7 to 9 will begin the week of March 14. The season for boys and girls in grades 4 to 6 will begin the week of April 4. Each team will practice once or twice per week and participate in weekend tournaments. The cost is \$350 plus a \$75 uniform fee for the elementary grades and \$550 plus \$125 uniform fee for middle-school grades.

For more information, email McDermott at jlmc3013@gmail.com.

Beacon

Howland Center to Host Valentine Dance

*Feb. 13 event includes chocolates, guest
vocalist*

Dance the evening away on Saturday, Feb. 13, starting at 8 p.m., when the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon hosts a Valentine's Day Dance starring vocalist Efrain "La Voz" Colon. The event will include refreshments, chocolates and a raffle.

All are welcome: couples, singles, friends, strangers. A donation of \$10 is requested. For more information, call 845-765-0667. The cultural center is located at 477 Main St.

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

Poetry Meets Photography

Library exhibit opens Feb. 13

The Howland Library in Beacon will open an exhibit of work by artists who were asked to submit either poetry or photography, or both, inspired by conflict and resolution. The exhibit was organized by the Beacon Photography Group. It will open in the library's Community Room exhibit space with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Second Saturday, Feb. 13, and continue during library hours through Saturday, March 5. The Howland Public Library is located at 313 Main St.



The Voices, by Melissa Robin

St. Andrew's, Then and Now

*Exhibit includes photos from past and
present*

As part of its *Art in the Sanctuary* series, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Beacon will host a photography exhibit, *St. Andrew's in Black & White – Then & Now*, that opens from 4 to 6 p.m. on Second Saturday, Feb. 13.

The exhibit, scheduled to coincide with Black History Month, features archival photos by a longtime parishioner alongside current shots by Beacon portrait artist Meredith Heuer. St. Andrew's is located at 15 South Ave.



A shot from the past at St. Andrew's

Photo provided

Pianist to Cover Five Centuries at Howland

*Blair McMillan to perform as part of
ongoing festival*

As part of the Howland Music Circle's ongoing piano festival, Blair McMillan



Blair McMillan

Photo courtesy of Ariel Artists

will perform at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 14, at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon. The pianist will play a program he calls "Piano Cosmos" that spans five centuries, from Bach's *Wachet auf* (as arranged by Busoni) to a world premiere by SUNY New Paltz faculty member Nkeiru Okoye. He will also perform Joan Tower's *Ivory and Ebony* and works by George Crumb and Bela Bartok.

The concert will be followed by a reception with the artist. Tickets are \$30 (\$10 for students) and can be ordered by calling 845-765-3012 or at howlandmusic.org. The cultural center is located at 477 Main St.

Support Groups

For a full list of area support groups, visit:
philipstown.info/sg

Film Society to Screen *Song of Lahore*

*Documentary follows Pakistani
musicians to Lincoln Center*

The Beacon Film Society will host a screening at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 9, of the 2015 documentary, *Song of Lahore*, followed by a question-and-answer session with co-director Andy Schocken. The screening takes place at Beahive Beacon, 291 Main St. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door or by visiting beaconfilmsociety.org/screenings.

When Pakistan won its independence in 1947, Lahore was known as a haven for musicians, artists and poets. But Islamization, ethnic divisions, war and corruption have torn apart the country's cultural fabric. In 2004, Izzat Majeed founded Sachal Studios to create a space for traditional music; after convincing a number of musicians to pick up their instruments, the band quietly released classical and folk albums, along with an experimental album fusing jazz and South Asian instruments that has brought Sachal global acclaim.

Their rendition of Dave Brubeck's *Take Five* became a sensation and Wynton Marsalis invited them to perform at Lincoln Center. After a week of rehearsals fusing the orchestras from Lahore and New York, the musicians took the stage for a remarkable concert.

Join us for our *first* First Friday!

We'll be staying open late this coming Friday and partaking in the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce First Fridays series. We are thrilled to announce we will be hosting local artist Russell Cusick. Russell, a lifelong photographer, has lived in Putnam County for 20 years and is a proud business owner for the past 12 years. Primarily a photographer, Russell is known for his mixed media double acrylic panels, original photos augmented with acrylic and oil. Russ currently sells his work at his Gallery in Beacon, located at 530 Main St., as well as in NYC, The Historic Mohonk Mountain House in New Paltz, and at West Point Military Academy.

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James Booker, "Bayou Maharajah"

Film about funky pianist will be shown Feb. 7

By Joe Dizney

New Orleans is a piano kind of city, and no one has ever played the piano there, or perhaps anywhere, like James Carroll Booker III. Booker was the funkier branch on the family tree of New Orleans' piano masters, stretching back from Jelly Roll Morton, Tuts Washington and Professor Longhair to Ellis Marsalis, Allen Toussaint, Dr. John and beyond.

Lily Keber, the director of the 2013 documentary, *Bayou Maharajah: The Tragic Genius of James Booker*, which screens at Dogwood in Beacon at 8 p.m.



James Carroll Booker III performing at the 1978 New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival.

Photo by Michael P. Smith

on Sunday, Feb. 7, first encountered the musician while tending bar at Vaughan's Lounge in the Bywater neighborhood. Asking around about him, she heard some rather strange stories.

"I began to notice that the more bizarre a James Booker story was, the more likely it was to be true," she recalls.

Here are just a few:

- "Baby" Booker was the son and grandson of piano-playing Baptist ministers, a child prodigy of sorts playing organ in his father's church and skilled equally in Bach, Chopin, Ray Charles, Errol Garner, Tuts Washington and Liberace.
- His 1960 organ instrumental *Gonzo* (which reached No. 43 on the Billboard charts) reputedly furnished Hunter S. Thompson with a name for his journalistic *raison d'être*.
- Booker gave Dr. John keyboard tips after the good doctor lost a guitar-playing finger in a barroom gun skirmish. John later employed Booker in his touring band. The Doctor also famously described Booker as "the best black, gay, one-eyed junkie piano genius New Orleans has ever produced."
- A lifelong petty criminal, Booker taught the young Harry Connick, Jr., to play as repayment to Harry's father, the New Orleans district attorney Harry Connick, Sr., for "legal counsel" and negotiating an abbreviated jail term.
- His signature star eyepatch allegedly memorialized an eye lost to Beatle Ringo Starr's bodyguard. (He was a studio and touring sideman for Ringo among others, including The Doobie Brothers, Labelle, Maria Muldaur and Jerry Garcia.)
- Cartoonist Bunny Matthews likened having Booker over to your place as "the entire Bacchus parade marching through your living room." Booker was known to make the rounds of his Crescent City haunts in full police regalia.
- Allen Toussaint, who knew Booker since childhood, once commented: "There is a word that is thrown around so loosely for certain people who have done well in life — they call them geniuses. If the word is applicable to anyone, the person who comes to mind is James Booker."

Booker died of renal failure — the result of a lifetime of drug and alcohol abuse — in November 1983, waiting unattended in a wheelchair in the emergency room of Charity Hospital; a tragic end to an epic, almost mythic life.

"Booker personifies New Orleans in a lot of ways — funky, he does things his own way, even to his own detriment,"



James Booker

Photo by Anton Corbijn

says Keber. "If New Orleans would get its act together, sure we'd have industry, maybe even a vibrant economy, but who'd want to live here? Booker is the same way. You could just look at him and listen to him and know that there is no one else on earth who has ever, or will ever, be like him. That he existed at all is a comfort to me."

The documentary, which was named "Best Southern Film" by Oxford American and "Best Louisiana Feature" at the New Orleans' Film Festival, will be released commercially and for streaming in April. Dogwood is located at 47 E. Main St. For more information about the film, visit bayoumaharajah.com.

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Reviving the Food Processor

Author sings praises of overlooked kitchen tool

By Alison Rooney

Fear and loathing of dinner: the preparation and execution of it, that is, has been known to strike the best of us, particularly those with unforgiving children with growling bellies. All too often there's the inclination to give in: to fast, processed, "easy" foods, giving their server an acute aftertaste of guilt.

Into this breach has boldly stepped Nicki Sizemore, a Cold Spring-based culinary instructor, recipe developer food stylist, food blogger (From Scratch Fast), marketing consultant and food provider to two young daughters. Partially in response to "the dinnertime race before meltdown", Sizemore has written her first book, *The Food Processor Family Cookbook* (Sonoma Press).

Beyond the recipes, the book was formed from the question Sizemore poses to herself, "What tools do I have so that I can act as, effectively, a sous-chef?" She explains: "I don't like all the little gadgets that are out there, but certain things — like food processors — can really help with preparation, because prep is often the hardest part."

Sizemore grew up in a "traditional" household when it came to cooking; traditional in this instance meaning the recent traditions of a harried parent being too busy to utilize her skills. "My mom is a great cook, but she didn't have a lot of time to cook and so we ate lots of processed food," she says. "I watched the Food Network growing up and taught myself how to cook from it. When I was in high school there was a shift, and the whole family got involved and now that my mom is retired, she's become an incredible cook."

At college in Colorado, Sizemore says she had an "amazing cook for a roommate. I had never had sushi or curries, anything like that, and it opened up my palate." Moving to New York after finishing school, Sizemore discovered she could have a career in food without being a restaurant chef. She ended up working for a company which imported specialty foods and attended culinary school, then branching out into many facets of the cooking industry. "At culinary school I learned the technical side of things, which I absolutely needed to do, and that opened up other doors to me."

The Food Processor Family Cookbook begins by demystifying its central apparatus: Sizemore says many food processors lurk in dusty kitchen corners because they came equipped with "too many bells and whistles" and are difficult to clean after use. That's a shame, she says, because "they actually can save you so much time: you can shred a pound of cheese in 30 seconds, for example, or instantly chop up vegetables to make a tomato sauce with, and those finely chopped vegetables then cook faster; it's the perfect tool for making sauces to set off a beautiful plate of vegetables or a simple seared steak. Food processors use aromatics, herbs, ingredi-

ents like ginger and garlic to make sauces in a matter of minutes, which then make for very special meals. Plus, it's also great for pastries, batters and pie crusts. I'm a cook, not a baker, but with a food processor I can start with wet ingredients, and not dirty a lot of bowls, and that's important because part of the battle is the clean-up involved."

What's key to mastering both the equipment and, bigger picture, putting flavorful and healthy dinners on the table, is menu planning. Just a bit of time spent thinking things out can reduce prep time. "That's my whole philosophy — meals and recipes that can be made in under an hour. None of my recipes are all that complicated. And there's always also a wing-it night, otherwise it becomes too overwhelming."

Some of that comes from developing time management and organizational skills. "If you have that you can do anything," she says. "Breaking a recipe down and knowing where to start can be as simple as measuring spices before cooking begins." Experience counts too. "Learning how to use your senses — hearing and smelling the simmering, gauging when it starts to shift; these skills can be applied to a family kitchen."

Inspiration for creating recipes comes in different forms, according to Sizemore. "It's sometimes as easy as visualizing, or a photo of food that gets my mind going, or a restaurant meal where I taste, say, lemongrass and realize, 'I should put lemongrass in my stew,'" she says. "But it can also be just forcing myself to use the ingredients I have."

Sonoma Press approached Sizemore (an editor there was familiar with Sizemore's blog and philosophy), dangling the idea for the cookbook. Sizemore quickly embraced it, even though her lack of experience in that area was intimidating. "I haven't ever written a book proposal and



Nicki Sizemore and her daughter Ella

Photo by Caroline Kaye Photography

I kind of didn't know where to start so [being given the topic] was a good way to do something with some focus," she says.

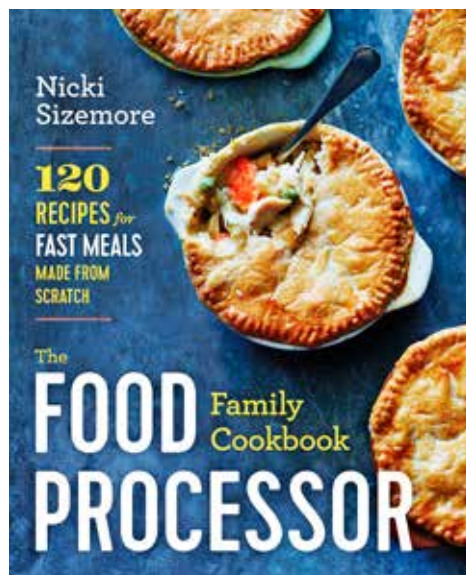
After sharing recipes for the kitchen, which feature sauces, dressings, condiments and spreads, the book moves to recipes for the table, with chapters on breakfasts, snacks and side, soups, salads and dinners of different stripes, including vegetarian and vegan. Every recipe is tagged if vegetarian, vegan or gluten-free. Sizemore feels the book will be of most benefit to "busy families looking to incorporate more wholesome foods into their routines, and also to people new to the kitchen — people who might actually own a food processor, but haven't dug it out in a long time [but might] take another look at it because it can produce easy, delicious results."

For the past four years, Sizemore's kitchen has been located in Cold Spring, which she and her husband first experienced on a day's drive out of the city. "We stopped at the farmers' market when it was outside Butterfield, and I thought 'We're going to move here someday,'" she recalls. After a brief sojourn in Connecticut, which wasn't right for them, they upped and moved to a place which was.

"Within a couple of months we found a community of really good friends, and with access to amazing local food," she says. "Going to the farmers' market can plant some lightbulbs, like, 'What can I do with a pound of kohlrabi?'" Sizemore taught some classes at the Philipstown Community Center and now teaches private classes, either in demonstration or full, hands-on participation format.

Together with her blog, the notion of writing another cookbook someday and just making the meals in her own household, she is happy with what she's doing and where she is, noting, "My roots are planted here now."

The Food Processor Family Cookbook is available locally at the Cold Spring General Store on Main Street in Cold Spring, or through Sizemore's website at nickisizemore.com.



The cover of Sizemore's new cookbook.



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Haldane Athletes Sign Letters of Intent

Headed for Hartford, Pace and Stony Brook

By Michael Turton

Three Haldane seniors signed national letters of intent on Feb. 3 to play volleyball and soccer at the collegiate level. The brief afternoon ceremony at the high school was part of National Signing Day, an annual ritual in which student athletes officially commit to colleges and universities.

Nicole Etta will attend the University of Hartford to play Division 1 volleyball while studying honors business and accounting. A four-year varsity athlete, she was a member of the 2013 Haldane team that won the Class D state championship.

In 2014 and 2015 she was named to the All New York State First Team, the New York State All Tournament Team and the *Poughkeepsie Journal* All Star First Team. “I’m going to miss Haldane, but I’m very excited,” she said. “It’s going to be a real challenge playing volleyball at that level.”

Macdara Heanue signed to play Division I soccer at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where he will study business management. In spring 2011, he trained at the Empoli Academy in Italy and that fall joined the FC Westchester Soccer Club. In 2014 and 2015, he played for the Everton FC Westchester club as part of the U.S. Soccer Development Academy and was also invited to attend the U.S. Soccer Federation Training Center in Portland, Conn. “I like that Stony Brook emphasizes skills rather than size,” he said.



Nicole Etta, Macdara Heanue and Bailey McCollum

Photo by M. Turton

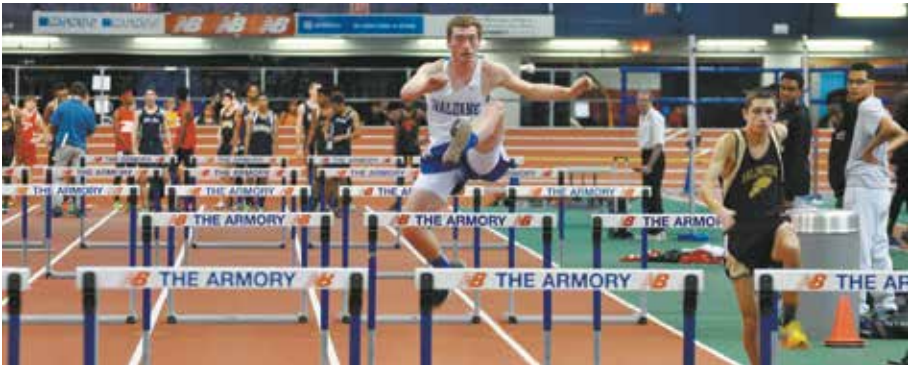
“The coaches and other players were great; it is a very welcoming environment.”

Bailey McCollum, who will play soccer for Division II Pace University, which has campuses in New York City and Pleasantville, has not yet selected her course of study. In four years of varsity soccer, she scored 80 goals, had 48 assists and helped lead the team to the 2014 state championship. Twice named team captain, she was selected as League Player of the Year in 2015. “I’m really excited,” about heading to Pace, she said. “All my hard work has paid off.”



Lady Blue Devil Hannah Monteleone goes up for the ball in an overtime thriller with the Beacon Bulldogs on Saturday, Jan. 30 at the Haldane gymnasium. The Bulldogs topped Haldane 52-51 for the victory.

Photo by Peter Farrell



Andrew Platt competes for Haldane in the 55m high hurdles at The Armory in New York on Jan. 29.

Photo by Peter Farrell

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