Guillaro Pulls Plug On Butterfield
Rezoning

Assents in letter he will build residential homes

By Kevin E. Foley

F
or the second time this year, devel-
opner Paul Guillaro has withdrawn plans for the Butterfield Hospital property on Route 9D. In a brief letter to the Cold Spring Board of Trustees dated Feb. 4, Guillaro asked the board to sus-
pend all consideration of the proposed B4A zoning amendment. That idea ran into a buzz saw of opposition at a public hearing last Tuesday, Jan. 30.

In his letter, Guillaro also said he had asked his consultants to draw up plans for a ‘‘single family as-of-right R1 applica-
tion to the Planning Board.’’ R1 is allowed under the current B4 zoning. Under the existing zoning code (which does not in-
clude recommendations from the Com-
prehensive Plan), most knowledgeable ob-
servers agree a number of homes could be constructed on the 5.7-acres parcel given the 7,500-square-feet minimum lot size.

Guillaro’s new tack would also eliminate the possibility of a new location for the post office, a new senior citizen center and other governmental services long spoken about by county, town and village officials. The withdrawal of his request for rezoning will cast those issues into a harsher spotlight. But just who is now supposed to do something about jump-starting reconsider-
ation remains to be seen.

Opposition to the new zoning propos-
al, which would have permitted multiple uses including all levels of government functions, focused on the absence of any certainty or specificity about those services. In fact, as several speakers at the hearing noted, Guillaro had taken off the label “municipal” from one of the proposed buildings on his concept draw-
ings, suggesting to many he wasn’t sure about the services either.

Cold Spring Mayor Seth Gallagher has said several times of late that the munici-
pal services were not guaranteed but that approving the new zoning and getting the buildings built were the only chances the village had of obtaining them.

Although concerns about the actual development’s details remain, many peo-

Trustees Approve Cycling Event

Event linked to an international circuit

By Kevin E. Foley

Cold Spring trustees have pointed thumbs up in response to the lat-
est proposal for the May 5 Putnam Cycling Classic slated to begin and end within the village. The race, which organ-
izers say might attract as many as 500 rider-enthusiasts, is part of an interna-
tional circuit under the umbrella of the International Cycling Union (UCI).

Speaking before the trustees at a work-
shop meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 5, Ray Fusco, a professional event organizer and vil-
lage resident, walked the trustees through the details of the plan, displaying color charts on an easel. He said that he hoped the plans for the race “could become a template for future events of all kinds.”

Retained by the Putnam County Tourism Board, local sponsor of the event, Fusco said he and others involved, including Lib-
by Pataki, county tourism director, had developed the race plans in consultation with all the stakeholders in the village.

Central to the new concept for the event is minimal disruption to Main Street com-
merce during the course of an otherwise busy Sunday. Last October’s race engen-
dered harsh criticism from merchants for the prolonged closing of Main and other streets. Some of that had feeling still hangs over the current plans, although the new approach appears to mollify most. Fusco was not (Continued on page 3)

Putnam County Legislature Blasts NY Gun Law, Urges Repeal

Says measure imposes ‘unfunded mandates,’ threatens gun rights

By Liz Schetribuck Armstrong

The Putnam County Legislature Wednesday night (Feb. 6) unani-
mously denounced New York state’s strict new gun control law and urged repeal of the measure, claiming it threatens gun rights and imposes un-
funded mandates on local jurisdictions.

On a voice vote, the nine legislators, in-
cluding District 1’s Barbara Scuccimarra, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, backed a resolution that invoked the 2nd Amendment and gun rights. The legislators added the resolu-
tion to the agenda shortly before their monthly meeting, did not include it in the otherwise voluminous documenta-
tion on agenda items available online, and did not read the text aloud before the vote. A legislative aide supplied a copy after the meeting, held at the Old Courthouse in Carmel.

In tandem with the resolution on their views of gun rights, the Legislature passed a second resolution, objecting to the new state law’s provisions on record-
keeping on mentally ill persons deemed likely to engage in violence, terming these requirements, too, an onerous un-
funded mandate.

Following the mid-December massa-
crre of 20 young school children and six faculty members in Connecticut and the murders of two firefighters responding to a blaze in a rural northern commu-
nity, the New York State Legislature en-
acted the new gun control law, called the New York State Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement Act of 2013, or NY SAFE. It bans new semi-automatic ass-
sault rifles, handguns and shotguns (as-
sault guns owned remain legal but must be registered); decreases the allowable size of high-capacity ammunition maga-
zines; demands re-certification of hand-
gun and assault-weapon owners every five years, at the county level; initiates mental-health related rules, including cross-checking of lists of the mentally unstable against gun registrations; and otherwise attempts to curb gun mayhem.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, signed the law on Jan. 16. Putnam Coun-
ty’s legislators are all Republicans, except for District 2’s Sam Oliverio, a Democrat who also ran as a Conservative in 2011.

The county legislators said they “op-
spose the enactment” of NY SAFE “be-
cause it fundamentally alters or abridges the right to keep and bear arms without addressing the problems of gun vio-

lence.” They asked the governor and state Legislature “to set aside and annul this ill-conceived and poorly drafted statute which abridges the rights of law abid-
ing citizens” and, until that happens, “to remove any and all possible unfunded mandates created or that may be created by this legislation.”

They also claimed that the law “con-
templates the creation of a new unfund-
ed mandate requiring the counties to ab-
sorb the cost of the initial and periodic re-certification procedure.” They asserted that NY SAFE “will have a detrimental effect on hunters, (Continued on page 3)
Alas far as I can see, the only thing good about February is that it has 28 days. This one in particular is firmly caught in my craw: As I write this, the temperature for the month thus far — and for some days previously — has not risen above the freezing point. Plus, we don’t even currently have the questionable bonus (questionable, at least, to this southern-born transplant) of some nice powdery snow for cross-country skiing or a short snowshoe trek to break up the monotony and warm the bones and soul.

A so-called “knowledge worker,” I sit at the computer, counting the days until work I can and trying to stay warm. The witch hazel blooms and the snow at the computer, counting the days until and warm the bones and soul. I’m adding peanuts (in the form of peanut butter, for easier blending) as a riff on a once-cooked Side-galese or Mexican peanut soup, the foods of warmer climes. A top note of smoky fire in the form of chipotle peppers for heat and depth reinforces the ethnic culinary inspirations.

This will of course all be rounded out by a healthy dose of onion-family members (can’t live without them), celery, carrots (more cartenets!) and vegetable stock. I’m trying to be nutritionally kinder to myself lately, but a chicken stock would work just as well. The dormant carnivore in me would certainly work a little smoky bacon into the mix somewhere. Likewise, some shredded cooked chicken would be acceptable if you’re looking for a protein boost. For just a little sweetness and to further accentuate the smoke (or maybe make up for the lack of the aforementioned bacon) I’ll add a touch of molasses.

Serve garnished with a squeeze of lime and a couple of sprigs of cilantro (or another companionable herb), a hunk of crusty bread and maybe some raw kale salad (there’s that vegetable again!), and we’re good to go, and hopefully so is the cold.

Sweet potato, peanut and chipotle soup

Choose firm unblemished potatoes with no soft spots. I added cinnamon to this version thinking it works well with sweet potatoes in general, and it is a common ingredient in Mexican cooking. Chipotles in adobo are available in small cans in Latin markets. (I found them at Key Foods in Beacon, Penzey’s Spices, in the Palisades Mall or online, sells ground chipotles as a spice powder, which is great to have around for chili and other stuff but is obviously missing the adobo sauce. It will do in a pinch.) Makes three quarts of soup.

1. Heat the oil in a large soup pot and sauté the onions, celery and carrot until soft (about 10 minutes), stirring occasionally.
2. Add the garlic and cook for another minute. Add in the cinnamon and stir the mixture for a minute or so.
3. Add the broth and chipotles and bring to a boil on medium heat. Add the potatoes and molasses and bring back to a low boil. Immediately lower the heat to a simmer and cook covered for about 30 minutes until the potatoes are tender.
4. Add the peanut butter and stir to incorporate. Remove from heat.
5. Let the soup cool to a safe working temperature and puree it in batches in a blender or with an immersion blender in the pot instead.
6. Return to pot and heat to serving temperature. Adjust seasoning.
7. Serve finished with a squeeze of lime and cilantro (or other herb) and/or a dollop of sour cream … or not. I find that it is plenty satisfying naked.

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Putnam County Legislature Blasts NY Gun Law, Urges Repeal

According to Fusco, the race will begin at the Cold Spring dock with the nearby dockside park used as a staging area for race participants and officials. Main Street will need to be closed for approximately 25 minutes to get the racers out of the village and onto two town-wide circuits. One group will do a 70-80-mile loop while the other will limit itself to only 37 miles. Both races are timed events.

The two races will culminate at a finish line that avoids Main Street and instead loops around the village center from the north via Route 9D and ends up along Fair Loop. The races are timed events.

A parallel plan by local businesses to see the proposal go away. We have to regroup [on Butterfield]. I don’t want to talk about that anymore," Mayor Ralph Falloon, currently the only candidate for mayor, said, “We need to seriously regroup [on Butterfield]. I don’t want to see the proposal go away. We have to close some of the open-ended issues and move forward.”

Putnam County Legislature Blasts NY Gun Law, Urges Repeal (from page 1)

“Based on the decision that Governor Cuomo made up the $23,139 difference through the transfer. That in combination with the restrictions we’re putting in for our roads or land, and its introduction into wastewater treatment plants, including those not run by the county government. Fracking, or hydraulic fracturing, extracts fuel from underground rocks through use of fluid, generating waste that, as critics contend, can contain heavy metals, radioactive material, and hazardous chemicals. Although Putnam County is not seen as a candidate for fracking, the possibility of dangerous fracking byproducts entering the county has caused concern for months and prompted discussions in Cold Spring and Philipstown. The draft law bans use of fracking waste “on any road or real property located within the County of Putnam,” which appears to apply to private property and roads not maintained by the county as well to roads the county does oversee. Westchester County has enacted a similar ban.

Oliverio questioned the validity of the draft measure and infringements on local governments. “There is some discussion about whether this law in its original shape is legal, to impose upon our towns the restrictions we’re putting in for our county,” he said. “It’s been brought to our attention that we believe home-rule supersedes the power of the county to impose this.” He recommended the Legislature “clarify the home rule issue” before moving forward.

Although they rescheduled action for March, the legislators did not seem opposed to banning fracking waste. “We all unanimously support the ban on that waste hazard, District 5’s Carl Albano said.

What I believe the residents were trying to communicate at the public hearing: that it was not so much comment against the site plan as much as the mechanism to best achieve those uses for his project while protecting the village’s interests. Of great concern I believe, was the change of the Municipal Building being labeled on the Concept Plan as Office/ Retail/Commercial. This would allow for the entire 17,000 square feet of the building to be used for additional commercial/retail space that was never anticipated or discussed. That in combination with the lack of any protections from formula businesses was clearly more risk than the residents want us to take on their behalf.”

After the Tuesday meeting, Trustee Ralph Falloon, currently the only candidate for mayor, said, “We need to seriously regroup (on Butterfield). I don’t want to see the proposal go away. We have to close some of the open-ended issues and move forward.”

Trusted Approve Cycling Event (from page 1)

The race, which began at the Cold Spring dock with the nearby dockside park used as a staging area for race participants and officials. Main Street will need to be closed for approximately 25 minutes to get the racers out of the village and onto two town-wide circuits. One group will do a 70-80-mile loop while the other will limit itself to only 37 miles. Both races are timed events.

The two races will culminate at a finish line that avoids Main Street and instead loops around the village center from the north via Route 9D and ends up along Fair Loop. Fusco said final finish-line details were decided after the Tuesday meeting, Trustee Ralph Falloon, currently the only candidate for mayor, said, “We need to seriously regroup (on Butterfield). I don’t want to see the proposal go away. We have to close some of the open-ended issues and move forward.”

Guillermo Pulls Plug On Butterfield Rezoning (from page 1)

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Building a Stronger and Healthier Hudson Valley

As your state senator, the most important priority I have is to preserve the health and safety and welfare of the people of our district and of New York. I want to discuss two steps that I am taking and ask for your support to help make them a reality.

The first deals with our most precious resource, our drinking water.

The decision whether to allow high-volume hydraulic fracturing is coming — and it rests squarely on the shoulders of Gov. Cuomo. The deadline for his decision is scheduled for later this month. As have other senators, I have pressed the governor to strongly consider the long-term negative effects that allowing this practice would bring to our communities.

A popular “solution” to the toxic fracking wastewater problem is to sell it for the manufacture of road-de-icing products. I have submitted a bill, the NY Clean Streets Act, which will ban these products from being used on New York roads, thus preventing toxic runoff from coming into direct contact with our children, leaching into our water supply and infecting the crops raised on roadside farms.

The health of the people of our region is also threatened by the acceleration of tick-borne illness, such as Lyme disease. We must respond to these complex and debilitating diseases with every resource at our disposal. My bill, TickBITE (Tick Borne-Illness Treatment and Education Act), provides funding for tick-borne illness prevention and education programs. It will also hold insurance companies accountable for covering treatment costs.

Protecting our health, safety and environment is a key to economic development in our region, a priority all of us share. Healthy and clean communities are the bedrock of prosperous communities. My two bills will help lay a foundation for strong, economic growth.

Sen. Terry Gipson
New York State Senate, District 41
Dutchess and Putnam Counties
845-463-0940
Terry@TerryGipsonNY.com

Digital Technology Pros Moving to the Area

Philipstown Tech Group considers creating a collective workspace

By Michael Turton

A new group recently formed in Philipstown reflects the continuing evolution of local demographics and the changing, professional career paths that some newer residents are following as they earn their living in this area.

The Philipstown Tech Group (PTG) met for just the second time on Jan. 31. It’s a loosely knit group thus far, made of people who work in technology — mainly digital technology. About 25 people attended the gathering held at Tightrope Interactive, an online advertising firm located on Cold Spring’s Main Street.

Part of the group’s raison d’etre is simply to bring together people with a common interest in the varied and interconnect ed aspects of digital technology and to share experiences, ideas and questions — in this case over a beer or glass of wine.

PTG mirrors the “Meetup” phenomenon, which offers a myriad of groups in many locations nationwide, assembling participants interested in just about any topic the imagination can conjure up — from hiking and Wicca to cooking and model building. The difference is that PTG is very local and is already expressing interest in serving its local community.

In attendance was Noah’s Ark of the digital tech world, including software designers and testers, university professors, filmmakers and videogame designers, and entrepreneurs, writers, consultants, graphic designers, video editors and marketing, advertising and media specialists.

The group’s members are young, and many have moved up to the Philipstown area from New York City, some quite recently. Chris Daly, a design consultant who did just that in May, said of the emerging group, “We’re like the artists from Brooklyn who moved up to Beacon.”

If their digital world is complex, their personal lives are not. People introduced themselves, gave a quick synopsis of their background and commented on what, beyond basic networking, they would like to see the fledgling group concentrate on in its formative stages.

A number of members have young children attending school at Haldane, and it quickly became apparent that one of the group’s initial thrusts will be work with students, parents and staff there to help provide greater exposure to digital technology as part of the learning experience, including younger students. There was also a strong consensus that creating a shared workspace in Cold Spring, one that caterers to professionals working in digital technology, should be a priority. Volunteer committees were formed to begin work on both initiatives. Also discussed was the possibility of setting up an online job and idea board for the group.

There was even talk of Cold Spring becoming known as a center for digital-technology-related businesses than antique shops resonated with the group and with Dave McCarthy, PTG’s coordinator. McCarthy manages Tightrope Interactive, whose head offices are located in San Francisco.

He thinks Cold Spring’s location gives it great potential for tech-oriented businesses, that being somewhat removed from New York City but close enough to get in and out easily is a plus. To be tech hub, he said that a locale has to be “far enough away from the city that’s not any other suburb.”

Cold Spring, McCarthy said, also offers businesses real estate prices that are more affordable than New York or San Francisco or even Westchester County. “And it’s beautiful here. It’s a nice place to live, and that’s a big part of it,” he said, drawing a parallel with Boulder, Colo., which he said is known as “a really cool tech hub.”

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Dave McCarthy, coordinator of the Philipstown Tech Group, at work in Cold Spring’s Tightrope Interactive

Photo by M. Turton

The First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown in Cold Spring installed new elders to the church leadership during the Sunday worship service on Feb. 3. Shown in the photo are Elders Cathy Carnevale, left, Gordon Hubbard, Diana Geller, Rev. Leslie Mott, Clerk of Session Susan Jordan, and Elders Andy Reid, Bob Barton and Norm Brown.

Photo courtesy of First Presbyterian Church

February 6, 2013

Building a Stronger and Healthier Hudson Valley

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Local Cycling Group Is Proof of Excellent Racing in Mid-Hudson Valley

By Jeanne Tao

On a cold winter’s day in the Hudson Highlands, the last thing on some people’s lists of fun things to do is “go on a bike ride,” especially over this area’s many daunting hills (just think of Route 202). Yet a growing number of people have exactly that as their top priority, and they’re getting their exercise while enjoying the natural beauty of the region on their bicycles. This includes members of Team Highlands Xtreme (THX), a group of cyclists who live, work in, and around Philipstown, and whose motto is “no off-season.”

In the winter, cyclists like Garrison resident Morgan Stebbins, founder of THX, may opt to do more mountain biking or cycle-cross (riding over pavement and wooded trails on bicycles that have lightweight frames and tires with more traction) than regular road cycling, because the wooded areas tend to protect riders from the wind that might deter them on the roads.

THX members Glenn Lowery (director of MoMA), left, and Morgan Stebbins out for a bike ride near Fahnestock on Sunday, Feb. 3. (Photo courtesy of Morgan Stebbins)

Clemson Smith Muniz in the THX ‘away’ jersey. (Photo by Kathleen Vedock)

Stebbins, a Jungian psychoanalyst and New York Zen Center for Contemplative Care faculty member who happens to have 187 cycling wins under his belt, cites the great racing in the Hudson Highlands as one of the main reasons he and his wife moved here from Rockland County seven years ago. “It’s so beautiful here,” he said, noting the dirt roads as well as trails for mountain biking. He mentioned Blue Mountain in Peekskill and the woods in Fahnestock Park as great for mountain biking, and New York Zen Center for Contemplative Care’s Owings Mills residence at the Putnam Cycling Classic that was held in Lenox, Mass., in May 2012, when a group of THX members rode as a team and stayed at a bed and breakfast and dined there. “If the Berkshire Connection can pull it off, why not us?”

Theresa Smith Muniz, who said she wanted to start her own Highlands triathlon seven years ago, fellow Garrison resident Hank Fichera, who moved here from Rockland County, seven years ago. “It’s so beautiful here,” she said, noting the dirt roads as well as trails for mountain biking. He mentioned Blue Mountain in Peekskill and the woods in Fahnestock Park as great for mountain biking, and New York Zen Center for Contemplative Care’s Owings Mills residence. “This area, on both sides of the river,” he said, “has some of the nicest [places] in the country for riding. It’s pretty, and you can ride on pretty well-kept roads, without much traffic, and people don’t realize this — it’s a little mecca.”

His love for cycling and for the area led him to attend the Cold Spring Village Board’s meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 5, to speak in favor of holding the start and finish of the Putnam Cycling Classic in Cold Spring in May. Though Smith Muniz did not participate in last year’s Putnam Cycling Classic, many THX members did as a team. Smith Muniz doesn’t want to focus solely on that one-day event, however. “The event is nice, but I’m here to push Cold Spring/Garrison/Putnam as a year-round destination for cyclists. What we have to do is use this race, this event, to embrace the bike culture,” he said.

Part of embracing that bike culture, he said, is education, particularly on traffic laws. Many drivers are unaware that New York state law allows cyclists to ride two abreast; nevertheless, THX members stress the importance of riding single-file, out of courtesy and respect for drivers.

Smith Muniz admitted that not all cyclists are as courteous as everyone would like. “Just like there are unruly customers, there are unruly cyclists,” he said, seeming to address some merchants’ complaints about cyclists in their establishments. “It doesn’t mean you stop being nice to people.” He reiterated the fact that there are already many cyclists living in the area, and he pointed out that they often have disposable income.

When asked whether he thought visiting cyclists would patronize village businesses the day of the race, Smith Muniz said, “You may not score big on race day, but if people get a sense of community, and they’re within a 100-mile radius, they will come back to ride.” He thinks they may also come back with friends or family to visit.

He gave the example of the Berkshire Cycling Classic that was held in Lenox, Mass., in May 2012, when a group of THX members rode as a team and stayed at a bed and breakfast and dined there. “If the Berkshires can pull it off, why not us?”

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This is the first reading in a three-part series that will focus on the historical evolution of work. We are also exploring the possibility of scheduling the book discussion at alternate times. Please call for more information.

Admission: $5 or free for members

www.putnamhistorymuseum.org
john@putnamhistorymuseum.org
63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-4010

Join us for Book Club
Tuesday, February 26, 1 p.m.
Join us for a guided reading and discussion group, facilitated by Director of Administration & Outreach John Duncan. We will discuss the graphic novel adaptation of the 1974 classic Studs Terkel’s Working, adapted by Harvey Pekar and edited by Paul Buhle, which chronicles the lives and attitudes of America’s workforce. Duncan is a PhD candidate in History at the CUNY Graduate Center and has an MA in World History from Georgia State University. Copies of the book are available for loan at the museum.

www.philipstown.info
James Joseph Gallagher

On Feb. 1, 2013, James Joseph Gallagher (93) passed away peacefully at his home in Nelsonne, N.Y. Gallagher was born in Danbury, Conn., on Sept. 26, 1919, to Joseph Gallagher and Mary (Roche) Gallagher. For over 50 years, he made Philipstown his home with his wife, Paula Tichy Gallagher, who predeceased him in 2007. Gallagher devoted his life to teaching anthropology and developing school social studies and related subjects as well as exploring numerous local and world cultures.

During World War II, Gallagher served honorably in the United States Army from 1943 to 1946. He was stationed in North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Mississippi and for 18 months in Italy and attained the rank of captain. He served in the field artillery in various positions including battalion staff and battery commander as well as aide-de-camp to division commander Maj. Gen. Charles L. Bolte and 34th division staff. He was active in the Rome Arno Valley and North Apennines military campaigns throughout 1945.

Gallagher traveled extensively throughout the United States, Europe, South and Central America. While attending graduate school at Columbia Teachers College, James met his future wife, Paula Tichy, on a school-sponsored trip to Peru.

Gallagher started his teaching career at Peekskill High School in 1947, where he taught world history and anthropology. From 1961 until his retirement in 1979, he taught European culture, anthropology and the histories of Latin America, China and Japan at Newburgh Free Academy in Newburgh, N.Y. Gallagher also taught courses at the college level for NYU off-campus and Danbury State College.

Gallagher was an active member of the various teachers unions and other professional organizations. He served as president of the Peekskill Faculty Association from 1956 to 1969, president of the Newburgh Faculty Association from 1966 to 1969, and was chief negotiator for the Newburgh Faculty Association in 1968, 1969 and 1972. He was a board member of the New York State Council for the Social Studies from 1952 to 1954.

In 1970, Gallagher took a six-month sabbatical from teaching and with his wife, Paula, traveled with their four children to Mexico. The family drove to Mexico in a Chevrolet Suburban that Gallagher had converted to allow the family to live out of the vehicle as they drove to Mexico. In Mexico, they lived in a small village, and the children attended a local Mexican school. During this trip, the family visited many Mayan and Aztec sites and traveled further south into Guatemala and El Salvador.

During the Vietnam War, Gallagher was active in the anti-war movement. His passionate advocacy against the war was based upon his study of the history of Southeast Asia and his belief that war should only be an option of last resort.

Gallagher became very involved in politics on the local level and served on the Philipstown Democratic Committee from 1971 until 2002.

Gallagher leaves behind a loving family, including his children: Ethan, Makaria, Gretel and Seth Gallagher; his daughters-in-law Ann Gallagher and Erika Wood-Gallagher, his son-in-law, John Asfar; and 11 grandchildren, Noah, Maia, Ian, Liam, Morgaine, Aurora, Aidan, Ronan, Cahn, Freya and Reilly. James Gallagher was predeceased by his son-in-law, Roger Siudzinski, and is survived by his brother, Ed Gallagher.

Gallagher was predeceased by his son-in-law, John Asfar; and 11 grandchildren, Noah, Maia, Ian, Liam, Morgaine, and Seth Gallagher; his daughters-in-law Ann Gallagher and Erika Wood-Gallagher, and Seth Gallagher.

Activists Seek Change to State’s Big Money Campaign System

By Liz Schevetz

Election-reform activists Saturday, Feb. 2, urged state funding for candidates and tighter donation rules to decrease the dominance of big money in New York politics.

A panel organized by state Assemblywoman Sandy Galef advocated a two-prong approach to improve the state’s elections and governance. Held at the Desmond-Fish Library, Garrison, the panel presentation, Campaign Finance Reform: Time for a Change, followed a morning question-and-answer forum with Galef that ended in the arrest of a heckler whose conduct became disruptive. [See “Croton Man Arrested at Galef Town Meeting After Disruptive Conduct” on philipstown.info.]

"We all agree there’s a big problem with money in politics,” said Jesse Laymon, the downtown campaigns manager for Citizen Action of New York. According to Laymon, most money for campaigns comes from a tiny percentage of the population. “That’s going to have an effect on whom the candidates are interacting with and saw the perceptions of those same candidates once they’re in office,” he said.

Dadey, a former lobbyist, said that as part of his old job he routinely attended events at Albany hotels in the evening, things “from room to room to receptions and parties with politicians and lobbyists and very few members of the general public, a system that bothers everyone.” It “mattered the loungists uncomfortable. It makes the elected officials uncomfortable,” he said.

“We want legislators to be free to speak with others outside their districts,” Laymon told the audience of about two dozen. “We want the people who finance campaigns to be the voters.”

Dadey also mentioned elected officials in New York City — which enacted city-wide reforms — who lost decisively once public funding of campaigns existed. “Public financing increases the number of candidates running,” which invigorates the electoral process, Dadey explained, adding he observed in 2013 that “35 percent of incumbents in the New York State Legislature did not face opponents in recent elections.

Dadey also argued that any tightening of funding rules must apply to money from PACs (political action committees) and super-PACs that are ostensibly separate from a candidate’s campaign but often operate as one rule.

State Sen. Terry Gipson, like Galef a Democrat, was not on the panel but gave his own perspectives, from the floor. Gipson said, “I really believe we’re at a severe disadvantage in this state because we’re denying some of the brightest and best” an opportunity to run for office, given the often astronomical costs of campaigns.

Lerner expressed optimism the state might implement changes in the near future. “I think we have a good chance” in the state Assembly to pass legislation this year, she said, that might still allow for the state to get on board. She advocated strong citizen involvement, to convince the legislature to act.

Making improvements won’t be easy but is doable, the three reform experts said, citing experience from New York City, with its own campaign-finance provisions, and other states.

Susan Lerner, executive director of Common Cause NY, said money-saturated politics “is one of the basic challenges we face.” Under New York state law, “we have sky-high limits” on the amount of money that can be donated and “have very lax controls,” Lerner said. She proposed lowering the limits on allowable donations and instituting “public financing” of elections, in which a state coffer dispenses money to eligible candidates for campaign expenses.

Ununder a New York State Assembly bill introduced in 2012, the coffer would be fed by an income tax check-off of $5 and by a 10 percent surcharge on “recoveries for fraudulent practices relating to stocks, bonds,” and similar securities, if insufficient revenue comes from those first two sources, the coffer could draw on the state general fund for support.

“We whether we like it or not, money is a part of politics. It’s the amount of money that is necessary to run that is a problem,” said Dick Dadey, executive director of the Citizens Union of the City of New York.
Beacon Film Festival Highlight of February’s Second Saturday Offerings

By Christine Sinek

The Beacon Film Festival — Freeze Frame — is celebrating its third year with an expanded four-day program. The festival showcases an assortment of feature films, music videos and documentaries from three Hudson Valley filmmakers.

Ironbound Films, Inc. of Garrison will present its Sundance-selected, Emmy-nominated documentary, The Linguists, a film that follows two scientists’ journey around the world as they document the last gasp of an endangered species. The festival’s opening event celebrates Valentine’s Day and the interactive art show titled Love/Hate features anonymous love and hate letters and artwork displayed gallery-style.

Shop owner Michelle Caves was inspired by her love of Valentine’s Day to create the event by the books Post Secret and 1000 Journals. “I was already doing art shows every month but wanted to try something interactive and realized Valentine’s Day was coming up... and the Beacon community is so tight-knit and filled with different types of artists. I figured people had a lot of feelings around this time of year that they wanted to get out, whether positive or negative. This idea allowed them to do it anonymously, while possibly sparking a feeling in someone else.”

Throughout January and early February a typewriter was available at Blackbird Attic, and members of the public were invited to contribute to the show. Electronic letters were also accepted. The finale event featuring all submitted letters and art pieces will be held on Saturday, Feb. 9. Refreshments will be served. 5 - 8 p.m., free.

The Beacon Room at bau gallery, 506 Main St., announces the opening of The Beacon Room, a project space within bau gallery dedicated to showcasing the talent of established, mid-career and promising emerging artists living or working within the community of Beacon and surrounding towns in the Hudson Valley.

To inaugurate The Beacon Room, bau presents the work of artists Bo Gehring, Katie O’Hagan and Rieko Fujimini, three finalists from the Outs InBoochever Triennial Portrait Competition 2013 held by the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. The works will be part of a major exhibition on view at the National Portrait Gallery from March 23, 2013, until Feb. 23, 2014.

bau’s front gallery will feature the work of Gamble Stemple, Brett Phares, Richard Cotrana, Naomi (Continued on page 15)

Comforth Food and Memorabilia Vie for Attention at the Vintage Café

By Alison Rooney

Tucked around the curve of the eastern end of Beacon’s Main Street near the waterfall is the homey and welcoming façade of Vintage Café. A peek inside confirms the feel-good view outside: Above and around a black-and-white checkered floor there are literally hundreds of objects from the past, from signs to salt shakers, all evoking an earlier era, as do the aromas of the old-fashioned comfort food served there for breakfast and lunch each Wednesday through Sunday.

Vintage Café’s owners, Rebecca and Todd Mensch, opened their doors in October 2010. Both had worked in the restaurant business for years. Rebecca, a native of Beacon, had been on the service end, her early days including a stint as a bus-girl at Dockside — the fondly-remembered restaurant on the water in Cold Spring — as well as waitressing at The Bird and Bottle Inn and Hudson House. She always had a desire to open her own place and was biding her time, waiting for the right moment to do so. This happened when the youngest of her three sons entered school nearly four years ago and it coincided with the revitalization of the eastern end of Beacon. Although the Mensches considered starting a bed and breakfast, they decided to stick with just the breakfast end of things as an alternative.

Creating a homey environment was the goal, and they were aided by their large collection of vintage items, much of it related to Beacon and the Hudson Valley, which, says Rebecca Mensch, very much engages the diners. It helped that the location was in a part of Beacon that has maintained its historic feel. “We wanted it to feel like you are coming into Grandma’s kitchen,” she said. “We wanted a place that we would want to go into.”

The menu reflects this. Breakfast offerings range from seasonal pancakes (banana this time of the year), cinnamon French toast and oatmeal with apple butter and walnuts. Mensch makes a different quiche and frittata daily, along with soups (usually one vegetarian and one not) and stews, including hearty fare like beef stew and butternut squash soup. There are also plenty of sandwiches and wraps on offer; Mensch said the most popular are the pork Cuban and the grilled ham and cheese with pear.

The focus is on “simple ingredients,” said Mensch. “All lunches are served with salads, and we serve nothing deep fried — just good wholesome food.” Other menu items include chicken potpie, the omelet of the day and an assortment of muffins and scones.

A live music brunch takes place on the third Sunday of each month. Mensch discovered that (Continued on page 11)
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!

The Calendar

The Paper
Feb. 8, 2013

Red River Winds Gallery
172 Main Street
Beacon NY
Open Wed - Mon 12-6; 2nd Sat 12-9
www.redriverwinds.org

Fr IDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Kids & Community
Indoor Tot Park
9-11 A.M. & Noon - 2 P.M.
PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
107 Gauntly Rd, Garrison
845-424-4618
philipstownrecreation.com

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Richard Outlaw Paintings: A Retrospective
1 to 5 P.M. THURSDAY TO SATURDAY
HILLCOUNTRY CENTER
477 Main St, Beacon
845-831-4988 | hillcountrycenter.org
Feb. 8-9 and 11-12

Intimate Landscapes by Richard Rodriguez Jr.
NOON - 8 P.M. WEDNESDAY TO MONDAY
REDWINDS GALLERY
172 Main St, Beacon
845-839-2890 | redwinds.com
Feb. 7 to March 4

Say Peckskill by Ben Altman
9 A.M. - 9 P.M. TUES THURS.
11 A.M. - 9 P.M. WEDNESDAY
9 A.M. - 5 P.M. SATURDAY
1 P.M. - 5 P.M. SUNDAY
FELD LIBRARY GALLERY
4 Nelson Lins, Peckskill
914-788-0100 | ncuca.org
Ends March 28

The shifted by Lillian Tomasko
In Search of America by Stephen Cox
10 A.M. - 10 P.M. TUESDAY TO SATURDAY
GARRISON ART CENTER
23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.com
Ends March 3

Studio Mail by Francois Deschamps
NOON - 8 P.M. SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
FINCA EXHIBITIONS
143 Main St, Beacon
917-930-0314 | fovaaschiblians.com
Ends April 7

Tric Marinova Yashina, Patricia Laatreta, Mario Nila
NOON - 8 P.M. FRIDAY TO SUNDAY
MARINA GALLERY
153 Main St, Cold Spring
845-265-2204
themarinagallery.com
Through Feb 24

Photography by Phil Haber
10 A.M. - 8 P.M. MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY
10 A.M. - 5 P.M. TUESDAY, THURSDAY TO SATURDAY
NOON - 3 P.M. SUNDAY
BUTTERFLY LIBRARY
10 Morris Ave, Cold Spring | 845-265-3040
butterflylibrary.org | Feb. 10 to March 14

Family
NOON - 5 P.M. MONDAY TO SATURDAY
MOO DOOLY GALLERY
197 Main St, Beacon
845-702-7045
Feb. 9 to March 24

Nature as metaphor & Des Moments d’amour
NOON - 6 P.M. THURSDAY TO SUNDAY
GALLERY 66 NY
66 Main St, Cold Spring
845-809-5838 | gallery66ny.com
Ends Feb. 24

Peckskill Project #1: The New Hudson River School
Ends July 28

The Power of Place
Ends April 28

11 A.M. - 5 P.M. FRIDAY
NOON - 8 P.M. SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
HUDSON VALLEY CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART
1702 Main St, Peekskill
914-788-0100 | hvc.org

Ongoing

As the Crow Flies
9 A.M. - 5 P.M. TUESDAY TO THURSDAY
NOON - 5 P.M. SATURDAY
BEACON INSTITUTE | 150 Main St, Beacon
845-838-0100 | fireinstitute.org
Ends March 2

Emotio, Rotation: These Are Mine
11 A.M. - 6 P.M. FRIDAY TO SUNDAY
THEO GANZ STUDIO
149 Main St, Beacon
917-318-2239 | theoganzstudio.com
Ends March 3

My many devoted readers will recall my descriptions of an early morning walk with other birds at Doeckelside where all is usually serene although occasionally I have to discipline overly exuberant pops. A few days ago, though, I was enjoying the fresh air and scenery when suddenly I heard a great caterwaul of screeching. I looked above the river to see a drama unfolding in the sky. Whirling around was a gang of five or six crows, or maybe even 10, according with rap, while harassment two eagles. I was fascinated. The attackers were smaller than their targets but the bold eagles retreated ignominiously, finally swooping down to land on a couple of ice floes. Satisfied that they had scared off their enemies, the gang flew triumphantly back to a tree on the river bank.

My friend, Jane, an expert on wild life who, when she has always gets an extra way of my tail, said that the crows were probably guarding their turf from the intrusion of the eagles. In spite of their predatory reputation, she said, eagles are lazy birds who will try to steal food from other birds instead of hunting for themselves. Perhaps they had tried to snatch food from the gang.

Hmm, crows are cowardly and lazy? Yet the eagle is the symbol of the mighty United States of America. Something wrong there. Shortly after this I heard that once again Labrador retrievers have won the title of the most popular dogs in America. The Kennel Club pointed out that Labs have won this honor for 22 consecutive years.

I pondered the situation and decided I might have to launch a campaign with America’s symbol by the Labrador retrievers. As everybody knows I am as unassuming as an approaching duck but I’m only being factual when I say that, unlike crows, we are energetic, have shown bravery sniffling bombs on the battlefield, valiantly guide the blind and are a delight to know. Nobility becomes us.

But eagles are lazy birds who will try to steal food from other birds instead of hunting for themselves. Perhaps they had tried to snatch food from the gang.

In Search of America by Stephen Cox
10 A.M. - 5 P.M. WEDNESDAY TO SATURDAY
HARRISON ART CENTER
23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.com
Ends March 3

The Maltese Falcon With Crime Writers Panel
7:30 P.M. JAC BURNS FILM CENTER
364 Main St, Pleasantville
845-475-5555 | burnsfilmcenter.org

Born Yesterday
8 P.M. COUNTY PLAYERS
2681 W Main St, Wappingers Falls
845-206-1491 | countyplayers.org

Music
Songwriters Circle: My Furry Valentine
8 P.M. ARTS ON THE LAKE
640 Route 52, Lake Carmel
845-229-2885 | artsonthelake.org

Meetings & Lectures
Free Computer Help
2 P.M. DESMOND-FISHER LIBRARY
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3000 | desmondlibrary.org

Personal Retreat Weekend (Opening)
3 P.M. GARRISON INSTITUTE
14 Mary’s Way, Garrison
845-424-4800 | garrisoninstitute.org
Through Feb. 10

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

Religious Services
Service at Beacon Reheul Alliance
7:30 P.M. 331 Verplanck, Beacon
845-786-3121 | beaconreheulalliance.org

Wine Tasting
4 - 7 P.M. ARTISAN WINE SHOP
180 Main St, Beacon
845-440-6623 | artisanwineshop.com

Hudson Valley New Beer Night
5 P.M. DECOCO FAMILY MARKETS
50 Independent Way, Beacon
845-279-0836 | decoco.com

Health & Fitness
Philipstown Blood Drive
2 - 8 P.M. GARRISON FIRE DEPARTMENT
1616 Route 9, Garrison
800-933-2566 | nybloodcenter.org

Sports
Haldane Ice Hockey vs. John Jay
9 P.M. BREWSTER ICE ARENA
63 Fields Lane, Brewster
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Theater & Film
Beacon Film Fest
7 P.M. WINTERGREEN (25)
9 P.M. THE LINE (2012) WITH Q & A
THE BEACON THEATRE | 445 Main St, Beacon
845-458-2078 | thebeacontheatre.com

Bobby Fischer Against the World
8:30 P.M. BEACON THEATRE
10 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3905 | beacontheatre.com

Visioneers
8:30 P.M. DICKINSON COLLEGE (CANCELED)

Bobby Fischer Against the World
8:30 P.M. BEACON THEATRE
10 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3905 | beacontheatre.com

CANCELED

CANCELED

CANCELED

Visioneers
Kids & Community
Cold Spring Farmers’ Market
8:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M. PHILLIPSTOWN COMMUNITY CENTER | 107 Glyncliff Dr, Garrison
csfarmermarket.org
Food Pantry
9 - 10 A.M. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILLIPSTOWN | 10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | prebychurchcoldspring.org
Valentine’s Day Pet Photos
11 A.M. - 4 P.M. MANHOLE FEE BURN 166 Route 6, Mahopac
508-235-7777 | putnamunanimous.com
Meet the Animals
1 & 2 3:30 P.M. WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTER 25 Boulevard, Cornwall
845-534-7781 | hhrnaturumuseum.org
Wine Tasting
3 - 6 P.M. ARTISAN WINE SHOP See details under Friday.
PanCakes Supper
6 - 8 P.M. ST. MARY’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
914-459-6839 | stmaryscoldspring.org
RSVP to stmaryinthehighlands@yahoo.org
Army Men’s Basketball vs. Bucknell
4 P.M. CHRIST MARIA, WEST POINT 845-938-2526 | goarmysports.com
Art & Design
Cabin Fever Workshops
10 A.M. COSMIC WATERCOLOR MARBLING 10 A.M. LINCOTS AND DRYPOINT GARRISON ART CENTER 23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org
DiaBeacon
1 P.M. GALLERY TOUR 2 P.M. GALLERY TALK: HOWIE CHEN ON LAWRENCE WIOERTZ 3 Beacon St., Beacon
845-440-0100 | diabeacon.org
Family (Opening)
4 - 9 P.M. MAD DOYLE GALLERY 197 Main St., Beacon | 845-702-7045
Love/Hate (Opening)
5 - 8 P.M. BLACKER ART 442 Main St., Beacon
845-418-4840 | blackerartistic.com
Donna Marie Fischer and Sheilah Rechtshaffen (Opening)
5 - 8 P.M. GALLERY 508 | 508 Main St., Beacon
845-765-2245 | gallery508.com
The Ph Word
6 - 8 P.M. X ON MAIN 159 Main St., Beacon
914-356-5224 | xonmain.com
Open Studio
8 - 8 P.M. KURITIS BRAND 478 Main St., #3A, Beacon
607-227-5506 | kuritisbrand.com
Theater & Film
Beacon Film Fest
A Crown to Kill For (Dinner Theater)
6:30 P.M. HUDSON HOUSE 2 Main St, Cold Spring
845-265-9395 | hudsonhouseinn.com
Jean-Luc Gedestad’s Breathless
8 P.M. THE LIVING ROOM 103 Main St., Cold Spring | coldspringfilm.org
Born Yesterday
8 P.M. COUNTY PLAYERS See details under Friday.
Music
Thomas Wesley Stern and Jacob Bernz 7 P.M. HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER 477 Main St, Beacon
845-833-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org
An Evening of Cabaret With Valerie di Lorenzo 7:30 P.M. BELLE LEVINE ART CENTER 521 Kennebunk Road, Mahopac
845-803-8594 | putnamarts.org
Mardi Gras Celebration With This Tin Pan Band 7:30 P.M. BEARNRUNNER CAFE 201 S. Division St., Peekskill
914-737-1701 | bearunrunnercafe.com
Mardi Gras Party With Shadetree Mechanics 9:30 P.M. 12 GRAPES 12 N. Division St., Peekskill
914-737-6624 | 12grapes.com
Meetings & Lectures
Friends of Desmon-Fish 11 A.M. ANNUAL MEETING NOON LUNCHEON Desmon-Fish Library, 472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3000 | desmondfishlibrary.org
Free Computer Help 2 P.M. DESMON-FISH LIBRARY See details under Friday.
Religious Services
PhillisPtonReform Synagogue 9 A.M. SHABBAT SERVICES St. Mary’s Church, 1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-8011 | phillipstownreformsynagogue.org
Our Lady of Loretto 5:30 P.M. MASS 24 Fair St, Cold Spring
845-265-3718 | ourladyofloretto.org
Baking With Chocolate With Markia Blossfeld
2 P.M. GOURMETILES | 404 Main St, Beacon
646-241-8478 | markia.com
Meet the Animals
1 & 2 3:30 P.M. WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTER See details under Saturday.
Health & Fitness
Hudson Valley Co-Ed Soccer
7:45 A.M. FISHKILL RECREATION CENTER 791 Route 52, Fishkill
meetup.com/hudsonvalleycoedsoccer
Army Hockey vs. American International 7 P.M. TATE RINK, WEST POINT 845-938-2526 | goarmysports.com
Art & Design
Artistic Node Photography Workshop
NOON - 4 P.M. BEARING 251 Main St., Beacon
845-702-8800 | bea4u2zz.com
Art Talk: Alya Rosenblit 4 P.M. HUDSON VALLEY CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART | 1701 Main St, Peekskill
914-788-1011 | hcca.org
Phil Haber Photography Exhibit (Reception) 4 - 6 P.M. BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org
Beacon Figure Drawing Session
7 P.M. SPIRE STUDIOS 45 Beekman Street, Beacon
845-235-3275 | spiresstudios.com
Theater & Film
Beacon Film Fest
Born Yesterday
2 P.M. COUNTY PLAYERS See details under Friday.
Music
Piano Festival: Jenny Lin 4 P.M. HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER 477 Main St, Beacon
845-833-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org
Members of the Shannagolden Celt Band
5 - 8 P.M. MARY KELLY’S RESTAURANT 37 Lamplight St., Beacon
845-765-8874 | marykellysny.com
Greg Wrosthoff’s Westchester Swing Band
5:30 - 9 P.M. 12 GRAPES 12 N. Division St., Peekskill
914-737-6624 | 12grapes.com
(Continued on next page)
The Calendar (from page 9)

Meetings & Lectures

Beginner AA Meeting
NOAH GRAYMoor SPIRITUAL Life CENTER
1350 Route 9, Garrison
800-338-2620 | graymoorcverycenter.org

AA Open Meeting
8 P.M. ST. MARY’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-2539 | stmaryscoldspring.org

Religious Services

Our Lady of Loreto
7:30, 6 & 11:45 a.m. Mass
24 Fair St., Garrison
845-265-3718 | ourladyoflorettocs.com

St. Mary’s Episcopal Church
8 & 10:30 a.m. 1 CHestnut st., Cold Spring
845-265-2539 | stmaryscoldspring.org

St. Philip’s Episcopal Church
8 & 10:30 a.m. 1101 Route 90, Garrison
845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org

Grace United Methodist
8:15 & 10 a.m.
337 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley
845-526-3788

St. Basil’s Academy Greek Orthodox Chapel
8:30 a.m. Route 90, Garrison
845-424-3500 | saintbasilacademy.org

St. Luke’s Lutheran Church
9 a.m. 65 Oscawana Lake Rd., Putnam Valley
845-528-8858 | stlukesputnamvalley.org

First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown
9 a.m. ADULT BIBLE STUDY
10:30 a.m. SERVICE
11:30 a.m. YOUTH FRENCH TORS THEMED FUNDRAISER
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

South Highland Methodist Church
9:30 a.m. 10 Snake Hill Road, Garrison
845-265-3365

Quaker Friends Worship
10 a.m. WHYATT HOME
845-424-3525 | call for directions.

Chinese Lunar New Year Blessing Ceremony
10 a.m. - 4 P.M. CHIANGS YEN MonASTery
2020 Route 301, Carmel
845-228-4288 | baas.org

St. Joseph’s Chapel
10:15 a.m. 74 UPPER STATION Road, Garrison
845-265-3718 | ourladyoflorettocs.com

Church on the Hill
10:30 a.m. 245 MAIN st., Cold spring
845-265-2022 |coldspringchurchonthehill.org

Fourth Unitarian Society
10:30 a.m. 1698 STRAWBERRY Road,
MORGENHACE LACE | 914-526-7131 | forthunit.org

Graymoor Spiritual Life Center
11 a.m. PILGRIM HALL, 1350 Route 9, Garrison
800-338-2620 | graymoorcent.org

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Kids & Community
Bridge Club
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 P.M. HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Little Bookworms (AGES 2 TO 5)
10 a.m. BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Indoor Tot Park
NOAH: 1-2 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
See details on Friday.

Kindergarten Registration
1 - 4 P.M. Haldane School
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Health & Fitness
Red Cross Blood Drive
2 - 7 P.M. NEW HACKENSACK REFORMED CHURCH
1580 Route 376, Wappingers Falls
800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org

Youth Basketball Skills/Drills (Grades 6-8)
6:15 - 7:15 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Kids & Community
Indoor Tot Park
NOAH: 1-2 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
See information under Friday.

Pioneer Living Series: Trade and the General Store
NOAH, COMMON GROUND FarM
79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls
845-231-4424 | commonroundfarm.org

Music
Open Mic Night
7 P.M. BEARMUNNER CAFE
201 Division St., Peekskill
914-737-1701 | bearunnermics.com

Haldane Booster Club
7 P.M. Haldane School
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

AA Big Book Meeting
8 P.M. ST. PHILIP’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1101 Route 90, Garrison
845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org

Music
Open Mic at Book Square Coffeehouse
6:30 P.M. SIGN-UP
7:30 P.M. PERFORMANCES
129 Main St., Beacon
845-440-7165 | booksquarecoffeehouse.com

The Dream Choir
7 P.M. WGAUDIO STUDIO
27 Travis Corners Road, Garrison
845-424-4340 | ygsonstudios.com

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

Book Club: How Are You?
1:30 P.M. HOWLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Kindergarten Registration
1 - 4 P.M. Haldane School | Details under Monday

Block Party (0-3) & Lego Club (4+)
4 P.M. HOWLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
313 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Kids Craft Hour
4 P.M. DESMOND-FISH LIBRARY
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3000 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
5:30 - 7 P.M. GRAYMOOR SPIRITUAL CENTER
(Friars’ Dining Room), 1350 Route 9, Garrison
800-338-2620 | graymoorcverycenter.org

Coming to a Creek Near You: The Most Amazing Creations in Your Neighborhood
7:30 P.M. COrNWAilL PReSByTERIAN FELLOWSHIP HALL | 222 Hudson St., Cornwall
845-534-5506 | ih态势anumuseum.org

Music
Live at the Paper
914-528-7131 | fourthuu.org

FebruaRY 2013

2012 Annual Appeal
The Constitution Island Association would like to thank all of our friends and neighbors who responded so magnificently to our 2012 annual appeal. Because of your support the Association has had its most successful fundraising event ever. The Association raised several times the amount that was raised during last year’s Annual Appeal. Many people who have never supported the Association before have now joined. We hope to see you all at Association events during the 2013 season.

www.philipstown.info | Philipstown.info

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MILFORD, PA

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...to create enduring architecture which grows more beautiful with time, honors deftfulful memories and serves the future

www.jcoppel.com | 201-556-0765
**The Calendar (from page 20)**

**AA Open Meeting**
7 p.m. St. Philip’s EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1105 Route 9, Garrison
845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org

**Beacon Book Lover Club: The Life of Pi**
7 p.m. JADE PALACE RESTAURANT
1659 Route 8, Washington Falls
meetup.com/Beacon-Book-Lover-Club

**Board of Trustees Workshop**
7:30 p.m. VILLAGE HALL | 85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3511 | coldspringsprings.org

**Planning Board**
7:30 p.m. VILLAGE HALL | 85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3511 | coldspringsprings.org

**Women’s AA Meeting**
7:30 p.m. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchescoldspring.org

**Putnam & Beyond Book Club: The Time Keeper**
6:45 p.m. HACIENDA SALSA
3258 East Main St, Mohican Lake
meetup.com/T-B-C

**Garrison School Budget Workshop**
7:30 p.m. LAWYERS’ LOUNGE
1105 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3869 | gfb.org

**AA Meeting**
7:15 p.m. BEGINNINGS
8:30 CLOSED DISCUSSION
ST. PHILIP’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1105 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org

**Life Support Group**
7:30 p.m. ST. PHILIP’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1105 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org

**Phippsport Conservative Committee**
7:30 p.m. WVH HALL | 34 Kemble Ave, Cold Spring
845-392-3405 | phippsportconservative.org

**Historic District Review Board**
8 p.m. VILLAGE HALL | 85 Main St, Cold Spring
845-265-3511 | coldspringsprings.org

**Religious Services**

**Bible Study**
7 p.m. OUR LADY OF LORETTO | 24 Fair St., Cold Spring
845-265-3718 | ourladyoflorettocs.com

**Music & Movement for Toddlers**
10:15 A.M. DESMOND-FISHER LIBRARY
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | DesmondLibrary.org

**Senior Winter Brunch**
10:30 A.M. PHILPSPORT RECREATION CENTER
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philpstownrecreation.com

**Kindergarten Registration**
1 – 4 P.M. HILDANE SCHOOL | Details under Monday.

**Preschool Story Hour**
1:30 P.M. DESMOND-FISHER LIBRARY
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | DesmondLibrary.org

**Chinese New Year Celebration**
3:30 P.M. BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY | 10 Morris Ave, Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

**Health & Fitness**

**Free Level 3 Yoga Class**
6:30 P.M. LIVING YOGA STUDIOS
3812 Route 9, Cold Spring
845-809-5900 | livingyogastudios.com

**Sports**

**Army Women’s Basketball vs. Lafayette**
7 p.m. CHRIST ARENA, WEST POINT
845-938-2526 | gearmysports.com

**Meetings & Lectures**

**Men’s Group**
6:30 p.m. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10 Academy St, Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchescoldspring.org

**Putnam & Beyond Book Club: The Time Keeper**
6:45 p.m. HACIENDA SALSA
3258 East Main St, Mohican Lake
meetup.com/T-B-C

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845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org

**Life Support Group**
7:30 p.m. ST. PHILIP’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1105 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org

**Phippsport Conservative Committee**
7:30 p.m. WVH HALL | 34 Kemble Ave, Cold Spring
845-392-3405 | phippsportconservative.org

**Historic District Review Board**
8 p.m. VILLAGE HALL | 85 Main St, Cold Spring
845-265-3511 | coldspringsprings.org

**Religious Services**

**Bible Study**
7 p.m. OUR LADY OF LORETTO | 24 Fair St., Cold Spring
845-265-3718 | ourladyoflorettocs.com

**Music & Movement for Toddlers**
10:15 A.M. DESMOND-FISHER LIBRARY
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | DesmondLibrary.org

**Senior Winter Brunch**
10:30 A.M. PHILPSPORT RECREATION CENTER
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philpstownrecreation.com

**Kindergarten Registration**
1 – 4 P.M. HILDANE SCHOOL | Details under Monday.

**Preschool Story Hour**
1:30 P.M. DESMOND-FISHER LIBRARY
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | DesmondLibrary.org

**Chinese New Year Celebration**
3:30 P.M. BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY | 10 Morris Ave, Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

**Health & Fitness**

**Free Level 3 Yoga Class**
6:30 P.M. LIVING YOGA STUDIOS
3812 Route 9, Cold Spring
845-809-5900 | livingyogastudios.com

**The Vintage Café in Beacon**

**Comfort Food and Memorabilia at the Vintage Café**
from page 7

there were many musicians living in town, including some in the apartments above Vintage Café, and she thought it would be nice to have a family music venue instead of only being able to hear these musicians in bars. On Second Saturdays the cafe generally stays open a little later than usual to accommodate the crowds.

The clientele is a mix of locals who live in town, visitors coming to look at houses and many who have recently moved to town, according to Mench, who said she “didn’t realize how many people visited Beacon” until she opened up, despite being a native. She thinks the new trolley service looping throughout the city will draw even more people to that end of town from the other end.

Having spent her life in Beacon, Mench has seen the ups and downs and been through what has been called “the revival” of many times over, but she thinks this time it is different. “First it was this end of town, then the other end and this end died down, but this time everything is bigger and more spread out and things are booming at both ends. I’ve enjoyed being part of this new revitalization. It’s great to be able to answer all the questions that I’m asked — people have a lot of questions about Beacon, and it’s great that we’re a place which locals and visitors both come to.”

Vintage Café is located at 512 Main St. and is cash only. Hours are Wednesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information visit thevintagecafebeacon.com or call 845-440-3005.

**KIDS & COMMUNITY**

**Indoor Tot Park**
9 – 11 A.M. & NOON | 2 P.M. PHILPSPORT RECREATION CENTER | See details under Friday.

**Chess Club With Moving Lim**
10 A.M. HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER
477 Main St., Beacon
845-633-4966 | howlandculturalcenter.org

**Mah Jongg Open Play**
10 A.M. | 2 P.M. WVH HALL | 34 Kemble Ave, Cold Spring
845-424-4618 | philpstownrecreation.com

**Music & Movement for Toddlers**
10:15 A.M. DESMOND-FISHER LIBRARY
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | DesmondLibrary.org

**Senior Winter Brunch**
10:30 A.M. PHILPSPORT RECREATION CENTER
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4616 | philpstownrecreation.com

**Kindergarten Registration**
1 – 4 P.M. HILDANE SCHOOL | Details under Monday.

**Preschool Story Hour**
1:30 P.M. DESMOND-FISHER LIBRARY
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | DesmondLibrary.org

**Chinese New Year Celebration**
3:30 P.M. BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY | 10 Morris Ave, Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

**Health & Fitness**

**Free Level 3 Yoga Class**
6:30 P.M. LIVING YOGA STUDIOS
3812 Route 9, Cold Spring
845-809-5900 | livingyogastudios.com

**The Vintage Café in Beacon**

**Theater & Film**
Words that Paint: The New Hudson Valley School in Poetry and Prose
7 P.M. HUDSON VALLEY CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART | 1701 Main St., Poughkeepsie
914-788-0500 | hec.org

**Music**
Valentine’s Dinner and Music With K.J. Deshert
5:30 & 8 P.M | 12 GRAPES | 12 N. Division St., Poughkeepsie
914-737-6624 | 12grapes.com

**Meetings & Lectures**

**AA Step Meeting**
8 P.M. ST. PHILIP’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-424-4618 | philpstownrecreation.com

**Religious Services**

**Hill Top Visionaries (Young Adults)**
6:30 P.M. CHURCH ON THE HILL
107 Chestnut St., Garrison
845-424-3020 | churchonthehill.org

**THE VINTAGE CAFE IN BEACON**

**Photo by A. Rooney**
M
anitoga/The Russell Wright Design Center announces the appointment of Allison Cross as executive director as of Jan. 1, 2013.

Cross most recently served as director of external affairs for Dia:Beacon in Beacon. She was a member of the interpretive team that first introduced the public to the architecture and collection of Fr. Philip Heights, a residence of New Canaan, Conn., during its inaugural year. Additionally, she has developed cultural and educational travel itineraries here and abroad and lectures on art and architecture for RSVP Italia, which she founded in 2000.

Cross holds a master’s of art history and bachelor’s of science in environmental design degrees from Syracuse University. She has also served as assistant professor/program director for Syracuse University’s Environmental Design in Italy program and as assistant professor/program coordinator for its environmental design program at the New York campus.

Manitoga/The Russell Wright Design Center, located in Garrison, is the home, studio and 75-acre woodland garden of preeminent American industrial designer Russel Wright (1904-76). Created by Wright to explore the harmony between nature and design, Manitoga is a National Historic Landmark and charter member of the Historic Trust for Historic Preservation’s Historic Artists’ Homes and Studios program. Manitoga’s mission is to preserve Wright’s legacy — his work and his thought about design, art and philosophy — and share them with professionals and the public. For further information, visit russelwrightcenter.org or call 845-424-3812.

Ash Wednesday Observed in Two Services at St. Mary’s

St. Mary’s Episcopal Church has invited all members of the community to participate in Ash Wednesday observances. The church’s services, at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., will dispense of ashes, made from dried palms kept from those distributed fresh on Palm Sunday 2012.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a time of fasting, spiritual reflection, and self-denial — such as giving up luxuries or favorite foods or activities — for 40 days before Easter, which occurs on March 31 this year. Christians have observed Ash Wednesday for at least the 10th century, if not for 1,000 years or more. Lent mirrors the 40 days of asceti-
cism and prayer that, according to the gospels, Christ spent alone in prayer and wor-
iness before taking up public ministry. The ashes both recall the ashes used in ancient days as a sign of penance and ex-
 emptify the temporality of life. Carrying on another Lenten tradition, St. Mary’s will conduct the Stations of the Cross, every Friday evening at 6 p.m., beginning on Friday, Feb. 15, through March 29. Depictions in a series of prints intermittently placed on the inte-
 rior church walls, the 14 stations mark significant moments in Christ’s suffering and cruci-
fixation. Participants proceed from station to station, praying aloud briefly at each. The practice developed in ancient Israel, as early as the 2nd century B.C., and followed on the way to Calvary and death. St. Mary’s will also host a Pancake Supper, open to the community, on Sat-
urday, Feb. 9, from 6 to 8 p.m., in the Parish Hall. (Reservations are requested. Further information at stmaryscoldspring.org.) Pancake suppers are another tradition ushering in Lent. On Sunday, Feb. 10, the church hosts a Valentine’s Day bake sale from 9 to 10:30 a.m., and 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

St. Mary’s is located in Cold Spring at 1 Chestnut St., by the traffic light. For more information about the parish, visit stmaryscoldspring.org.

The Putnam County SPCA will hold a pancake breakfast at Chilis at Bald-
win Place and Route 6 in Somers on Sun-
day, Feb. 10, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. The breakfast costs $8 per person. All proceeds benefit the Putnam County SPCA.

To report animal cruelty/animal control, contact the City of Put-
nam County SPCA at their 24-hour ani-
mal cruelty hotline at 845-520-6915 or through the website spcaputnam.org. All calls will be kept confidential.

The Putnam County SPCA is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation that receives no funding from any government agency in the ASPCA. Their mission is to prevent cruelty to all animals by enforcing the New York state cruelty statutes by their countywide, humane law enforcement department, providing medical care and shelter to abused animals and providing humane education to schools and other interested groups. They exist solely on donations of supporters who care about animals and how they are treated. Given law enforcement powers by the state of New York, the Putnam County SPCA responds to calls of suspected animal cruelty almost daily.

Putnam County Kicks Off Heart Month

Putnam County employees, including County Executive MaryEllen Odell, celebrated the 10th annual National Wear Red Day on Friday, Feb. 3, by dressing in red and having their blood pressure checked. Wear Red Day brings awareness to the fact that more women in the U.S. die from heart disease than all cancers combined. It also kicks off American Heart Month, February, which promotes heart health for everyone. Both events are sponsored by the American Heart Association, the mission of which is to build healthier lives, free of cardio-
vascular diseases and stroke. The screen-
ing was organized by the Putnam Coun-
ty Employee Wellness Program to help identify those with high blood pressure, a risk factor for heart disease.

“Often there are no signs or symptoms for high blood pressure — it is some-
times called the silent killer,” said Dr. Alan Beals, commissioner of health, “but receiving early treatment, this condition can lead to heart and kidney disease, stroke and blindness.” Putnam residents are encour-
eged to visit their doctor for an annual physical examination and have their blood pressure monitored for risk factors for heart disease, including high blood pressure.

The Health Department’s mission is to improve and protect the health of Putnam County residents through pre-
vention of illness and injury. For more information, visit their website at put-
namehealthnyc.com, or visit their social media sites on Facebook at facebook.com/put-
amhealth, and Twitter @PutnamHealthNY.

Collaborative Art Performances at HVCCA

Words That Paint: The New Hudson Valley School in Poetry and Prose is a collaborative art experience by the Hudson Valley Contemporary Art Foundation (HVCCA) and Director Mara Mills. Writers from throughout the region were invited to visit the current exhibition, “Words That Paint: The New Hudson Valley School in Poetry and Prose,” beginning with a reception on Thursday, Feb. 14, 7 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 16, 7 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 17, 2 p.m. Due to the size of the space and the footprint of the works of art, the audi-
cinces will be limited to 60 people. HVCCA recommends purchasing tick-
ets in advance.

Writers include Donna Barkman, Jo Ann Clark, Jim Deliam, Barbara Fisch-
er, Ruth D. Handel, Tony Howarth, Deborah Maier, Karen Marie Marmer, MaryAnn McCarra-Fitzpatrick, Alicia Morgan, Loretta Ockel, Susan Scheff-
flein, Marc J. Straus and Bob Zaslow. HVCCA provides the backdrop in which the writers read their creations, with professional actors adding their voices for the multi-voice works, in full view of the artwork that inspired the words. The audience will move through the space as the narrative unfolds, add-
ing a dynamic component. This is the fourth collaboration with Mills fol-

Admission is $8 for members and $15 for non-members. (Register online to become a member of the HVCCA family.) Reservations can be made by calling 914-788-0000 or kellis@hvcca.org, or purchase tickets through the Eventbrite link on hvcca.org.
Sixth Grade on Magical Journey in Teacher’s Play

Garrison School’s sixth-grade students transformed themselves into peasants on a magical quest as they performed their annual play Friday, Feb. 1. Written and directed by Garrison’s own English Language Arts (ELA) teacher, Ian Berger, The Crown of Ivy is an original play about a group of teens who have a chance encounter with a fairy king. Berger was inspired by fairy tales, ancient folklore and mythology while writing his play. “I always enjoyed reading fairy tales as a child,” Berger explained. “Unlike the stripped-down version of the stories we see in movies today, the classic fairy tale world is a strange, dark and dangerous place. I’ve always been intrigued by the psychological insights within the stories, and I set out to incorporate those themes into The Crown of Ivy.”

The sixth-grade class, accompanied by two seventh-graders and two eighth-graders, rehearsed the play for a month. Acting coach Katie Feder worked closely with the students in the final week leading up to the performance. The play works in tandem with core curriculum standards because it aligns with the Middle Ages and King Arthur stories the sixth-grade class is studying this year for ELA and social studies.

Stonecrop Presents Seed Sowing Workshop

Stonecrop Gardens is offering a Seed Sowing Workshop in two sessions Feb. 23 and March 30 (with snow dates of March 2 and April 6), from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants must be able to commit to both sessions. Stonecrop Gardens is located at 81 Stonecrop Lane, off of Route 301. The Seed Sowing Workshop will take place in the Potting Shed located in the Horse Barn. Follow signs from the Car Park to the Horse Barn.

For more information, email info@stonecrop.org or visit their website, stonecrop.org.

RiverWinds Gallery Opens Intimate Landscapes

RiverWinds Gallery at 172 Main St. in Beacon will present Intimate Landscapes — photographs by Robert Rodriguez Jr. The show opens on Beacon Second Saturday Feb. 9, 12 – 9 p.m. The artist reception will be Sunday, Feb. 17, 3 – 6 p.m. The exhibit will be on display through March 4.

Focusing his camera on the Hudson Valley, Rodriguez has discovered not only beautiful landscapes often taken for granted, but the changing mood and character of the region. He frequently travels in search of dramatic and unique locations, including New England, the Southwest and Canada. Rodriguez is passionate about conservation and the importance of protecting natural resources for both current and future generations. He uses photography as a tool to bring awareness and appreciation of the value and importance of nature and its frequent misuse. His photography is showcased and used for promotional purposes.

There are a variety of new and returning programs coming this spring. Boys Lacrosse for grades 1-6 will start on April 2. Girls Soccer for grades 1-6 will start April 20. Returning are the Family Pasta and Bingo Night (April 5) and the Family Renegades Event (June 21). The Friends of Philipstown Recreation will be holding their second annual Spring Splatt Mudder and Mini-Mudder on April 21. New programs include a Little Builders Lego Club (ages 4-5), Philipstown Hoops Academy (grades 5-9) and a Spring Fling Cooking Class for adults.

For more information on all these programs and more, please take a look at the Spring Book or the Recreation Department website.

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

Born before 1950? Lived through it all and still care?

Relive the scene with Comedy in the Afternoon

Equity World Premiere

A revue in two acts with music and dance Written and Directed by Del Fidanque

May 2-25, Desmond Fish Library, Garrison, NY

Matinee Performances Only, 1:45 PM Thursday-Sunday

(Except last week of run: Thursday-Saturday)

Visit with George Burns, Truman Capote, Nixon and Kissinger’s alter ego, in the form of his twin sister, Henrietta.

Go in and out of the present and the past with updated bulletins about Equal Opportunity Employment Commission FEMA ... Congressional mandates ... Indian Point.

Michelle Bachman’s insistence on holding on to her trance-like state Shopping at 45 W. 45th Street Jack’s World in Manhattan

Join your compatriots ~

Celebrate Daylight. Be a Matinee Idol. Kiss evening, sleep-inducing theatre goodbye. Shrink the effects of cataracts & BPH.

Elyse Knight* as Michelle Bachman, greeting her supporters before a debate on Alabama’s anti-choice law.

*Member, Actors’ Equity **Desmond Fish Library not responsible for the content of this play. Not suitable for children under 13.
Culinary Cues
Chef Brandon Collins leads with inspiration at Swift
By Mary Ann Elner
Taking inspirational cues from Hudson Valley vistas, family and fresh ingredients, Chef Brandon Collins turns out culinary creations to visually seduce dinner guests. As executive chef at The Roundhouse at Beacon Falls, Collins infuses a contemporary food vibe in Beacon that dining patrons in Philipstown may find familiar.

Collins served initially as sous chef and later as co-executive chef at Valley Restaurant at The Garrison for much of the past decade before departing in mid-2011 to take his talents to Beacon where he oversees seasonal New American cuisine at The Roundhouse property’s fine dining restaurant, Swift, its 2EM lounge, and The Patio, which features casual al fresco dining.

“Hopefully, guests are with us, we’re creating memories,” Collins said. “No matter how food is put on a plate, it has to look good. If it doesn’t, we will redesign that plate. I’m very proud of everyone here, even our servers will not take something out of the kitchen if it does not look great.”

In his brief history — Swift opened July 20, 2012 — the Beacon restaurant has experienced typical new-business ups and downs, and Collins is adapting and leading his team to continue to move forward. Alessandra Benedetto of Poughkeepsie works the afternoon garde manger station and doesn’t mind long hours and demanding work.

“Chef’s very good at teaching you and showing you how it’s done,” Benedetto said. “He thinks that everyone works a little better under pressure, but we keep it pretty relaxed.”

Heading into a Friday evening dinner service in the Swift kitchen, Collins and his young sous chef, 24-year-old Chris Limerick of Middletown, were preparing to accommodate a full dining room.

“We spend a lot of time together,” Limerick said of his hours working with Collins. “And when we’re not together, we talk through text and bounce ideas off of each other. We’re trying to engage people with our food.”

To keep guests engaged, the menu at Swift continually evolves. Collins is testing a new dish for the evening menu. He places a sealed roulade of guinea hen in a water bath and keeps an eye on the temperature and time.

At tasting time, Collins gathers feedback from Limerick, his sous chef, and the culinary team. “The chef that I worked for at the concept venue was a culinary grad,” Collins said. “After learning from him and talking about culinary school, I decided to go to the Culinary Institute of America (CIA).”


“The CIA is very hard,” Collins said, “and most of the students who do go to the Culinary Institute have jobs after school. It was the best experience of my life. I have so much admiration for my classmates. And the faculty when I was there was second to none. They were the best in the world.”

Not only did Collins come away with respect for culinary professionals who advance the creative food world, but he met his future wife, Kirsten, while he was studying at the CIA. After graduating, Collins left the Hudson Valley to continue to grow in his profession, working in Cincinnati and Covington, Ky. But Kirsten, a graphic artist at the CIA, was a world away in the Hudson Valley.

“We had always referred to New York as home,” Kirsten Collins said, “and I asked Brandon if he wanted to come home.”

Collins found his way back to the Hudson Valley, and he and Kirsten are now married. They are parents to a 15-month-old son, Holden, and when they’re not working, they kick back at home in Wappingers Falls. With a busy toddler and demanding work schedules, they keep life simple when they can, which isn’t often.

“I try to slow down,” Chef Collins said. “The world is out there and you have to absorb as much as possible. Here in the Hudson Valley, you don’t have to look far for inspiration. Right now I’m inspired by the drive to work, talking to friends, my staff, my son, my wife, and whatever magazine I can get my hands on. And there are a lot of amazing restaurants in the Hudson Valley — Braserie 292, The Hop, Back Yard Bistro, Crew, Valley. It’s hard to shut my mind off. It’s from the artist’s side on how something is accomplished. You can take inspiration from anything. It’s how you perceive your surroundings.”

Eighty hours a week, Collins finds himself surrounded by a committed staff working closely to do what Collins loves — test, taste, retast, and serve food at its best.

Serving that food in Swift’s dining room on the backdop of Beacon Falls and Fishkill Creek keeps the inspiration flowing. The Roundhouse at Beacon Falls is located at 2 E. Main St., Beacon. For information, call 845-765-8369 or visit roundhousebeacon.com. Swift will participate in Hudson Valley Restaurant Week, which takes place March 11-24 as top Hudson Valley restaurants offer prix fixe meals at special prices. See hudsonvalleyrestaurantweek.com for a complete listing of participating restaurants.

“Hopefully, guests are with us, we’re creating memories,” Collins said. “After learning from him and talking about culinary school, I decided to go to the Culinary Institute of America (CIA).”
Beacon Film Festival Highlight of Second Saturday

Love/Hate exhibit
Sharon Watts and Catherine Welshman.
the art of Theresa Gooby, Patricia Reller, &c.
8 - 10 p.m., free.
X Om Main, a new gallery opening at 159 Main St., presents The P Word, featuring paintings by Rick Rogers and photography and paste by Catello Somma. Opening reception 6 p.m., free.

Other art openings and receptions
RiverWinds Gallery, 172 Main St., presents Intimate Landscapes, photographs by local artist and conservationist Robert Rodriguez Jr. “Robert has an eye and a technique that captures the beautiful essence of nature,” said Linda T. Hubert, photographer and co-owner of RiverWinds. “When I see his work, there is a part of me that is transported into the calm quiet of the land. His new images are awesome.” Opening reception 3 - 9 p.m., free.

Mad Dooley Gallery, 197 Main St., presents Family, a group exhibit featuring the art of Theroea Gooby, Patricia Reller, Sharon Watts and Catherine Welshman. Opening reception 4 - 9 p.m., free.

Gallery 508, 508 Main St., presents the work of Donna Marie Fischer and Sheila Redtischer, the latest in their series of Notable Local Artists. Opening reception 5 - 8 p.m., free.

Second Saturday. First, it will present two programs during the afternoon of Second Saturday. First, it will present The Way of the Heron: The Roots of Non-Violent Activism and Conflict Resolution in Native American Culture, and workshop focused on the history of an Algonquin Indian tradition called the Way of the Heron, a practice that led to much of what is called “activism” today. According to presenter Evan Pritchard, two Penobscot men taught “the Way” to Henry David Thoreau, whose writings passed it on to Mohandas Gandhi, whose successors taught it to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who shared it with the world. The workshop portion of the program will focus on making wise agreements a key to preventing conflicts in the future. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., $15 donation.

Later in the afternoon, Nada Khodlova will lead a Sacred Circle Ritual Dance. Participants will dance traditional Balkan, Greek, Rom, Armenian, Near Eastern, and modern sacred circle dances in the spirit of honoring the divine, healing, and affirming connection to the earth and each other and building community. 3 - 5 p.m., $20 suggested donation.

Howland Public Library, 313 Main St., will host a Make Your Own Lip-Gloss workshop for youth ages 11-15. Tina Chan Sweenie from the Wye Play Community Project will teach participants how to make flavored lip-gloss using simple, inexpensive ingredients. The program accommodates 10 participants; to reserve space contact Ginny Figlia, youth servic elibrarian, at 845-831-1134, ext. 103, or youth@beaconlibrary.org. 1 -3 p.m., free.

Bank Square Coffee House, 129 Main St., presents singer, songwriter and in stumentalist John Banrock. Banrock will perform original tunes with his guitar and harmonica. Steve Skwaker will open the show 7 - 9 p.m., free.

Visit www.philipstown.info for news updates and latest information.
Join The Paper’s Winter Photofest

Contribute your best shots of the town in its winter splendor.

Over the next few weeks The Paper will collect high-resolution, color pictures from local photographers of local winter scenes and themes. We prefer pictures taken this year. The best photos (in our opinion) will be featured in The Paper on its color pages.

Limit: three photos per person. Please title photo file with your name and photo location. Send photos (or questions) to editor@philipstown.info.