Sheriff’s Department Official Schramek Resigns as Investigations Continue
Putnam County settled case involving alleged mistreatment of suspect
By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Investigator A. Gerald Schramek, a high-ranking Putnam County Sheriff’s Department official connected to detective-work involving Philipstown, resigned effective Feb. 14, after allegations of mistreatment of a suspect and a $32,000 settlement of those claims, ratified by the Putnam County Legislature in December.

Capt. William McNamara of the Sheriff’s Department on Thursday morning (Feb. 12) confirmed Schramek’s plans to depart, after about 12 years of service. As the chief of the Bureau (To page 3)

The Serenade Orchestra Opens Chamber Concert Series on March 1
Concerts, sponsored posthumously by Gordon Stewart, to benefit St. Mary’s Episcopal Church
By Alison Rooney

The first of a series of three chamber music concerts, sponsored posthumously by Gordon Stewart to benefit the Episcopal Church of St. Mary-in-the-Highlands, will take place there on March 1 at 4 p.m. It was Stewart’s great wish to continue to bring the highest level of musicianship to his own community, and these concerts, unlikely to be repeated, are the culmination of this desire. Several of the musicians who will be performing in these concerts also played in both of Stewart’s recent Handel’s Messiah concerts and in the 2012 period-instrument Depot Theatre production of John Gay’s The Beggar’s Opera.

The first concert program features the Serenade Orchestra, six leading artists in both historical and contemporary music who perform frequently in both New York City and abroad: Krista Bennion Feeney and Keats Dieffenbach, violinists; David Cerutti, viola; John Fee- ney, bass; and R.J. Kelley and Alexandra Cook, horns. They perform together in the Orchestra of St. Luke’s, the American Classical Orchestra and numerous other ensembles.

John Feeney is principal double bass of the Orchestra of St. Luke’s, the American Classical Orchestra and Opera Lafayette. Krista Bennion Feeney is concertmaster of the Orchestra of St. Luke’s and the founding first violinist of the DNA Quintet, Loma Mar Quartet, and Ridge String Quartet. Cerutti, co-principal violist of the Orchestra of St. Luke’s, appears regularly with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. Dieffenbach is in demand with New York City’s leading contemporary and baroque ensembles, including the Orchestra of St. Luke’s and the American Classical Orchestra. Kelley is recognized as America’s foremost player of horns of every historical era. Cook has played and recorded with most of the early music groups in the United States.

The first concert will include Mozart’s Overture to The Marriage of Figaro and Divertimento No. 17, K. 334, Bartok’s Romanian Folk Dances, the traditional Romanian dance Dobra Dobra and Johann Strauss’ Blue Danube waltzes.

According to John Feeney, the Serenade Orchestra’s configuration of instruments was the “most popular small ensemble for playing the social music of late 18th- and early 19th-century Vienna and was most commonly utilized for the socially oriented chamber music of the late 18th century and early 19th century. Mozart, Joseph and Michael Haydn, Sperrer, Lanner, (Continued on page 6)

Just 9 Weeks Until ‘Play Ball!’
Major League pitchers and catchers begin spring training Feb. 18, but Eddie Barry, president of Philipstown Little League, has even bigger news for locals mired in winter. The first pitch at the Little League baseball field in North Highlands will be thrown on Saturday, April 11.

Haldane Board Grants Veterans School Property Tax Exemption
Forgoes consideration of a higher exemption until next year
By Kevin E. Foley

The Haldane Board of Education (BOE) voted this week to allow for a partial property tax exemption for homeowners who are veterans of the United States military. The board voted unanimously Tuesday night (Feb. 10) to put into effect the minimum level of exemption permitted under the new state law authorizing exemptions.

After state legislative approval, Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed the new state law in December 2013. Veterans were already eligible for a partial exemption for town property taxes. The state government did not offer any funding options to accompany the range of tax exemption options local school districts have.

Last week the BOE had signaled their approval after a public hearing at which only veterans turned out to support the exemption move. The BOE also said they were considering a new hearing regarding a possible move to the highest level of exemption but apparently thought differently about that idea this week.

Anne Diniz, the Haldane school district’s business manager, confirmed to The Paper that the board (To page 3)
Chocolate and Flowers

By Joe Dinzy

“All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn’t hurt.” ~ Charles M. Schulz

St. Valentine’s Day was first associated with romantic love in the High Middle Ages, particularly in the time of Chaucer, a very sensual and romantic man. It was ostensibly a celebration of the third-century Roman saint and martyr Valentine, and it wasn’t until the 19th century that the numerous and confusing hagiographies gelled into the Hallmark man. It was ostensibly a celebration of the appearance of various red heart symbols, prepackaged sentimentalities and flowers.

And of course, sweets. And when we talk of lover’s sweets, the conversation usually comes around to chocolate.

In addition to being a premier comfort food, chocolate, the roasted, ground and processed seed or bean of the cacao plant, is yet another instance of a native Mesoamerican foodstuff whose universal popularity can be directly attributed to the Columbian exchange of foodstuffs between the old and new worlds.

Cultivating cacao for over three millennia, the Mayans considered it a commodity and actually used it as currency in addition to preparing and consuming the sacramental “divine beverage,” xocolatl, as homage to the god of wisdom and life, Quetzalcoatl, an honor and luxury afforded the privileged few. It was also believed to give the drinker numerous “strengths,” in particular purported aphrodisiac powers. The 16th-century Italian womanizer Casanova really left it. It is rumored that the 18th-century Aztec emperor Montezuma reportedly consumed endless amounts as a procurer to romantic rendezvous.

While the overall sweetening and refinement of chocolate, as it came to be known in the Old World, reached a high point in the Netherlands, Belgium and Switzerland, its lusty reputation never really left it. It is rumored that the 18th-century Italian womanizer Casanova had a predilection for dark chocolate, was a component of the Aztec aphrodisiac larder. And how romantic is this? The bloom of the vanilla orchid is actually named for a perceived resemblance to female genitalia and, like chocolate, was a component of the Aztec aphrodisiac larder.

The floral seasonings also have reputation aphrodisiac properties. The first, vanilla, the fruit or cured seed pod of orchids of the genus Vanilla, is actually named for a perceived resemblance to female genitalia and, like chocolate, was a component of the Aztec aphrodisiac larder. And how romantic is this? The bloom of the vanilla orchid lasts for just one day and modern cultivation is achieved only by hand. It is universally the most common flavoring addition to chocolate and is the second most expensive spice (after saffron, also the product of a flower).

Lavender is of course known for its scent and for that alone is worth inclusion. A particularly French provincial culinary seasoning when used judiciously, it has also had a centuries-old reputation as the “herb of love” and was used in ancient times as an herbal additive to promote relaxation and fertility to the object of one’s affection. (Again, in the world of debatable scientific research, a study at Chicago’s Smell and Taste Research Center led by Alan Hirsch, testing the effects of 24 different odors, found that the scent of lavender was instrumental in increasing the flow of blood to a specific member of the male anatomy. The effect was even more pronounced when combined with the smell of pumpkin pie, but I’m not really sure where that leaves us.)

Then again lavender, like chocolate, vanilla, flowers and Valentine’s cards, can just be a placebo, designed merely to calm or please someone, and isn’t that really what you’re trying to do here?

White Chocolate-Lavender Pots de Crème

Makes four 4-ounce servings

1 large egg yolks
½ vanilla bean pod, split and scraped
3 large egg yolks
2 tablespoons dried lavender, roughly crushed
¼ cup hot milk
1 cup coarsely chopped white chocolate
1 cup coarsely chopped white chocolate
1 cup hot milk
Pinch salt
(Optional: Whipped cream, or sugar for brûlée)

1. In a medium bowl, whisk together the egg yolks and set aside.
2. In a small saucepan over medium heat, combine the cream, the vanilla pod and seeds and the lavender; bring to a low simmer for 15 minutes. (Do not let it boil.) Strain to remove lavender and vanilla pods.
3. Return the cream mixture briefly to heat to warm. Slowly pour the hot cream mixture into the eggs, whisking to temper and combine. Fold in the chocolate pieces and continue whisking until smooth and completely incorporated. Add hot milk and salt. Pour the mixture into four 4-ounce ramekins. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight. Serve chilled. Optional finishing: A dollop of whipped cream is an easy but unnecessary finish. Better: Dust each ramekin with ¼ tablespoon of granulated sugar and brûlée (brown) with a small culinary torch or by running the ramekins under a hot broiler for a couple of minutes until the sugar begins to bubble and caramelize.

White Chocolate-Lavender Pots de Crème

White chocolate-lavender pots de crème

Photos by J. Dinzy

Small, Good Things

February 13, 2015
Haldane Board Grants Veterans School Property Tax Exemption (from page 1) 

had voted for the most basic level for this tax year and will consider revisiting the issue next year. She said the board was concerned with fairness to both veterans and property owners.

If eligible, under the BOE decision a veteran homeowner could save an estimated average of $192 on property taxes, with a home assessed at $200,000 (market value at approximately $430,000), would be $21. The state government has not yet determined this year’s level of aid to school districts, so the board exercised caution as to the total increase needed to fund the schools.

Under the state law, eligible veterans are defined as those who served during a period of war; those who died during a period of war but received an educational medal from one of the member states of service, or members of the reserves meeting additional qualifications.

Sheriff’s Department Official Schramek Resigns as Investigations Continue (from page 1) 

of Criminal Investigations, Schramek oversaw various local cases — such as the rape into a burglary at the Haldane Central School District and a violent at-tack on motorcycle club members just outside Cold Spring, both in 2013, and a Haldane High School stabbing.

However, Kenneth W. DeFreitas, fac-ing robbery charges, accused two Sheriff’s Department investigators of beating him in Carmel on July 3, 2014, while in their custody — this time, Tiger Cub Scout Pack 137 — leading the Pledge of Allegiance. After doing the

Tiger Cub Scout Pack 137 — leading the monthly meeting, began at Town Hall as for all Philipstown — and with Town Board last week, with suggestions for representative visits

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The discussion about where to locate a new Cold Spring Post Office is back on. Tuesday (Feb. 10) the Cold Spring Village Board trustees reviewed a letter from the U.S. Postal Service that listed four possible locations. The trustees quickly dismissed two sites: the NY State Hall on Church Street, which is being sold; and 159 Main St., which houses Powers and Haar Insurance, and is also likely unavailable. According to Mayor Ralph Ballon, the building’s owner, Rhinebeck Bank, intends to sell the property rather than establish a branch there.

The other locations include 51 Chestnut, which would require an expansion of Footwood South to the edge of Avenue, and the Butterfield building. During the discussion, Carolyn’s Flowers, located on Main Street, was mentioned as a possibility, however that property is also for sale, and it is highly unlikely that the USPS is interested in the $1 million price tag, since officials have indicated a strong preference for a rental property. The Village Board intends to express its views to the USPS in writing. Residents can also send comments to the Postal Service, via mail, to Joseph Melve, USPS, 2 Congress St., Room 8, Milford, MA 01757. The letter, dated Feb. 2, indicated that no decision would be made for a minimum of 30 days.

Campbell on Main St., election

Deputy Mayor Bruce Campbell cleared the air on two issues. First, he presented a detailed update on the slower-than-expected Main Street project, which sparked edgy exchanges between Campbell and Trustee Cathy Farren at recent meetings. He also announced that he will not seek reelection.

The more than 20 pages of documentation presented by Campbell may have finally solved the concerns people had over the financial status of the Main Street project, an initiative to repair the worst sections of sidewalks along with additional work on Furnace Street and Mountain Avenue. However, by far the biggest questions remain: When will the project actually be broken on a project that was approved in June 2007 during Anthony Phillips’ tenure as mayor? In an effort to assist village accountant Ellen Mageean, clarified the project’s finances. Mageean corrected information previously provided to The Paper that described the project as having begun with an approved budget of $1,076,000, explaining that the actual amount had been reduced by $200,000 very early in the process, a practice she said is common with federal grants. Federal funds, administered through New York State, will pay 80 percent of the cost with the village paying 20 percent. To date, engineering costs have totaled $189,975 – leaving an estimated $755,000 for actual construction. The most optimistic estimate as to when the first shovels might break ground is October of this year. Failing that, spring 2016 is the likely start.

Addressing the defendant, the judge said: “You’ve had your bite at the ACD apple. If you appear in front of me again, there will be no second chance. And stay away from spray paint if you find yourself bored at 2 in the morning.” The defendant had completed community service and paid $244.23 in restitution.

A second youth who was involved in the graffiti incident also appeared in court. Assistant Putnam County District Attorney David Bishop told Costello that while the youth had paid the $244.23 in restitution as ordered by the court, he had yet not performed the community service also ordered as part of the sentence. Costello stated that since the community service was complete an ACD would be granted. The case was adjourned until April 6 in order to give the defendant time to complete the work.

A third youth, charged with trespass at Haldane school and Mayor’s Park last August. An ACD petition that charges will be dismissed. Addressing the defendant, the judge said: “You’ve had your bite at the ACD apple. If you appear in front of me again, there will be no second chance. And stay away from spray paint if you find yourself bored at 2 in the morning.” The defendant had completed community service and paid $244.23 in restitution.

A recent conference call between Fallloon and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) helped clarify that the status of the project to remove toxic coal tar from under the property occupied by the Cold Spring Boat Club. “DEC is much easier to work with now that the scope of the work is $2,000,000 in full view,” Fallloon told trustees. “The conversation was much better than the correspondence,” which the mayor described as “bureaucratic” in tone. He was referring to a letter received on Jan. 26 that indicated the Boat Club would be required to vacate its building by March 1. This revelation of the fact that the club won’t have to vacate until September and that DEC is agreeable to allowing the club to share the site with the contractor until the end of boating season in October. DEC officials also clarified that 100 percent of the coal tar found at shallow depths beneath the Boat Club and the adjacent parking lot will be removed. Other deposits in the area, at a depth of 10 feet, will not be disturbed because they are not considered a health risk. The Boat Club building will be razed to complete the cleanup. DEC estimates that the project will be complete by the spring of 2016.
A New Business Is Born, a Second Earns Award

Construction company changes hands, bridal service honored

By Michael Turton

Chris Darman recently took over Carl- son’s Drywall Construction from the busi- ness from longtime Philipstown area builder Stephan Carlson. Just finding a job is a challenge for most 24-year-olds in the current economy. Few take on the added weight of starting their own compa- ny. But for Darman, a Cold Spring resident, doing that was “a logical decision.”

The road to establishing Darman Construction can be traced to one day — Darman’s graduation from Haldane High School in 2008. “It was a very proud day,” he recalled. “I graduated on Saturday, got a job and started working for Steve on Monday.”

Darman is clear about why he chose to take over a construction company. “I really enjoy carpentry.” he said. “I like how it combines the physical aspect with math — and a lot of creativity,” he said. “I want to be the best I can be.”

Carlson left Cold Spring earlier this year, having moved to Big Tancoso Island, Nova Scotia. Contacted By The Paper, he said he’s confident that Dar- man will do well. “He’s wide-eyed and energetic. And he’s willing to take on any challenge,” he said.

Working with Carlson, Darman learned the ins and outs of the business, several construc- tion and renovation projects. One of the most challenging and educational was the disassembly and reconstruction of the historic Philipson Chapel, which was moved from its location on Route 9D south of Garrison to the northern end of Philipstown. “The hardest part was the re-assembly,” he said. “The layout was changed a bit, and we had to redo joints that used wooden pegs.”

Darman took over the business in early January, purchasing all of Carlson’s tools and equipment, not the optimal time of year to start a new construction business. “With the snow it’s a little slow. But all things considered, I feel good. If it stays like it is, I’ll do fine,” Darman said. One advantage he sees with winter is the effect of ice and snow on roofs. “If you have a leak, you know it,” he said, adding that he already has three or four roofing jobs in the works.

Accomplishments have been small thus far, but they have been meaningful to Dar- man. “Just seeing the LLC (limited liability company) papers, realizing that Darman Construction is an actual entity — that was very rewarding, a really great moment,” he said. On the other hand, he has been sur- prised by the amount of time it takes to handle the paperwork and “bureaucratic” aspects of running a business from licensing a truck to bookkeeping.

“Make sure it’s something you really want to do. It’s not a hobby — it’s a career. It’s 100 percent of your time, every day. And if it’s something you want, don’t let anyone tell you not to do it. It’s definitely an exciting journey.”

Chris Darman, 24, now heads Darman Construction.

Photo by M. Turton

Candidates for Mayor and Trustee File Petitions

Election will decide Village Board’s new majority

By Kevin E. Foley

The Cold Spring Village election race is now perhaps as interesting for who is not running as it is for who is a candidate. With the deadline for filing the petitions for a place on the ballot having expired this past Tuesday (Feb. 10), we now know for sure that three incumbents, Mayor Ralph Falloon and Trustees Stephanie Hawkins and, per- haps most surprising, Bruce Campbell, have decided not to run for re-election.

Falloon had signaled for a while that he wanted to move on, although he has not said much about his reasons. The same is true of Hawkins, who commutes daily to New York City for work. Last year, Hawkins married Dave Merandy, a mayoral candidate, so the business of the Village Board might still be part of her life.

Campbell had remained mum about his intentions. In the past, the veteran trustee and top vote-getter had expressed some interest in running for mayor if Falloon did not. But until this week he declined to say anything. And for now he has not said much about his decision not to run, promising to say more later.

A new majority

With about five weeks of campaigning and debating ahead, the race now will decide the composition of a new majority on the Village Board.

Two strong personalities, current Philipstown Town Board Councilor and former Haldane School Board President (both elected positions) Merandy and appointed Cold Spring Planning Board Chairman Barney Molloy, are set to square off as the two mayoral candidates.

Marie Early, an experienced village stalwart on zoning and planning is- sues, running as the People’s Party with Merandy; Fran Murphy, a former academic administrator and village gov- ernment volunteer running as an inde- pendent; and Robert Ferris, a sheriff’s investigator, running as the People’s Party with Molloy, will all compete for the two trustee seats.

The race has been quiet with can- didates mainly out gathering signatures, shaking hands and fine-tuning their messages. Both The Paper (March 2 in the music room at Haldane) and The Pn- county News and Recorder (PNCR) (March 9 at the Cold Spring Firehouse) will hold candidate events providing an opportunity for voters to take measure of those who would be new stewards of the village government.

The race, particularly for mayor, is likely to heat up. Both candidates are experienced political hands, Merandy here in Philipstown and Molloy in Peekskill. Although the election is still considered nonpartisan, Merandy will likely rely on his allies in the town-wide Democratic Party, including many village residents, and Molloy will doubtless look to the lo- cal Republican Party (he works for a Re- publican legislator in Westchester) and allies such as Barbara Scaccimarco, Phil- ipstown’s county legislator, to bolster his chances.

Merandy is presently part of an all- Democratic Town Board team led by Supervisor Richard Shea.

Molloy masteredmind last year’s suc- cessful joint BOFA trustee campaign by Michael Bowman and Main Street restaurateur Cathryn Fadde. Both con- tinue as the other two trustees on the Village Board. Fadde shares a home with Molloy. So far Molloy and Ferris have kept their distance, telling The Paper they have been strapped for time in getting in photos and announcement material over more than two weeks of requests. They have, however, managed to find time to get their announcement into the PCNR and then to visit that paper for an interview.

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The Serenade Orchestra Opens Chamber Concert Series on March 1

Stewart asked John and Krista Feeney to put the first two concerts together, and requested the same of Evans for the third.

John Feeney and Stewart developed a close personal and musical relationship during the last few years of Stewart’s life (he passed away last November). The admiration, which developed on both sides, was an impetus for these concerts.

Stewart, according to Krista Feeney, “didn’t know whether he’d be able to hear these concerts. He wanted to make sure that John would be there.”

Feeney described Stewart as “a man possessed of a great social conscience. He judged things from a pure and completely personal vantage point. He believed in things because the truth in them resonated within him. His eyes, ears and intellect were open and un tainted by prejudice of any kind. When he heard of the true history of the double bass in classical music — a history that had been denied him and all others for more than 150 years — he was intrigued, to say the least. After revealing to him the wealth of recently uncovered truths revealing the history of tampering with the scoring of the great composers’ music by editors andwarday historians, he was ‘all on’ for shedding light where darkness has been.”

Evans expanded on this: “Though we think of string quartets as two violins, two violas and a cello, originally many early quartets were published with bass rather than cello. Little by little cello took over. One of the benefits of this original orchestration is that the violin is heard more clearly. The viola, compared to the violin and cello, is actually small relative to its string length. It was cut down so it could be held in a typical arm length, but that means it loses some of its brilliance and power and can be covered by the cello’s overtones. A special feature of the configuration of this group is that the pitch distance between the bass and viola makes ‘space’ to give the ear access to the viola’s full acoustic properties. Gordon felt a kinship with John in John’s pursuit of the true place for bass in early classical music. Gordon had a deep love and respect for both John’s scholarship and his masterful playing. Gordon felt deeply moved to give this community John and Krista’s brilliance.”

Krista Feeney noted: “It’s especially meaningful that we’re doing this series together with Rachel. The combination of Rachel and John made Gordon feel everything would be all right.”

John Feeney, in turn, had this to say about Stewart and, following on from that, these concerts: “We are in awe of Gordon — astounded by his vision, his generosity and drive. He wanted to hear this great music played the way the composers intended it, and made sure that it would be. We will keep Gordon in our hearts and St. Mary’s will resonate with this music due to Gordon Stewart’s vision, heart and generosity.”

General admission tickets cost $20 and are available at brownpapertickets.com. Supporter tickets at $250 include preferred seating and acknowledgement in the program and can be purchased by mail, or by phone 845-809-5174.
My Heroes Have Always Been Strong Women

By Alison Rooney

Markie Baylash isn’t one of those people who wants things to remain just as they were. A Beacon native who at one point spent 10 years away from his hometown before returning, he said he’s seen it “go from good to bad to good again.” Now everyone has a positive quality about themselves and the city.” Baylash has focused on the positive qualities of women, in particular, in an exhibition of his photographs, largely taken in Beacon, titled My Heroes Have Always Been Strong Women, curated by Rick Rogers, currently on view in the Community Room Exhibit Space at Howland Public Library through March 8. An artist reception will be held on Second Saturday, Feb. 14, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Baylash, a familiar figure in Beacon, spotted frequently walking up and down Main Street with a camera in hand, said Beacon was neighborly in his youth, but “things then became a disaster. It stopped being ‘neighbor does for neighbor,’ but now that’s returned. New arrivals, people from the city, have never bothered me. The influx of new people and older people is working — the two generations are caring for each other; it doesn’t need to be conflict. I shovel everybody’s snow, and in exchange they might buy me a cup of coffee. If a store owner has left their light on overnight by accident, I let them know. I’d rather find a little bit of good out there and be happy with the day.” Baylash is surprised by his own success with the camera, something he didn’t pick up until a mere four years ago, taking a picture of a rainbow with his Blackberry. He happened to show the image to a photographer friend, who told him, “You’ve got the eye.” Inspired, he went on Craigslist, picked up an inexpensive camera and just started taking pictures, and he pretty much hasn’t stopped. “I always have a camera on me now,” he said.

Spending years in jobs he himself dubbed “menial,” including many years as a photography assistant, he finally found his way to photography. “I always wanted to be a photographer, but rather, along with display cases filled with merchandise, there are tables set up for communal game playing, for actual person-to-person interaction and competition. Interaction there already is — the store hosted a birthday party during its opening week, and tournament play has begun. In addition to its focus on MTG and other collectable card games (Pokémon, Yu-Gi-Oh), which includes trays of cards for sale (GG also buys cards), the new store has much more in stock, from board games to books, action figures and accessories like plastic sleeves and deck boxes to hold cards. The board games tend toward those in which players play against the game itself rather than against each other. Games currently in stock include Diplomacy, Ingenious, Civilization, Shadowman, Ace of Rebellion, Edge of Empire, Axis and Allies, Road Rally, Provincia Romana, Power Grid, a variety of Star Wars games and many Munchkin games, which are a sort of parody of Dungeons and Dragons. There are also action figures and collectibles from MTG, Game of Thrones and Big Hero, a collection of sci-fi books and miscellaneous related.

Got Game? Groombridge Games Does

Main Street’s newest business is a center for Magic: The Gathering tournaments and sells strategy board games and other merchandise

By Alison Rooney

Philipstowns avid game players have already found their way to Cold Spring’s Groombridge Games, even though the store has been open for less than two weeks. Word is out on the gaming street about “GG;” the only such store in the area (others, located in Wappingers and Poughkeepsie, have recently shut their doors, leaving one in Poughkeepsie the closest) focusing on Magic: The Gathering (MTG) and other card-based games familiar to many in their teens and 20s. One advantage of their Main Street location, in relation to their sometimes not-driving-yet clientele, is it is walkable from the train station.

Peering into Groombridge Games, one does not see the bank of computer terminals associated with online gaming, but rather, along with display cases filled with merchandise, there are tables set up for communal game playing, for actual person-to-person interaction and competition. Interaction there already is — the store hosted a birthday party during its opening week, and tournament play has begun.

Above, photographer Markie Baylash gives a commentary of the images in My Heroes Have Always Been Strong Women, the exhibition of his work at the Howland Library. (Photo by A. Rooney)

At right, Priscilla and Madison, by Markie Baylash, included in the My Heroes Have Always Been Strong Women exhibit at Howland Library. Image courtesy of the artist

Groombridge Games’ flags, designed by Philipstown’s Gary Tooth

The Calendar

The Paper February 13, 2015
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Kids & Community

Family Night Out (ages 5+)  6 - 9:30 p.m. All Sport Health & Fitness  17 Old Main St., Fishkill  845-896-5678 | atlasoftfilm.com

Fellowship Supper  6 p.m. St. Mary’s Church  1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring  845-265-2530 | stmaryscoldspring.org

Health & Fitness

Partner Yoga Workshop  6:30 p.m. Skybaby Yoga  75 Main St., Cold Spring  845-265-4444 | skybabyyoga.com

Couples Yoga Class  7 p.m. Living Yoga Studios  3182 Route 9, Cold Spring  845-454-3222 | artsmidhudson.org

845-265-3040  |  butterfieldlibrary.org

Harmony Band  10 p.m. The Hudson Room  23 S. Division St., Peekskill  914-788-3663 | hudlondon.com

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Valentine’s Day

Second Saturday in Beacon

Kids & Community

Cold Spring Farmers’ Market  6 - 8 p.m. Arts Mid-Hudson  9 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie  6 - 8 p.m. Arts Mid-Hudson  |  cmofarmersmarket.com

Lovey Dovey Valentines  10 a.m. Wildlife Education Center  25 Boulevard, Cornwall-on-Hudson  845-533-1114 | beaconlibrary.org

Livemusic: Derick Landes & Friends  201 S. Division St., Peekskill  914-788-0100 | hvcca.org

Art & Design

Komic Kreators of the Mid-Hudson Valley (Preview)  6 - 8 p.m. Arts Mid-Hudson  9 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie  845-454-3222 | artsmidhudson.org

Music

Scott Beach & Friends  8:30 p.m. Woman’s Crier Café  201 S. Division St., Peekskill  914-379-1701 | beaverrunrentals.com

Lucky House  9 p.m. Whistlin’ Willie’s  184 Main St., Cold Spring  845-265-2012 | whistlingwilleys.com

Lee B.  9:30 p.m. Max’s on Main  246 Main St., Beacon  845-838-6297 | maxsonmain.com

Mike Nilazzo  9:30 p.m. 12 Grapes  12 N. Division St., Peekskill  914-737-6624 | 12grapes.com

Ran Cubal (Documentary, 2008)  7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  477 Main St., Beacon  845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Almost Maine: A Romantic Comedy  8 p.m. The Beacon Theatre  445 Main St., Beacon  845-453-2978 | thebeacontheatre.com

Goblin Market (Musical)  8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  10 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison  845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Scott Beach & Friends  8 p.m. Matteawan Gallery  454 Main St., Beacon  845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

One Billion Rising  4 p.m. Field Library  4 Nelson Ave., Peekskill  914-671-7772 | onebillionrising.org

Big Gay Hudson Valley Show Your Love Ball  6:30 - 11 p.m. Looset Grove Estate  2863 Route 9, Poughkeepsie  845-424-3718 | outlaidyloretcos.com

Art & Design

Cabin Fever Workshop: Drawing With Thread and Love  10 a.m. Garrison Art Center  23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison  845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Komic Kreators of the Mid-Hudson Valley  10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Arts Mid-Hudson  See details under Friday.

Prom from Krishnaveni on On Kawara  2 p.m. Dustybeacon | 3 Beekman St., Beacon  845-440-0100 | dustbeacon.org

Mike Nilazzo  9:30 p.m. 12 Grapes  12 N. Division St., Peekskill  914-737-6624 | 12grapes.com

Harmony Band  10 p.m. The Hudson Room  23 S. Division St., Peekskill  914-788-3663 | hudlondon.com

Saturday, February 14

Valentine’s Day

Second Saturday in Beacon

Kids & Community

Cold Spring Farmers’ Market  6 - 8 p.m. Arts Mid-Hudson  9 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie  6 - 8 p.m. Arts Mid-Hudson  |  cmofarmersmarket.com

Lovey Dovey Valentines  10 a.m. Wildlife Education Center  25 Boulevard, Cornwall-on-Hudson  845-533-1114 | beaconlibrary.org

Love Your Library Children’s Program  11 a.m. DesmondFlyFish Library  472 Route 403, Garrison  845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Winter Jamboree  Noon - 3 p.m. Stony Kill Farm  79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls  845-831-1617 | stonykill.org

Flilm & Theater

The Met Live in HD: Tchaikovsky’s Iolanta / Bartok’s Duke Bluebeard’s Castle  12:30 p.m. Bardavon  300 East Main St., Poughkeepsie  845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

Royal Winnipeg Ballet: Moulin Rouge (Film)  3 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  1008 Brown St., Peekskill  914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

Silent Film Series: Monte Cristo (1922)  7 p.m. Butterfield Library  10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring  845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Almost Maine: A Romantic Comedy  8 p.m. The Beacon Theatre  See details under Friday.

Boogie Boogie  8 p.m. County Players Theater  See details under Friday.

Goblin Market (Musical)  8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  See details under Friday.
Music
Mardi Gras en Valentine’s Day (Jazz)
3 p.m. First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurch@coldspring.org
Hudson Heart Red Ball
8 p.m. Mid Hudson Civic Center
14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie
845-454-5800 | mihudsonciviccenter.org
Kazy Oliver (Drummin’ Percussailent)
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4898 | howlandculturalcenter.org
The Hudson Room
8 p.m. John Fard | 10 p.m. Lost Soul Band
See details below.
Tarrytown Music Hall
8 p.m. The Paper
23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-534-5506, ext. 204 | hhnaturemuseum.org
Kid’s Community
Hudson Valley reptile expo
9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Mid Hudson Civic Center
14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie
845-442-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com
Beacon Farmers Market
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Mid Hudson Civic Center
Long Dock Road, Beacon
845-234-9325 | beaconfarmersmarket.org
Kids’ Open-Mic Night
6 - 8 p.m. 12 Grapes
917-318-7801 | beaconcraftworkshop.com
Kids’ Craft Hour (grades 2+)
9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Philipstown Rec Center
258 Main St., Nelsonville
845-896-5678 | allsportfishkill.com
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17
Kids & Community
Indoor Tot Lot
9 - 11 a.m. & Noon - 2 p.m. Philipstown Rec Center
107 Glencliff Drive, Garrison
845-442-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com
Winter Workshop for Kids (grades 4-6) (First Session)
5 p.m. Butterfield Library
845-896-5678 | allsportfishkill.com
Music
Rock Band Boot Camp: Purple Rain
3 p.m. Southside Dance Studio
629 Route 52, Beacon
845-765-0472 | beaconmusicsfactory.com
Lydia Adams Davis & The Whispering Tree
4 - 6 p.m. Bear Pawnner Café
See details below.
Pick’n’ Grin Acoustic Session
8 - 10 p.m. Dogwood
47 E. Main St., Beacon
845-202-7950 | dogwoodbar.com
Leon Russell
7 p.m. Tarrytown Music Hall
See details below.
Rob Stone’s Rolling Thunder Revival
7:30 p.m. Tione Crue Café
See details below.
MIDDAY, FEBRUARY 16
Presidents’ Day
Local schools closed
Philipstown Recreation closed
Kids & Community
Vacation Camp (ages 5-12)
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. All Sport Health & Fitness
1875 Route 6 (2nd floor), Carmel
845-896-5678 | allsportfishkill.com
Arts Holiday (ages 4-9)
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
917-318-7801 | compassarts.org
Winter Workshop for Kids (grades pre-K to K)
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Garden Art Center
23 Garden’s Landing, Garrison
845-202-3960 | gardenartcenter.org
The Beacon Theatre (First Session)
4 p.m. Drama (ages 5-6)
5 p.m. Tap for Kids (intermediate/advanced)
6 p.m. Tap for Kids (intermediate/advanced)
445 Main St., Beacon
845-454-2978 | thebeacontheatre.org
Rescheduled from Feb. 9.
Personal Writing and College essay Workshop (grades 10-12) (First Session)
5 p.m. Butterfield Library
845-896-5678 | allsportfishkill.com
Film & Theater
National Theatre of London: Treasure Island
1:30 p.m. Dowing Film Center
See details below.
Meetings & Lectures
Public Meeting to Discuss Proposed Firehouse
7 p.m. Cold Spring Firehouse
152 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-9241 | coldspringfd.org
Rescheduled from Feb. 9.
News
Lessons From the Honeybee (Talk)
7:30 p.m. Cornwall Presbyterian
222 Hudson St., Cornwall-on-Hudson
845-534-5506, ext. 204 | hhnaturemuseum.org
Nelsonville Village Board
7:30 p.m. Village Hall
258 Main St., Nelsonville
845-265-2500 | villageofnelsonville.org
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18
Ash Wednesday
Kids & Community
Howland Public Library
4:15 p.m. Come and Play (ages 0-3)
3 p.m. Teddy Tales (ages 2-3)
4 p.m. Children Read to Dogs (grades K-5)
See details under Tuesday.
Senior Bus Trip to FiSkall
10 a.m. Chestnut Ridge, Cold Spring
845-442-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com
Farmers Market
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Philipstown Rec Center
See details under Tuesday.
Indoor Tot Lot
Closed | 2 p.m. Philipstown Rec Center
845-938-2526 | gearmsports.com
Sports
Army vs. Colgate (Women’s Basketball)
7 p.m. Christ Arena, West Point
845-938-2526 | gearmsports.com
Kids & Community
Howland Public Library
4:15 p.m. Come and Play (ages 0-3)
3 p.m. Teddy Tales (ages 2-3)
4 p.m. Children Read to Dogs (grades K-5)
See details under Tuesday.
Hudson Valley reptile expo
9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Mid Hudson Civic Center
14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie
845-442-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com
Meetings & Lectures
Understanding the V.A. and its Services
3 p.m. Veterans’ Administration Library
1875 Route 6 (2nd floor), Carmel
845-226-4646
Local Beer / Hudson Valley Foodshed (Talks)
7 - 10 p.m. Scenic Hudson
8 Long Dock Road, Beacon
845-473-4440, ext. 273 | scenicudson.org
Booster Club: This Book Is Overdue!
7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-442-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org
Digital Salon
7 - 10 p.m. Beahive Beacon
295 Main St., Beacon
845-765-1890 | beahivebzzz.com
Board of Trustees
7:30 p.m. Village Hall
258 Main St., Nelsonville
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov
Health & Fitness
Heart Healthy Nutritional Seminar
7 p.m. All Sport Health & Fitness
17 Old Main St. Flatrock
845-896-5678 | allsportfishkill.com
Kids & Community
Howland Public Library
4:15 p.m. Come and Play (ages 0-3)
3 p.m. Teddy Tales (ages 2-3)
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See details under Tuesday.
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Indoor Tot Lot
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845-938-2526 | gearmsports.com
Sports
Army vs. Colgate (Women’s Basketball)
7 p.m. Christ Arena, West Point
845-938-2526 | gearmsports.com
"A game ... The Townie Chere Takes Its Food seriously."
— NY Times
To page 10
**The Calendar** *(from page 9)*

**Music**

*Ladies’ Night With Julie Corbells*
8 p.m. 12 Grapes | See details under Friday.

**Meetings & Lectures**

*Introduction to the Art of Somatic Coaching (Open)*
3 p.m. Garrison Institute | 14 Mary’s Way, Garrison
845-424-4800 | garrisoninstitute.org

*Putnam and Beyond Book Club: Orange Is the New Black*
6:45 p.m. Raverana Oastoria | 1059 N Division St., Peekskill | meetup.com/PBBBC

*Library Board Meeting*
7 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

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

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

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**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

**Kids & Community**

*Chinese New Year Ceremony* 10 a.m. Towne Crier Cafe
*Drum Circle (ages 7-12) (First Session)* 4 p.m. Garrison Institute

**Health & Fitness**

*Indoor Yoga With Isla Wilson* 6:30 p.m. Story Kill Farm
845-831-1617 | stonykill.org

*Adult Co-Ed Volleyball* 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center
See details under Sunday.

**Music**

*Erik Blok & Guy Davis* 7:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe
9 p.m. Whistling Willie’s | Details under Feb. 13

*Live Band Karaoke* 8:30 - 11:30 p.m. 12 Grapes | Details under Friday

**Meetings & Lectures**

*Zoning Board of Appeals* 7 p.m. Village Hall
85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

*Philipstown Planning Board* 7:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3329 | philipstown.com

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**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

**Kids & Community**

*Indoor Tot Lot* 9 - 11 a.m. & Noon - 2 p.m. Philipstown Rec Center
See details under Tuesday.

**Health & Fitness**

*Indoor Yoga With Isla Wilson* 6:30 p.m. Story Kill Farm
79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls
845-831-1617 | stonykill.org

*Adult Co-Ed Volleyball* 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center
See details under Sunday.

**Music**

*Two Dollar Goat (bluegrass)* 8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center | Details under Feb. 13

**Meetings & Lectures**

*Philipstown Planning Board* 7:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3329 | philipstown.com

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**NY Alert**
For the latest updates on weather-related or other emergencies, sign up at www.nyalert.gov.
something, finding nothing, but one day I just found that thing. I never believed there was such a thing as that until I found it."

Attraction, said Ian Groombridge, proprietor of Groombridge Games. Even a stroke suffered in 2013, which caused him to temporarily lose sight in his right eye, didn't impede him. "I had to train my left eye," he said. "I wore a patch for seven or eight months, and looked out of my left. I call those my 'patches,' hand-delivered to me the next day."

Parting with the image, Baylash explained, "A photo is a slice of the world that's perfect; he predicted, a perfect millisecond in history. I don't want anyone else to have that little slice of perfection."

Although some wonder why he doesn't print up larger images, Baylash prefers to work with 8-by-10s, because "everything looks different as you get up close, and I like that." Earlier this year Baylash was included in the Howland Center's "This is Beacon!" photography exhibit, and, when asked by Howland Library curator Rogers to put together a new one with a different theme, Baylash was initially stumped, but then it came to him. "All the women I know around town are strong women who deserve something good. Of the people in my life who have

Baylash's happiness, simple as that. People come to Beacon and play it, every Friday night. Conner described being in a Silicon Valley mall recently, where four storefronts had been taken over for tournaments, with over a hundred people standing in line to get in. "There's a social component to it," she noted, adding that "these games are not just for kids; the average age for MTG players is about 22."

Neither Groombridge nor Conner has ever owned a retail store, though Groombridge does have experience working in a store similar to this one. In the parent-child endeavor, with Conner determined to become a store, so that they don't think you're going to just sell things online. Conner had been thinking of having a Main Street business for a while, but was never certain what it should be. She said the impetus behind GG was to "provide content for the Humans of Beacon Facebook page, something he enjoys doing for the past six months or so. The camera brings Baylash happiness, simple as that."

"You can be happy, no matter what," he said. "For years I was very sad. You don't have to be sad. If you walk outside, something fantastic is going to happen, or, if it doesn't, at least you got outside." Howland Public Library is located at 331 Main St., in Beacon. The Community Room Exhibit Space is open during regular library hours, but may not be accessible during some library programs; consult the calendar at beaconlibrary.org.
Mount’s CDI Presents Lenten Lecture Series

Three lectures by Sister Ann Willits

Mount Saint Mary College’s Catholic and Dominican Institute will host a trio of talks to help the faithful get ready for the Lenten season.

“Preparing for a Good Lenten Season” will take place on Feb. 17 at 7 p.m., “Dominican Spirituality in the Lenten Season” will be explored on Feb. 18 at 6 p.m., and “This Lent, Are We Coming or Going?” will begin on Feb. 19 at 7 p.m.

All three talks, given by Sister Ann Willits, will be held on campus in the Dominican Center, room 218. They are free and open to the public.

Willits, a Dominican sister from Sinsinawa, Wisconsin, is a preacher, poet, writer and lecturer. She has headed parish missions, retreats and conferences throughout the world, including the United States, South America, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Europe. She received her bachelor’s degree from Rosary College, her master’s degree from St. Thomas University and she completed postgraduate study at Marquette University.

Willits was also a high school English teacher and administrator, served for nine years on the general council of her congregation and was director of “Para-ble,” a national conference for Dominican life and mission, for more than 20 years.

The Mount’s Catholic and Dominican Institute, directed by assistant professor of philosophy Charles Zola, promotes the college’s heritage of St. Dominic, advances the Dominican charism of study and service, provides a forum for discussion of contemporary ethical issues and cultivates a spirit of inter-denominational Jewish dialogue.

Mount Saint Mary College is at 310 Powell Ave. in Newburgh. For more information, call 845-567-3465, cdj13@mssc.edu or visit mssc.edu.

Mardi Gras Madness Comes to Peekskill

Feb. 17-21

Backwater Zydeco headlines at the Paramount

The good times will roll in downtown Peekskill during Mardi Gras Madness Week presented by the Paramount.

Chamber Ensemble to Perform Free Concert

Feb. 21 performance at Vassar College

The New York City-based chamber ensemble Decoda will perform works by Mozart, Brahms, Britten and Hersant at Skinner Hall on Saturday, Feb. 21, at 8 p.m. The performance at Vassar will also feature the world premiere of “Distractus,” a sextet written for Decoda by Richard Wilson, professor of music and the composer of over 100 works in many genres. This event is free and open to the public.

Decoda is comprised of virtuosos musicians, entrepreneurs and passionate advocates who have, since its inception in 2011, Decoda’s projects have reached audiences in schools, hospitals and prisons as well as in prominent concert halls across the globe. Decoda is known for customizing its performances to its community partners and audiences as needed. The group has held interactive workshops, performance participation, workshops and performance training workshops for high school students. Decoda is an affiliate ensemble of Carnegie Hall.

For detailed information about accessibility and directions, visit vassar.edu.

Presentation Examines Video Interviews of Holocaust Survivors

Shandler discusses role of watching interviews in connecting

The visual component of video interviews with survivors of the Holocaust is what distinguishes these from other forms of documenting survivors’ life stories, whether in written form or audio recording. But what is the difference between watching these stories rather than simply reading or listening to them? Jeffrey Shandler, a Jewish studies scholar, will explore the role of these video interviews in the presentation, “Seeing as Believing: Watching Videotaped Interviews With Holocaust Survivors.”

Shandler, professor and chair of Jewish Studies at Rutgers University, will deliver the annual Dr. Maurice Stetmer Lecture on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 5:30 p.m. in Taylor Hall, room 203 at Vassar College. This event is free and open to the public and sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program.

10516 Photos at DPGP’s

D’Angelo’s Pretty Good Pub in Cold Spring, known as some to DPGP’s, will feature an exhibit of photographs by The Paper’s Michael Turtion beginning Friday, Feb. 13. An informal opening will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. that evening, with the photos remaining on display throughout the coming months.

The photos, several of which have been published in The Paper and on Philipstown.info, focus on “places and people and was chosen as the final musician of over 100 works in many genres. This event is free and open to the public. Decoda is comprised of virtuosos musicians, entrepreneurs and passionate advocates who have, since its inception in 2011, Decoda’s projects have reached audiences in schools, hospitals and prisons as well as in prominent concert halls across the globe. Decoda is known for customizing its performances to its community partners and audiences as needed. The group has held interactive shows with survivors of the Holocaust, beginning Feb. 17, on Feb. 21, Nationwide Licensed Sales and Service Associate Drake Di Bella of the Charles L. Quick Insurance and Associates office in Washingtonville will give a PowerPoint presentation on the topic of life insurance from 1 to 2 p.m. Attendees will learn insurance terminology along with the different types of life insurance available, and their respective pros and cons.

At 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 25, Katie Downes, certified diabetes educator and registered dietitian at St. Luke’s Cornwall Hospital, will present a program on diabetes prevention and management, providing tips and prevention and management of diabetes.

Both events are free and no registration is required. For more information, contact Alison Herrero, adult services librarian, at 845-833-1134. To view all events at the Howland Public Library, go to bea conlibrary.org and click on “Calendar.”

Oil Paintings by Linda Puiatti at RiverWinds

Color of Light opens on Second Saturday, Feb. 14

RiverWinds Gallery at 172 Main St. in Beacon presents Color of Light, oil paintings by Linda Puiatti. These bold paintings of light, atmosphere and mood give a sense of connection with nature. The show opens on Beacon Second Saturday, Feb. 14, from 5 to 8 p.m. The show runs through March 8.

Puiatti paints primarily with oils on canvas in her Holmes, New York, studio. Field studies painted outdoors in the Hudson Valley, the farmlands of Belgium and France or the coast of Cape Cod give way to larger studio works. Puiatti’s paintings hang in private collections throughout the U.S., Europe, Australia and Africa. Her American studies include the Art Students League, the School of Visual Arts, the Woodstock School of Art and the Byrdcliffe School of Art.

RiverWinds is open Wednesday through Monday from noon to 9 p.m. and until 9 p.m. on Second Saturdays. For more information, (Continued on next page)
Norwegian Film O’Horten Shows at Howland Library
Comedy/drama screens 7 p.m., Feb. 27

The Norwegian film O’Horten will be shown at the Howland Public Library on Friday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m. This comedy/drama focuses on a life-changing moment in 47-year-old train engineer Odd Horten’s existence: the evening of his retirement. The film is rated PG-13 and is 90 minutes in length.

This event is free and no registration is required. All films are shown in their original language with English subtitles. Doors open at 6:30 and film starts promptly at 7.

The Howland Public Library is located at 313 Main St. in Beacon. For more information, contact Alison Herrero, adult services librarian, at 845-831-1134.

Benefit Dinner for Sloop Woody at Towne Crier
Elissa Jones Band to provide live music March 1

The Beacon Sloop Club announces its Ninth Annual Woody Benefit Dinner, scheduled for Sunday, March 1, at the Towne Crier Café, 379 Main St. in Beacon.

Cocktail hour and appetizers begin at 5 p.m. A buffet dinner follows at 6, with raffle and door prizes. Live music will be provided by the Elissa Jones Band, a kinetic band known for buoyantly blending elements of rock, jazz, blues, funk, country, folk and tango into a good time.

Jones is a prolific singer-songwriter and classically trained violinist who also plays gui- tar, piano, mandolin, ukulele and cello. This multi-instrumentalist is originally from Colorado and currently lives in the Hudson Valley. Jones is presently touring the Tristate area with her backing bandmates, Mark McNutt on guitar, Mickey Kopchak on bass and Michael Hickey on drums, with whom she has performed for the past seven years.

Jones has released five CDs, toured with legends and is currently working on the release of her new CD. Musical stylings range from folk to rock to reinvented popular covers. For more information on Jones, visit elissajones.com.

Proceeds go to the restoration of the Beacon Sloop Club’s environmental education sailing vessel, the Woody Guthrie, which needs a new hull this year. Tickets cost $75. To reserve online, go to woodydinner.brownpapertickets.com. Reservations are required as space is limited. For dinner details or to print a reservation form, visit beaconsloopclub.org.

Norwegian Film O’Horten’s existence: the evening of his retirement. The evening of his retirement.

Howland Piano Festival Continues With Barnatan
NY Philharmonic’s artist in association gives recital Feb. 22

The Howland Chamber Music Circle’s annual winter series of piano concerts continues with a performance by Israeli pianist Inon Barnatan.

Barnatan has been named the New York Philharmonic’s first “Artist in Association,” a major three-season appointment highlighted by multiple concerto and chamber music collaborations with the orchestra. The Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient’s recent Kennedy Center solo debut prompted The Washington Post to marvel: “Although there was firecracker technique on display, it was Barnatan’s intelligence, musicality and story-telling ability that most impressed.” His 2013 recording of Schubert’s late sonatas reveals “superior playing, in which penetrating musicianship, compelling interpretive insight, and elegant pianism achieve near perfect equilibrium” (BBC Music magazine), while his solo album Darkness Visible was described as one of the “Best of 2012” by The New York Times.

To launch his unprecedented new partnership with the NY Philharmonic, Barnatan makes his subscription debut playing Ravel’s concerto under Alan Gilbert. For his concert at the Howland Center, Barnatan has chosen to play Beethoven’s Sonata No. 31 in A-flat Major, Op. 110; Sonata in E-flat minor, Op. 26, by Samuel Barber; Prelud, Chorale et Passe by Cesar Franck; and Variations and Paze on a Theme by Handel by Johannes Brahms.

Matteawan Gallery
Shows Couples’ Art in duets

The Matteawan Gallery presents duets, a group exhibition featuring the work of four couples: Jill Baroff and Stefania McClure, Karlos Carcamo and Eleanor White, Matt Frieberghaus and Laura Kaufman, and Meg Hitchcock and Kurt Steger. The exhibition opens on Feb. 14 and runs through March 8. The opening reception takes place on Second Saturday, Feb. 14, from 6 to 9 p.m. duets brings together four artist couples from the New York area whose work has a similar reliance on process and concept, showing how the work of two people who live together can be similar or different, how ideas and experiences they share are expressed in their art. In some cases there is much common ground, but in others there is very little obvious connection. In the end, viewing the couples’ work side by side is a compelling way to acknowledge their shared lives.

Matteawan Gallery is located at 464 Main St., Beacon. For more information, visit matteawan.com or contact info@matteawan.com or 845-440-7901.

Shrug by Laura Kaufman, left, and Valley by Matt Frieberghaus

Photographs courtesy of the artists

Joseph’s Fine Jewelry

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Specializing in estate jewelry. We buy to resell, not to scrap.

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Cold Spring, NY 10516

• Thursday & Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
• Saturday & Sunday 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Store: 845-265-2325 • Cell: 914-215-8749
Pooh the Rattler Delights Audience at Taconic Outdoor Education Center

Snake crosses river to visit
By Liz Schvetzblub Armstrong

G
en. Christopher Gadsden, a Revolutionary War patriot, reportedly considered the rattlesnake so apt a symbol of dangerous resolve that the 1775 flag attributed to him features one — coiled — above the slogan “Don’t Tread on Me.”

Some 240 years later, that remains good advice for anyone walking the hills of the Hudson Valley, home to the timber rattler (in Latin, Crotalus horridus, a name that pretty much explains itself). The snakes are described as typically shy, although one, dubbed Pooh, found himself mingling (under close supervision) with human society at the Taconic Outdoor Education Center (TOEC) in February.

“We don’t want to be seen — they just want to stay cryptic.” If encountering one, he advised that a hiker “look at it from a safe distance, enjoy it, and then give it a wide berth.” He added that it is “really infrequent” that a timber rattler bites someone, “considering all the hikers and all the people” outdoors in the Hudson Highlands.

Although the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation refers to the timber rattlesnake, a form of pit vipers, as “the largest venomous snake in New York,” it also lists the rattlers as “threatened animals” after long-standing efforts by two-legged predators (Homo sapiens) to exterminate them — dead rattlers once brought bounties, a practice banned in 1971. Development also took its toll. “Contrary to popular opinion, a rattlesnake will not pursue or attack a person unless threatened or provoked,” the DEC website declares. They eat small mammals, as well as the occasional bird, amphibian or other snake, and in New York, “protection of habitat is now a priority concern,” the agency also notes.

“Collecting rattlers from the wild is prohibited, but poachers are still active in supplying the black-market pet trade.” Seemingly oblivious to such concerns, at the TOEC Pooh displayed her light-colored head and geometric decorations on a brownish-snake body. She appeared to be about 3 feet long, if stretched out.

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For a Good Harvest, Start With the Soil

By Pamela Doan

Recently I’ve gotten a lot of questions about organic gardening and why to do it at home. Conventional agriculture strikes fear into most of us. It tends to mean using large quantities of chemicals in order to grow food. In order to turn the greatest profit, corporations compromise the health of the environment and the consumer — at least that’s the common conception. Local is better and local/organic is best in the hierarchy of food that’s good for us. Although most people still purchase the majority of their fruits and vegetables at chain grocery stores instead of a farmers market, there are many more choices.

In the long run, is a little bit of pesticide, herbicide or a general-use synthetic fertilizer going to do that much harm in a small vegetable garden? We tend to blame agribusiness for reckless disregard for the environment and focus less on home garden choices simply because the scale is smaller, therefore the problem is smaller. It all contributes to the bigger problem, though.

Organic gardening relies on living, vital soil and pest management methods instead of chemicals. Soil is the basis for plants to get nutrients. The main nutrients are nitrogen for shoots (growth), potassium for fruits and phosphorus for roots. On a bag of fertilizer these are represented as N, K and P, respectively. If your tomatoes get a blast of nitrogen and not enough potassium, you’ll have tall, leafy plants and a not-so-great yield. It’s all about balance.

Soil can be enhanced with organic materials that will slowly release these nutrients as they decompose. Sometimes plants need a quick infusion, though, and chemical fertilizers will do the trick. They are absorbed much faster because they don’t have to break down.

The downside is that it doesn’t remain in the soil and has to be reapplied, and it’s tricky to get the right amount in the right place. Chemical fertilizers applied incorrectly can harm the plants and be washed into streams, lakes and rivers by rainfall. Following directions carefully when using chemical fertilizers is essential.

Organic gardening doesn’t have those negatives. I’ve never heard from a gardener whose soil was too good because they’d added too much compost. Even using a store-brand organic fertilizer like bone meal or manure can’t cause the kind of harm to the environment that a synthetic fertilizer can.

Considering the chemicals that are commonly used in conventional agriculture. Roundup, a popular and widely available herbicide, has been linked as a possible cause of colony collapse disorder in mass die-offs of bees, for example. Pesticides don’t just affect a single insect species but can indiscriminately kill all the insects that come in contact with it, even the beneficial insects. Chemical fertilizers, as I mentioned, don’t have to stay in the place where they’re applied. Once they get into the soil, they can move. Unleashing any synthetic materials or chemicals into a green space leads to consequences, whether you can see it or not.

Organic gardening is a way to approach a more harmonious relationship with the environment. By choosing to leave out chemicals and synthetics, the gardener is forced to learn about the plot of land and what it needs for maximum vitality to encourage the desired results.

The setup needs might be more demanding in the beginning, like a composting system and adding organic materials to the soil, but once these are in motion, maintaining it over the long term isn’t as challenging or time-consuming once you’re in the groove. Going the conventional route requires constantly adding synthetic fertilizer to soil that doesn’t have the nutrients a plant needs and won’t until it’s organically balanced. It will be depleted more and more. While you’re making that list and drawing out the garden this year, take care of the soil and let nature do the rest.
Haldane Captures League Title in Win Over Putnam Valley

By Peter Farrell

In a Friday night classic, the Haldane varsity boys basketball team visited Putnam Valley High School on Feb. 6 to take on the Tigers. Meeting for the second time in three weeks, the Blue Devils were playing in front of a lively, standing-room only crowd, half of them Haldane fans who made the short trip to the valley.

From the opening tip to the final buzzer, the Blue Devils and Tigers left it all out on the floor. So did their fans. Haldane fans in attendance matched the vocal Putnam Valley home crowd, cheer for cheer. The tenacious Blue Devil defense enabled Haldane to pull out to a comfortable 11-point lead heading into halftime. In the third quarter, the Tigers’ offense began to chip away at the Haldane lead; they entered the fourth quarter tied at 33-33.

Utilizing their towering defense to shut down the Tigers’ offense, the Blue Devils took control of the game late in the fourth. As chants of “Let’s go, Haldane” echoed through the high school halls, the Blue Devils made the crucial baskets in the final minutes to pull away with a 49-43 victory.

The victory gave the Blue Devils a sweep of the season series and the Conference 1 League C title. Leading scorer for Haldane was Peter Hoffmann with 23 points. The Blue Devil defense blocked 16 shots.

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Got Game? Groombridge Games Does (from page 11)

a place where kids can come and just "be," because that’s never been available here. Now kids can come in after school and play Magic and hang out and talk to people. It’s designed for drop-ins. We have Wi-Fi on a guest network and snacks are available.

Tourament play has begun — Groombridge is a certified MTG judge, and GG has officially been approved by Wizards of the Coast to host MTG tournaments and Dungeons and Dragons Adventures. The tournaments basically involve an entrance fee and then prize support, with game packs awarded depending on how you play. They are currently hosting MTG Standard Tournaments on Friday nights, and MTG Limited events on Saturday nights. (The difference between Constructed Magic, of which Standard is a part, and Limited Magic is that in Constructed Magic you build a deck out of your personal collection and play it, whereas in Limited you build a deck out of a set of cards opened on the spot.) GG is also available for party rental in a basic way: You bring in the cake; they’ll provide the games.

Taking over what was formerly the Terence Donovan Gallery, GG enlisted local talent and workmanship to ready the space for opening. Their logo was designed by Susan Donovan Studio; a mix of elements drawn from such fantastical creatures, spells and artifacts. These cards combine both fantasy (wizards, goblins, etc.) and mythological imagery (sphinxes, shamans, etc.), and each figure has its own unique effects and abilities. Strategically, the game combines various elements of gameplay, with a mix of elements drawn from such disparate sources as poker and chess, along with luck of the draw. In addition to the games, played casually or in organized tournaments (some players are professionals), the cards themselves, though looking like ordinary cardboard rectangles with designs on them, have evolved into their own currency, per se, with values attached to their rarity and usefulness in gameplay. (Note: Many of these details were provided by this reporter’s 18-year-old son.)