Candidates Meet in Second Political Forum
Teams stick to established campaign messages
By Michael Turton

For the second time in a week the team of Matt Francisco and Donald MacDonald squared off against the Michael Bowman — Cathryn Fadde team, facing questions before a full village firehall that moderator and PCNR Editor Doug Cunningham described as having been “tailedored to the candidates to some degree.”

Francisco and MacDonald stressed progress on important projects and that village boards are working cooperatively and effectively while Bowman and Fadde called for village projects to be completed more quickly and for more open and transparent local government.

Questions “tailedored” to candidates?
The “tailing” Cunningham referred to at times resulted in a noticeable difference in how questions were stitched together to fit the candidates. Some had a looser fit than others. A number of lengthy, multi-faceted “hardball” questions were directed toward Francisco and MacDonald while simpler and markedly softer queries were sometimes posed to Bowman and Fadde. The evening’s first two questions set the tone.

PCNR reporter Tim Greco to Francisco: “In last week’s PCNR (developer) Paul Guillaro expressed hope you’ll attend Saturday’s public information session at the fire hall. About 100 people attended but not you. Bruce Campbell was the only trustee who did. Please explain why you didn’t feel it necessary to hear questions from the public about the project and answer questions posed to you in his letter to the editor — what are your plans for decreasing taxes, siting the post office and erecting a new senior citizen center?”

Francisco said he had issued a press release explaining why he wouldn’t attend, indicating that the event poster contained “strong political overtones” and that the Bowman-Fadde website gave the impression that the session would be a “campaign event.” He added that he is “… very interested in what citizens have to say but didn’t feel it was the right forum.” He also said while he feels the Butterfield project can be tax positive that outcome should be confirmed through independent analysis.

PCNR Reporter Catherine Garnsey to Cathryn Fadde: “You’ve said before that the Village Board talks today about the same issues talked about two years ago. In other words little concrete progress has been made inscribing on Butterfield. What should be done?”

Fadde responded that in her experience with the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, “Things on the agenda were not removed until completed. I see things disappear from the (Village of Cold Spring) agenda.” While such items “come up much later,” Fadde said that the process (Continued on page 3)

Public Packs Firehouse for Butterfield Redevelopment Forum
Tax-positive benefits and other advantages cited
By Liz Schevetzuk Armstrong

A standing-room-only crowd filled the Cold Spring firehouse Saturday (March 8) to pepper the owner of the old Butterfield Hospital property about its proposed redevelopment, a venture that so far has taken 30 months, generated numerous meetings and produced piles of documents, with no immediate end in sight but the glimmer of one — and shadows of eventual buildings — on the horizon, even as uncertainties remain.

Owner-developer Paul Guillaro, of Butterfield Realty LLC, plans to demolish the abandoned and deteriorated old hospital, on the south edge of Cold Spring, and create a multi-use complex. Joined by his team, from legal, land-use, and construction fields, Guillaro sponsored the Saturday event, billed as an opportunity for the public to “let your voice be heard.”

At least 75 local residents accepted the invitation, inquiring about numerous aspects of the project — everything from the tax implications and effects, if any, on local infrastructure to traffic patterns, timing of construction, county involvement, rezoning, and the presence or lack of elevators in new buildings. Despite the enormity that permeated some previous mass meetings about Butterfield, politeness characterized Saturday’s forum, perhaps due to the ground rules laid down by Guillaro’s team: Comments endorsing or condemning were prohibited; questions about the project itself were welcomed. “We’re not here to debate the pros or cons,” Steven Barshov, Guillaro’s attorney’s announced. “This is about questions. We want to make sure the public is informed.”

The audience included Putnam County Legislator Barbara Scaccimarra; Philipstown Trustees and Planning Board members Mike Leonard, Dave Marano, and Nancy Montgomery; Cold Spring Trustee Bruce Campbell; at least eight members of Philipstown or village sub-boards; and residents from within and beyond Cold Spring.

Concept and pending details
On the 5.7-acre site, Guillaro wants to retain the existing Lahey medical clinic while adding three single-family homes along Paulding Avenue, a multi-government municipal building — presumably containing a Putnam County-affiliated senior citizen center/community meeting hall; condominiums for retirement-age buyers; and a commercial “square” along Route 9D, with space for a post office in one of the public-access buildings and a “Gateway Park” on the southwest side. For Guillaro to proceed, the property must be rezoned for multi-use, a task for the Village Board, whose March 11 meeting agenda included receipt of Planning Board recommendations on a B4 zoning for Butterfield. (Continued on page 4)
Small, Good Things
Man-Made
By Joe Dizney

I was remembering a comment made some time ago by my (female) friend C.C. about men, women, food and how the arts of the hearth USED to be the exclusive province of the fairer sex but she’d noticed a distinct post-prandial trend at group dinners where the ladies would retire for conversation (family, arts and letters; world affairs, even sports) and the guys ended up in the kitchen talking food.

It reminded me of my time-tested trans-Atlantic alliance with a Belgian friend, Luc (aka The Gent From Ghent), based in a large part on a shared reverence for all things edible. And while our references couldn’t be more disparate — I am a generation (or two) older, South Louisiana-raised yet living (and eating) on the Hudson now for 30+ years — I cherish his lobbying for the primacy of Flemish cuisine — moules-frites, Waterzooi, steemp even.

We come together firmly on one recipe in particular: Carbonnade Flammandes, a low-and-slow cooked stew of beef, LOTS of caramelized onions and beer — man food. And although we may be culturally different we are both curious and precocious cooks prone to adapting tradition to the specifics of locale and season.

Here in the 21st century where the exotic is commonplace and available from Amazon (yes, even sirop de Liège), here in the Hudson Valley I’ve taken license to substitute locally and readily available ingredients. Since this is a slow braised and very forgiving of substitutions, rather than sirop I’ve used dried apples, pears and porcini mushrooms to add sweetness and depth. In place of the lambic I’ve substituted locally made hard cider (for mine, I used Doc’s Draft pear hard cider from Warwick, N.Y., although any good craft cider or amber/dark beer will do). And where Luc’s version includes endive salad (try it with sliced white button mushrooms and toasted walnuts, dressed with a plain mustard vinaigrette to which you might add a tablespoon or so of cream) for a late-winter feast.

And if this sounds all too exotic let me assure you it’s not. This week’s recipe was kitchen-tested at the insistence and with the assistance of my 23-year-old nephew, R., new to the area, freedom and newly on his own in the world (cutthecord) looking to develop some man-skills in the kitchen. And so the torch is passed.

Carbonnade
Adapted from Carbonnade au Gueuze et sirop de Liège, M. Luc Beenaert; serves 6 to 8.

1. Reconstitute the mushrooms: bring dried mushroom and beef broth to a boil. Strain; reserve broth. Chop mushrooms roughly and set aside.
2. Brown the meat: In a gallon zip lock bag, season the flour with salt and pepper, add the meat, seal and shake to coat. In a large Dutch oven heat olive oil over medium high heat. Add onion and sprinkle sugar over the top. Cook stirring for another 2 minutes or so. Add carrots, stir in the flour, darken and cook for another 5 minutes. Strain; reserve broth. Chop mushrooms roughly and set aside.
3. Deglaze pan with reserved mushroom-beef broth to get the crusty bits.
4. Clean and dry Dutch oven. Heat butter and an equal amount of olive oil over medium heat. Add onions and sprinkle sugar over the top. Cook stirring occasionally for 20 minutes or so until onions begin to brown/caramelize. Add garlic, stirring for another 2 minutes or so. Add carrots, reserved mushrooms and thyme, cooking for another couple of minutes.
5. Add reserved meat and dried fruit, incorporating until just mixed and smooth.
6. Add 1 cup dried pears, apples (or a combination), chopped coarsely.
7. Add reserved stock and enough cider or beer to cover by a bare ½ inch. Bring to a boil, lower to a bare simmer and cook stovetop, covered, for 2½ hours until meat is VERY tender. Check and stir occasionally, adding cider/beer as necessary.
8. When done, check seasoning, stir in chopped parsley and serve over buttered egg noodles accompanied by endive salad.

Carbonnade in The Manner of The Gent From Ghent

Photo by J. Dizney

 ALSO readolent of pear), endive (white or "white leaf" in the native tongue) and white mushrooms. And where the traditional recipe specifies beef, The Gent From Ghent suggests an even manlier combination of beef and pork.

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Candidates Meet in Second Political Forum

"seems disjointed." Projects have to be vetted, she said, "but paying attention to what's on the agenda could help."

Butternister

Catherine Square, the third panelist, prefaced a question to MacDonald, commenting, "Some might say that you've been steeped in analysis paralysis" before asking him why he wanted the Historic Districview Board to review placement of buildings at Butterfield. She then asked him why he supports having a concurrent tempax analysis before adding a third question: "Could a skeptic say you are simply trying to slow down the project?"

MacDonald replied that while he doesn't doubt the figures provided by Giulari, "it makes sense to me to protect our taxpayersisters we should also have an independent analysis" to verify those findings. He said the HBR's involvement was consistent with Giulario's request not to have any surprises sprung on him after five months of planning and that "getting all comments out front" would help meet that request.

Bowman was then asked by Greco if he was being unctirical of Guillario by having already said he would vote in favor of a proposed B4A zoning amendment for the Butterfield site. "I'm never going to give an allblanketing 'thumbs up' to a development without exploring the options," he said, adding that if adjustments to B4A recommended by the Planning Board are made he will vote yes. "I think it's a go," he said.

Are we better off two years ago?

Garnsey stated that Francisco had run two years ago largely on a pledge to make village government run better. "But that hasn't happened," she said. "Why? What responsibility do you bear?" Francisco answered: "There's a lot getting done," list -

Butternister said in part: "I understand the words — and I don't see the actions."

"The Open Meeting Law and transpar-

Garnsey asked if members of Cold Spring's boards should be able to speak their mind. "Would you support an effort to quiet or muzzle them, as happened with Planning Board Chair (Barney) Molloy?" she asked. Francisco responded that Molloy had made statements in the press last August that "are not apropos (for development of Butterfield) would be approved if no changes are made. He said Molloy's comments came "before hiring a consul-

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Back to business for Butterfield
March 10, 2014
To the editor:
Thank you to all of you who came out Saturday, March 8, to the Cold Spring Firehouse to ask your questions about the proposed Butterfield Project. It is important to me to hear your questions and to be able to provide you with answers. At this standing meeting, I was impressed by the teamwork of consultants and I answered questions about the review process to date and the overall project. We will be posting these questions and our responses with our answers to our website. For those of you who gave us written questions, we will also be posting those to the website with our answers. Please visit our website Butterfield-Gateway-To-Cold-Spring.com for more information or to contact us.

Now, what is the Village of Back to the Village Board to discuss recommendations by the Planning Board and to set a public hearing on the zoning so the Village Board may vote on the matter. Once the zoning change is approved, we will begin the site plan review process with the Planning Board, while working on architectural drawings. In addition, we will start working on tenants such as the U.S. post office, Putnam County and others.

As the year progresses, you will continue to contact me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to working with the community to build a better Cold Spring.

Sincerely,
Paul Guillaro

Public Packs Firehouse for Butterfield Redevelopment Forum
(from page 1)

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(from page 1)

Senior Correspondents
Liz Scheribuk Armstrong
Michael Turcik
LAYOUT EDITOR Kate Vikstrom
CALENDAR EDITOR Chip Rowe
calendar@philipstown.info
COPY EDITOR Mary Ann Ehlers
www.philipstown.info
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR Michael Turcik
For information on advertising:
845-809-5584
Email: ads@philipstown.info
www.philipstown.info
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village's Planning Board, which recently progressed toward that level of activity when it finished an earlier stage, studying the project's Environmental Assessment Form (EAF). On concluding its EAF scrutiny, the Planning Board declared the project would have no adverse effects on the village and its environmental and overall quality.

Despite the lack of specificity as to exactly how much, Tim Miller, local consulting firm Tim Miller Associates, one of Guillaro's advisers, told the audience that the complex's design "almost follows the concept of the old hospital; there's any way of knowing or predicting" how much difference. Guillaro said he is committed to working with officials in Carmel so Putnam County fills part of the site and offers services in western Putnam. "The county would not be waiting for us to get our zoning before proceeding," he said. Last fall, Putnam County Executive MaryKellen O'Mara informed the County Legislature of her administration's intent to take 5,000 square feet at Butterfield.

Traffic and walking
While the government presence at Butterfield is expected to increase, traffic problems and pedestrian safety threats are not, the Butterfield Realty team asserted. Miller said a traffic survey revealed that the complex would not bring "any significant change" in terms of traffic delays, intersection congestion, or similar problems. Also, the layout inside the complex "has been designed to be pedestrian-friendly," he said.

An audience member asked about installing a sidewalk on Pauilding Avenue and Guillaro agreed. "If the village wants a sidewalk, we'll put it in a sidewalk," he said. More crosswalks on busy Route 9D are needed, he said. Guillaro said the village government and taxpayers, and other county services and community resources this project will provide.

Thank you very much,
Shirley Norton, Cold Spring
Mayor Ralph Falloon, speaking about Trustee Matt Francisco:

“With Matt’s knowledge of leases and contracts, he had met with [the Boat Club] and they came to common ground....the light he could shed on all the contractual issues was huge and could cut things off before we went down the wrong road.”

February 11, 2014 Monthly Village Board Meeting

Re-elect Matt on Tuesday, March 18th.

Paid Political Advertisement
Filipino-run store in Beacon commands large online presence

By Alison Rooney

ured by the exterior description of “Filipino-Oriental Food Mart” a passerby into the window of Pinoy Outlet revealed well-stocked shelves of goods from areas throughout Asia.

Vast quantities and varieties of dried noodles vie with items not often seen in these parts like jars of sugar palm fruit and papaya pickles. A cook’s dream of essential Asian condiments — fish and chili sauces, white vinegars, sambals, curry and shrimp pastes and coconut creams — comes to life with row after row of different brands from all corners of Asia, in the small, but comprehensive store.

Spend a little time within, and you’ll experience a mini parade of nations as a steady stream of customers comes in, some browsing, but many with particular purchases in mind; during a recent visit two young Indonesian women came in and bought an assortment of things, proffering a vanilla-water-fer-fer-like tarte — and quite delicious — dessert. Also shopping was a Filipino nun from Mount St. Alphonsus in Kingston who said her favorite item was the fish. Last year, accompanying another nun who was dropping off a book at nearby Howland Library, she spotted the store-front and made a beeline for it. People of Thai, Korean, Chinese, Japanese and Indian heritage frequent the store as well.

Whatever the request is, Valerie Jelski is likely to be able to satisfy. Jelski, who hails from the northern Philippines, is the manager, there weekdays (someone else handles the weekends) to help customers and also to fulfill the large amount of online orders, which constitute the bulk of Pinoy Outlet’s business. Jelski says the largest Filipino populations in the U.S. are found here in New York and New Jersey, along with California, Washington State and Oregon. The word pinoy, in fact, originally meant a Filipino living in the United States, but has come to be used as a general term for Filipinos, expatriates and those still living in their homeland.

The storefront, which has been open about four years, has a tremendous web presence and ships all over the country, including packages sent to the military. Jelski says people find them simply by typing “Asian products.” Those visiting the store in person come from reasonably far afield: Albany, Connecticut, Middletown and beyond. As Jelski says, “We have the most products and are cheaper” than other stores in the region. Some discover the store simply by walking or driving past it. “We have lots of people from the city,” Jelski says, “who move here to Beacon, spot us and are thrilled because they say ‘I used to get this in the city and never thought I would find it here.’”

Asked what the most popular items stocked were, Jelski said, “If you consider Americans, it would be the sweet chili sauces, but Filipinos head straight for the fish sauces, the noodles and the packets of vegetables. In a smaller freezer in the front, desserts abound: Albany, Connecticut, Middletown and beyond. As Jelski says, “We have the most products and are cheaper” than other stores in the region. Some discover the store simply by walking or driving past it. “We have lots of people from the city,” Jelski says, “who move here to Beacon, spot us and are thrilled because they say ‘I used to get this in the city and never thought I would find it here.’”

For 2 years on the Village Board of Trustees, Matt was Instrumental in keeping taxes low and this year’s budget increase to less than 1%. Matt cut wasteful insurance premiums by up to 16% annually and negotiated a retainer, ensuring fixed costs for a new Village Attorney, which saved us over $18,000 a year. Matt works hard to make sure all Cold Spring Village residents will benefit from development at Butterfield.

MATT FRANCISCO & DONALD MacDONALD FOR COLD SPRING VILLAGE TRUSTEE

Strong qualifications mean a stronger future for Cold Spring

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MATT FRANCISCO

In 12 years on the Zoning Board of Appeals, as a member and as Chair, Donald overhauled the zoning appeals process to make it fair, public and efficient. Donald helped lead the effort to keep our wonderful Tots Park in its current location and he co-designed the updated playground. When upset arose over the Guillaro waterfront development, Donald worked cooperatively and collaboratively to bring the public and the developer together.

DONALD MacDONALD

VOTE FOR MATT & DONALD TUESDAY, MARCH 18TH, 6AM - 9PM
The Visitors, an Irish Writer’s Novel, Features Philipstown As Locale

Patrick O’Keeffe weaves friends country home into fabric of new book

By Jeannine Tao

Author Patrick O’Keeffe, whose critically acclaimed debut collection of novellas The Hill Road won the Story Prize in 2005, released his first novel, The Visitors, this March 13. Inspired by the places O’Keeffe knows well, the story traces the journey of immigrant James Dwyer from rural Ireland to the U.S., with a visit to the Hudson Highlands as the setting for the book’s conclusion.

Visited by the past

Like O’Keeffe, The Visitors narrator James grew up on a farm in rural County Limerick, worked as a bartender in Dublin, moved to Boston, studied in Ann Arbor, Mich., and spent time in the Hudson Valley, though O’Keeffe is quick to clarify that while many of the places in the book are very real, the plot and characters are not.

The deep connections between the Dwyers and their hometown neighbors, the Lyons, as well as those of James to his own family, unfold through haunting memories, like a past that follows him across the ocean. His emotionally distant father and Kevin Lyons’ father were best friends, but no such friendship ever bloomed between James and Kevin, even when they both lived in Boston around the same time. In fact, the charisma of the Lyons boy has always overshadowed James’ own relationship with James’ sister and James’ own relationship with Kevin’s sister, to the friendships between their brothers and their fathers, and finally to more deeply held secrets that James only discovers much later.

Despite James’ aversion to Kevin, the two must eventually meet. The novel begins when a stranger shows up at James’ door in Ann Arbor and later divulges the message that Kevin wants James to visit him in the Hudson Valley. Intent on not going, James eventually gives in when urged to by his sister, after tragedy strikes the Lyons family.

Once in Philipstown, James cannot resist the beauty of its setting: “I visited the house in the woods. A loud stream at the end of a grassy yard surrounded by very tall trees. A stone wall going up at the end of the yard. A wide deck on one side of the house and a porch at the front. The windows are huge and bare and the house and the trees are one.”

The house in the woods

O’Keeffe dedicated The Visitors to his good friends and former Philipstown residents Tom and Kathy Zeller, not only because of their support through the years he spent writing it, but because the charming house where they lived from 2008 to 2013 so inspired O’Keeffe that he felt compelled to include it in the novel.

To the author, who now teaches fiction writing at Ohio University, the Zellers’ home became a nice getaway, especially when O’Keeffe lived and taught at Colgate University (2008-2010). As in the book, trees surrounded the house of Route 301, with the stream in front and hiking trails connecting to the Clarence Fahnestock State Park in back. In the warm months, the foliage curtained the property from the road and neighboring houses, becoming a haven for O’Keeffe and the owners alike, who commuted part of the week to their jobs in New York City and, like many Philipstown residents, had gotten tired of city life and craved the outdoors.

Indeed, Kevin, the fictitious owner of the house, describes it lovingly: “The first time I drove down the gravel road and over that bridge I opened the car window and saw and heard the stream. Then I looked up at the yard this porch and this tidy wooden house and the big window behind you and I knew I had found it.”

This echoes the description given by former owner Tom Zeller, who was in no way the basis for the character but who adored the place just as much. “We loved that house and we loved the Hudson Valley. Fahnestock and Glynwood Farm were our backyard, and it always felt like a secret place somehow — rustic and rural and woody, but still within the orbit of New York City. We must have looked at three or four dozen homes in Westchester and Putnam before stumbling onto that property, and we knew immediately when we did that this was the spot.”

The house was even featured in The New York Times environmental blog, of which Tom Zeller was editor, when they documented renovations in a “Home Green Home” video series, showing how to make houses more energy efficient while on a budget.

(Continued on page 15)

The Paper

March 14, 2014

7

The Calendar

Rob Bissinger: Art Director for the Sochi Olympics Opening Ceremony

When you know the story you’re telling is the right story, you figure out how to tell it

By Alison Rooney

For all the tired commuters happy to be at the Hudson and Storm King, returning home after four months away from his family in Sochi, Russia, where he was art director for the Opening Ceremony of the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympic Games.

Behind the spectacle of a ceremony like this one lies, of course, years of work, and Bissinger was involved from the inception, working under production designerGeorge Tsypin to facilitate the design. As Bissinger describes the hierarchy: “George comes up with the concepts and designs. I manage the very large team that implements the concepts and brings them to reality: Tsypin – based in New York, born in Kazakhistan – was hired by the Russian government after a lengthy bidding process. "They were seeking a Russian designer experienced in large scale production," Bissinger said, because of the expertise required, with just a few companies around the world able to take this on, it is common for Olympic opening ceremonies to go to a non-national company. Conception and design were done by Tsypin and company, while fabrication and implementation of those designs were subcontracted out globally, to a 250-person team, based in English-speaking countries around the world.

SUNY to Sochi

Bissinger’s involvement stems from his last affiliation with Tsypin, which, while on a far smaller scale, was also fraught with all the things that ambitious productions can be fraught with – Broadway’s Spider-Man: Turn Off The Dark, for which he was the associate scenic designer. Bissinger, who grew up in Hyde Park, graduated from SUNY Purchase with a degree in scenic design, and worked as a scenic designer on “little shows in New York City” before going on tour as a technical director for a number of years. Meanwhile, Tsypin, known for his work in opera, was trying his hand at Broadway, and his “very European process” as Bissinger describes it, was making it difficult for him to find an art director he could work with easily. “I impressed him; we had a good working relationship on Spiderman so he called me for the Olympics. Once it was clear that he was being strongly considered I helped develop his bid proposal, which at that point meant the broad strokes of the design.”

Contemporary, Bissinger notes: “George did a huge amount of research, plus it was very personal. The overall structure strayed very little from the first script we did, in terms of what moments in Russian history George wanted to focus on and how he wanted the world to understand them.” For instance the early 20th century section, with its

(Continued on page 14)
The Calendar

Looking for things to do in and around Philipstown? Grab The Philipstown.info and go. For more details and ongoing events, visit philipstown.info. Send event listings to calendar@philipstown.info. See you around town!

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

Hudson Valley Restaurant Week
	hudsonvalleynyresto.com

Kids & Community

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

2 p.m. Navigating Healthcare Options
313 Main St., Beacon | 845-633-1134
beaconlibrary.org | Registration required.

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

Cooking Class: St. Patrick’s Day Specials
6 p.m. Dempsey House
1392 Dempsey Road, Cortlandt Manor
914-734-3780 | fhrh.org/kevtr

Parent & Babies Group (8-8 months)
6 p.m. Beacon Yoga Center
464 Main St., Beacon | 845-264-9955 | Hudsonvalleybaskets.com

Health & Fitness

Budokon Martial Arts Yoga
7 p.m. SkyBaby Yoga | 75 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-4444 | skybabyboc.com

Film & Theater

Zipper: Coneys Island’s Last Ride (Documentary)
5:30 p.m. Downing Film Center | 19 Front St., Newburgh | 845-563-3686 | DowningFilm.org

Anything Goes (Youth Players)
7 p.m. Haldane High School
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring | 845-265-9264 | haldaneshs.org

Rhythm in the Night (Dance)
7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley | 1006 Brown St., Peekskill | 914-739-0039

17/6 (Musical)
8 p.m. Hudson Valley Depot Theater
10 Garrison Landing, Garrison | 845-424-3900 | Hudsonvalleydepottheatres.org

Music

Last Minute Soul Mates / One-Year Anniversary Party
8 p.m. Wristling Willie’s | 184 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-2612 | wristlingwilleys.com

Live Music
8 p.m. Cold Spring Depot | 1 Depot Square, Cold Spring | 845-265-9500 | coldspringdepot.com

Kim Simmonds & Savoy Brown
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café | 379 Main St., Beacon | 845-855-1300 | towncriercafe.com

Meetings & Lectures

Free Computer Help
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library | 472 Route 403, Garrison | 845-424-9000 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Heartful Life, Centered Life Retreat (Owen) 3 p.m. Garrison Institute | 14 Mary’s Way, Garrison | 845-424-8800 | garrisoninstitute.org

Stations of the Cross
6:30 p.m. St. Mary’s Episcopal Church
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring | 845-265-2539 | stmaryscolspiring.org

Purim Service
8 a.m. Reform Temple of Putnam Valley
362 Church Road, Putnam Valley | 845-528-4774 | rtpv.org

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

Hudson Valley Restaurant Week
hudsonvalleynyresto.com

Kids & Community

Beacon Pantry Grand Opening
8 a.m.-7:30 p.m. 267 Main St., Beacon | 845-440-4823

Cold Spring Farmers’ Market
8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Open | St. Mary’s Parish Hall 1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring | ccfarmmarket.org

Food Pantry
9:10 a.m. First Presbyterian Church
10 Academy St., Cold Spring | 845-265-9220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

Recycling Center Open
9 a.m.-3 p.m. 59 Lake Gate Road, Cold Spring | coldspringgov

North American Amphibian Monitoring Program
9:30 a.m. Wildlife Education Center
25 Boulevard, Cornwald-on-Hudson | 845-534-7781 | hnhmuseum.org

Purim Workshop (ages 2-7)
9:45 a.m. Reform Temple of Putnam Valley
362 Church Road, Putnam Valley | 845-528-4774 | rtpv.org

Fresh Air Fund Sugar Maple Celebration
10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sharps Reservation
480 Van Wyck Lake Road, Fishkill | 845-896-9500 | sharpsreservation.org

Maple Sugarings & Pancake Breakfast
10 a.m.-2 p.m. Clearpool Model Forest
33 Clearpool Road, Carmel | 845-225-6226 | clearpool.greenthymesso.org

Maple Sugar Tours
10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Music Drive, Cornwall | 845-534-9506 | hnhmuseum.org | Tours every 30 minutes.

Maple Fest
11 a.m.-4 p.m. Randolph School
2487 Route 90, Wappingers Falls | 845-297-6000 | randolphschools.org

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

Beginner Contemporary Dance
11:15 a.m. Beacon Yoga Center | 464 Main St., Beacon | 845-489-8406 | beaconyoga.com

Dutchess Marketplace Grand Opening Noon 461 Route 5, Fishkill | 845-820-3901 | dutchessmarketplace.com

Beacon Homebrew Workshop II
1 p.m. Fishkill Farms
9 Fishkill Farms Road, Hopewell Junction | 845-487-4377 | fishkillfarms.com

Clearwater Events
1 p.m. Volunteer Workshop
4-8 p.m. Winter Open Boats
50 Rondout Landing, Kingston | 845-265-8080 | clearwater.org

Wine Tasting
3-6 p.m. Artesian Wine Shop | Details under Friday

Project Code Spring (ages 5-14)
4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library | 472 Route 403, Garrison | 845-424-9000 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Free Admission
5-8 p.m. McCudden Children’s Museum
75 N. Water St., Poughkeepsie | 845-471-0599 | mcucom

St. Patrick’s Day Dinner
7 p.m. St. Mary’s Episcopal Church
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring | 845-265-2539 | stmaryscolspiring.org

Health & Fitness

Tai Chai
9 a.m. Philip Sydney Hall’s House
1010 Route 9D, Cold Spring | 845-424-3571 | philipshall.com

Tai Chi Chih (First Session)
9 a.m. First Presbyterian Church
362 Church Road, Putnam Valley | 845-947-0590 | artsonthelake.org

Tai Chi Chuan
9:30 a.m. Arts on the Lake
640 Route 52, Kent | 845-896-5910 | rtpv.org

3 - 6 p.m. Artisan Wine Shop
Details under Friday

Soup Kitchen
9 a.m.-3 p.m. 59 Lane Gate Road, Cold Spring
9 a.m.-3 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring | 845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

Philipstown Pantry Grand Opening
9 - 10 a.m. 59 Lane Gate Road, Cold Spring | 845-809-5900 | livingyogastudios.com

Aging Gracefully: Wisdom Through the Ages Knowledge (First Session)
3 - 6 p.m. Artisan Wine Shop
Details under Friday

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behind the counter
by Tara

Spring is in the air, in my step and the boa’s too now that she has her bionic hip. The return of daylight saving time was appreciated greatly; closing up shop with some daylight left always makes me feel a bit frisky. My dear friends Robes and Waffles are accustomed to me meeting me at the park to begin our days with a joyful romp. The leash holders scheduled us for 7:30 AM this past Sunday and then needed to drag us from our cozy beds. Who wakes their dogs up to go for a walk, I ask???

With the warmer temperatures, the snow is disappearing from Main St. Not as quickly, though, as it was plowed by our Village Highway Dept. Kudos to our crew for getting to work on the potholes as soon as temperatures allowed. While I was distracted to find my beach had been removed prior to the first snow, I saw we were taking it storage was the sensible thing to do. Its return will herald spring as surely as my bench had been removed prior to storage was the sensible thing to do.

Kudos to our crew for getting to work plowed by our Village Highway Dept. Not as quickly, though, as it was plowed by our Village Highway Dept.

leash holders scheduled us for 7:30 AM

begin our days with a joyful romp. The accustomed to meeting me in the park to

left always makes me feel a bit friskier.

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P
**Sports**
- Haldane vs. Chatham-Kent (Girls Basketball Semi-Finals)
  - 12:30 p.m. Hudson Valley Community College
  - 80 Vonderburg Ave., Troy
  - 845-298-9384 | halquesthighschool.org
- Army vs. Holy Cross (Women's Basketball)
  - Patriot League Championship
  - 6 p.m. Christl Arena, West Point
  - 845-938-2526 | goarmysports.com

**Art & Design**
- Dia:Beacon Events
  - 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission for Beacon residents
  - Noon, The Pure Awareness of the Absolute (Discussion) | 1 p.m. Public tour | 3 Beekman St., Beacon | 845-440-0000 | dia beacon.org
- Garrison Art Center Openings
  - 5 - 7 p.m. Cyrilla Mozenter: warm snow
  - 5 - 7 p.m. Louise Brooks: Rock Homes
  - 23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
  - 845-424-3960 | Garrison Art Center

**Theater & Film**
- Dia:Beacon Events
  - 2 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
  - Anything Goes
  - Details under Friday
  - 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission for Beacon residents
  - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Dia:Beacon
  - 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Dia:Beacon

**Music**
- Jazz Vespers
  - 5:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown
  - 10 Academy St., Cold Spring
  - 845-205-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org
- Crossroads Band
  - 8 p.m. Whale Watching | Details under Friday
- Lucy Kaplansky
  - 8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café | Details under Friday

**Meetings & Lectures**
- Overeaters Anonymous
  - 8:30 a.m. Graymoor
  - 1350 Route 9, Garrison
  - 191716-2488 | aou.org
- Dharma Training and Practice
  - 10 a.m. Graymoor (Fourth Floor)
  - 1350 Route 9, Garrison | mapelle1@optonline.net
- Kids’ Meghali / Havaldah / Meghal / Purim Sippil
  - 5:30 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance
  - 331 Verplanck, Beacon | 847-331-2012

**Silent Film Series: City Lights**
- 7 p.m. Butterfield Library
  - 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
  - 845-265-3040
- Music by Cary Brown
  - Rescheduled from Feb. 15
- Ballet Hispanico
  - Music by Cary Brown

**Kid’s Community**
- Beginning Beekeeping
  - 10 a.m. Common Ground Farm
  - 79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls
  - 845-233-4424 | commongroundfarm.org
- Maple Sugar Tours
  - 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Indoor Discovery Center
  - See details under Saturday

**Rock Homes**
- Monday through Sunday, 10 to 5
- 4 South Chestnut St., Beacon
- 845-424-3960 | Garrison Art Center

**Cyrilla Mozenter**
- warm snow sculpture in 2 and 3 dimensions
- 5 to 7 p.m.
- Opening reception
- 2 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
- Remarks by artists, 6 p.m.
DONALD MAC DONALD for VILLAGE TRUSTEE

Lived in Cold Spring for 23 years, raised a son, Connor who graduated from Haldane.
Architect with office on Main Street, graduated Master of Architecture University of Utah after working for a career of 4 years in New York and Colorado.
Helped lead negotiation to keep Tots Park in McConnville Park.
Co-designed the existing play ground.

Member of the first Historic Review Board Guidelines Committee.
Early Rural Board for the Comprehensive Plan
Long Range Planning Committee - first bond issue for Haldane renovation/expansion.

Member Zoning Board of Appeals for 13 years, Chairman for 12 years.

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Garrison Eighth Graders Present the Scottish Play

On March 7, the Garrison School eighth grade class of William Shakespeare's Macbeth. Macbeth tells the story of the bloody rise and ultimate fall of the eponymous Scottish king. It is often called simply the Scottish Play because of its old actors' superstition that tragedy will befall anyone who speaks its name in a theatre.

The production of Macbeth was set in the 1920s Prohibition era replete with gangsters, flappers and jazz music. "The eighth graders are also studying the 1920s in social studies and recently wrote letters to historic figures from that time period," remarked Garrison School Principal Stephanie Impellitteri. Berger acknowledged faculty, community volunteers and students, and extended thanks to Principal Impellitteri, Dick Timmons, art teacher Coulter Young who designed scenery, acting coach Alyssa Borg, student teacher Samantha Robinson who choreographed the dance, Guidance Counselor Michael Williams for lighting design, and parents Christy Colasurdo, MJ Martin and Julie Heckert for costume supervision.

Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce Invites Scholarship Applications

Cold Spring...Philipsport high school seniors are invited to apply for the Philip Baumgarten Memorial Scholarship, awarded by the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of the scholarship is to promote high school student interest and involvement in the community as volunteers and as valued workers for local business. Applications are due by Friday April 11, and the scholarship will be awarded on Thursday April 24, at the Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner. The scholarship will be awarded to a student who has shown community spirit and commitment by volunteering for a Cold Spring nonprofit or charitable organization and/or by working for or with a local business, if possible a Chamber of Commerce member. Seniors are asked to submit two letters of recommendation along with the completed application. Application forms are available from: Carol Hopper at Haldane High School, Suzanne Schmidt at O'Neill High School. Stephanie Impellitteri at Garrison School. Nat Prentice, Chamber Member, at 845-661-8937 or natprentice@mac.com

Haldane Students Participate in Every County Music Festival

Twenty-one Haldane students participated in the 2014 Elementary All County Music Festival at Brewer Middle School. The All County Chorus was conducted by Susan Kelly, a former Haldane music teacher, and Aimee Brainard was the accompanist. They sang Round, Rolling Moon by Amy F. Bernon, the French Canadian Folk Song J’entends Le Moulin arraigned by Emily Crucker, A la Cour by Judith Watson, and The Silence and the Song by Mark Patterson. The Haldane altos were Joseph Carmincino, Kelsey Condon, Julie Geller, Jack O’Hara and Sabrina Timke. Sopranos included Anneke Chan, Elias Hender- son and Lindsay Phillips. Ahigal Flatt played bass clarinet. Alto saxophone players were Wesley Hall and Curtis Huber, while Walter Hoess played trumpet. Quina Peikus arranged trombone and Noah Bingham, Olivia Monte- leone and Andy Scicluna were percussionists.

Author Allison Pataki to Discuss Historical Novel

A discussion and book signing with author Allison Pataki will be held at 5 p.m. Saturday, March 22, at the Putnam History Museum. Join Pataki to discuss her new historical novel, The Traitor’s Wife, which tells the story of Benedict Arnold and his wife, Peggy Shippen Arnold, and their ignominious attempt to sell the fort at West Point to the British during the Revolutionary War. Socialite Shippen is half Benedict Arnold’s age when she seduces the war hero during his stint as military commander of Philadelphia. Blinded by his young bride’s beauty and wit, Arnold does not realize that she harbors a secret: loyalty to the British.

Pataki grew up in the Hudson Valley, in the same neighborhood where Benedict and Peggy Arnold once lived. She was inspired to write her latest novel, The Traitor’s Wife, now a New York Times Best Seller, based on the rich Revolutionary War history of her hometown in the Hudson Highlands.

This is a special event and seating will be limited. Tickets are $6 for the general public and $3 for students. Tickets may be purchased in advance at traitorswife.com. Copies of the book will be for sale at the event. Call 845-865-4010 or email info@putnamhistorymuseum.org.

HHLT Earns Continued National Recognition

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) announced that it has achieved renewed land trust accreditation through the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance.

"This achievement demonstrates our commitment to permanent land conservation that benefits the entire community," said HHLT Executive Director Andy Chmar. "We are especially pleased that the Commission commended our land trust for being fully compliant in all 26 practices examined in their review, a perfect outcome, which underlines HHLT’s strict adherence to the Land Trust Standards and Practices."

Now in its 25th year, the Hudson Highlands Land Trust is dedicated to the protection of the natural resources, scenic beauty and rural character of the Hudson Highlands.

Zipper: Coney Island’s Last Wild Ride at Downing

The Downing Film Center will present screenings of the film Zipper: Coney Island’s Last Wild Ride. A small-time ride operator and a beloved carnival contraption are driven out of Coney Island when the City of New York and an opportunistic developer lock horns over the future of the world-famous amusement park.

Filmmaker Amy Nicholson portrays the struggle for the future of New York’s famed Coney Island from the perspective of an outreach carnival operator as an ambitious real-estate tycoon attempts to exploit the commercial potential of the beloved amusement park, despite the very

BOFA, Breath of Fresh Air!
Gipson Announces Tax Relief Town Hall

New York State Sen. Terry Gipson (D-Dutchess, Putnam) announced that he will host his fourth Tax Relief Town Hall from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 20, at the Putnam Valley Town Hall, 265 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley. Gipson has held Tax Relief Town Halls in Hyde Park, Fishkill and most recently in the Town of Wappinger.

The most important part of the evening is being able to listen to the concerns, comments and suggestions from our community,” Gipson said. “We are all going to have to work together to tackle New York’s decades old tax problems in order to keep people in their homes and move our economy forward.”

Gipson’s Town Hall will feature a presentation from Gipson that addresses his legislative plans and priorities on tax relief. The presentation will be followed by a question and answer session. All are welcome and are encouraged to bring specific questions on tax relief.

Mothers of Bedford to Premiere on America ReFramed

A documentary by Jennifer McShane, produced and edited by Toby Shumin of Cold Spring, Mothers of Bedford, the winner of the 2013 Director’s Award at the Social Justice Film Festival, will be broadcast on national television March 18 on PBS World Channel’s America ReFramed. The PBS World broadcast provides the opportunity to shed light on the impact of incarceration on children and families. Fans of the film are encouraged to host house screenings (either on the night of the PBS broadcast or DVR). This will allow viewers to watch and discuss afterwards much like many do at monthly book groups.

To help facilitate discussion and promotion of such a gathering, there are Mothers of Bedford flyers, discussion questions, and “what you can do” handouts available for download on the film’s website at mothersofbedford.com.

Check the PBS World listings for viewing times.

Beacon Sloop Club Presents Models for Sustainable Agriculture

The Beacon Sloop Club will present Models for Sustainable Agriculture: Farming and Transport, with organic farmer and author Keith Stewart and Vermont Sail Freight Project founder Erik Andrus at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 20.

Today’s small farmer has to compete in a market dominated by large agribusinesses, government subsidies, and petro-chemicals. Stewart will discuss how small organic farmers offer a high quality alternative to the large-scale, chemical-intensive, monoculture of the corporate dominated food chain.

Andrus will show how his sailing barge Ceres offers a model for an efficient regional food distributor connecting farmers with local and regional food distribution.

We, the undersigned voters in the Village of Cold Spring, support Matt Francisco and Donald MacDonald for Trustee.

We encourage our neighbors to join us in voting for our fine candidates on Tuesday, March 18th.

Visit www.philipstown.info for news updates and latest information.
Rob Bissinger: Art Director for Olympics Opening Ceremony

The Paper

March 14, 2014

emphasis on the workers’ revolution, the rise of the proletariat, the avant-garde painter Kazimir Malevich, and agricultural machines changed little from idea to end product.

On the road to Russia

The preliminary work took about two years, during which time Tsypin and Bissinger worked with a Russian director and his team, who frequently traveled to New York, honing and refining the show. During this period they and an American-based studio team working with a British-based management team developed models, designs and graphic elements.

By 2012, Bissinger, who had never been to Russia, found himself traveling back and forth to Moscow, which he calls “a great city — I like it very much.” Working with Russians brought its own rhythms and pace. “Russians are passionate about the poetry,” he says. “They just have the temperament and heart of artists, so time and logistics are unimportant. What good is opening a show if it isn’t brilliant? Other countries are more pragmatic, but with the Russian process it has to reach deep into the poetic heart. Also the legacy of the Soviet Union is still very strong there – a sense that ‘this could all be taken from us’ at any time.”

Bissinger first set foot in Sochi a mere four months before the Olympics there began. His first impressions:

“From the first moment, I was lulled by Moscow; the culture, the speaking of English, the boutique eateries. Sochi is really a beach town. The locale ranged from enthusiastic to exasperated and everything in between. The infrastructure had to be built from the ground up, and it was tricky. In the provinces very little English was spoken. The cuisine was, let’s say, local – a typical meal was full of root vegetables: lots of beets, turnips, potatoes and of course cabbage.”

The lack of infrastructure didn’t unnerve him, Bissinger said. “I never panicked because what are you panicking about? The show’s gonna be what it’s gonna be; the ball spinning around the roulette wheel has to land somewhere. There were absolutely setbacks — we had to rethink the lighting of the cauldron at the last minute. The frustration largely came when you could see that if you had certain things in place you could provide a certain level of production — kind of knowing what you ‘could have done.’ But I thought the concept was solid and so long as we could keep that concept and half the pieces, we’d have a very good show. You panic when you don’t know what you’re trying to do. When you know the story you’re telling is the right story, you figure out how to tell it.”

Spectacular troika

Although he stayed in Sochi throughout the Olympics, Bissinger never partook of any sports viewing, as “the events I wanted to see weren’t happening when I was free; there was women’s curling, but no hockey” he says with a sly smile. Although he was working during the opening ceremony itself, he was able to simply watch some of it, proudly. “It was stunning live,” he says. “The sight of the troika, in particular, was breathtaking; something that large in space and yet that effortless — it felt like a piece of glass, floating. That was my favorite piece in the show.”

Asked whether he would take on another Olympics if the chance ever came

“Sure, why not? I have an affection for them now.”

Bissinger is back at work already, designing for an off-Broadway show called A Night with Janis Joplin. The scale is completely different, which doesn’t bother him. “Big, small, it’s the piece and whether it inspires. I’m not afraid of the big stuff, but the small stuff can be satisfying, too,” he said. He is happy to be home, period.

“If I’m honest,” he says, “I do appreciate America and American culture more when I left. Home is home and maybe it’s because I grew up with it, but it’s also going all the way back to the folks who said we should have a system of checks and balances, that American ability to see both sides. We should all feel very fortunate to live where the fringe never takes over and the needle stays in the middle. I think Russia is still recovering from the Soviet Union and finding its identity.”

With Crimea at the forefront of the news, Bissinger says, “It’s what I expected Putin to do. It’s part of growing pains. There’s a sadness that they [Russia] are not allowing themselves to be as great as they can be; I have an affection for them now.”

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It might even make you laugh, cry, think, feel, and get inspired.

Philpstown.info invites you to nominate yourself or a participant in its celebration of April as National Poetry Month. Each day in April, our site will feature a new video of a community member reading or reciting a favorite poem, original or borrowed.

To be considered, please send an email to poetry@philpstown.info with your name, address, phone, the text of the poem you’ve chosen, and a brief description of your connection to Philipstown or the Hudson Valley.

We will contact you to arrange the taping. Our goal is to represent Philipstown and Beacon people and poetry as broadly as possible, but we have a limited number of days and therefore may not be able to include everyone.

“One Poem a Day Won’t Kill You” is a concept borrowed from KRBD Radio Station in Ketchikan, Alaska, which has made this an annual tradition for nearly 20 years.

The Visitors Features Philipstown As Locale (from page 7)

The Zellers still wax nostalgic about the house since they moved to Massachusetts last year. Kathy to finish her Ph.D. in wildlife biology at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst and Tom to do a yearlong Knight Science Journalism Fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. “It was hard to let it go,” continued Tom Zeller, “both for us and for Patrick, who spent many good times with us there and came to love the place at least as much, if not more, than we did.”

O’Keeffe even helped paint the house before they had moved in completely. He fondly recalled other visits in the years that followed—including the annual “Becnallia” parties that the Zellers held each year over the Memorial Day weekend. (Full disclosure: This reporter was occasionally a guest at these gatherings.) “I loved the house,” said O’Keeffe, “I loved the hills and walking through the fields; I loved the village, going for Bloody Marys at Whistling Willie’s. It was just a beautiful place to hang out.”

Though the final violent conclusion of the novel doesn’t at all mirror O’Keeffe’s real experiences in Philipstown, readers can still tell that the place seemed to cast a similar spell upon his characters.

Abounding in rich details and humorous as well as tragic tales, from the Dublin bar where James worked to the immigrants who entered the country illegally trying to make a living in Boston, the novel expands O’Keeffe’s literary world outside of the Irish farmland that serves as the backdrop to the stories in The Hill Road. Both books are now available from Viking/Penguin.

Given the opportunity to choose a work of art, O’Keeffe often chose the luminous paintings of Georgia O’Keeffe, whom she knew as “O’Keeffe the painter.” Here’s a look at a few of her favorite works:

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West Point Historian Tells ‘The Real Philadelphia Story’
By Ron SooDalter

Antipodean Books of Garrison hosted an engaging and entertaining discussion on the evening of Sunday, March 9, focusing on the events leading to the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The presentation, which was sponsored by the Outreach Committee of the Philpstown Democrats, followed the Depot Theatre’s late afternoon performance of 1776, and was given by West Point Command Historian Sherman L. Fleek. Speaking to a standing-room-only audience, the retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel brought a unique and often humorous perspective to the early days of the American Revolution, pointing out the various ways that — except for victories at the beginning and end — 1776 was a disastrous year militarily for the Patriots. “But,” he added, “it was the year in which we codified and ratified our official Declaration of Independence from Great Britain.”

Although George Washington lost practically every battle he fought, Fleek named him as the most successful general in American history, citing Washington’s initiative as the single greatest impetus in American history, citing Washington’s leadership two days later would garner such events as the burning of the British Union Jack. The American rebels, it seems, were hopeful of a peaceful reconciliation with the mother country, even as they were engaging its army in mortal combat. Only after a restoration of friendly relations proved impossible did the colonists replace the British icon with the now-familiar stars representing the individual colonies.

Although a Utah native whose main academic focus is Mormon history (“As an Mormon historian,” he explained, “I always say,” he intoned in his booming voice, “If you’re gonna bring ‘em, bring ‘em young!”), Fleek is extremely well acquainted with the history of the Hudson Valley. Clearly, so were many in the audience, as the questions he threw out were fielded swiftly and accurately by many enthusiastic voices. The exchanges were lively, the audience involved, and the presentation well received.

Following Fleek’s presentation, Jonathan Kruk and Rich Bala — two singer/storytellers who perform as the Hudson River Ramblers — entertained the audience with a musical history of the ubiquitous Revolutionary War song, Yankee Doodle. The song was sung extensively by both sides throughout the war, and by the Patriots as a final insult to the British when they surrendered to Washington at Yorktown. Apparently, the word “Yankee,” which today holds various connotations, derives from the Dutch words meaning, “stinky cheese!”

The Ramblers are a familiar duo in the area, having appeared extensively at local schools and events. “We perform stories and songs of the Hudson River,” says Kruk, “from Lake Tear of the Clouds to the Verrazano-Narrows, from Henry Hudson to Pete Seeger. We tell the stories behind the songs.” The performance, which included strolling on the part of the audience, provided a rousing and appropriate close to the evening’s program.

Lithgow Osborne, treasurer of the Philpstown Democrats, says of the evening: “The Outreach Committee had wanted to host a series of events for some time, to connect with people interested in discussing democratic — small ‘d’ — principals. We were seeking an informal but informative entertainment, and the staging of 1776 here in Garrison provided the perfect opportunity to present the background to the signing of the Declaration. We were looking to raise our visibility, but also to engage the public in a more creative way — to involve our neighbors in events with an historic, if slightly political, aspect.” Adds Committee Chairman Mike McKee, who doubles as Benjamin Franklin in the local production: “We couldn’t be happier with the turnout and the response. We were hoping for 20 or 25 attendees, and 66 people attended. We look forward to sponsoring other such events in the near future.”