Pedal Into Spring Takes Over Cold Spring’s Main St.

Bicycle race to feature hundreds of riders, international field

By Michael Turton

Main Street Cold Spring is ready for what merchants and organizers hope will be a very busy May 4 and 5 weekend, and if the international cycling race scheduled for Sunday is any indication, it will be. Pedal Into Spring, a first-time event organized by the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with Putnam County Tourism, will take place both Saturday and Sunday. The Ridge Hill Putnam Cycling Classic will be held on Sunday. Pedal Into Spring, a flower festival, will offer two full days of Main Street activities, ranging from mini horses, face painting and storytelling to guided tours of village gardens and educational displays. Live music will be performed both days from noon to 5 p.m. on a stage located between Hudson Valley Outfitters and the Foundry Café. Tents and tables will line the street as merchants and organizations take their wares out to the sidewalk.

The cycling event, which will start and finish in Cold Spring, is the only U.S. stop on the UCI World Cycling Tour, a series of timed, Grand Fondo-style rides held on five continents. It will also serve as the American qualifier for the Masters World Cycling Championships in Trento, Italy, in September.

Three hundred cyclists have registered to date, including two world champions and a strong international field, according to a press release issued by the Putnam Cycling Classic. Three-time World Cyclocross Champion Erwin Vermeulen of Belgium and double world champion Ann Marie Miller of New York City head the list of international riders. Strong contingents from Costa Rica and Canada will also take part. ‘I rode in the first classic (in Cold Spring)’ (To page 3)

Putnam Legislature, County Executive Work to Keep PARC Preschool Open

$150,000 found for first part of school year

By Liz Scheydtchuk Armstrong

The Putnam County Legislature Wednesday night (May 1) asked County Executive MaryEllen Odell for $150,000 in funds to keep the PARC Preschool for autistic children open through the first half of the 2013-14 academic year.

Odell responded that on her part “there’s a commitment” to supply the funds and take other steps to ensure continuation of the Mahopac-based, privately run but state-supported school, beset by inadequate New York state reimbursements for educational services and similar fiscal constraints.

After talks with PARC, the Legislature voted unanimously to urge Odell to supply the $150,000 in county funds to assist the school through the fall and, in 2014 budget-setting, ask that Dutchess and Westchester counties, “which also benefit from the preschool program in PARC, join with us” to fund the remainder of the next school year.

In March, the school announced its intention to close in August because of funding shortfalls. The news created consternation among school supporters, including parents from Philipstown, who rely on PARC to help their children. The school enrolls 53 youngsters, aged 3 to 5, and employs 47 full- and part-time staff members. Anguish over the expected closing came at the same time that New York’s draft budget proposed a 6 percent cut in reimbursements for educational special services and similar fiscal constraints.

This year, with the departure of former longtime market manager Steve Bates to the Pleasantville Farmers Market, the CSFM has acquired some new energy in the form of Market Manager Ava Bynum, who, though being (or perhaps because of being) only 21, is uncorking a fount of ideas and the layout, making for an easy stroll from stall to stall.

By Alison Rooney

This year, with the departure of former longtime market manager Steve Bates to the Pleasantville Farmers Market, the CSFM has acquired some new energy in the form of Market Manager Ava Bynum, who, though being (or perhaps because of being) only 21, is uncorking a fount of ideas and the layout, making for an easy stroll from stall to stall.

Cold Spring’s Bijou Galleries is one of a number of Main Street businesses competing to create the display window that best depicts Pedal Into Spring and its dual themes of flowers and bicycles. Photo courtesy of Bijou Galleries

Our new area map is now available to guide both visitors and residents.

Constitution Marsh | For more Spring Photofest images see page 16.

Photo by Kevin Harrison
Mouths to Feed

By Celia Barbour

At the old folks home in Sleepy Hollow where my parents live, most meals are served cafeteria-style, with a help-yourself salad bar and a dessert table set up near the hot-foods line. Whenever my family goes to visit, the kids load up their trays like frenzied seagulls, the freedom of choice overwhelming their budding rational faculties.

My father, despite his 91 years, is no more restrained. In fact, he usually puts them to shame. Last Sunday, while they worked their way through waffles, omelets, bacon and sausage, he sat down to a tray filled with French toast, cookies, churros, sopes, egg salad, pickled beets and a peculiar ice cream float he'd composed himself of cranberry juice topped with two scoops of cappuccino crunch ice cream.

Most of it made me laugh. My father long ago cut some deal with the gods of body fat and arteriosclerosis that allows him to gorge on cookies and cake without parring the consequences.

But the beverage irritated me. Irrationally so. The idiosyncrasies of our parents can do that to us, even — perhaps especially — when they reach an age when we should be summoning up our deepest wells of tolerance towards them.

The thing is, I grew up wincing at his deranged food combinations. For years, he drank Coke mixed with Tang every night at suppertime. At lunch, he dipped peanut butter and jelly sandwiches in cream of mushroom soup. More recently, when my younger sister made a remarkable Burmese chicken stew, he poured prune juice into his portion to cool it down.

And one day, when I was in sixth grade and my mother was in graduate school, he was put in charge of preparing school lunches for my sisters and me. He made American cheese and jelly sandwiches with two scoops of cappuccino crunch ice cream. We were old enough to not just grossed out but also socially mortified, and begged our mother never to leave him with that task again.

Lately, I’ve been reading about “super tasters” — people whose palates are so sensitive that, to them, flavors the rest of us would find mildly unpleasant are intolerable, and those we’d find enjoyable, exhilarating. Something like 15 percent of the population of the United States qualifies. Another 15 percent are at the other end, called “non-tasters,” they barely register with their noses and tongues what goes into their mouths. The rest of us are somewhere in the middle.

When I started working in the food world, I met people who took great pride in their educated palates. A meal at a restaurant could turn into a subtle game of one-upmanship as everyone vied to identify the almost imperceptible ingredients in one another’s appetizers and entrees. For awhile, I went along with it, but in the back of my mind there was always this small fear that I was secretly like my dad: completely numb to flavor, a non-taster. Eventually I had to admit that the evidence did not support this theory. But still there are times when I’m at work developing or adapting a recipe when the bottom seems to drop out of my confidence, and I think: Is this actually delicious, or am I completely deluded?

Last weekend, some friends came for dinner, and, inspired by the weather, I made a pitcher of cocktails. The combination of fresh grapefruit juice, prosecco, elderflower liqueur and gin tasted to me just like spring: sweet and floral, with a bracing note of bitterness. But just to be sure it wasn’t some boozey version of a cranberry-cappuccino-crunch float, I gave Peter a taste before our friends arrived.

I’m sure it’s true what the psychologists say: that the traits we dislike most in others are those we fear most in ourselves. I’m also sure that the next time we head down to Sleepy Hollow, tucking a jar of this delectable cocktail into my bag could help me view my dad’s concoctions — fruit salad mixed with tuna, any one? — as expressions of his own radical culinary genius.

Spring Mix

By Celia Barbour

The recipe evolved from one I read about in passing in The New York Times last year. The combination stuck in my head, though when I looked it up again, I realized I’d altered the recipe quite a bit. Warwick gin works especially nicely here.

1 part gin (or vodka)
1 part St. Germain elderflower liqueur
1½ parts fresh grapefruit juice
3-4 parts prosecco
lots of ice

Combine all the ingredients in a pitcher or glass and stir. Serve at once.
Concept of Linking Cold Spring and Beacon With ‘Fjord Trail’ Advances

Creating a bike-park path

By Liz Scherbekh-Armstrong

The concept of a pedestrian path along the Hudson River between Cold Spring and Beacon took another small step forward last Saturday, April 27, when an ad hoc group gathered to get updates and outline goals.

Held in Garrison at Winter Hill, a former mansion turned into offices for non-profit organizations, the session drew about 35 attendees, including two town supervisors, Philipstown’s Richard Shea and Putnam’s Bob LaColla, and Cold Spring Trustee Stephanie Hawkins.

Known unofficially as the “Hudson Fjord Trail” or “Hudson River Bike-Fjord Trail,” the path would parallel the river, Metro-North railroad tracks, and Route 9D, starting with a stretch between Cold Spring and Beacon. (Ultimately, it might extend south to the Bear Mountain Bridge, across the Hudson, continue on the western side of the river to the Newburgh-Beacon bridge, and wind back through Beacon to Cold Spring.)

Since 2006, the trail has been pursued at the governmental and nonprofit level with growing momentum. Recent grants bring the amount available for preliminary work, such as drafting a master plan, to $260,000. Numerous difficulties remain, including finding a way to get hikers through or around the Breakneck highway tunnel. However, one potential problem, the need to acquire property from private owners, has apparently been averted. “We don’t see taking of anybody’s land, trespassing, or anything like that,” said Mark Williams, a professional planner with Scenic Hudson.

Michael McKee, chairperson of the Philipstown Greenway Committee, an offshoot of the Hudson River Valley Greenway (New York state partnership with towns and counties), said the trail idea evolved from concerns about pedestrians along Route 9D. On part of 9D, a narrow, two-lane, curving state highway, the speed limit is 55 miles per hour, although the road often terms with hikers using trailheads between Cold Spring and Beacon. One, Breakneck trail, is reportedly the most popular day-hiking destination in the country. With the trail, “the whole experience of the road will change from a sort of autobahn to a parkway” friendly to hikers, McKee said.

Participants took up numerous topics, including signage to direct visitors to hiking trails, use of the weekend trolley to market trails, marketing, collaborating with local businesses, reducing the 9D speed limit, and parking, though no one seemed to want the latter overly emphasized to the detriment of scenery and hiking.

“It’s not about cars. It’s about people. It’s about walking,” said James Hartford, a Cold Spring architect who, on a pro bono basis, provided a design for a hiking shelter at Little Stony Point, a trail stop, and, with Little Stony Point caretaker John Teagle, is undertaking other improvements. “Car-free is carefree — that’s what we want” to foster as an attitude, said Dar Williams, another Cold Spring resident. Funding came up, too. Shea, a long-time member of the town’s financial committee, asked rhetorically, “Where can people write checks to? It’s been a persistent issue.” He urged creation of a distinct entity, with “a group name and an account set up” to receive contributions. The group then spent some time discussing a formal name for the trail and an official organization to support it. Describing the trail as “a great thing,” LaColla, the Fishkill supervisor, advised against a title that sounds too government-orientated. “What I’d hate to see is any kind of parochialism,” he said. The river constitutes “a natural resource that is a regional asset,” he added, noting that another potential attraction, a rebuilt inline railroad up Mount Beacon, would likely increase the area’s attractiveness.

Participants decided to meet again in June and to meanwhile dig into the various topics raised. Hartford also sought assurance with the Little Stony Point shelter and related upgrading. “This is something you can all volunteer to do right now — help us with this,” he said.

Pedal Into Spring Takes Over Cold Spring’s Main Street

(last October), Miller said. “It’s a hard and beautiful race course... a worthy event for an international effort.”

The start of Sunday’s race will be highly charged as hundreds of cyclists leave from Dockside Park in a mass start at 10:30 a.m., then head out into Putnam County on circuits of 79 and 39 miles. The finish line will be at Mayor’s Park on Fair Street.

Pedal Into Spring will also have its competitive aspects. Shopkeepers will vie for the best storefront display — the window that best captures the weekend’s dual celebration of spring and biking.

Bike owners of all ages can also take part in a friendly competition for the best decorated bicycle, all to be featured in a riverfront parade on race day. Each participant will receive a T-shirt sponsored by Putnam County Tourism and a gift certificate for a Go-Go Pop, and the winner of each of the four categories, with Patriotic, Most Floral, Most Innovative and Most Extreme) will receive a certificate from the Chamber of Commerce.

Registration and judging, managed by Haldane students, will be held from 10:45 a.m. on Sunday to 11:30 a.m. The parade will begin by the bandstand at 11:45 a.m. and continue on the streets of the downtown, where the race runs from Main Street to Market Street, around Fish Street, onto West Street and back to the bandstand.

Alison Anthonie, chair of the Pedal Into Spring publicity committee, said the group focused its energies on public relations, event listings and promotional materials rather than advertising. Several thousand copies of Eventful Magazine, whose centerpiece is the latest edition of The Paper’s popular Philipstown Visitors’ Map, were distributed regionally. “I received several calls in response to our press release, (including) one from a New York City cycle club that will have 100 cyclists riding up on Saturday,” Anthonie said. Metro-North will offer the Putnam Classic Express on Sunday, leaving Grand Central Station at 7:50 a.m. and arriving in Cold Spring just after 9 a.m.

For more information, visit pedalintospring.com and putnamcycling.com.
Former Haldane Teacher Pleads Guilty to Sex-Related Charges

By Michael Turton

J oseph Sayers, the Haldane High School teacher charged with attempted dissemination of indecent material to a minor last April, has re-signed his teaching position and will soon be sentenced after having pled guilty.

In an email to The Paper, Tracy Eversen, deputy communications director with the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office, said Sayers will be sentenced to time-served and “shock probation” on June 11. Shock probation “safely includes weekends in jail or a short period of jail time,” she said. Sayers will be on probation for five years with sex offender conditions and will be required to register as a sex offender after a hearing is held to determine at what level. New York state classifies sex offenders in three categories, Level 3 being the most serious. Level 1 offenders are required to register for a minimum of 20 years while Level 3 offenders are registered for life. Sayers’ resignation from Haldane was part of a plea agreement he agreed to in court on March 19, when he pleaded guilty to Attempted Dissemination of Indecent Matter to a Minor, a class “E” felony.

Superintendent of Schools Mark Vil lasco said that Sayers tendered his resigna tion last week. School Board trustees accepted the resignation on April 25. As required by New York state education law, he has been on paid leave since the time of his arrest, pending the outcome of the charges against him.

A press release issued by Westchester County District Attorney Janet DiFiore on April 3, 2012, stated that Sayers engaged in a series of conversations with an undercover investigator who assumed the role of a 15-year-old girl in an Internet chat room. The online conversations took place between March 5 and April 3, 2012. The release also said the undercover investigator had identified herself as a 15-year-old and that Sayers “discussed specific sexual acts, in which he would like to engage.”

Sayers taught grades 10-12, including Advanced Placement (AP) United States History, AP Government and Politics, Participation in Government and Eco nomic Systems. Immediately after his arrest, veteran teacher Dennis Cairl came out of retirement to take over Sayers’ classes.

Sees Haldane Wheels to Lizard’s Mission

Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The extended calendar Schedule of Pedal Into the hearing at the Lizard’s mission.

For example, there will be talks on composting, the storage of root vegetables, and components aimed at children, including “farmers market Spanish lesson,” and environmental workshops.

On fourth Saturdays there will be cooking demonstrations for local chefs and caterers — each with an important stipulation: that the recipe must be purchasable for under $10 for a family of four.

This ties in with Bynum’s wish that there be access to local foods and that the market cater to everyone in the community. She described the market as different from others she has visited in that most of the farmers themselves show up to sell their food here, and that many other regional markets feature crafts produced located but not necessarily sourced locally.

With CSFM vendors, questions are asked in the vein of, with bakers, “Where are you getting your milk? Your herbs?” If these components are not sourced locally, the market works with the vendor to show them some options for possibly fulfilling this in the future. “It’s about providing people to make that leap,” said Bynum.

She added that she sees the market as a place to do business with local producers and “your bread, mushrooms, chicken, beef, honey, maple syrup and just an incredible offering — with other markets you have to supplement outside of the market.”

Becky Gilkeson, coordinator of the Dutchess County Food Policy Council, said many farmers do not know who their customers are or how to market their food to them.

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For more information, visit csfarm.org.

Report on town’s meeting

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The Presbyterian Church proper traces its roots to the 16th-century Protestant Reformation and writings of French/Swiss theologian John Calvin. From Switzerland, Calvinist and other Reformed teachings spread to Scotland, England, Holland and France. The Presbyterian Church was formed in America by Presbyterians mostly from Scotland and Ireland, with the first presbytery (a group of congregations) organized in Philadelphia in 1706.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), or PC(USA), of which First Presbyterian is a member congregation, is the largest Presbyterian denomination in the U.S. and grew out of a series of mergers (and divisions) culminating in 1983.

The aspects that make the Presbyterian Church distinct from other Protestant denominations, according to the PC(USA) website (pcusa.org), are its organizational structure and its emphasis on baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

The Greek word presbuteros, meaning “elder,” points to the important role played by church elders in their government. Ruling elders are laypersons elected by a congregation, while teaching elders, or ministers, are ordained by a presbytery, both make up a “session,” which governs the congregation. Several presbyteries make up a synod, and the General Assembly governs the entire denomination.

Calvinism stresses the sovereignty of God in all things, which notably includes a belief in God’s election of some for salvation from damnation, regardless of their own actions. Other themes of Reformed theology include the shunning of ostentatious show and vanity, in favor of “the transformation of society by seeking justice and living in obedience to the Word of God,” according to the PC(USA).

Putting grace into action

The Rev. Leslie Mott, First Presbyterian’s pastor, and her congregation focus on Christ’s “healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners” (Luke 10:19, the Greek “Brief Statement of Faith”). First Presbyterian’s website comments on balancing belief and action: “We wrestle with how our Reformed faith relates to our daily lives, to intersect with the issues of our lives, and we take actions to put the grace of God into action in our neighborhoods and in the world.”

The latter explains their participation in many programs to help those in need. The Philipstown Food Pantry stands as First Presbyterian’s most-well-known mission. Created over 30 years ago, the food bank collects and distributes food for families in need of assistance every Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. In order to provide healthy, fresh produce to the families who come to the food pantry, First Presbyterian began the “Inspiration Garden” on their front lawn in 2010.

When Hurricane Sandy hit New York and New Jersey last fall, First Presbyterian like other organizations collected items for donation, but they have continued to help with recovery months later. The church “adopted” a mother and two children who had lost everything in the storm, collecting and donating furniture, money and whatever else they needed to help them get back on their feet.

Church members also volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit non-denominational organization that builds and repairs houses, which families in need can purchase through no-profit, no-interest mortgage loans. Volunteers go on certain Saturday sessions, usually from around 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., to Newburgh’s Habitat for Humanity, doing construction and other work.

On Saturday night, April 27, departing at 10:30 p.m. and returning around 4 a.m., a crew from First Presbyterian made one of its twice-a-year “Midnight Runs” to New York City, bringing food, toiletries, clothes and companionship to the homeless. The Midnight Run (midnightrun.org) is a volunteer organization that coordinates these runs, with different churches, schools and other organizations signing up for individual runs throughout the week. This spring, members of the confirmation class went on the run, and a group of 25 West Point cadets helped prepare meals.

Mott explained: “The most important thing that we do is to stop and have conversation ... because the homeless are essentially isolated. We hear their living stories, and I’ve found unbelievably brave people. I mean, there is mental illness there, but there is also a community there that is very real and present, so we go to be part of that and to show people that they’re not forgotten.”

When asked if it was difficult to learn what these people are going through, she said, “It is; but then again, it’s an incredibly joyous experience for them and for us.”

Those kinds of experiences bring people to First Presbyterian. Mott said: “The mission that we do is larger than the church, so people contribute to the food pantry who aren’t members of the church but are friends of the church. People find a place here, even if it’s not in worship. It’s a place of service; it’s a place of fellowship; it’s a place of recovery.”

Church of the Open Door

First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown is also known as “The Church of the Open Door.” Many members mention the welcoming tone of the church, its pastor and its congregation as part of why they love the church. One member said he joined 10 years ago because of its “open-minded, progressive theology.” Cathy Carnesale of Cold Spring, who joined in the past year, was said to have drawn to the music and to Mott’s sermons, which are “not steeped in dogma.”

Carolyn Llewellyn, who helps with Sunday School most Sunday mornings, explained what she likes about the church: “They clearly did some activism, and the music drew me in absolutely, right away. I love Leslie, too. It was a mix of all those things — the congregation, the music.” She praised Mott as a spiritual leader, but added that the congregation is also active. “I find Leslie to be very thoughtful, profound, and very inspirational, and not just her,” she said. “They have parishioner-led bible study, they have people from the congregation giving a sermon.”

Being a mother of small children, Llewellyn also appreciates the strong presence of youth in the church. She said she “liked the mix of ages,” which made it “very alive.”

Along with their Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m., the church also offers other kinds of practices, such as meditative walking of their labyrinth. The Bible study group on Sunday from 9 to 10 a.m. and Wednesday morning contemplative prayer from 7 to 8 a.m. are practices that attract some members who may not even attend the regular Sunday service. Jazz Vespers occurs at 5:30 p.m. on the third Saturday of every month from September through May.

The outreach programs mentioned here are by no means an exhaustive list; there are other activities, including mission trips to Nicaragua, that the church engages in. For more information, visit presbychurchcoldspring.org or email tpresbyterian@gmail.com or call 845-265-3220.

Traces of the Trade:

Traces of the Trade is a documentary in which filmmaker Katrina Browne discovers that her New England ancestors were the largest slave trading family in U.S. history. She and her nine cousins, including James DeWolf Perry, retrace the Triangle Trade, bringing them face to face with the history and legacy of north’s “hidden enterprise.” James DeWolf Perry was the film’s principal historical consultant, which led to him receiving an Emmy Award nomination.

Seating for this event is limited to 45 attendees.

Tickets: $15

Tickets purchased before May 5: $10

RSVP to: info@putnamhistorymuseum.org or call 845-265-4010
Life on the Ridge
A community of retirees, a feisty property manager and an operatic parrot

By Lois Powers

Every morning, Peggy, a 4-year-old blue-fronted Amazon parrot, sits by her window in Chestnut Ridge in Cold Spring and calls to the crows congregateing in their morning ritual at the Hudson River. Within minutes the trees on Chestnut Street grow black with birds — loud, cawing birds, reminiscent of bugle-call at summer camp, only of a natural, environmental, more annoying kind — inviting those still asleep in the Cold Spring Retirement community to rise and shine. After the morning reveille, those crossing Peggy’s path may hear vaguely reminiscent of “The Star-Spangled Banner,” from the talented parrot living in Chestnut Ridge.

Life in the ample one-bedroom apartment complex is good, attested Jerry Solomon, a recent Chestnut Ridge but longtime Cold Spring resident and owner of the local antique shop Solomon’s Mines on Main Street, as well as for Jan Thatcher, a 40-year Cold Spring resident and former member of the Special Board for the Comprehensive Plan, who rescued Peggy from a Hopewell Junction shelter a few years ago. Both men express gratitude for their government-subsidized apartments, without which they would be forced to leave Cold Spring, a common sentiment among residents.

The retirement community of 63 one-bedroom apartments was built in 1978 by developer Al Kaplin “to provide decent and safe housing for eligible low-income families, the elderly and persons with disabilities,” as determined by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). During the early days, Dan Dunning was hired as property manager for Chestnut Ridge but soon took the reins as owner. Recently, when asked whether the senior complex might be sold in the future, relinquishing its Section 8 government-subsidized status, Dunning said, “It is our plan not to change Chestnut Ridge in any way, and we will continue to serve the community based on income criteria HUD gives us.” Chestnut Ridge is suitable for independent-living seniors 62 and older with maximum incomes of $29,050 for a single person and $33,200 for couples.

Most residents drive, but a van sponsored by Philipstown’s Recreation Department is available to take shoppers to Walmart and Shop-Rite twice a month. With full kitchens in their apartments, most eat in but sometimes plan outings to restaurants, movies, local theater productions and town meetings. Indoor activities are limited and usually develop spontaneously among a few friends. A monthly meeting takes place in the community room to discuss entertainment ideas or matters of importance to residents, ranging in age from 41 to 100 years old.

The neighborhood “we take care of each other” attitude is commonly mentioned when speaking to any of the residents. “I love every minute of living here,” said Joan Vililetto, a 30-year Philipstown town clerk Tina Merando, lives across the street from Chestnut Ridge and enjoys joining his neighbors for summer lawn parties and cookouts, deflecting the occaional but good-natured jibe of being called “carpetbaggers” since, though living in Cold Spring his entire life, he was actually born in Beacon Hospital. The Chestnut Ridge apartments are available to those with disabilities, as well. Newcomer Suki Mawson, 41, is the youngest member of the community, having become disabled in a head-on collision on Route 9 when in high school at Haldane. “It’s nice being with older people who don’t have the dramas others are going through,” she said. “It’s comforting to have such neighbors. We all look out for each other.”

Living in the subsidized complex is providing Suki an opportunity for a new life. Daisy, her year-and-a-half-old pug puppy, has to be walked several times a day, and Suki is finding new strength and a commitment to complete recovery, thanks to Daisy, she said. Suki’s goal is first to get herself to the Cold Spring train station and then back to work one day soon.

The apartments’ location is ideal for Philipstown seniors, who can walk to Foodtown, Drug World, the post office and two banks, with the Putnam History Museum right across the street. Yes, all agree, life is good on the Ridge.

Diane Chipman, co-executive director of the Putnam Housing Corporation (PCHC), a HUD-certified Housing Counseling Agency, reported there are three other senior-housing apartment complexes in Carmel and one in Mahopac under the PCHC umbrella. For more information, call 845-225-8403. Also, there are two privately owned senior-housing complexes in Carmel and another in Brewster for seniors with higher incomes. Call 845-256-8630 for details.

Garrison School students show off awards they received in the Tri-County Science Fair in White Plains on April 20. Garrison, the smallest district in the regional science competition, received more awards than any other school in the middle school division.

Haldane students participating in Screen-Free Week play amidst the string sculpture created at the home of a Haldane parent on April 30. As of May 2, 115 students were trying not to use devices with screens this week. Photo by J. Tao

Jan Thatcher with Peggy

Photo by L. Powers
We live in an age where satire often overtakes its subject, in which the satirized are frequently in on the joke, or at least wish they were. This freedom to roast societal mores, public figures and virtually any target on the coals of humor wasn’t always the staple of comedy that it is now — not here or across the pond. It simply wasn’t done in British humor until the advent of Beyond the Fringe (BTF), which made its debut at the Edinburgh Festival in 1960.

A compilation of sketches taking aim at everything from politicians and the royal family to preserved-in-aspic rituals of post-World War II British life, the show brought together a foursome, Alan Bennett, Peter Cook, Jonathan Miller and Dudley Moore, who had performed material in this vein in various combinations at Oxford and Cambridge in the late 1950s. Long runs in the West End and a successful Broadway transfer followed, as did a debut at the Edinburgh Festival in 1960.

By Alison Rooney

By Alison Rooney

Groundbreaking British satirical comedy lives again in Depot Theatre production

The ringleader of this band of merry men is Joe Dunn, who both directs and co-stars, along with Andre Herzegovich, Donald Kimmel and Taylor Douglas. Dunn has had a professional involvement with BTF before. He started off as a comedy writer in Los Angeles, working for syndicated shows, then shifted into performing, doing improv training at the famous The Groundlings improv and sketch comedy theater. After a year spent in the house troupe at the Comedy Store, followed by another guesting with different troupes, he felt the urge to do longer shows and plays and created a company, The ReEstablishment Theater, which subsequently found its own home in the 65-seat theater above which Dunn lived. A fan of British comedy since childhood, and having “hooked into” BTF “age at 10 or 12,” he performed in a run of it in Los Angeles about 14 years ago. Dunn’s wife received a job offer, which brought them to the Hudson Valley about four years ago.

Dunn felt confident in suggesting this production to the Depot Theatre when a three-week slot opened up when a three-week slot opened up this production to the Depot Theatre about four years ago. Which brought them to the Hudson Valley about four years ago.

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Joseph Dunn, left, and Donald Kimmel in Beyond the Fringe

Andre Herzegovich in Beyond the Fringe

Sneaking a Peek Beyond the Fringe

Groundbreaking British satirical comedy lives again in Depot Theatre production

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BTF is widely acknowledged as an inspiration for Monty Python, That Was the Week That Was, Rowan Atkinson, and much of the British humor of the past half-century. This, in turn spawned such North American variants as Laugh-In, Saturday Night Live and Second City Television. It has been described as giving voice to a sense of loss of national purpose, with the end of the British Empire, albeit in a very, very silly way. And now that silliness mixed with daggers is being revived by the Depot Theatre, in association with World’s End Theater (WET), with four Yanks putting their Brit on and presenting the material to a new audience.

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My family is somewhat split over how they feel about this book. Some don’t like the liberties he took with the so-called “true story!” I, however, love this book with a passion, in part because, when I read it at age 17, it helped me understand so many of the unruly, confused emotions I had about my family’s legacy.

This is what Doctorow does. He’s said it best himself: “The historian will tell you what happened. The novelist will tell you what it felt like.”

The historian will tell you what happened. The novelist will tell you what it felt like.

E.L. Doctorow to Read at Chapel on Sunday, May 5

Sunset Reading Series presents author of The Book of Daniel, Ragtime, and Billy Bathgate

By Ivy Meeroof

For a few years now I’ve been working on the great American author E.L. Doctorow, wearing him down and pestering him to no end, the goal being to secure a reading at the Sunset Readings, the literary series Rebekah Tighe and I run at the Chapel of Our Lady Restoration.

I’ve known Edgar since I was a kid. I was 5 when The Book of Daniel was published, a novel where the central character is based on my own father, the eldest son of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, who were executed by the U.S. government in 1953 for conspiracy to commit espionage.

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I've been receiving the usual plaintiff for my column, main out, and the last for my recent comment on the motorists who drive too fast on 9D, tailgating and overtaking on double lines while passing cyclists at risk. Now I turn my attention to Main Street which has its own problems, namely speeding in the 25 mph zone. The roaring engines of drivers sometimes drown the important news and views being exchanged on the sidewalks by shoppers and pedestrians. I'm eager to hear the gossip because the revelations are often quite juicy.

However, that doesn't mean there's no gallantry among some drivers on Main Street, as I'll explain. The other revelations are often quite juicy. The drivers, five of them, all braked suddenly we heard a frenzied shout, Nils and his equally pretty dog, Millie. Suddenly we heard a frenzied shout, and stopped as the driver ordered. Most of the motorists who drive too fast on Main Street, as I'll explain. The other revelations are often quite juicy. We'll explain.

The boss and his equally pretty dog, Millie. Suddenly we heard a frenzied shout, Nils and his equally pretty dog, Millie. Suddenly we heard a frenzied shout, and stopped as the driver ordered. Most of the motorists who drive too fast on Main Street, as I'll explain. The other revelations are often quite juicy. We'll explain.

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Dia:Beacon
11 A.M. - 6 P.M. FREE FOR BEACON RESIDENTS
1 P.M. TOUR
3 Beacon St., Beacon
845-440-0100  |  diabeacon.org

Members Opening Celebration of 2013 Exhibits
3 P.M. STORM KING ART CENTER
1 Museum Road, New Windsor
845-534-3115  |  stormking.org

Bjorn Meyer-Ebrecht: Constructions (Opening)
5 - 8 P.M. MATTEAWAN GALLERY
464 Main St., Beacon
845-440-7901  |  matteawan.com

Collaborative Concepts Pop-Up Project (Reception)
5:30 P.M. BEELLE LEVINE ART CENTER
See details under Friday.

Theater & Film
Girl Rising (Documentary)
NOON. DOWNING FILM CENTER
19 Front St., Newburgh
845-561-3686  |  downingfilmcenter.com

Comedy in the Afternoon
1 - 4:30 P.M. DESMOND-FISH LIBRARY
See details under Friday.

Music
Pedal Into Spring Live Music
NOON - 5:30 P.M. MAIN STREET, COLD SPRING
pedalintospring.com

The Beacon Theatre
445 Main St., Beacon
845-453-2978  |  thebeacontheatre.org
2:30 P.M. DAVE & JAKOB BERNS
3:30 P.M. HOME MACHINE & SUSAN WRIGHT
4:00 P.M. JOY HAYES
5:30 P.M. THE COSTELLIS
6:30 P.M. STEPHEN CLAIRE BAND
7:30 P.M. CARLA SPRINGER BAND
8:30 P.M. SCOTT REALZ GROUP
9:30 P.M. BOSCO & THE STORM
10:30 P.M. ZERG

Motherloop Revisited (Benefit)
5 - 9 P.M. GARRISON ART CENTER
23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960  |  garrisonartcenter.org

Tenbrooks Molly
7 P.M. BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-473-2072  |  baravon.org

Live Music by Tiki Daddy 6:30 - 8:30
Down by the Riverside on Garrison’s Landing
French Grill Picnic by Chef Pascal Graff of Garrison Café, Garrison, NY & Le Bouchon, Cold Spring, NY $20 per adult + Cash bar $10/kids 12 and under Picnic tickets online $17 & $8 garrisonartcenter.org

RIVERSIDE ART AUCTION
Benefiting Hudson Valley Artists & Garrison Art Center
Saturday May 11, 2013 5:00
Viewing & refreshments 3:30 to 5:00
Live Auction 5:00 Featuring 40 HV artists
Silent Auction 3:30 to 8:00
Silent Auction runs through May 19, 5pm

Sunset Picnic & Live Music 6:30 to 8:30
Down by the Riverside on Garrison’s Landing
French Grill Picnic by Chef Pascal Graff of Garrison Café, Garrison, NY & Le Bouchon, Cold Spring, NY $20 per adult + Cash bar $10/kids 12 and under Picnic tickets online $17 & $8 garrisonartcenter.org

Live Music by Tiki Daddy 6:30 – 8:30
Seductive Hawaiian-inspired music of the 20s and 30s combining the swingin’ acoustic archtop sound with the sound of the tricone steel guitar, ukulele and bass. Multi-talented musicians John Harms, Al Hamberger, Art Labriola and Stacy Labriola will set your foot tapping. (Stacy not pictured)

23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison, NY 10524 garrisonartcenter.org 845.424.3960
The Riverside Galleries open Tues thru Sun 10 to 5
DeWolf family tree
Source: TracesOfTheTrade.org

Artwork by Grace Kennedy

The evening begins in the Rhinebeck High School auditorium at 5:30 p.m. with guest speakers celebrating the role the arts have in our lives. State Sen. Terry Gipson and Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro will share a few words about the arts and economic development in the region. Liza Donnelly, local cartoonist with The New Yorker, is the keynote speaker who will share her views concerning the arts and education. And special guest lyric soprano Kimberly Kahn will perform.

The celebration continues at the Ju- ried Art Exhibition Reception 6:30 to 8:30 at the Betsy Jacaruso Studio and Gallery, 43-2 E. Market St. (in the courtyard behind Bread Alone) in Rhinebeck, with refresh- ments donated by village restaurants and live music.

The exhibit includes artwork repre- senting each of the AAH communities...
Mountain Laurel Outdoor Rec Fest at Fahnestock

The Taconic Outdoor Education Center (TOEC), within Fahnestock State Park, invites all to join in celebrating National Get Outdoors Day and National Kids to Parks Day during TOEC’s Mountain Laurel Outdoor Rec Fest on Sunday, May 19, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Staff from the Audubon’s Constitution Marsh Sanctuary will start the program off with a bird banding demonstration. Afterward, Peter Salzman from Putnam Highlands Audubon will lead a beginner bird walk.

Hudson Valley Orienteering and Orienteering Unlimited will introduce folks to the sport of orienteering. Instruction and a practice course will be available to test new skills.

REI Outdoor School staff will be bringing their kayaks, offering an opportunity to paddle and learn more about this sport. To participate, an REI signed release is required.

Hudson Valley Outfitters staff will bring their professional weighted hoops for everyone to try “hooping,” an out-of-body experience that is also healthy exercise.

TOEC’s High Ropes Adventure Course will also be open. A TOEC signed release form is required for participation.

Raptors and Reptiles will take center stage at 2 p.m. Bill Robinson will display and talk about these critters and their importance in nature.

The suggested donation for adults is $2, for kids $1. No pets are allowed. If inclement weather is forecasted, call before traveling. Food and beverages will be available. For information, contact TOEC at 845-265-3773.

For minors, kayaking or high rope activity participation requires a signed and dated parental or guardian release form. Call for details or email paul.kunnig@nys.gov.

Taste of Boscobel Offers Catering, Wine and Beer

On May 19, Boscobel will hold its second annual tasting affair, Taste of Boscobel, featuring caterers, wineries and microbreweries in the Hudson Valley and beyond.

Taste of Boscobel 2013 participants (thus far) include: East Fishkill Provisions, Fresh Company Catering, Champlain Brewery, Happy Bitch Wines, Holberdine Catering, Inn Credible Caterers, La Taiyae Catering, Legends Ivana Wines, Le Moulin Catering, Main Course Catering, Oak Beverages, Oliver Kita Fine Catering, Pinnacle Tent and Events, Sterling Catering Affair Caterers, The Thayer Hotel and The Winery at St. George.

Taste of Boscobel will take place on Sunday, May 19, from 1 to 4 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online 24/7 at Boscobel.org or in person or by phone during regular business hours. Advance ticket prices are $35/person as Food and Wine/Beer Sampler and $30/person as Food-Only Sampler (designated drivers, teens, etc.). Tickets at the door cost $40/person as Food & Wine/Beer Sampler and $35/person as Food-Only Sampler. Friends of Boscobel members receive a 10 percent discount. The event is free for children 10 and under, and all tickets include free grounds admission.

Boscobel offers a wedding couple special at $42/person for those who register for a walkthrough of Boscobel’s grounds as a possible wedding venue. (Walkthrough must be taken by May 18.) Contact cfo@boscobel.org to schedule a walkthrough and receive the discount code.

For more information, visit Boscobel.org or call 845-265-3638.

Beacon

bau Gallery Celebrates 100 Monthly Exhibitions

B auo Gallery will celebrate their milestone of 100 consecutive monthly exhibitions, which happens to coincide with City of Beacon Centennial. To honor the centennial and bau’s 100th birthday, bau Gallery will celebrate, May 19-20.

In the Free Art Series concludes on Friday, May 17th, 6-8 p.m. Beacon Sloop Club, 2 Flynn Drive, Beacon (adjacent to the harbor). In the event of inclement weather, check the website at www.beacon-sloopclub.org. For further information, call 845-463-4600 or 914-870-1082.

Meyer-Ebrecht's Works

For Meyer-Ebrecht, architecture doesn't need to be on a grand scale but can be a simple structure that defines a space. In his wall-mounted book cover sculptures, the pages of a book are removed and the cover cut into pieces and reassembled. Meyer-Ebrecht explains that he was thinking about the book's own architecture “with the cloth-cover functioning as a façade of sorts.”

For more information, visit www.philipstown.info.
The Scoop on Beacon Creamery: One Name for Two Different Shops

By Alison Rooney

Ron Iarossi is one of those small business owners who keeps getting new ideas about things he loves — things like ice cream, soda fountains and Christmas ornaments. In a tale out of a Frank Capra movie, 20-something years ago, Iarossi was toiling for a bank in Connecticut that went under. Layoffs everywhere were rampant. Instead of sinking into a hole, he went into research mode, finding out how to make ice cream. He soon bought an ice cream store, adding that the great location, Hudson River view and patio sealed the deal. Using Jane’s Ice Cream was Iarossi’s idea; he had tasted it years ago. “Once you taste it, you’re going to want it, hands down, no comparison,” he said. Jane’s comes up with some flavors specifically for Beacon Creamery. These have included “nirvana banana” and “coffee and cookies.” Jane’s also tests out new flavors at the shop — last year, lavender was an unexpected big seller. (The top sellers are cappuccino, killer chocolate, coconut almond joy and good old vanilla.) They will be expanding from 24 to 36 flavors (including sorbets) this year. They will open on weekends from April onwards and all week long beginning Memorial Day weekend.

When running three businesses (including the Bank Square Coffeehouse) proved to be too much for the Behneys, Iarossi and Zolotas bought them out. There was no trepidation about Iarossi about going into business with an about-to-be family member: “He’s such a nice guy — he’s one of my closest friends.” The ice cream store now alternates with Kringle’s Christmas House — the economy of scale being a toll on operating each of these businesses year-round.

The other creamery

Iarossi and Zolotas’ newest venture also took hold in almost a happenstance way. A couple years ago, Iarossi ran into Jim Brady, managing director of The Beacon Theatre, who showed him around the then-unrestored space. “We climbed over some concrete and there was practically nothing there,” said Iarossi. “We’d like to put a soda fountain in there” was enough to jumpstart Iarossi into business No. 3. Zolotas, a landscaper by trade and extremely handy, according to his father-in-law, built everything and put the floors down. They worked together on its 1930s soda fountain look, complete with black-and-white patterned floor and even what appears to be a player piano hoisted onto a platform behind the counter.

This Beacon Creamery is less an ice cream parlor than a soda fountain with nods to the present, seen in its range of espresso, cappuccino and lattes, and to the past, with the spotlight on malted shakes, floats and egg creams. A specialty is the “two-tone shake,” made with one type of ice cream on top of another. Light lunches are offered, with daily soups during winter and quiches and salads in spring. Baked goods, all homemade, include brownies, muffins, strudels, pies, cookies and “Scott’s phenomenal cheesecake,” according to Iarossi.

Beacon Creamery is located next door to the Beacon Theatre. Photo by A. Rooney

Beacon Creamery

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Fahnestock’s Canopus Lake Beach and Winter Park to Get Overhaul

Combined state and private funding effort continues Clarence Fahnestock Memorial State Park’s Canopus Lake visitor and recreation area is in store for a major overhaul as renovation begins this month. The project is being funded through a public-private partnership led by the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the Open Space Institute’s Alliance for New York State Parks program, the Taconic Regional Commission of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the Friends of Fahnestock and Hudson Highlands State Parks.

To date, $825,000 in public and private funding has been identified and raised toward a $1.2 million goal that will help improve and update run-down public facilities at the park’s swimming beach and Winter Park area, including the cafe space, ski and snowshoe rental area and restrooms.

Of the $825,000, half has been raised through private donations, while the remaining $400,000 was secured through a New York State Environmental Protection Fund grant awarded through Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s Hudson Valley Regional Economic Development Council.

The first project in this multi-phase initiative will remodel and winterize the public bathhouse and update the lifeguard facilities, then rehabilitation work will begin on the main courtyard, cafe space and winter recreation area. All facets of the project will improve energy and water efficiencies at the site. Additional plans for the park include naturalizing the swimming beach and the trails and pathways in the area, improving sustainability features, installing a fully accessible fishing pier and enhancing recreational and play opportunities at the park.

Individuals or organizations interested in learning more about the project or making a donation are invited to visit www.osiny.org/DonateFahnestock.

Edgar Masters, left, George Pataki, Bob Tendy, Bob Bickford, Barbara Scuccimarra, Andy Beers, Dr. Lucy Waletzky, Erik Kulleseid, Libby Pataki, MaryEllen Odell, Fred Osborn III and Katrina Shindledecker gathered on April 26 to celebrate the renovations.

Photo courtesy of NYS Parks Taconic Region
Lasagna Gardening

By Pamela Doan

A reader asked: “No-till gardening and lasagna gardening are mentioned frequently in this column. How can I get started?”

If you’re ready to give up the backbreaking work of digging and rototilling your garden and flower beds every year, here’s an outline to get started. No-till gardens and lasagna gardening both refer to an easy approach that is also a way to prevail over our rocky and slightly acidic soil tendencies in Putnam County. Instead of tearing up the ground, simply create beds on top. Organic matter, which many people have in their yards already, is used as the layers of the “lasagna.” No topsoil is necessary, and an afternoon of work can create a rich garden soil that holds water, drains well and has fewer weeds.

Last year I set up three beds with wood sides and one bed that wasn’t enclosed. I did very little weeding, and my soil held water beautifully. Happy plants.

Raised beds

Measure the space and make a diagram where the beds will go. All mine are crooked and not quite level, but the corn doesn’t seem to care. If right angles are important to you, mark the ground with string to set them up.

Raised beds can be made of many materials, including bricks, blocks and wood. I used cedar planks to make my beds, because cedar is naturally rot-resistant and untreated. Twelve-inch-wide planks are available and make a perfect depth. I’ve tried two different sizes, 3 by 8 foot and 4 by 8 foot. The 3-by-8s are on the outside of the garden, and I can push them right up to the deer fence and still reach across it. The 4-by-8-foot beds need to be accessible on three or four sides, though, unless you’ve got basketball-player limbs. If using treated wood, line the bed with landscape fabric to prevent the chemicals from leaching into your soil. Twelve-inch-deep is entirely sufficient, but making the beds higher means less bending and stooping. Adding a ledge around the top edge looks nice and functions as a place to sit or keep tools.

Attach hardware cloth, a heavy-duty wire mesh, to the bottom of the bed to keep out voles and other critters that will want to burrow up into your bed. Do not skip this step. Once the beds are in use, taking them apart to add it once you’ve got invaders is a drag.

Once you’ve got the bed built and in place, start with a layer of cardboard or newspaper on the bottom, overlapping the edges. This suppresses weeds and keeps anything that was growing under the box from growing up into it. Soak the newspaper or cardboard with water before you layer on top of it.

I add a layer of wood chips to my boxes because I have a huge pile that’s been sitting up in it. Soak the wood chips around trees and in beds only after you layer on top of it.

Use fresher mulch for paths. Next, add layers of peat moss alternating with organic matter, any of the following: compost — you can make your own using vegetable and fruit scraps, coffee grounds, grass clippings, shredded leaves and other plant material; hay; sawdust; straw; or wood ashes.

In my experience, a 4-by-8-foot bed needs about one 3-cubic-foot bag in this formula — peat moss, shredded leaves, peat moss, compost, peat moss, compost. Here’s a great tip passed along from another master gardener. Shred leaves in a barrel or trash can using a weed whacker. It’s like a giant immersion blender. Make sure to use protective eyewear, though — no need to blind yourself for a tomato.

For further reference, check out Lasagna Gardening by Patricia Lanza or this guide on Cornell’s website: blogs.cornell.edu/horticulture/about/basic-gardening-info/.

Garden questions? Send them here: askrootsandshoots@philipstown.info.