

Butterfield Still Alive

Gallagher says project is "in need of focus"

By Kevin E. Foley

The shift from a once very public consideration of the Butterfield development to a more opaque yet-to-be defined process was on a brief display last Tuesday (June 5) at the regular monthly meeting of the Cold Spring Planning Board.

Held in the claustrophobic confines of the Village Hall committee room, Butterfield was not on the meeting's agenda. Since the Butterfield developer, Paul Guillaro, officially withdrew his application for special zoning for the site, the Planning Board does not have a formal role in reviewing plans.

In fact little but the prosaic approval of past meetings' minutes was scheduled along with the opportunity for open public comment, of which only a few citizens availed themselves.

An impromptu visit from Mayor Seth Gallagher and Trustee Matt Francisco, however, demonstrated that while officially off the agenda of any public meetings, Butterfield is still on the local government's front burner. Gallagher was invited in from the hallway by Joseph Barbaro, Planning Board chair, to help define what the mayor and village trustees now wanted the planning board to do on the Butterfield issue.

Gallagher told the Planning Board to write up a report of their observations, decisions and concerns about Butterfield and forward it to the trustees. "Say anything you want to say," he said.

"You guys know what the concerns are and we'd love to hear what they are," said Francisco to a board that has already publicly raised several concerns in the first six months of this year. It was the board's 3-2 vote against market-rate senior housing for the site that apparently caused Guillaro to withdraw his application.

The Planning Board has also questioned the tax consequences of the development, the traffic impact of having more than 250 parking spaces on the site, the height of the buildings and the need for preserving open space, among other issues.

It was also the Planning Board that called for organized public input (a charrette) early in the review process. Gallagher told the board to include some comments from that meeting as well.

The mayor described the current state of the Butterfield project as "fairly amorphous, we're hoping to make it more focused and get it moving." He did not say what that actually meant in terms of a process, particularly one the public could observe.

In a relatively brief exchange, Planning Board (Continued on page 6)



Jason O'Connell, Katie Hartke, Richard Ercole and Denise Cormier in *Love's Labour's Lost*

Photo: William Marsh

Shakespeare Takes to the Tent

*At Christmas I no more desire a rose
Than wish a snow in May's new-fangled mirth;
But like of each thing that in season grows.*

~ Wm. Shakespeare, *Love's Labour's Lost*

This being June in Philipstown, in season grows Shakespeare, with the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival (HVSF) once again pegging their billowy tent at Boscobel for a season of new-fangled mirth, in the form of *Love's Labour's Lost* and (not by the bard) *The 39 Steps*.

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Haldane Trustees Debate Sale of James Pond

Refinancing earns million dollar savings in bond interest

by Mike Turton

The Haldane Board of Education plowed through a myriad of business items during a three-hour meeting on June 5. Trustees dealt with everything from news of major long-term budget savings and appointment of coaches for 2012-13 to rejection of bids for improvements to the baseball fields on Route 9D, hints as to who the next board president will be, and discussions over the possible sale of a property owned by the school district.

The only contentious item of the evening centered around the possible sale of 10 acres of land around James Pond. The 10.6-acre property has been appraised at

a value of \$425,000, funds which trustees and administration are considering putting towards a \$2 million project to improve the main sports field on the Haldane campus. Due to the New York State budget cap the project cannot result in any tax increase to residents.

"James Pond is a key item," Superintendent of Schools Mark Villanti said. "What is the least you're going to accept?" he asked trustees - referring to the sale price of the property. "Without knowing that, I can't put a budget together (for the field improvement project). If you say 'no' [to the sale of the property] then we have to look at the project another way." As currently envisioned, the project would include installation of artificial turf, facilitating much more extensive use of the field for programs such as physical education. While trustees have not come out with a formal recommendation to sell the property, discussions have been lean-

(Continued on page 5)

Baseball Blue Devils Off to Final Four!

By Mike Turton

The Haldane Blue Devils baseball team defeated Pierson High School of Sag Harbor, Long Island, 3-0 on Wednesday, earning them a spot in the New York State final four tournament in Johnson City on Saturday.

The Blue Devils will play Voorheesville High School at 10 a.m. Saturday. If they win, the Haldane nine will vie for the state championship against the winner of the Lansing - Frewsburg game at 4 p.m. the same day.

Haldane Athletic Director Tom Cunningham said the team will leave for the



Dan Kinnaird, shown here warming up before a playoff game, is part of deep Blue Devils' pitching staff

Photo by Mike Turton

tournament at noon on Friday. "We'll be having a send-off with the entire campus meeting in front of the middle school entrance to announce the team before they leave on the bus. This is a tradition we do for all teams who leave for a state tournament," Cunningham said.

The final four schools are from across the state. Voorheesville is located just west of Albany. Lansing is in the Finger Lakes north of Ithaca and Frewsburg is located near the western boundary of New York near the Pennsylvania border. Johnson City is just northwest of Binghamton.



Two Churches and Synagogue Unite in ‘Great Lawn’ Sale

June 9 at St. Mary’s

Call it the triple bonanza of yard sales: Three local institutions – two churches and a synagogue – team up this coming Saturday (June 9) for a large tag sale on the Great Lawn of St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, Cold Spring. Along with St. Mary’s, the First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown and the Philipstown Reform Synagogue are participating in the event, to run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., on the lawn, at the intersection of Chestnut Street-Morris Avenue (Route 9D) and Main Street (Route 301) in Cold Spring. Rain date is Sunday (June 10).

The sale will feature “gently used” bric-a-brac, jewelry, china, furniture and household items, children’s clothes, and more. In addition to allowing the pub-



Great Lawn of St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, Cold Spring

Photo by Liz Armstrong

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lic to snap up bargains and treasures as well as baked goods and home-cooked food (including delectables at an all-day barbeque), the three-in-one sale provides crucial income to the sponsors.


“It’s no secret that religious congregations have to work overtime to keep the ‘welcome’ sign out,” host St. Mary’s noted in a news release on Monday (June 4). “These congregations minister to the needs of Cold Springers every day, and they make our village a wonderful place through their dedication to our community.”

The churches and synagogue are neighbors as well as friends and partners in the sale. The synagogue meets in the St. Mary’s Parish Hall and the Presbyterian Church, visible from St. Mary’s, stands but a short block away, down a side street.

“Events such as these underscore the innate value of our faith communities coming together and working together; they demonstrate a true unity of purpose shared by us all,” said Diane Botnick, president of the Philipstown Reform Synagogue.

“Communities of faith can accomplish much -- the Food Pantry, Habitat and so much more -- when we combine our efforts,” the Rev. Leslie Mott, the Presbyterian pastor, concurred. “We are better together than alone.”

Father Shane Scott-Hamblen, St. Mary’s rector, likewise described the tag sale as “a wonderful demonstration of fellowship and unity,” one with economic importance as well. “Small congregations have to become creative in finding ways to raise the much-needed funds to stay open and focused on their mission to serve,” he said.



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Hayworth Aide Quits

Suggested acid attacks on female democrats

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

As Democratic candidates competed for the nomination to take on Republican Rep. Nan Hayworth in the race for U.S. Congress, a prominent Hayworth campaign aide quit Monday (June 4) after lampooning female Democratic politicians as worthy targets of acid attacks — a painful and disfiguring if not fatal form of harassment of women in parts of the world.

In a terse statement on Monday, Hayworth revealed that “Jay Townsend has offered, and I have accepted, his resignation from his position with my campaign. Now let’s return to talking about issues that really matter to families: job creation, spending restraint and economic development.”



Jay Townsend

Townsend, president of The Townsend Group, a public relations firm catering to the further-right end of the Republican/Conservative spectrum, on May 26 posted a Facebook comment that blasted supposed liberal hypocrites in Congress. “Let’s hurl

some acid at those female Democratic senators who won’t abide the mandates they want to impose on the private sector,” he wrote on a Facebook page devoted to politics. He later apologized for his “incendiary choice of words,” calling his statement “stupid” and “insensitive” and a disservice to his clients. But his initial rant caused a furor that stretched from the mid-Hudson Valley across the country, with national news media and the political blogosphere awash with reactions. At least two of Hayworth’s challengers joined in and on Monday welcomed Townsend’s resignation.

One candidate, Dr. Richard Becker, a Cortlandt Town Board member, claimed credit for the development. “The timing of this announcement, coming one hour after we completed a press conference outside of Hayworth’s office calling on her to take exactly this step, was not coincidental,” Becker said. “Nan Hayworth finally listened to us, listened to reason, and listened to the tens of thousands of people across this country who were justifiably out-

raged at Townsend’s remarks.” Another would-be Hayworth opponent, Wappinger’s Falls Mayor Matt Alexander, noted that his campaign had been collecting signatures of people who sought Townsend’s departure. “Thank you for everyone who signed our petition to fire Jay Townsend,” Alexander said. “He’s gone!”

The campaigns of the other Democrats seeking to be the 18th Congressional District candidate, Sean Patrick Maloney, an aide in President Bill Clinton’s White House as well as to former Govs. Eliot Spitzer and David Paterson; Tuxedo Park Mayor Tom Wilson; and Duane Jackson, a small-businessman, apparently issued no immediate statements on Townsend’s departure. The five are scheduled to participate in a Democratic candidates’ forum next Monday (June 11) at 7 p.m. at the North Highlands firehouse.

Townsend unsuccessfully ran against Sen. Charles Schumer, D-NY., in 2010, and operates Townsend Group from Orange County, across the Hudson River from Philipstown.

Haldane Teachers Take Center Stage

School Board honors retirees, tenured teachers, approves new hires

by Mike Turton

It’s one of those quirks of bureaucratic necessity, but teachers, undoubtedly the most important element in the education of our children, seldom play a big role at meetings of boards of education. That was definitely not the case at the June 5 meeting of the Haldane School Board at which trustees and administration paid homage to four veteran teachers who are about to retire, recognized

nine up and coming educators who have been granted tenure, and approved hiring three new teachers to help fill the gaps created by the retirees.

The four retiring teachers, Joan Brocker, Anne Kane, Kathy Robb and Peggy Carano have more than 100 years of teaching experience among them. Superintendent of Schools Mark Villanti praised the group warmly, saying they have numerous traits in common. “These are strong women. Women of great humility and grace.” He said each is family oriented and taught students much more than just what was on the curriculum — especially values. “They are warm and compassionate, and passionate about



Eight of the staff members granted tenure pose with Superintendent Villanti (back row, right)
Photo by Mike Turton



Retiring staff (l-r): Joan Brocker, Kathy Robb, Peggy Carano, Anne Kane
Photo by Mike Turton

teaching. Some might say they had a calling.”

Joan Brocker has taught social studies at Haldane for 36 years. Her middle school principal, Brent Harrington, took some delight in pointing out that he was just two months old when she started teaching there in 1976 and referred to her as a “joyful” presence in the school. He described Anne Kane as a “distinguished” educator who has taught middle school at Haldane since 2001. Harrington had equally kind words for Peggy Carano, who has served as a kindergarten classroom aide for 23 years. “She is the aide that parents want for their kids.” High school Principal Brain Alm said of Kathy Robb, a Spanish teacher at Haldane for 25 years, “I have never

met anyone so committed to continuous learning.” Also honored were were Paula Ryan and Elizabeth Mancari, both of whom have worked in support services at Haldane for 10 years but who were unable to attend Tuesday’s meeting.

While Villanti saw similarities among the retiring teachers, he pointed to diversity as a trait exhibited by the nine teachers recently granted tenure. “I think of a different word for this group — eclectic,” he said. “They have very different personalities — and students can learn from different people.” But he sees similarities as well. “They all have their priorities straight and they take their work very seriously.” He praised the group for their level of involvement in the Haldane community. “They (Continued on page 6)

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Haldane Varsity players make visit to Minors Little League team practice

Save East Mountain

As someone who generally agrees with Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea’s environmental goals if not always his methods, I find myself disheartened by his justification for promoting the establishment of a mining district within the property of one favored family (“Route 9 Mining On Tap” 5/23/12). This mining district benefits this one family while causing irreparable harm to its residential neighbors from Lake Valhalla to East Mountain, as well as the Hudson River tributary - Clove Creek. The proposed mine is situated just outside Fahnestock State Park, smack on the new Open Space Overlay, alongside other Open Space properties. The development rights of these surrounding properties have been severely restricted and owners are being required to preserve their open space for the good of the community yet they are handed this mess in return. Contrary to Supervisor Shea’s assertions, there will be blasting, hammering, and rock crushing. It’s all right there in the application.

The town is actually not required to allow mining at all and for a man whose election campaign was based on environmental preservation and quality of life to say, in essence, that we need to degrade our landscape because we use a lot of bank run is disappointing. There is plenty of bank run available in the area and the families that live near the mines that provide it are not a happy bunch. With the noise, dust, heavy equipment traffic and reduced property values, who can blame them?

And for Mr. Shea to suggest that we can rely on the Department of Environmental Conservation to regulate this thing ignores the landscape that is laid out before him. He wouldn’t have to travel far to see what a DEC regulated mine looks like. And the mining towns become powerless against the moneyed monsters they’ve created. His assurance that the prospective owners “have a strong track record” gives little comfort when you consider that the operator can be bought out at any time during its THIRTY YEAR OPERATION.

There will be a Zoning Board Of Appeals meeting to address this application on Monday, June 11th at 7:30 PM. There was a large turnout against the mine at the last hearing and we’ll need another good showing to have any chance at stopping this assault. Be there to show the ZBA that this town does not need an open pit mine at the base of East Mountain.

Adam Hird,
North Highlands

Richard Butensky,
North Highlands

To The Editor:

Going far beyond generous, Coach Virgadamo and the Haldane Varsity baseball team were kind enough to extend themselves and make an impromptu visit to my Minors Little League team practice last week. I had e-mailed Coach V. earlier in the season, just asking about the possibility of having one or two players give pointers ... but he showed up with entire pitching staff and directed what became a mini clinic for more than an hour — with a varsity star pairing up with each kid. Unbelievably, this was on the eve of their Section Championship game, and a very warm night ta boot! The Varsity guys were so encouraging. I am sure the kids will never ever forget their appearance. Our 12-man Minors Dodgers now boasts 11 young pitchers who throw strikes! My 8-year-old son, Daniel, who already commands a 30 mph fastball, is now developing a deadly change-up. I cannot thank the Haldane pitchers or Coach V. enough. The players are really local heroes and champions on and off of the field. Good men, all.

Brian McElroy

Soil Mine is Spot Zoning

To the Editor:

In the May 23rd PCN&R article, “Route 9 Mining on Tap”, Richard Shea, the Philipstown Supervisor, was reported to say the Philipstown soil mining zoning district was defined by which property owners wanted it. Only the Lyons made the request and their 20-acre parcel, which lies within a residential zone, is the only approved district for gravel mining in Philipstown. However, using this method of forming a “Spot Zone” for mining within a residential zone is not legal in New York. Probably unknown to Mr. Shea and the zoning commission, a similar Spot Zoning case was tried (Rod-

gers v. Village of Tarrytown) and the NY State Courts determined that “zoning must be part of a comprehensive plan for the “general welfare of the community” and not for the “benefit of an individual owner.” Since Supervisor Shea admitted that the location of the zone was determined at the request of the Lyons, it seems this mining district was not well considered as part of a comprehensive plan for the general welfare of the community but as an accommodation to the Lyons. For those not familiar with zoning ordinances, if the mining zone was really for the welfare of the community, the district could have been placed on any land the town chose and the owner could decide if they wanted to mine their land, which would allow a community’s vision for itself to be realized over time and different ownership.

Although nobody has challenged the town’s Spot Zoning, at a recent hearing the Lyons hired engineer, Glen Watson, argued that this zone is in fact for the benefit of the community, since Philipstown needs gravel and trucking emissions would be reduced by having it local. However, no evidence that the mine actually benefits our community or that trucking would be reduced has been offered. In fact, the more densely populated surrounding areas could easily come to the Lyons for gravel and increase trucking on our rural roads.

I believe the noise and disturbance of an operating mine, which has week-end hours and weekdays starting at 7am, in a residential zone is detrimental to our community and I would like to see our zoning board challenged on these grounds. Please join me in voicing our concerns at the next zoning hearing in Philipstown Town Hall on Monday June 11 at 7:30pm.

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Dam the Insurance

Village Board approves coverage including for reservoirs

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

In a brief session with little public attendance and no controversy, the Cold Spring Village Board Tuesday (June 5) approved a new \$76,223 insurance package, 3 percent cheaper than last year's.

Provided through the New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal, a program founded about 20 years ago by the New York Conference of Mayors, Association of Counties, and Association of Towns to offer insurance coverage to municipalities, the package covers everything from A (for village-owned automobiles) to Z (for zoning-related claims). One cause for concern comes under D -- for the dams that serve the Cold Spring reservoirs and fresh-water supply. Two dams, on the uppermost reservoirs in North Highlands, perhaps date back 160 years or more, for they once belonged to the water system the West Point Foundry used to run its machinery before shutting in 1911.

A summary from the Mahopac-based Spain Agency Inc., which handled the policy for the village, noted that Cold

Spring can turn to basic dam coverage from the National Flood Insurance Plan. Mayor Seth Gallagher said that the Spain Agency was able to augment that protection -- up to a point. "We have the initial coverage for \$2 million," he said. "But they were able to get us additional coverage on the dams, not to the full amount [advisable] but for \$5 million," so that altogether the village has about \$8 million in dam coverage. Gallagher said that the dams "are not in as good a shape as they could be. We need to do work on that." The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has informed the village, "you have to have this looked at ... do this, and this, and this," he added.

"If they were in better shape, it'd be possible to obtain better coverage?" Trustee Matt Francisco wondered.

"Yeh -- the goal is to get the full coverage," the mayor replied. "It's going to take a few years to complete the work" on the dams, however.

Butterfield Taxes

During a short bill-paying period, Gallagher observed that the village continues to reimburse money due after an erroneous tax bill charged Butterfield Realty LLC, the owner of the old Butterfield Hospital property, several years ago. According to the mayor, after the site, previously owned by a non-profit,



Cold Spring's uppermost reservoir dam

Photo by Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

went to commercial ownership, it was considered worth \$16 to \$18 in full assessed value and received a tax bill of some \$65,000, as if the derelict old hospital were occupied and generating revenue. Butterfield Realty LLC successfully contested the charge. Consequently, "we were out that [sum]. But the county made us whole and gave us that money," to address the sudden shortfall, Gallagher explained. "Basically, it's a loan for five years; it's very low interest. We have to give it back," paying about \$14,000 annually. "The balance right now is about \$43,000," Gallagher told the trustees.

Appointment to HDRB

In other business, the board unanimously endorsed the mayor's choice of Marie Early to fill a vacancy on the Historic District Review Board. The HDRB members themselves had suggested Thomas Ambrose for the post, but the mayor cited Early's long experience in the village as important, along with the fact that she is on the Special Board for a Comprehensive Plan-Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan and could thus be a liaison between the two boards.

Haldane Trustees Debate Sale of James Pond (from page 1)

ing in that direction. Board members have been cautious but there has with no vocal opposition to the idea.

Trustee Evan Schwartz may now be wavering however. "It's an awkward situation," he said, stating that if the school district were to propose developing the James Pond property it would likely face law suits from neighbors -- but that if those same neighbors were to purchase the property, they could "quadruple" their investment. "I don't want to be the guy who stops the sale and stops the field project," he said. When he commented that, "I don't feel I have enough information to make an informed decision," his fellow trustees were clearly frustrated. President Joe Curto indicated that all related information has been available for some time and suggested that Schwartz reread the appraisal of the property. He also said restrictions placed on the sale would still give Haldane access to the property for educational uses and that due to the nature of the property any development would be minimal. "If you want to keep a zero percent increase in taxes you need the land sale. Or, you need to find funds from other sources," Curto said.

Trustee Peter Henderson said he supports the land sale in principle but that he wants to hear from residents. "I've heard very little from the community,"

he said. Henderson said that in order to understand the limitations of the property he has walked the entire site and he asked Schwartz if he has done the same. Schwartz said he has not.

Curto suggested that trustees delay any decision on the property until the first meeting in July when the new board will be in place. Curto will no longer be a board member then, but said, "I'll still comment all I want."

Curto ends his tenure as trustee and school board president at the end of June and will be honored at the board's June 19 meeting. He stepped aside as chair of the June 5 meeting and asked Vice President Gillian Thorpe to deal with the agenda. Later in the meeting Thorpe indicated that Trustee Michael Junjulas, who was not in attendance due to an out of town commitment, has expressed interest in replacing Curto as president for 2012-13. Thorpe said she would like to stay on as vice president. Jon Champlin, who was elected trustee in May, sat at the table with board members and participated in discussions but did not vote. He begins his term on July 1.

Other business

Villanti reported that the School District took advantage of declining interest rates and its positive bond rating to refinance the debt it incurred in completing

major capital improvements in recent years. Villanti said the district was able to lower its interest rate from 4.5 percent to 2.5 percent resulting in a savings of \$51,900 next year alone. Over the term of the bond, which has 19 years remaining, savings in interest paid will total \$1,033,000. Roof repairs were a major part of the capital works.

Wayne Robinson, Haldane's director of facilities, who has overseen numerous such capital improvements, is retiring this summer and the search for his replacement is in full swing. "Wayne is going to be very difficult to replace," Villanti said. Three candidates are currently being considered.

The upgrading of the baseball fields located along Route 9D is going to have to wait a bit. Trustees accepted Villanti's recommendation to reject bids received from five companies because they were too high. Landscape Unlimited, Fourmen Construction, Sport-tech Construction, Bradhurst Site Construction and Yonkers Excavating submitted bids that ranged between \$281,130 and \$497,000. "I'm disappointed they came in above budget," Villanti said. "We'll modify the specs and re-bid." He said he is "more optimistic" that the next round of bids will be successful after having spoken recently with local contractors.

Many sports were on the minds of trustees as they approved 25 coaching positions for 2012-13. Coaches were approved for football, soccer, volleyball, cross country, tennis, weight training, basketball, track, baseball, lacrosse and golf. Stipends paid to head coaches range from \$3,059 for soccer to \$4,869 for football and boys' and girls' basketball. Coaches for modified teams, junior varsity teams and assistant coaches are paid stipends that range from \$1,852 for modified volleyball to \$4,351 for boys and girls junior varsity basketball. In addition, more than 50 co-curricular positions were approved for next year including a wide range of duties -- from department heads, band leaders and senior class advisor to proctors, tutors and stage crew. Stipends range from \$897 for

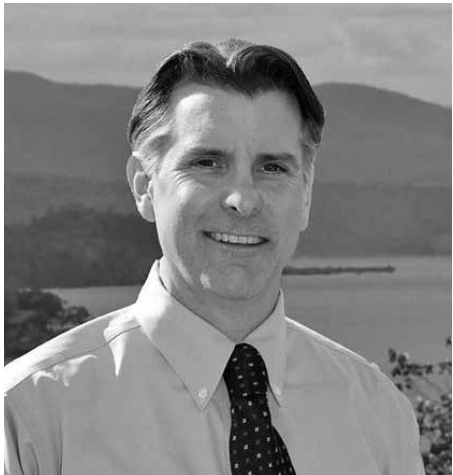
middle school team leaders to \$3,439 for dramatics. Tutors are paid at a rate of \$54.66 per hour.

The Haldane School Foundation has a proven track record of providing financial support to Haldane activities but Villanti singled out their latest donation as being above and beyond -- 2012 Spring Innovation grants totaling \$22,935. "In this economy, that is remarkable," he said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Local Dems Endorse Candidates

At their June 2 meeting, the Philipstown Democratic Committee endorsed the following candidates for state and local offices:



Terry Gipson

Terry Gipson for New York State Senate District 41

Sandy Galef (incumbent) for New York Assembly District 95

Steve Rosario for Putnam County Legislature, District 1

At the same meeting, longtime Chair Dorothy Gilman announced her retirement. She will continue to be a member of the Committee. The Committee elected Michael McKee to be the new Chair, Kim Conner to be Vice Chair and Margaret Yonco-Haines to be Recording Secretary.



Haldane trustees (l-r) Superintendent of Schools Mark Villanti, outgoing Board President Joe Curto and Vice President Gillian Thorpe

Butterfield Still Alive *(from page 1)*



Butterfield Hospital

Photo by Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

members Arne Saari and Richard Weissbrod tried to engage the mayor on the issues of traffic and parking and market-rate senior housing.

Saari questioned whether the plans to have government offices clustered in a municipal building could accommodate the parking needs of various services including the police, post office, courts, county, town and village offices as well as a senior citizens center. “Basically

you have a building everybody is going to drive to,” said Saari, who asked Gallagher if the Planning Board could confer with its consulting engineer in developing their view of the parking and resulting traffic issues.

Gallagher acknowledged a traffic study would eventually be needed but said he thought it premature given that the location of any planned buildings for the site had not been decided.

Weissbrod brought up the market-rate housing issue in the context of the tax impact which he said involved having full-property taxpayers cross-subsidizing proposed condo residents who would pay a lesser tax rate under state law. He also stressed that the village’s comprehensive plan called for housing to be tax-positive and he questioned whether the senior housing met that test.

Gallagher clearly did not want to argue the issue but intimated a position against market-rate housing was not sustainable from any perspective. He said that market-rate housing was more tax-positive than affordable housing, which was also proposed as part of the housing mix. “The public from their input is not against market-rate housing and we need to reach a solution,” he said.

The Planning Board scheduled a workshop on finalizing their report to the Village Board for Tuesday, July 12.

Earlier in the meeting, members of the public underscored some of the concerns underlying any consideration of the Butterfield outcome.

Joseph Immorlica, a former Planning

Board member, presented the board with a report emphasizing the aging demographic changes in America and with it the demand for more senior housing.

Judith Rose, a professional consultant on affordable housing projects, warned the Planning Board that affordable housing was a dicey proposition from a financial perspective. She said nearly every project in New York State and beyond, with which she is involved, is struggling to make its tax and financing commitments due to, among other factors, increased costs for insurance and utilities.

She said further that developers typically cut a deal with local governments for a payment in lieu of taxes for a set period such as 10 years. But after that period expires “then all hell breaks loose,” she said.

Aaron Freimark, who operates the Facebook page, *Better Butterfield*, raised the question of the availability of documents relating to Butterfield that ought to be in the public domain. He asked the board to find a way to post correspondence on the topic on the village website, which Barbaro said he would take up with the village clerk.

Haldane Teachers Take Center Stage

(from page 3)

are very involved — in everything from theater to lacrosse to chaperoning. They are very genuine people.”

Granted tenure were: Edward Crow, physical education and health; Simon Dudar, third grade; Sarah Grom, first grade; Michelle Hartford, fourth grade; Susan Kelly, K-12 music; Scott Many, high school social worker; Kelly McAvoy, 10th grade English and ACT preparation; Andrea McCue, special education and English; and Ada “Nadia” Hagan, a teaching assistant who works with stu-

dents in need of extra support in English.

Trustees approved hiring three full-time teachers, four summer school teachers and two per diem substitute teachers. “It’s a buyers market,” Villanti said, referring to the fact that Haldane typically receives about 300 applications for each teaching position. “If we can’t make good selections, shame on us. The candidates (hired) should be be very proud,” he said.

Danielle Gobbo will teach middle school English language arts. She has a Master of Science degree in English and

literacy from Fordham University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in secondary education/English from Manhattan College. Bruno Ribeiro will teach middle school and high school Spanish and has a Master’s degree in teaching and a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from Iona College. Ryan McConville, a Haldane graduate, will teach middle school social studies. He has a Master’s degree in education from CUNY Lehman College and a Bachelor of Arts degree in government/education from St. Lawrence University. Each of

the three new teachers was hired at Step 2 and will earn a base salary of \$52,189.

Andrea Saunders, Betsy Rasa, Gail Kroener and Simon Dudar were appointed to teach elementary summer school at a rate of \$2,434.47. Saunders will earn an additional \$2,434.47 for acting as program coordinator. Brooke Chadwick and Robert Morgan were appointed as per diem substitute teachers at a rate of \$88 per day.

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The Calendar



Carl Howell and Angela Janas in *Romeo and Juliet*

photo by William Marsh

Shakespeare Takes to the Tent on Tuesday

Special programs and discounts abound: Love’s Labour’s Lost, Romeo and Juliet and The 39 Steps

By Alison Rooney

*At Christmas I no more desire a rose
Than wish a snow in May’s new-fangled mirth;
But like of each thing that in season grows.*
~ Wm. Shakespeare, *Love’s Labour’s Lost*

This being June in Philipstown, in season grows Shakespeare, with the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival (HVSF) once again pegging their billowy tent at Boscobel for a season of new-fangled mirth, in the form of *Love’s Labour’s Lost* and (not by the bard) *The 39 Steps*. These two productions will alternate with *Romeo and Juliet* in a season beginning this coming Tuesday, June 12, and running through Sept. 2.

Continuing and expanding upon special programs introduced over recent seasons to enhance the theater-going experience, the “Happenings at the Festival,” special savings discounts and subscription series pricing now, put together, fill up a page of the 2012 brochure, dangling enticements both drinkable and fiscal, to local ticket-buyers. For specific dates on all of the programs described here, visit hvshakespeare.org/content/2012-calendar.

As always, special county and neighborhood nights allow four people per household to attend on specially designated nights for a 25 percent

discount; Putnam, Dutchess, Rockland, Westchester, and Orange, along with West Point residents, are included. These nights take place early in the season — in fact the season opens with a Putnam/Dutchess performance of *39 Steps* on June 12 — and are intended to generate the word of mouth which then attracts others, for according to HVSF Managing Director Abigail Adams, “we’ve found that after people come once, they’re hooked.” The county nights are also considered, says Adams, “a thank you to our community for supporting us and being so embracing.”

School-age local residents are invited to the Haldane/Garrison night at *Romeo and Juliet* on June 17 at a much-reduced ticket cost of \$18 for students, \$22 for adults. Tickets should be purchased through the box office.

Content for many of the programs is devised by HVSF Founding Artistic Director Terry O’Brien and Associate Artistic Director/Education Director Chris Edwards, along with Adams, to further the company’s goal of “forging a partnership with our audience, our community. We look to interactive events to reflect our style: fresh, alive and freewheeling,” says Adams.

Special events include the frequent Friday night pre-show wine tasting parties, which are “very social,” according to Adams. Themed tastings this year include vintages from the Verona region to tie in with *Romeo and Juliet*.

Sundays (most) bring “Caught in The Act,” in which actors join with the audience after the show and discuss how the production was launched, providing

(Continued on page 10)

Second Saturday Time in Beacon Tomorrow

The once-a-month co-mingling of gallery openings, special events and general conviviality that signals Second Saturday in Beacon takes place this Saturday, June 9. The following is a listing of what’s happening that day and night; for more details on the individual events and their exact location, visit beaconarts.org.

Cup and Saucer Tea House: new show by fine artist Sally Franklin debuts Saturdan June 9, through June 30

Beacon Arts member Carla Springer: Debut album release event, Howland Cultural Center, June 9 at 7 p.m.

bau 90: *High Society*, new work by Michael Gaydos, opening June 9, reception 6 to 9 p.m., through July 8

Hudson Valley Light – Oil paintings by Paul Abrams, RiverWinds Gallery June 9, opening reception 5 to 8 p.m.; through July 9

Marion Royael Gallery: Opening reception/party for James Gwynne, Alexander Percy exhibit – June 9, 6 to 10 p.m.

Beacon Arts Member Thom Joyce featured

(Continued on page 10)

MARINA GALLERY153 Main Street Cold Spring, NY 10516

GROUP SHOW

John Allen
Ada Cruz
Tim D'Acquisto
Barbara Smith Gioia
Grace Kennedy
Martee Levi
Maria Pia Marrella

James Murray
Ann Provan
David Provan
Ursula Schneider
Lucille Tortora
Marina Yashina

JUNE 8 - JULY 1, 2012

Reception for the Artists:
Friday, June 8th, 6 – 8:00 pm

Work on View: Thursdays to Sundays
12:00 – 6:00 pm (or by appointment)

themarinagallery.com

The Marina Gallery on Facebook

photo by Leah Palmer

SITTING on
the BENCH
❖ by Tara ❖



Many of my admirers have expressed curiosity about my early years and although I don't fully approve of the modern celebrity culture I feel I must satisfy their wishes. My first memory is of living in a cage with nothing to do but look at the other Lab puppy with me. Waiting, waiting for something to happen. And then it did.

Two people came and gazed at me through the bars. Now, mes amis, I'm no fool. I knew how to attract attention. I got up and furiously wagged my tail, wriggling my whole body with excitement. It's a bit obvious, even banal, but humans love that sort of thing because it satisfies their egos. They think, that animal recognizes my lovable superiority. The other puppy showed less enthusiasm and so, of course, they chose me.



We drove to my new home. The chauffeur was in front, of course, and I lay in the lap of the boss in the back. She held me as tight as a leash on a pit bull and I knew she loved me to distraction. That's when our bond started. The chauffeur was all right, trying to win my favor with treats and ear tickles, but the boss was the one. She introduced me to all sorts of things including the bench outside her store, the Country Goose, where for years I have kept a close watch on Main Street activities so that I could report anything interesting.

There's lots more, such as my favorite places for walks, like Dockside, which I'll get to next week but my editor says I have to stop so that the boss can promote her splendid array of goods.

Father's Day is fast approaching – June 17. The Goose has a large selection of BBQ goodies for the man of the house. Aprons, manly mitts, tongs, sauces, basting brushes and a lot more that can be put into a gift basket in a trice. So come on down to The Country Goose and pick out a gift.

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The Calendar



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

Scan the QR code above with your mobile device for more calendar details.

FRIDAY, JUNE 8

Health, Fitness & Outdoors

Glynwood Farm Tours
3 – 4:30 P.M. GLYNWOOD
362 Glynwood Rd., Cold Spring
(845) 265-3338 | glynwood.org

Theater & Film

County Players Falls Theatre Annual Meeting & One-Act Play
2681 W. Main St., Wappingers Falls
(845) 298-1491 | www.countyplayers.org.

The Way of the World play
8 – 10:30 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN DEPOT THEATRE
10 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
(845) 424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org
Tickets: \$25/adult; \$20/senior. Order at brownpapertickets.com.

Steve Jobs: The Lost Interview film
7:30 P.M. PARAMOUNT CENTER FOR THE ARTS
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
(914) 739-2333 | paramountcenter.org
Tickets: \$7 Members; \$9 General Public

Music

Fred Gillen
8 - 11 P.M. WHISTLING WILLIE'S
184 Main St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-2012 | whistlingwillies.com

Vinyl Night
8 P.M. TAS KAFE
504 Main St., Beacon
(845) 522-1510 | taskafe.com

Skin Against Metal Afro Cuban Jazz Trio
8 P.M. PEEKSKILL COFFEE HOUSE
101 S. Division St., Peekskill
(914) 739-1287 | peekskillcoffee.com

The Persuasions
9 P.M. TURNING POINT MUSIC CAFE
468 Piermont Ave., Piermont
(845) 359-1089 | turningpointcafe.com
Tickets: \$35

Meetings & Lectures

Garrison Institute Foundations of Contemplative Practice Retreat
FRIDAY – SUNDAY GARRISON INSTITUTE
14 Mary's Way, Route 9D, Garrison
(845) 424-4800 | garrisoninstitute.org

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

Kids & Community

Cold Spring Farmers' Market
8:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M. BOSCOBEL
1601 Route 9D, Garrison | csfarmmarket.org

Food Pantry
9 A.M. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILIPSTOWN
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

PARC Putnam County Secret Garden Tour Benefit
10 A.M. – 4 P.M. VARIOUS PRIVATE GARDENS
Tickets sold 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. day of event at Butterfield Library, Cold Spring.
Tickets: \$40 day of event/\$125 day of event for Frank Lloyd Wright homes
(845) 278-7272 Ext. 287 | partnerswithparc.org

American Cancer Society's Relay for Life Philipstown NY
10 A.M. – 10 P.M. MAYOR'S PARK
Fair Street, Cold Spring
(845) 265-3508 | relayforlife.org/philipstownny

Hudson Highlands Land Trust's Family Festival & Sleep Over Under the Stars
4 P.M. CLAUDIO MARZOLLO COMMUNITY CENTER OF PHILIPSTOWN
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison | (845) 424-3358
hhlt.org | Festival/BBQ admission: \$15 advance/\$20 door; \$30 advance/\$40 door per family; \$55 per camping family; Camping families must pre-register.

Health, Fitness & Outdoors

Philipstown Soccer Club Tryouts for Girls U11 & U12 Teams (Born 8/1/00-7/31/03)
10:30 A.M. PHILIPSTOWN PARK
1239 Route 9D, Garrison (845) 222-0676 | philipstownsoccer.org

June in Bloom – Garden Walk With Wine & Cheese Reception
5 – 7 P.M. STONECROP GARDENS
81 Stonecrop Lane, Garrison
(845) 265-2000 | stonecrop.org
Admission: \$25 (members \$20)
Reservations required.

Art & Design

Gallery Talk - Fionn Meade on Joseph Beuys
2 P.M. DIA: BEACON
3 Beekman St., Beacon
(845) 440-0100 | www.diaart.org

Second Saturday Arts Celebration
GALLERIES AND SHOPS OPEN UNTIL 9 P.M.
Main Street, Beacon
info@beaconarts.org | beaconarts.org

"Hudson Valley Light" – Oil Paintings by Paul Abrams Opening Reception
5 – 8 P.M. RIVERWINDS GALLERY
172 Main Street, Beacon | (845) 838-2880
riverwindsgallery.com

Theater & Film

Studio B Year-End Dance Recital
3 P.M. ROMBOUT MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
84 Matteawan Road, Beacon
(845) 226-8099 | thebeacontheatre.org
Tickets: \$10

The Way of the World play
See details under Friday.

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival Celebration
5 – 7 P.M. BOSCOBEL
1601 Route 9D, Garrison(845) 809-5750
hvshakespeare.org | Tickets: \$200/person

Monty Python and the Holy Grail film
9:30 P.M. THE BEACON THEATRE
445 Main St., Beacon | (845) 226-8099
thebeacontheatre.org | Admission: \$5

Music

Talea Ensemble Concert
5 – 6:30 P.M. STORM KING ART CENTER
1 Museum Rd., New Windsor
(845) 534-3115 | stormking.org

Rock Around the Clock Block Party
6 p.m. – 11 p.m.
Main Street, Village of Fishkill
(845) 896-5420 | fishkillbusinessassociation.org

Carla Springer: Debut Album Release Event
7:30 P.M. HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER
477 Main St., Beacon
(845) 901-6820 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Drew Sienna
8 - 11 P.M. WHISTLING WILLIE'S
184 Main St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-2012 | whistlingwillies.com

Little River Band
8 P.M. PARAMOUNT CENTER FOR THE ARTS
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
(914) 739-2333 | paramountcenter.org
Tickets: \$25 - \$45



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Meetings & Lectures

Free Computer Help
2 – 3 P.M. DESMOND-FISH LIBRARY
472 Route 403, Garrison
(845) 424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

SUNDAY, JUNE 10

Kids & Community

Beacon Flea Market
8 A.M. – 3 P.M. HENRY STREET PARKING LOT
6 Henry St., Beacon
(845) 202-0094 | beaconflea.blogspot.com

Beacon Sloop Club's Strawberry Festival
NOON – 5 P.M. RIVERFRONT PARK
Red Flynn Dr., Beacon
info@beaconsloopclub.org | beaconsloopclub.org

Cub Scout Pack 137 of Philipstown Annual BBQ
1 P.M. – 3 P.M. MAYOR'S PARK
Fair Street, Cold Spring
(845) 235-1234 | cubscoutpack137.org
Call to RSVP.

Health, Fitness & Outdoors

Garden Conservancy Open Day With Tea in the Garden
10 A.M. – 5 P.M. STONECROP GARDENS
81 Stonecrop Lane, Garrison
(845) 265-2000 | stonecrop.org
Tea & cake available for purchase, 12 – 4 p.m.
Admission: \$5 (members free)

Art & Design

Light & Movement Family Program
1 P.M. STORM KING ART CENTER
1 Museum Rd., New Windsor
(845) 534-3115 | stormking.org

Theater & Film

Gourmet Picnic & Special Encore Performance of *The Way of the World*
4:30 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN DEPOT THEATRE
10 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
(845) 424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.com
Tickets: Picnic & show \$100; Picnic only \$75;
Student picnic \$40.
Order at brownpapertickets.com.

The Buccaneer film
7 P.M. BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
(845) 265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Music

Singer/Songwriter Elaine Romanelli
1 P.M. PEEKSKILL COFFEE HOUSE
101 S. Division St., Peekskill
(914) 739-1287 | peekskillcoffee.com



Oil Painting by Paul Abrams at RiverWinds Gallery in Beacon

Noo Moves Entertainment's Artist Appreciation Showcase: Hip Hop/Spoken Word/R & B
4 P.M. BEANRUNNER CAFE
201 S. Division St., Peekskill | (914) 737-1701
beanrunnercafe.com | Admission: \$5

Anita Merando Sings Jazz Standards
5 - 8 P.M. WHISTLING WILLIE'S
184 Main St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-2012 | whistlingwillies.com

Guggenheim Grotto
7:30 P.M. TOWNE CRIER CAFE
130 Route 22, Pawling
(845) 855-1300 | townecrier.com
Tickets: \$20 advance/\$25 door

MONDAY, JUNE 11

Health, Fitness & Outdoors

Yoga With a View
6 – 7:15 P.M. BOSCOBEL
1601 Route 9D, Garrison
(845) 265-3638 | boscobel.org
Admission: \$17

Music

Jazz Open Jam Session
8 P.M. TURNING POINT MUSIC CAFE
468 Piermont Ave., Piermont
(845) 359-1089 | turningpointcafe.com
Cost: \$5

Meetings & Lectures

Congressional Candidates Forum
7 P.M. NORTH HIGHLANDS FIRE HOUSE,
COMMUNITY ROOM 504
Fishkill Road, Cold Spring

Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
7:30 P.M. TOWN HALL
238 Main St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-5200 | philipstown.com

TUESDAY, JUNE 12

Music

Fred Eaglesmith's Traveling Show
8 P.M. TURNING POINT MUSIC CAFE
468 Piermont Ave., Piermont
(845) 359-1089 | turningpointcafe.com
Tickets: \$30

Meetings & Lectures

Philipstown Conservation Advisory Council
7:30 P.M. TOWN HALL
238 Main St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-5200 | philipstown.com

Cold Spring Board of Trustees Meeting
7:30 P.M. VILLAGE HALL
85 Main St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13

Music

Open Mic
8 - 11 P.M. WHISTLING WILLIE'S
184 Main St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-2012 | whistlingwillies.com

Meetings & Lectures

Philipstown Town Board Workshop
7:30 P.M. TOWN HALL
238 Main St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-5200 | philipstown.com

Cold Spring Historic District Review Board
8 P.M. VILLAGE HALL
85 Main St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-3611 | coldspringny.gov


Garrison Board of Education Meeting
7:30 P.M. GARRISON SCHOOL
1100 Route 9D, Garrison
(845) 424-3689 | gufs.org

THURSDAY, JUNE 14

Kids & Community

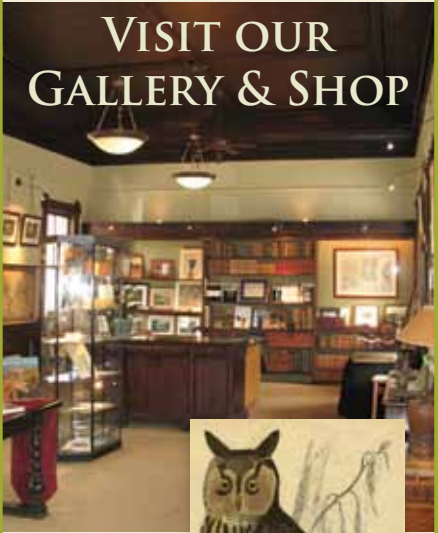
Bouncing Babies
10 – 11 A.M. BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
(845) 265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org



(Continued on page 10)




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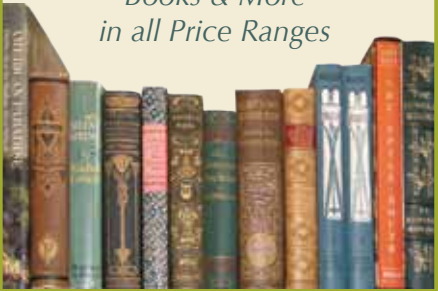


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SATURDAY-SUNDAY 1-5PM

The Calendar (from page 9)

Tail Waggin' Tutors
4 – 6 P.M. DESMOND-FISH LIBRARY
472 Route 403, Garrison
(845) 424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org
Call for reservations.

Music

Open Mic Night
8:30 P.M. 12 GRAPES
12 N. Division St., Peekskill
(914) 737-6624 | 12grapes.com

Meetings & Lectures

North Highlands Fire District Regular Meeting
7 P.M. NORTH HIGHLANDS FIRE HOUSE 504
FISHKILL Road, Cold Spring
(845) 265-7285 | nhfd21.org

Highland Falls-Ft. Montgomery Board of Education Meeting
7 P.M. JAMES I. O'NEILL HIGH SCHOOL
21 Morgan Rd., West Point (845) 446-4914
hffmcsd.org

Cold Spring Special Board for a Comprehensive Plan
7:30 P.M. VILLAGE HALL
85 Main St., Cold Spring (845) 265-3611 |
coldspringny.gov

Lakeland Board of Education Meeting
7:30 P.M. ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
1086 E. Main St., Shrub Oak
(914) 245-1700

Second Saturday Time in Beacon Tomorrow (from page 7)

in *Music on the Squares*, Second Saturday, 1 p.m., June 9, corner of Cross and Main Streets
Blackbird Attic: Julianna Swaney – *Secret Messages*, opening June 9; exhibit thru July 9.
Dia:Beacon Gallery Talks – Fionn Meade on Joseph Beuys, June 9, @ 2 p.m.
Zero Waste garden tour: June 9 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Faith in Art Gallery Opening: *Who Do You Say That I Am?* – *Discovering Images of God-with-Us in the Gospel of Luke*, First Presbyterian Church, June 9, 4 to 6 p.m.

Hudson Beach Glass – Donald Alter: *Chromatic Tales – Part 1 and 2 Paintings, Drawings, Prints* through July 5
Max's On Main Update – Live music in the evening
Scenic Hudson's River Center – Second Annual Great Hudson River Exhibition, through June 24
Mad Dooley Gallery - Melissa McGill, *Recent Projects*, extended through June 10
Vintage Cafe Open Late on Second Saturdays
Harnessing the Hudson, Waterwheels to Turbines, at Beacon Institute Gallery, through Oct. 7

Shakespeare Takes to the Tent on Tuesday (from page 7)

backstage anecdotes. With many actors returning season after season and thus very familiar to the audience, an opportunity is always provided for people to ask a question of their favorite. Usually at least half the audience stays for the talkback.
Social media, in the form of the Festival's Facebook and Twitter pages, lead the way on another initiative designed to draw younger audiences to Shakespeare. Funded by \$20,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, a series of events, largely publicized online, has been designed around the performances, with the goal of "exploring the reasons why we attend theater and what is gained from the experiences."
Younger-still audience members are the targets of the three Tuesday Family Nights, which feature a pre-show interactive workshop with festival actors built around a theme from each show. As an example, at last year's *Around The World in 80 Days* workshop, participants, in a harbinger of what was about to occur on stage, were asked to improvise a variety of different characters, using just one prop, in different ways. Children must be at least five years old to participate, and, in fact to attend any of the performances. The discounted cost is \$90 for a family of four.

Other discount bundles, all offering 25 percent off, include a three-play Preview Bargain Package; a Weeknight Package, attending all three plays on any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from June 12 to July 8; and, new this year (as are the Monday performances themselves), a Monday Night Package, offered solely in August.

The season is framed by two lawn parties, fundraisers to which the community is invited. The first takes place once the third production has opened; June 30 this year. A closing party takes place after the last Saturday night performance, Sept. 1. Both parties take place on the Boscobel lawn and feature food, wine, and live music. A separate benefit, also at Boscobel, is to take place on June 9 (this Saturday), and Adams calls it "...a blast. Actors do scenes from the season, there is a live auction, HVSF-style with the actors reading the description of the items, and 'Lord Capulet' is the host." This year's party will be Italian-themed. Tickets, which were still available as of this writing, can be purchased through the HVSF website.
Again this year, theatergoers will be able to purchase catered picnic meals from Cold Spring's Main Course, and the all-new menu has been expanded for 2012 (the HVSF website has details.) New this season, patrons can avoid the concession stand intermission lines by pre-ordering (upon arrival) and pre-paying, and the drinks or meals will be waiting, with no delay, at intermission.
Also back again is the "In Process" adjunct season, where festival actors perform at the Depot Theatre on their days off, in events ranging from an evening of Theater Sports to a 10-minute play festival, and an encore of actor Jason O'Connell's one-man show The Dork Night. The Depot website, philipstowndepottheatre.org, will have full details when all is confirmed.
For more information on all of these special events and pricing, along with full descriptions of the shows themselves, visit hvshakespeare.org or phone the box office at 845-265-9575.



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Susan English: *Aequora Poured* at Skylight Gallery

By Jennifer Mankiewicz

Editor's Note: Philipstown artists Susan English and Sheilah Rechtschaffer are currently featured as two-thirds of a three-person exhibition at the Skylight Gallery in Chelsea. Curator and artist Jennifer Mankiewicz recently visited the exhibition and discusses English's work in this essay; her thoughts on Rechtschaffer's work will follow in a separate story. Details on the exhibit can be found at the conclusion.



Susan English *Aequora Poured* #31
Photo courtesy Susan English

I recently visited Susan English in her studio as she was preparing for her latest show. Susan works in distinct series, stretching a concept as she moves through the series until ideas are exhausted or it leads to the next series. There is always a moment of heightened anticipation entering her studio because I never quite know what I'll encounter. It's never a disappointment.

When I first met Susan English in

2001, she was exploring a simple hourglass shape. There were drawings, lines repeated and worked over with a light but definite hand. Sometimes, they were paired like two shelved goblets. Sometimes the line stretched to every edge, making a fat, luscious fruit. Contrasting background color, rich and earthy, provided a strong support for the curvilinear forms.

A decade later, the form reappeared in the *Poured Shapes* series. It had been pulled and stretched like putty into something nearly unrecognizable, long and sinuous, and was standing (or hanging, as it were) on its own. The color was vibrant. Susan drew the hourglass shapes with as a single open-ended curve, flipped vertically and horizontally to make a symmetrical, whole form. Later, she would start with a square surface, scribe and cut out a curve along 2 adjoining edges and attach them to the opposite sides. As the form dissolved, the curving outline was reimagined as the edge itself. The series of small works, of similar shapes that retain their sense of square, are luscious in a different way. Not in the fullness of shape but in depth of color and texture. Their size and silky color evoke sugar-dusted confections of pistachio, apricot and rosewater. The desire to touch the slick and shiny surface lends an even more intimate and sensual feel.

As Susan became more interested in the manipulation of the surface, she simplified the shape.

In the *Aequora:Poured* series, the curve is altogether eliminated and the surface is poured directly onto a square support. The colors are subdued, gentle,

but not without presence or purpose. In contrast to the *Hourglass* series, there is an ethereal quality. Pieces poured with a gradient field seem like the edge of a shallow pond, colored with microscopic life teeming below the surface. The larger works have a more atmospheric essence. I've always been drawn to 17th century Dutch landscapes with skies filled with broiling clouds and low horizons. I am similarly drawn to the most recent of the *Aequora* series, with narrow dark horizons under a sky heavy with the heat of late summer or the last light of a setting sun. Through the manipulation of transparent layers of pigment and medium, she is creating paintings with a depth and clarity of color that rival not only Ruisdael, but the Hudson River School.

Indeed, Susan is a member of the New School. Not a painter of *plein-air* view, but of the magnificent light and atmosphere that residents of the Hudson River Valley know well. Following on the heels of the Civil War, the still and peaceful landscapes of the Hudson River School may be seen as a reaction to a tumultuous time. Perhaps the meditative essence of Susan's work has more in common with the School and our world than she is consciously aware.

I look forward to my next visit.



Susan English *Aequora Poured* #25
Photo courtesy Susan English

Jennifer Mackiewicz is an independent curator, artist, and writer living in Beacon. She came to Beacon through DIA working for the Michael Heizer [sculptor whose work is part of the permanent collection there] Studio as artist's assistant and operations manager.

From Skylight Gallery's press release: "Vistas is a panoramic view of artists Colin Barclay, Susan English and Sheilah Rechtschaffer and their differing approach to the emotional impact of nature on the human mind." The exhibition opened on May 14 and runs through June 23. Skylight Gallery is located at 538 West 29th St., New York City. For more information, including hours, visit skylightgallerynyc.com or phone 646-772-2407.

ARTtots Pre-K Summer Program Debuts at Garrison Art Center

Three one-week sessions for budding artists

Garrison Art Center is launching a summer arts program for Pre-K kids, ages 2, 3 and 4. Budding artists will explore ways to talk about, visualize and represent their world through drawing, painting, sculpture, print-making, art appreciation and even color theory. Demonstrations from Art Center teaching artists will provide additional inspiration for these ARTtots.

The three themed weeks can be taken individually or as a series, culminating in building a three-dimensional exhibit of their art — and, of course, a celebration. Each day's art curriculum will be rounded out with singing, story time, and a healthy snack.

The sessions will last from July 17 to Aug. 2, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The cost is \$80 per three-morning week, with a discount of \$5 for siblings, and \$220 for all three weeks, with a \$10 discount per sibling. Two-year-olds and those in diapers must attend with an adult.

The Garrison Art Center is located at 23 Garrison's landing, a short walk from the Garrison station on the Metro North line. For more information please visit www.garrisonartcenter.org or call 845-424-3960.

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



Photo courtesy of Garrison Art Center

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‘Singing for Spirit’ with the Members of BlisSing

by Christine Simek

BlisSing, the name of the mellifluous duo Cat Guthrie and Eileen O’Hare, gets its inspiration from the ancient practice of kirtan, a call and response chanting custom performed in India’s devotional traditions. Kirtan is a form of Bhakti (or devotional) yoga that involves the repetition of hymns and mantras accompanied by an acoustic guitar, a harmonium, hand cymbals and drums. Kirtan is also a kind of vocalized spiritual practice which is believed, by its practitioners, to be a ‘shortcut to bliss.’ Throughout the year, Guthrie and O’Hare host BlisSing events at their YogaSong studio in Garrison as well as at other venues around the region.

BlisSing was founded several years ago after O’Hare, a shamanic healer and spiritual teacher who lives in Beacon, attended a kirtan event in the city and was so touched by the experience that she came home and insisted to Guthrie that they start a group of their own. Already a Yoga teacher and musical performer living in Garrison, Guthrie was thrilled to have an opportunity to use her voice in a way that wasn’t focused on pleasing an audience but was, instead, about “... singing for spirit and a divine connection. BlisSing is not about the external gratification of a performance,” she says, “it’s not about sounding good, it’s about sounding. It’s about the heart, not the brain.”

Music and song are two of humanity’s universally binding mediums and their existence can be traced throughout every known language, religion and



Eileen O’Hare and Cat Guthrie

Photo courtest of the artists

culture. The ancient Egyptians said that the god Osiris used music in his effort to civilize the world. American slaves disguised work songs along the Underground Railroad to propagate the map to freedom. For centuries, people have huddled around campfires and on porches, in temples and in cemeteries and engaged in song to enrich their celebrations, ease their grief and more fully understand their lives. According to Guth-

rie and O’Hare, singing together is a lost tradition and one that, if rediscovered, could prove beneficial in these busy and sometimes turbulent times we live in.

“We’ve lost the fine art of singing,” Guthrie says. “Nobody sings together. We used to be a community of singers. In the summer, people would gather on porches with their banjos and guitars and sing every night. Friends and neighbors would just wander by and join in. That doesn’t happen anymore.” And because it doesn’t happen--because we don’t sing — Guthrie concludes, we’ve lost something.

What, exactly, do they think has been lost? O’Hare says that we’ve lost connection--to ourselves, to one another and to

“At the center of every tradition is love, love, love. It just gets covered up by many rules and regs.”

the world around us. Any sense of fellowship and community, she says, gets lost in the fast-paced world we live in. “The isolation of our culture can make us feel sick. We’re encouraged to participate in someone else’s creativity — from a distance. We’re focused on consumption. We live our lives passively; in front of computers and on cell phones.” O’Hare says that when folks attend one of the BlisSing events they actively engage with their voices and with themselves and, as a result, are able become a part of something greater. “[Singing] creates a connection inside of you, inside of the room and inside of the community,” she says.

If the word kirtan sounds exotic enough, the idea of singing anywhere but in your shower might seem downright intimidating. Guthrie and O’Hare, however, insist that every voice is welcome and fully embraced at BlisSing events. Sitting with them at Hudson Hil’s one sunny morning last week, it is easy to trust this sincerity. Their gently candid speaking style, frequently punctuated by bursts of euphonious laughter, seems to transmit tranquility across the teacup cluttered table between us. When I ask them about attending an event their already twinkling eyes begin to dance. “You must!” they say. “You don’t even have to sing! Just come and listen!”

Creating a safe and healing community so that people will come and raise

their voices together in song is one of the principal intentions of BlisSing. Both Guthrie and O’Hare have heard countless stories of people who were told that they could not sing and have ended up depressed and silent and stuck. “People, not just performers, have been told to be quiet their whole lives,” O’Hare says. “But everyone’s got something to offer,” she insists. “And we do want to hear from them.”

BlisSing hopes to provide folks with the space and opportunity to heal. “When you come [to BlisSing],” she continues, “you have an opportunity to step into the greatness of who you are just by using your voice.”

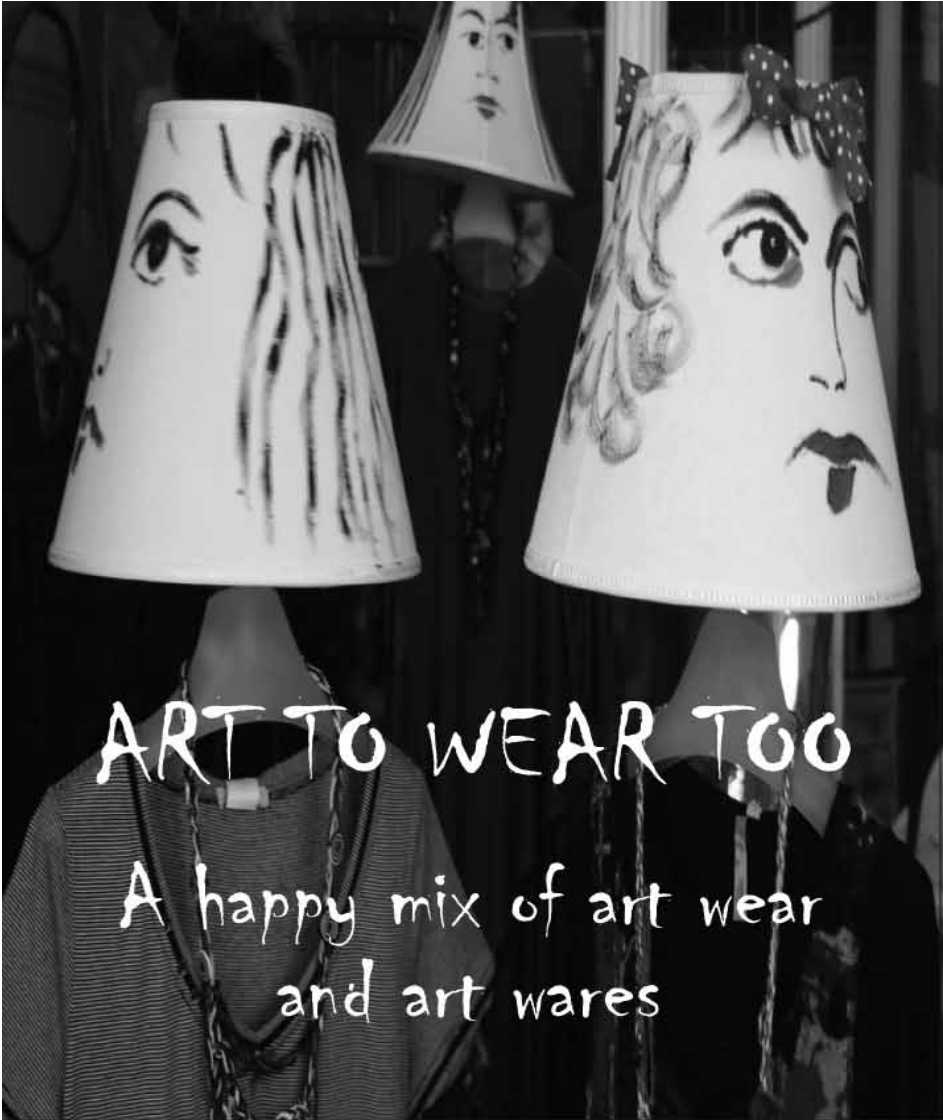
The chants at BlisSing are sung in different languages and come from various traditions around the world including Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Christianity, Judaism and several Native American cultures, but their use is free of dogma. “We don’t say, ‘you have to believe this’ we say, ‘this is who we are singing to now [whether it be Ganesha or God or Jesus]; connect to it however you choose,” says Guthrie.

O’Hare adds, “At the center of every tradition is love, love, love. It just gets covered up by many rules and regs.” At BlisSing, she says, there is no information and therefore no opportunity for disagreement; just song and a connection with the vibrations that accompany the song.

Guthrie says that people tell her that they use the chants in their everyday lives, when they need emotional or mental stability amid everyday stressors such as work and kids and emails and mortgage payments and worries about the price of oil. “People can imprint these chants into the brain so when they need to, they can click on that frequency — not on the worried thoughts,” she says.

Some BlisSing events are free, others are donation-based, and some that are held outside of their space in Garrison have a fixed fee, but Guthrie and O’Hare don’t want cost to be a prohibitive factor for people. “Just pay what you can,” they say. “We’re going to sing no matter what.” O’Hare concludes, “We just want to feel better. And we want other people to feel better. It’s really just as simple as that.”

BlisSing’s schedule can be found online at blissingchant.com.



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Submissions Accepted for Aery Theatre 20/20 Play Competition

Send in a short play for consideration by July 16th

The Aery Theatre Company, in association with the Philipstown Depot Theatre, is accepting submissions for the 6th Annual Aery Theatre 20/20 Play Festival Competition. Submissions must be postmarked no later than Monday, July 16, 2012. The Festival will be presented at the Depot Theatre from Sept. 7 to 16.

The Aery Theatre Company was founded by Patrick J. Lennon in 2006 to develop and produce original dramas written, directed and performed by local artists. Richard E. Knipe, Jr., winner of multiple one-act playwriting awards, was appointed artistic director in 2007. The 20/20 Play Festival has been established, with funding from the Putnam Arts Council and sponsorship of the Garrison's Landing Association, to present audiences with short, quality plays from promising new playwrights, while offering a professional venue for theater artists. The Philipstown Depot Theatre is festival co-producer.

Twenty short plays (20 minutes or less) will be initially selected among submissions from all over the area by a panel of judges. Aery Theatre's bi-monthly workshops will be made available for further development of these plays, if necessary. Of those twenty selected, the twelve deemed most stage-worthy will be presented at each of the first three shows, Sept. 7, 8 and 9. Two plays from each group will move into the semi-finals on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 14 and 15, of the second weekend. Two shows each will then be chosen from these semi-final performances for the finals on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 16. Cash prizes totaling up to \$700 will be awarded in various categories.

Playwrights (or their representatives) are responsible for the production of their plays, including casting, rehearsals, props, etc., with the theater providing limited sets, lighting and sound equipment, and production staff.

Submissions must be typed in play-script format and be no more than 20 (numbered) pages and in a font size no smaller than 12-point. Only plays with a

running time of 20 minutes or less will be eligible for prizes. Plays that run beyond 20 minutes, or that are presented with significant changes in script upon presentation, may be subject to disqualification.

Submissions must include playwright contact information, be postmarked by July 16, 2012, and accompanied by a \$15 reading fee check (per script) made out to the Aery Theatre Company. Playwright selectees will be notified in late July 2011. Early submissions may receive early notification. A maximum of two submissions per playwright will be accepted. There will be a mandatory pre-production meeting for all playwrights or their representatives in early August. Plays will not be returned without an accompanying self-addressed stamped envelope.

Submissions should be mailed to Aery Theatre 20/20 Play Festival, c/o Philipstown Depot Theatre, P.O. Box 221, Garrison's Landing, Garrison, NY, 10524. Emailed/faxed submissions are unacceptable. Please do not include playwright resumes, as these will be

discarded. Additional inquiries may be made to plennon122@aol.com. A form, which must accompany all submissions, may be downloaded from www.philipstowndepottheatre.org.



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Philipstown's Putnam County Bicentennial Celebration

*Sunday, June 10, 2012
Noon – 7 p.m.
(Along Main Street in Cold Spring)*

- Wells Fargo Stagecoach on view: Noon – 6 p.m., at foot of Main Street. (A musical group will escort coach down Main Street, around 11 a.m.)
- Trolley runs through village and outlying areas: Noon – 6 p.m.
- Choral groups and musicians performing along Main Street, continuously: Noon – 6 p.m.
- “War of 1812” Re-enactors on St. Mary’s lawn (off Main Street): Noon – 2:45 p.m.
- Putnam County’s Birthday Party at Cold Spring’s Main Street firehouse: 3 p.m. – Troop 437 Boy Scouts’ flag raising, Cold Spring Pipe & Drum, Proclamation ceremonies, with an appearance by “General Israel Putnam” and local leaders
- Jonathan Kruk, Storytelling for Children on St. Mary’s lawn: 4 – 4:45 p.m.
- A full-length motion picture, The Buccaneer, at Cold Spring’s Butterfield Library, Morris Avenue, 7 p.m.

Tentative Time Schedules for Choral Groups and Musicians:

- Violinist, Civil War Skit: Noon – 1 p.m., Cold Spring municipal building, 85 Main St.
- Instrumental Ensembles from Haldane School: 1 – 2 p.m., Cold Spring municipal building
- St. Mary’s Choir: 2 – 3 p.m., Cold Spring municipal building
- Taped: Dixieland, 1920s and Big Band selections: 3 – 4 p.m., Cup-O-Ccino Café, 92 Main St.
- The Hudson River Ramblers – (J. Kruk, R. Bala) “Stories and Songs of Olde Putnam and the Hudson River: 12:45 – 1:30 p.m. and 2 – 2:45 p.m., Hudson Valley Outfitters, 62 Main St.
- Tentative: 4 – 5 p.m., Frozenberry, 116 Main St.

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Tech tools help Garrison students prepare for presentation and performance

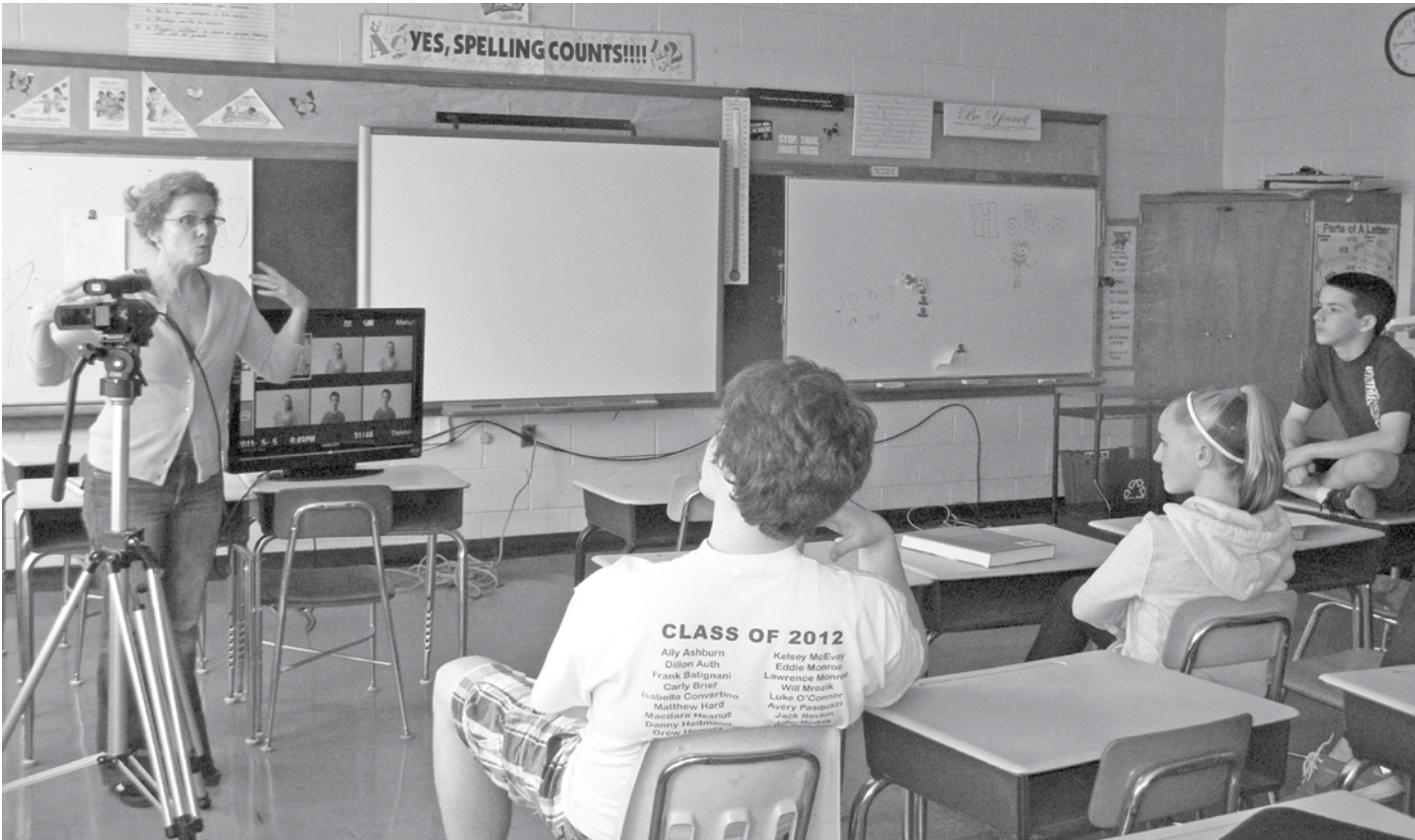
By Mary Ann Ebner

Garrison Middle School eighth-grader Luke O'Connor may be preparing for his 2012 graduation, but as the calendar turns ahead with summer vacation in close range, O'Connor continues to focus on learning skills that will help him as he enters the next stage of life. Technology exists all around, and O'Connor is among a group of Garrison students who have embraced tech tools to improve presentation skills. The students have been using cameras, microphones, display monitors, and editing equipment to polish their presentation and performance abilities.

As part of the middle school's elective courses, students are studying "On Camera," which introduces them not only to the production side of presentation and performance, but gives them the opportunity to act on camera. The students know their instructor as Mrs. Convertino, but Philipstown readers may recognize her as Liz Keifer, or perhaps "Blake," the character she portrayed on screen during a long run of *Guiding Light*. On the school campus, she's Liz Convertino, wrapping up her second semester of the course which is sponsored in part by the Garrison Children's Education Fund.

"The kids are really thriving and becoming comfortable speaking," Convertino said. "Presentation is acting, and they're speaking through the use of the Internet. Some of them are hearing their voice for the first time."

Convertino's students may transfer their polished speaking skills to the stage and screen, and opportunities reach be-



Liz (Keifer) Convertino reviews on-camera acting technique with Garrison Middle School students.

Photo by M.A. Ebner

yond acting to other arenas. These young students may go on to enter scholarship competitions as well as apply for college admissions by creating video and audio submissions, and being comfortable on camera may help applicants represent their best selves.

In class, the students critique each other from improvised scenes displayed on a large monitor. "I started off looking everywhere," one of the students recognized about herself on camera. "That was when I was imagining I was speaking to a preschooler," she recalled. "When you're talking to someone older,

you want to be calm."

Convertino sees that her students are grasping the concept of self confidence, and adds her own comments to their delivery and on-screen abilities. "Watch your hands," she counsels, "and notice how you're looking down. Eyes should be focused."

Members of the class may aspire to take their talents to act on the stage and screen, or work behind the scenes to bring the magic together.

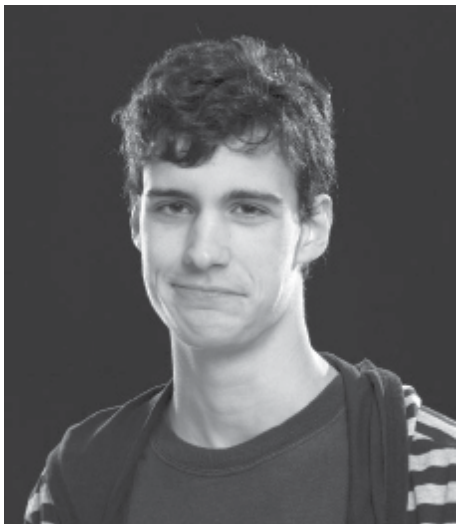
"I've learned a lot in this class," O'Connor said. "I love acting, and I've learned so much about the editing process."

Garrison School principal Stephanie Impellittere said there is a lot of positive movement in the elective course.

"I think it's a fabulous program," Impellittere said. "When students get to the middle school level they have heavy academics, but they have an interesting curiosity to explore many learning opportunities."

As for the teacher, experienced on both sides of the camera, she knows a good take from a bad take, both valuable learning tools. Convertino teaches her students to learn from successful takes as well as tumbles.

Downey and Froats Graduate from Oakwood School



Oakwood graduates Kyle Downey and Audrey Froats

Photo courtesy of Oakwood School

Two high school seniors from Philipstown will graduate from the Oakwood Friends School in Poughkeepsie on Friday, June 8. Kyle Downey, of Garrison, and Audrey Froats, of Cold Spring are among a graduating class of 32.

Froats and Downey have been Oakwood Friends students since ninth grade. Froats will be attending the State University of New York at Geneseo and Downey will be a freshman this fall at Skidmore College.

Commencement at Oakwood Friends is different than at most area schools. The night before, there is a senior class dinner with faculty, friends and family. After the dinner, all go to a candlelit meeting for worship where some participants, after silent contemplation, are moved to speak extemporaneously.

All students, not just the seniors, at-

tend graduation the next morning. It is held outdoors, under a sprawling copper beech tree on the grounds of the school. After family and friends find their chairs, students from sixth to eleventh grades, plus faculty and staff, enter and take their seats. Pomp and Circumstance stirs, and the seniors file in, in a processional of two lines. The graduates sit in front of the tree facing the audience. Speeches by those other than graduates are limited, saving time for one of the more unusual aspects of an Oakwood Friends School commencement: each graduate speaks for up to three minutes, in an often-emotional reflection on her or his years there.

Oakwood Friends School, founded in 1796, is an independent, coeducational, college preparatory day and boarding school serving grades 6-12, located in Poughkeepsie.

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Alexander Calder Comes Alive for Haldane Students



Maia Keller creating a mobile with "Alexander Calder" Photo courtesy of Haldane

Performance utilized mime, masks, puppetry and music to re-create art works

In conjunction with their study of the artist, Haldane Elementary school students enjoyed a special art experience with performances of *Calder Re-Wired*. Actor Carlton VanPyrz made Alexander Calder come alive for the children. The young artists explored Calder's life and art during their art classes prior to the shows.

Jean Cendali, their art teacher, stated, "The children love Calder's playfulness in his art. They were amazed by

how prolific he was with his mobiles, stabiles, paintings, jewelry and, of course, his wire sculpture circus." The students were absolutely mesmerized by VanPyrz's use of mime, masks, puppetry, narration and music to re-create aspects of Calder's masterpieces. The light-hearted array of clever stories and vignettes based loosely on Calder's life experiences made art history fun.

Calder Re-Wired was the culminating activity for the students' study of line for the Garrison Art Center School Invitational Theme Show. This learning experience was made possible through a grant from the Haldane School Foundation.


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Steve Rosario—Democratic candidate for Putnam County Legislature, representing Philipstown and District B in Putnam Valley.

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Big Truck Day

It was a Philipstown version of the magic kingdom as a parade of vehicles rolled into Butterfield Library's back yard again for the annual climb-a-thon known as Big Truck Day. Library Director Gillian Thorpe pronounced it a great success, noting, "It was an inexpensive fun family day! We had over 300 kids climbing on big trucks, playing games and we raised over \$1,800 for the Children's Room of the Library."

Photos by Maggie Benmour



Butterfield Library volunteers dispensed treats to children at Big Truck Day



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