Lyons Realty Withdraws Soil Mining Application
Opponents 'overjoyed'

By Liz Schevetzuk Armstrong

Nine days after opposition to proposed soil mining in Philipstown produced riveting testimony within and outside Town Hall, the applicants behind the controversy withdrew their request for permission, derailing the mining venture.

Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea announced the pullback by Nathan and Ernest Lyons, of Lyons Realty LLC, at a news conference Wednesday morning (June 20) in the same room that had seen a crowd denounce the mining idea at a Zoning Board of Appeals public hearing on June 11.

"Out of their concern for the town, concern for a lot of things, they've come to the decision that they're going to withdraw their application for the mine," Shea told the press and audience of about a dozen. "There are no plans for that property right now. That's it for now."

Nathan and Ernest Lyons told Shea of their decision in a June 19 letter that succinctly stated that "as equal partners of were among the mine's adversaries. Various critics predicted a host of un-welcome byproducts, including water, air and noise pollution as well as heavy traffic and destruction of the area's tranquility; raised the spectre of "spot zon-ing," and threatened legal action if the ZBA approved the application. Covered by a soil mining overlay district in the updated zoning code adopted in May 2001, the Lyons track is the only site of potential mining in Philipstown. The zoning code states that "mining activities require a special permit and are allowed solely in the Soil Mining Overlay District."

Shea said "I'm sure" that proposals will come before the Town Board to change the zoning code and outlaw mining entirely in Philipstown. He declined to predict the outcome. "That'll be a board decision. I would not speak for the board."

Nathan Lyons joined Shea at the news conference but let the supervisor do most of the talking. Lyons did say that the family had incurred "quite a bit" of expense in the approval process, though he disclosed no amount. He said that public comments had contributed "a little bit" to the decision to scrap the project. Over-all, he added, he didn't expect the level of reaction — array of which grew quite vitriolic. In trying to proceed with their plans, "we did everything according to what the state wanted and the town wanted," he said.

Shea mentioned the controversy in his open- ing remarks and defined the hearing process as an opportunity for applicants to disseminate plans publicly and for residents to comment on them. "That public hearing process is supposed to strike a balance," he said. "What it's not is a time to level personal attacks. And unfortunately during this process we saw some of that. We also saw some really thoughtful comments. That's what it's for. I would like to think that the decision the Lyons family came to is based on those thoughtful comments."

He encouraged the public to consider the implications of the withdrawal, touching upon the Lyons' property rights, right to make a living in the town, and consideration for their neighbors. "People need to think about the huge conces-sion that's been..."
Meridian String Quartet to Hold July 1 Concert

By Christine Simek

On Sunday, July 1 the Meridian String Quartet will present an afternoon of music at the Philipstown info space. The group has earned international acclaim as winner of the Artists International Competition, as semifinalists at the Evian International Competition and as regular performers at Carnegie Hall. This concert will mark their 20th anniversary.

Rachel Evans, the quartet’s violist who lives Garrison, is thrilled to have the opportunity to present her music in the Hudson Valley, the place that she has called home for over 15 years. Like many local performers, Evans has found connection and kinship within the network of musicians and other artists who amicably serve the basic needs of our towns. “I’m happy to be doing this concert in a place like Cold Spring that has been so welcoming to me as an artist,” she says.

Evans earned both a Bachelor of Music and a Master of Music degree from the Juilliard School of Music. In addition to the Meridian Quartet, she has performed in a variety of ensembles, including the Santa Fe Opera and String Fever, a jazz string group. For her chamber music work, she was a recipient of the Coleman Chamber Music Award. As an early mentor, she was a recipient of the Cole- man Chamber Music Award. As an early mentor, she was a recipient of the Coleman Chamber Music Award. As an early mentor, she was a recipient of the Coleman Chamber Music Award.

Along with traveling around the world, specifically the politics of separation and dissonance that seem to be ubiquitous. Evans is motivated to use her music to “take back the voice of the individual, the power of standing together as individuals … [by] bridging some of the gap between the classical repertoire and the contemporary repertoires.”

Evans’s passion for exploring our shared humanity with her music — as well as exploring the limits of it — is evident in her prolificacy as well as the diversity and versatility that run through the choices she has made as an artist. Along with traveling around the world with an array of ensembles, she can be heard on more than 20 recordings, from new music with New York’s Continuum Ensemble to medieval music with Sequentia. “My desire to have what I do have aspects of beauty and relevance and deep meaning for the consciousness of humanity and our mortality and our universality … is the reason that I love to share music with other people,” she says.

In addition to Evans, the other members of the Meridian Quartet include: Deborah Assael-Migliore, cellist. Assael-Migliore is a founding member of the quartet who has played with the Harlem Chamber Players, the American Symphony Orchestra, the Stamford Symphony, and the Brooklyn Philharmonic. He has been a member of the orchestra for several Broadway shows including Phantom of the Opera and Evita.

Meridian Quartet will hold the free concert at the Philipstown.info space at 69 Main St. on Sunday, July 1 at 4 p.m. Wine and cheese will be served.

Members of the Meridian Quartet: from left, Rachel Evans, Sebu Sirinian, Lisa Tipton, Deborah Assael-Migliore

Photo courtesy of R. Evans


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Good Friends, Great Food
Curto Honored for Service to Haldane and Community

Term as president ends this month
By Michael Turton

Joe Curto has attended his last public meeting as president of the Haldane Board of Education. The monthly session held on Tuesday (June 19) was devoted almost entirely to praising him for his contributions to the school district since joining the board as a trustee six years ago. He spent three years as trustee, one year as vice president and two years as president. His term officially ends on June 30.

One man, his fellow trustees, past board members, administration, retired staff, PTA representatives and others heaped praise on Curto.

The resolution passed by his fellow trustees recognized him specifically for his role in upgrading the district’s technology program, increasing public trust and developing and implementing the district strategic plan.

It went on to say that Curto’s leadership also improved morale and Haldane’s reputation in the community. It highlighted his advocacy for fiscal responsibility and transparency, his handling of district contracts and his understanding of the importance of open communication with the public.

While the resolution hinted at it, the personal comments and the tone of voice from those who offered comments were what really brought home the depth of affection and respect that the community feels for Curto.

“You are a true listener. You listen to everyone. You have never left a question unanswered,” said middle school student and past board member, Julia Sniffen.

Board Vice President Gillian Thorpe has served with Curto on two different boards. “You’ve been such a huge mentor for me both on the school board and on the Haldane Foundation,” she said.

Trustee Evan Schwartz said he felt Curto has set a standard that goes beyond the local community. “You set the tone for what is expected of board members in this town,” he said. “You could be a model for what a board member should be across the state.”

Past Board President Dave Merandy, now a member of the Philipstown Town Board, also spoke. “Things were turbulent when you joined the board,” he said to Curto, praising him for being a calming influence. He also poked fun at Curto’s well-known habit of asking more questions than most trustees. Merandy said that often, towards the end of a meeting, Curto would utter six words that would hit his fellow trustees “like a shot in the gut from Mike Tyson.” According to Merandy, Curto would simply say, “Just a couple of quick questions!”

Superintendent of Schools Mark Villanti summed up what many in the room said about Curto in various ways throughout the evening. “In public service you’re known for two things — what you accomplished, but, when all is said and done, you are known for who are. You are class. You are a gentleman. You are a thinker. You work at things until you get it. You are civic minded. You’ve inspired me.”

An emotionally-charged Curto was very brief. His voice cracking, he said, “I won’t say a lot. It’s not my nature. It’s been a good ride. And … thanks.”

Baseball team honored
The Haldane Blue Devils baseball team and their coaches were recognized for a winning season that included league, sectional and regional championships and a semifinal win in the New York State final four tournament before bowing out in the championship final.

“I can’t say enough about these guys,” said Head Coach Tom Virgadamo. “They went above and beyond. It was a great season that didn’t end the way we wanted. But we learned about more than just baseball.”

On a Mission was the team’s motto in 2012, and Virgadamo has already selected the slogan he hopes will guide the 2013 team to a state championship — “unfinished business.”

Villanti had some advice for the team after praising its members for their conduct both on and off the field: “Follow the values your coaches taught you. You made us very proud.”

Curto presented Virgadamo with a copy of Good Enough to Dream, a book by Roger Kahn that chronicles the author’s year as owner of a minor league baseball franchise. “Read it,” Curto said. “It’s your team’s story.”

Other business
Trustees accepted a letter of resignation from School Nurse Ann “Candy” Zgolinski, who will retire in 2014. She has been school nurse for 19 years.

High School Principal Brian Alm reviewed revisions to the school’s code of conduct. The meeting served as a public hearing on the document, and trustees will likely vote to accept the updated code in July. The document can be viewed on the Haldane website.

Lyons Realty Withdraws Soil Mining Application

(From page 1)

made here,” Shea said. The decision, he added, “is just a continuation of the long history of the Lyons family being extremely considerate in this town and doing the right thing. They live here. They work here. They own the house. They give donations. Those things can’t be forgotten also. This is a good family. I stand by them as I have all along.

He blamed the ease and speed of Internet postings for some of the rancor. “With that power comes an obligation to be more thoughtful in your commentary,” he said, calling some of what happens with the Internet “disturbing.” Those comments can have major consequences, especially in a small town like this.

Responding to questions from the press, Shea also attributed some of the adverse reaction to the mine to a tendency to overlook zoning provisions and only pay attention when a relevant sequence, especially in a small town like this.

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Planning Board Reports Butterfield Recommendations

(From page 1)

for developing Butterfield the day after a meeting with the Planning Board, which had taken a 3-2 position against the presence of senior-citizen market-rate housing on the site. Guillaro claimed he could not move forward profitably without that element of the plan. In its new report the board frames its position as not being against the idea of such housing or against the developer’s need for profit. Rather the board seeks guarantees against what it believes are avoidable risks in committing to it.

Specifically the Planning Board wants the developer to create fee simple housing wherein ownership is direct (as in single-family home ownership) and the tax burden is equal to other village homeowners. Uses a condominium plan, which has ownership restrictions, the property tax burden is considerably less. Most members believe this constitutes a subsidy of the site by other village property owners, including senior citizens.

The Planning Board also emphasized the need to closely cluster any housing to preserve as much open space on the site as possible. Housing design should also conform to current village look and the height of any buildings should conform to existing standards.

Affordable housing apartments were also in the original proposal and the Planning Board outright rejected this idea as too risky financially. Judith Rose, a local resident and professional in the field, had previously warned the board such housing (which is not subsidized by any government) is experiencing difficulty throughout the state from an inability to meet costs and tax obligations over time, presenting burdens to their localities. The board took the warning to heart. It argued that commercial development would be preferable. A belief that such a project would largely result in the “warehousing” of non-resident seniors also made such housing undesirable to pursue.

Zoning

The Planning Board recommended that the village amend the village zoning code to broaden the possible uses within a B-4 district (Butterfield is B-4) creating more flexibility in a negotiation for a greater mix of commercial retail space and housing options. The board cautioned the village government not to go too far afield in its vision, remembering the impact on the remainder of the village. A sliver of the Butterfield site would be R-1 if the Planning Board had its way to allow for single-family homes along Paulding Avenue, which would be more in keeping with the general look of existing homes on that thoroughfare.

Traffic

A traffic study for the entire 9D commercial area corridor, rather than just the Butterfield site, was also recommended to assess total impact from adding as many as 250 parking spaces on Butterfield. The potential occupation by county, town and village offices as well as police, courts, a post office and other commercial services raises the stakes on traffic consequences according to the Planning Board.

Hire an Engineer

The Planning Board encouraged the village trustees to pursue a negotiation with Guillaro, referring to him as “an honorable man.” But it also said: “The Village Board should engage an engineering consultant if it intends to reach a conceptual agreement with the developer so it understands the implications of its decisions.” Beyond traffic, such infrastructure issues as adequate water pressure for fire protection, storm water runoff and the sewer system need study, according to the Planning Board.

Cold Spring Springs Immorlica for 35 Years of Service

Long-time Planning Board member

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Cold Spring resident Joseph Immorlica heard words of honor ringing in his behalf last week when the village government issued a proclamation saluting his 35 years of service on the Village Planning Board.

Lauded by Mayor Seth Gallagher and four trustees and applauded by the audience, Immorlica stepped down from the Planning Board this spring. Read by the mayor at the Village Board’s June 12 meeting, the proclamation declared that Immorlica had “selflessly served the Village of Cold Spring with dedication and perseverance” and “volunteered his time and talent . . . exercising good judgment and an extraordinary sense of commitment and determination to both preserve the existing character of the Village and improve its future.” Signed by Gallagher on behalf of the whole Village Board, the proclamation also stated that Immorlica had “worked in a tireless manner on behalf of the senior citizens of this community” and made “extraordinary efforts to be an active and productive asset to his community.”

Immorlica also received a certificate from the New York State Conference of Mayors for “35 years of distinguished public service” to his local community. “You’re a great role model,” Gallaga-
The allegations, brought by resident Michael Bowman, who in May created an online petition to rescind Gallagher’s raise, dominated the last part of the board’s formal monthly meeting June 12.

The mayor responded that the salary question was considered by the entire board’s formal monthly meeting June 12.

Bowman contends that by making decisions on the salary increase outside of the formal public hearing, the mayor and entire board acted improperly, invalidating its actions. “Seeing that the Village of Cold Spring Board of Trustees had never put forth any notice stating the proposed compensation of the Board of Trustees—which includes the mayor’s salary—and given the fact that the public hearing on the tentative budget had already been closed on April 17th, it is my belief that the actions taken by the Village Board on the evening of April 24th should be null and void as they have violated New York State Law,” Bowman declared in a letter he read to the board June 12. “In fact, by closing the public hearing and then adjusting the tentative budget to accommodate an increase in pay for the mayor, I believe that the Village Board, or at least the Village budget officer (Gallagher), has shown a pattern of unethical behavior by knowingly manipulating budget lines in preparation for a possible pay raise. Specifically,” he asserted, “money earmarked for the default MTA tax was purposely left in the budget for this reason.” Dated May 30, the letter is addressed to the Village Board.

Bowman also said that state law demands that the proposed compensation for all board members be given in an official newspaper notice announcing a public hearing on a budget. Without enumerating on salaries or other details, the village’s official notice, dated March 30, stated: “The Board of Trustees for the Village of Cold Spring will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 17, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall, 85 Main St., Cold Spring, N.Y., to hear public comment on the tentative budget for the 2012/2013 fiscal year. Copies of the budget are available at the Village Clerk’s Office ... All interested parties are encouraged to attend and be heard.” As a result of the various alleged errors, Bowman asked “that the Village Board please consider any budgetary actions taken on April 12 to be null and void” and that the village launch an ethics investigation of the mayor and board in regard to the budget and pay hike. In addition,” Bowman said, “I believe that a clear conflict of interest has occurred in this matter, as the Village Budget Officer—who is also the mayor—manipulated taxpayer funds for his own financial gain.”

Gallagher replied that the raise was not in the tentative budget because “I do prepare the budget. But I didn’t want to include that, a raise for myself. I did ask the board to address that” in prior years.

In 2010, a year after taking the office, Gallagher recommended that mayoral pay be increased by $5,000 but that the raise not kick in until after the 2011 mayoral election. Gallagher won the 2011 race and in later setting the 2011-12 budget the Village Board increased his overall salary by $2,500 to cover his role as village budget officer. This April, the issue came up again. “We had a public hearing on the budget,” Gallagher said. “This was raised at that public hearing.” During the hearing, Bowman spoke out against the salary hike and the board subsequently mulled everything over for another week before voting on the budget. “We didn’t need to have another public hearing,” Gallagher said. “Certainly the budget can be adjusted after the public hearing. It’s expected to be adjusted because you’re taking comments from the public and taking them into consideration.”

Without question, the reason you have a public hearing and public comment and post a tentative budget is to possibly make adjustments to that and approve a final budget.” Trustee Matt Francisco agreed.

Bowman repeatedly tried to interrupt from the floor. When Gallagher persistently gavelled him down Bowman asked that “you take a vote of the five [board members] to see if I be allowed to speak.” He had already spent more than nine minutes reading his letter and making other remarks and no board member supported his request.

Trustee Ralph Falloon, noting reluctantly that although “obviously, this isn’t an agenda item, we’re here anyway,” asked Village Attorney Stephen Gaba about Bowman’s statements. “Is there truth to these? Is there any unethical and illegal action we did? Should this be addressed?”

Gaba replied that he had reviewed the matter and “I didn’t see any procedural irregularities. As far as ethical violations: They sound completely spurious to me.”

Trustee Bruce Campbell, who had included the mayoral salary hike in a list of potential budget changes he proposed April 17, said, “I know how much time he [Gallagher] puts into this job.” Nonetheless, Campbell added, he would have backed a raise regardless of who is mayor. Campbell, as well as Gallagher and Francisco, recalled that the idea of a mayoral salary increase dates back to the administration of Mayor Anthony Phillips. In February 2009, acknowledging the long hours Phillips put in, then—Trustee Gordon Robertson suggested that the trustees give up half of their salaries to boost the mayor’s pay. The board did not act on his proposal. On June 12, Robertson characterized the references to his 2009 proposal as “untrue. You’re paraphrasing the record, he objected.”

Trustee Charles Hustis revealed that after he had advocated Gallagher’s raise at the April 24 meeting he had tried to re-plicate it, drawing flak for both moves. For initially backing the raise, “I’ve been attacked on the street verbally, and at times rightfully so ... $2,500 meant a lot to people,” he said. Later, when “I saw the online petition, I sat back and actually turned around and signed it. If the world wants to condemn me for being a hypocrite and Indian giver, so be it. I did turn around — thought I could turn around and make a difference by turning around and signing the online petition.” Francisco urged an end to the inverte. The public can freely comment, he said. “That’s a great right we have in this country but with that right comes responsibility. To present things like this is some kind of backroom money-grabbing is highly inflammatory and grossly inaccurate.”
Graduation Walk at Garrison School

(From page 1)

Graduation varies from year to year, and this year's graduating class is a very musical group," Impellitteri said. "We have some extraordinary musicians and vocalists in the class to add to this beautiful ceremony."

Impellitteri said that the class members are very closely knit, and it was hard to watch them going their separate ways. "Our students have had an opportunity to get the best education ever," she said. "And it's not just about the academics, but the social and emotional element."

Elizabeth Walker, who delivered an address as class president, will attend O'Neill High School. "Garrison is a unique school," Walker said. "I've only been here since fourth grade, but most of my grade has been here since kindergarten, and it will be hard since we're all going to different high schools. It's really been like a family."

"And it's not just about the academics, but it's about the community," she continued. "Garrison has a talented group in so many ways," Impellitteri said. "They have won school awards and community acknowledge- ments, and all have shown great strength and character through all of life's challenges."

"I think the biggest thing from my point of view is that these students are a talented group in so many ways," Impellitteri said. "They have won school awards and community acknowledge- ments, and all have shown great strength and character through all of life's chal- lenges."

Dressed not in cap and gown, on a fitting first day of summer, girls chose sundresses, while boys donned khaki pants and casual shirts. Their entrance phones and cables to prepare the school's gymnasium for graduation ceremonies. "Let's get the cart, four speakers, and four stands," Heitmann belled to a dozen eager kids who were setting up not only for the school but for their own com- mencement. "Why don't you guys start on microphone cables ... and we're going to tape those down like usual."

"Heitmann, who has volunteered to lead the club for the past five academic years, has worked with this group of students throughout the school year to orchestrate audio visual operations for plays, musical performances, and cer- emonies. A sound engineer and senior vice president of CP Communications in Elmsford, N.Y., Heitmann works primarily in providing audio visual services for sports and entertainment broadcasting. "I'm an audio engineer by trade," Heitmann said. "My father was an engineer so I grew up in the business. This is something I can do to give back to the community. Some kids really buy into it. It's easy for kids to use technology, but we're giving kids the basics of how it works. They can't join the club just to good around."

As the club members moved equipment swiftly from the storage area and around the stage and floor seating arranged for the ceremony, they weren't going around, but were enjoying their work. Eighth grader Lizzy Walker is glad that she signed up for the club, though she wishes she had joined in seventh grade. "I was thinking that it was cables and stuff and it couldn't be that hard," Walker said, "but there's a lot to learn."

Walker sorted out cables that had be-

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June 22, 2012

Sound Check
Audio Visual Club covers graduation

By Mary Ann Ebner

With studies completed and grades posted, a team of eighth-grade students at the Garrison Middle School faced a final task in preparation for graduation. Before the Class of 2012 could march forward to re- ceive their diplomas, members of the Audio Visual Club set the stage for the June 20 ceremony.

Dr. Malcolm Gladwell: "What the Dog Saw"

Philipstown, NY

info

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Garrison Principal Stephanie Impellitteri and Superintendent of Schools Gloria Colucci Photo by Maggie Benjour

Taking their cues from Kurt Heitmann, who teaches and facilitates Audio Visual Club set the stage for the June 22, 2012 The Paper

Audio Visual Club leader Kurt Heitmann, left, and club member Matthew Hard, set up equipment for the 2012 Garrison Middle School graduation. Photo by M.D. Ebner

making remarkable music together, as they have done. Garrison students over the years have demonstrated enormous enthusiasm and talent for learning, and this year’s class lived up to the legacy.

In her ninth year as principal, Garri- son School’s Stephanie Impellitteri has watched and encouraged the members of this graduating class throughout the school years, and they’ll leave their own lasting legacy in her school’s hallways. "I think the biggest thing from my point of view is that these students are a talented group in so many ways," Impellitteri said. "They have won school awards and community acknowledge- ments, and all have shown great strength and character through all of life's chal- lenges."

Dressed not in cap and gown, on a fitting first day of summer, girls chose sundresses, while boys donned khaki pants and casual shirts. Their entrance sound check up speakers, stands, audio carts, micro-
In the fall of 2007, producer/writer/director Mark Landsman was working in his office, when a story came up on the radio that caught his attention. It was about an all-black high school band from Houston that had become a national sensation during the 1970s. When a track from one of their eight studio albums was played, Landsman says he was riveted by "a wall of incredible funk music." That music was the legendary, world-class sound of the Kashmere High School Stage Band, led by jazz musician and conventional stage band, playing jazz and American Songbook standards in easy listening arrangements, into one of the premier funk bands of the 1970s, performing, at a professional level, a catalogue of original music and intricately choreographed moves (in one writer’s words, “James Brown 101”), all of it composed and choreographed by the one and only Prof. But when he flew to Houston to meet Mr. Johnson at his home, to gather material for a narrative feature, he found a frail 92-year-old, surrounded by former students who were planning a reunion concert in his honor. It was suddenly clear to Landsman that he had the elements of a powerful and affecting documentary staring him in the face, and he didn’t blink. The result is Thunder Soul, next up for Depot Docs on Friday, June 22, at the Philipstown Depot Theatre in Garrison. Powerful and affecting — absolutely. Initially the focus is on Craig Baldwin, a self-proclaimed bad boy as a student at Kashmere High, whose charisma, drive, and love for Prof Johnson are behind the successful effort to bring alums back, not only from 35 years after their stage band glory days, but, for many of them, from just as long without having opened their instrument cases or played a note. The film follows the build up to the reunion concert with interviews of the band members and Prof, wonderful archival footage and photographs, and a sound track that includes some of the greatest hits of Kashmere High’s funk powerhouse. But the heart of the film, and the reason that there’s a story to be told, or that it matters, is Conrad O. Johnson, himself, wanting to draw visitors in to appreciate the beauty of the 1833-built Greek Revival church (now ecumenical). With four years under their belts, what started, and continues, as a labor of love for both women, now comes a bit more easily to them. “It’s a well-oiled machine on the day now,” says Tighe. “We have found their way here by accident. The trail of literary breadcrumbs which have led them to these parts was begun by Philipstown’s Ivy Meeropol and Bekah Tighe, documentary film-maker and baker, respectively, by trade, and avid readers by nature. They first came up with the notion of the readings out of a love for the Chapel Restoration itself, wanting to draw visitors in to appreciate the beauty of the 1833-built Greek Revival church (now ecumenical). With four years under their belts, what started, and continues, as a labor of love for both women, now comes a bit more easily to them. “It’s a well-oiled machine on the day now,” says Tighe. “We have found their way here by accident. 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The Calendar

Looking for things to do 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!

FRIDAY, JUNE 22

Kids & Community
Summer Reading Kickoff: Pirate School!
11 A.M. - Noon, BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
(845) 265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org
Registration required.

Celebrate Summer: Dog on Fleas Performance
10 A.M. & 2 P.M. MID-Hudson CHILDREN’S MUSEUM
75 N. Water St., Poughkeepsie
(845) 471-0565 | mhcm.org
Admission: $6/person

Health, Fitness & Outdoors
Sunset Kayak Tour
8 A.M. HUDSON VALLEY OUTFITTERS
63 Main St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-0221 | hudsonvalleyoutfitters.com
Cost: $80. Call to register.

Theater & Film
Moonrise Kingdom film
5:30 P.M. & 8 P.M. DOWNING FILM CENTER
19 Front St., Newburgh
(914) 561-3993 | DowningFilmCenter.com
Tickets: General Admission $8.50; Seniors/ students $7; Members & Under 16 $6

Depot Docs Season Finale: Thunder Soul film
7:30 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN DEPOT THEATRE
10 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
(845) 424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.com

A Bag of Hammers film
7:30 P.M., PARAMOUNT CENTER FOR THE ARTS
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
(914) 739-2333 | paramountcenter.org
Tickets: $7-9

Reasons to Be Pretty play
8 P.M. THE BEACON
445 Main St., Beacon
(845) 774-5973 | thebeacontheatre.org
Tickets: $15

Music
Buddy Traina
8 – 11 P.M. WHISTLING WILLY’S
184 Main St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-0212 | whistlingwillys.com

“Civilization” Eclectic Music Program
8:30 P.M. HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER
477 Main St., Beacon
(845) 831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org
Admission: $8

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

Kids & Community
Fiddle-Dee-Dee Potluck & Square Dance
7 P.M. SAUNDERS FARM
837 Old Albany Post Road, Garrison
(845) 231-4424 | commongroundfarm.org
Fees: $25/individual; $100/team of 4

Cold Spring Farmers’ Market
8:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M. BOSCOBEL
1601 Route 50, Garrison
collfarmmarket.org

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

Book Sorting
10 A.M. – Noon WINTER HILL LIBRARY
23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
(845) 424-3900 | GarrisonArtCenter.org

Constitution Island Seafood Barbecue
5 – 8:30 P.M. CONSTITUTION ISLAND
Bus transport from Cold Spring Metro North train station lot.
(845) 446-8676 | constitutionisland.org

Health, Fitness & Outdoors
Hudson Highlands Land Trust Hiking 101
10 A.M. – 1 P.M. DESMOND-FISHER LIBRARY
23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
(845) 424-3960 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Constitution Marsh Kayak Tour (with instruction)
NOON HUDSON VALLEY OUTFITTERS
63 Main St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-0221 | hudsonvalleyoutfitters.com
Cost: $110. Call to register.

The Country Goose
11 Main Street | Cold Spring NY
(914) 263-2222 | www.wilghlandbaskets.com

SITTING on the BENCH ♦ by Tara ♦

The enormous popularity of my thoughts as laid out in my columns is a given. But I hear the one that aroused the most interest was my missing about police activities on Main Street. Some of my many readers have even claimed that they can identify the officer I mentioned. I’m not going there, but in my ruminating I concluded that a parking ticket can depend entirely on the mood of the law enforcer.

For example, motorists who park their vehicle a few inches beyond the white line indicating the legal position may find a ticket awaiting them when they return from shopping.

Yet, I once saw the strictest officer of them all discover that an enormous delivery truck had stopped in such a way that Kemble Avenue traffic was completely blocked off from Main Street. Did the officer issue a ticket? Not that I saw. In fact, the officer allowed the offender, who could have simply double-parked, to remain while his goods were unloaded and the vehicles on Kemble had to wait.

When the task had been completed the driver was allowed to go on his merry way. How could that be? After much thought, I decided it was a matter of the mood of the officer who that day was feeling.

In contrast, my moods depend entirely on the situation. If a puppy is too lively around me I will give a warning growl. And when the boss takes me swimming at Garrison Landing I furiously wag my tail and completely block off from Main Street traffic was my musing about police activities on Main Street. Some of my many readers have even claimed that they can identify the officer I mentioned. I’m not going there, but in my ruminating I concluded that a parking ticket can depend entirely on the mood of the law enforcer.

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The Goonies will be shown by the Cold Spring Film Society at sunset on Saturday. Photo courtesy of Cold Spring Film Society.
The Calendar (from page 9)

Music
Young Players’ Creative Strings Summer Workshop
M-F 9:30 A.M. - 4 P.M. CHAPEL RESTORATION
(845) 265-2878 | chapelrestoration.org
Fax: 524-7000

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 26

Kids & Community
Kids’ Craft Hour
4 - 5 P.M. DESMOND-FISH LIBRARY
472 Route 403, Garrison
(845) 265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

Theater & Film
Moonrise Kingdom film
7:30 P.M. DOWNING FILM CENTER
See details under Friday.

Music
Derek A. Dempsey
8 - 11 P.M. WHISTLING WILLIE’S
184 Main St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-2012 | whistlingwillies.com

Slaid Cleaves/Also Appearing Rod Picott
8 P.M. TURNING POINT MUSIC CAFE
469 Main Ave., Piermont
(845) 359-1089 | turningpointcafe.com
Tickets: $30

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 28

Kids & Community
Cold Spring Area Chamber Mixer
6:30 P.M. BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
(845) 265-3200 | coldspringsareachamber.org
Cost: $15. Reservations requested.

Depot Docs (from page 9)

with kindness and respect. His only demand was that they take what he had
teach them as seriously as he did, and that they perform at the highest
level of which they were capable. The
result was not only something very
special in terms of the short-lived fame
and the longer-term musical influence
that the band achieved, but the deep sense
of confidence, the wide expanse of
evidence of accomplishment that Prof’s
personal potential, and the undeniable
sense of confidence, the wide expanse of
reason to celebrate the tale that
Thunder Soul so joyfully, playfully,
and affectionately tells. The intimate
shines.

Sunday Sunset Reading Series (from page 7)
do n’t get nervous anymore.” There are
four readings each season, generally
in May, June, September and October.
An attempt is made to mix it up with
different genres, and to include local
literary talent as well. Outreach to the
authors is sometimes made directly,
through personal connections, while
at other times it’s a matter of, “We
really like this book — let’s try and
get this,” describes Meeropol, and
inquiries are made through literary
agents. The latter was the case with
Andrew Blackwell. Seeking a nonfiction
author this time around, Meeropol and
Tighe were intrigued by the themes of
his work. As Tighe notes, “Visiting
toxic waste sites is the opposite of
eco-tourism. His position is that since we
are polluting, we should embrace and
find something interesting there.”

(Continued on page 16)
Sound the trumpets: school will be out for the summer this Friday! And this Saturday, June 23, The Cold Spring Film Society kicks off their second annual free Outdoor Summer Film Series with the family classic *The Goonies* (1985). Treasure maps, booby traps, crooks, pirates and skeletons abound in this fun family adventure film from the minds of Steven Spielberg and Richard Donner. *The Goonies* will start at sundown (around 8:30 p.m.) in Dockside Park (entrance just north of the Cold Spring bandstand). Admission is free and open to all. The Film Society will be popping fresh popcorn and there will be lemonade, raffle tickets, membership tote bags, new Summer Film Series T-shirts and more available for purchase. Bring a blanket and a picnic and come early to enjoy the amazing view before the starry night, and the film, ensue.

Visit coldspringfilm.org to find out more information about all the free outdoor films playing at Dockside Park this summer or to make a tax-deductible donation to help support these screenings. You can also donate by mailing a check to: Cold Spring Film Society, 192 Main Street, Cold Spring, N.Y. 10516, and keep up with event photos and special announcements by joining the Facebook page at facebook.com/coldspringfilm.

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**Beyond Ipanema Explores Brazilian Music**

**Reform Synagogue and Depot Theatre hold screening**

A 18 p.m. on Saturday, June 23, the Philipstown Reform Synagogue, together with the Philipstown Depot Theatre, will present a screening of *Beyond Ipanema: Brazilian Waves in Global Music*, a feature documentary film by Guto Barra and Béco Dranoff. The film explores the repeating cycle of the discovery and adoption of Brazilian music throughout the world. Artists, producers, DJs and critics analyze how the cross-pollination of music styles, as well as sampling and globalization, have helped Brazil to secure a unique position in global culture.

Included are interviews with David Byrne, M.I.A., Os Mutantes, Gilberto Gil, Creed Taylor and many others. The soundtrack features a wide range of Brazilian music, covering genres and movements such as Samba, Bossa Nova, Tropicalia, Electrobossa, Pavela Funk and other modern hybrids. *Beyond Ipanema* premiered at the Museum of Modern Art in 2009 and has been screened at various film festivals and venues since. More information about the film can be found at beyondipanema.com.

The event will take place at the Depot Theatre and will include a Q&A with Béco Dranoff followed by refreshments and more music — wear your dancing shoes! Tickets are $20 each and can be purchased online at brownpapertickets.com or by calling 845-424-3900.

Proceeds from this screening of *Beyond Ipanema* will benefit both the Philipstown Reform Synagogue ("PRS") and the Philipstown Depot Theatre. PRS was founded in 2002 with the purpose of creating an inclusive venue to investigate the practice of Judaism, both intellectually and spiritually. PRS hosts monthly services led by Rabbi Michael Rothbaum, provides religious education and offers opportunities to participate in social welfare activities. PRS can be found on the web at philipstownreformsynagogue.org or contacted at 845-265-8011 or philipstownreformsynagogue@gmail.com.

The Philipstown Depot Theatre is sponsored by the Philipstown Recreation Department. To learn more about their events and membership program visit philipstowndepottheatre.org.

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**Catch The Goonies**

**Cold Spring Film Society begins its free summer outdoor film series this Saturday**

**AN EVENING WITH PHILIP GLASS**

**A concert to benefit the Garrison Institute**

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

www.themarinagallery.com
visit The Marina Gallery on Facebook
845.265.2204

PHILIPSTOWN
COLD SPRING N.Y. 10516

Bicycle Decorating Contest July 4th/Community Day Parade Open to All! DECORATE YOUR BICYCLE TO CELEBRATE PATRIOTISM, COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND CREATIVITY AND RIDE IN THE PARADE!

GATHER AT 2:30 PM ON CHESTNUT ST. IN FRONT OF CHESTNUT RIDGE APPTS. Prizes of $50, $30, 20

AN EVENING WITH PHILIP GLASS
A concert to benefit the Garrison Institute

Thursday, July 19, 7 pm

Philip Glass will perform his works in a rare Hudson Valley concert appearance. Composer/pianist Trevor Gureckis and vocalist Tara Hugo also perform Glass’s settings of texts by Allen Ginsberg & Leonard Cohen.

Garrison Institute
14 Mary’s Way, Route 9D, Garrison, New York
A non-profit 501(c)3 organization
INSPIRED THINKING
THOUGHTFUL ACTION

Purchase tickets at www.garrisoninstitute.org/glass or call 845.424.4800.
$50 admission, $150 VIP, $25 students. Sponsorships available.

Marina Gallery
153 Main Street, Cold Spring, N.Y. 10516
By Mary Ann Ebner

Hiking 101 prepares beginners to hit the trails

The wild lands of the Hudson Valley offer convenient access to a wide array of hikes and nature escapes, and the hikes in Philipstwon, ranging from easy to difficult, provide adventurous hikers and beginners with a wealth of choices to traverse the community’s big backyard. Familiarizing yourself with trail conditions, knowing your own physical abilities, and planning your hike can add to enjoyment and overall safety. Hiking 101, a two-hour educational hiking experience, has been designed with the beginner in mind to help the curious discover hiking, to heighten awareness in the woods, and prepare novice hikers for safe treks on the trails.

Lisa Mechaley, River of Words educator with the Hudson Highlands Land Trust (HHLT), will lead the inaugural session of Hiking 101 through the Garrison School Forest for a moderate family friendly hike. The program begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 23, at Winter Hill, where the Land Trust’s offices have recently relocated.

“This is the first time we’ve offered Hiking 101,” Mechaley said. “If someone’s been thinking about hiking but isn’t experienced, this is a good introduction. We’ll talk about how to be safe and how to be comfortable in the woods.”

Some of the trails of the Garrison School Forest have been cleared and maintained by members of the school’s Green Team, middle school students who are working to preserve the environment, sustain the forest and encourage responsible hiking.

“I’m working with the Green Team and the blazes that they have designed for the trails,” Mechaley said. “We’ll be showing the Hiking 101 participants trails that are marked and unmarked and what the blazes look like. We’ll also take a look at topographic maps and learn to identify signs in the woods.”

Learning to identify signs in the woods and along trails can range from knowing where to step on a rocky area to paying attention in order to stay on established trails, to avoiding damaging soil or delicate vegetation. Part of the HHLT 2012 Take-a-Hike! program, Hiking 101 will include an overview of what to pack, what to wear and how to be prepared for future hikes.

Whether it’s an easy stroll, an out-and-back hike, or a more difficult trek with steep ascents, the region invites a walk in the woods. Teri Barr, owner of Hudson Valley Outfitters in Cold Spring, believes there’s a local trail to suit all abilities, and she agrees that hikers need to do their homework before hitting the trail. Regardless of the trail being tackled, Mechaley urges even the casual fitness walker to wear proper footwear, and Barr recommends a sturdy trail shoe that has a good grip. To prepare for a hike, Barr also recommends wool or moisture-wicking socks, and plenty of water.

“You should have at least a liter of water for every two hours,” Barr said, “and the water should be in a backpack to keep hands free.” She also noted that everyone’s checklist should include snacks, trail maps and compass, flashlight, tick spray and emergency plans.

“We have people who hike in the area who sign in and out at the store with us,” Barr said. “They leave their cell numbers and the name of an emergency contact, in case they don’t return to sign out. We’ve never had to call an emergency number.”

Keeping an eye on your checklist as well as the weather are important reminders that Mechaley emphasizes. She will lead Hiking 101 if a little rain happens to fall, but a thunderstorm is another matter. “All of our activities are weather dependent,” Mechaley said, “and we wouldn’t let a little rain spoil a hike. If you wait for the perfect day, you can miss out.”

There is no cost to participate in Hiking 101, but participation requires advance registration. Register by Friday, June 22 by contacting Hudson Highlands Land Trust at 845-424-3358 or info@hhlt.org.

For additional information on local hiking, see www.hhlt.org/takeahike. html or www.hudsonvalleyoutfitters.com.

By K.E. Foley

Hiking 101 prepares beginners to hit the trails

by Mary Ann Ebner

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Trading Tunes: Marc Von Em & KJ Denhert at the Depot Theatre

Blending genres: urban, folk, funk, blues and jazz at June 30 show

The Hudson Valley’s Marc Von Em & KJ Denhert will be sharing the stage together on Saturday; June 30 at 8 p.m. at the Depot Theatre. Denhert and Von Em will be performing two sets of their original brand of urban folk, funk, blues and jazz. The two have been friends for years and share a musical camaraderie that binds their varying styles together seamlessly. They improv and play off each other’s material and enjoy it so much it sometimes seems as if they forget the audience is there. This comfortable stage presence, combined with musicianship, creates a unique comfort that bonds the music together.

In addition to his own solo career, in 2009, Von Em again joined Rob Thomas (Matchbox Twenty) for a second world tour. Von Em was happy to oblige when asked to open for Thomas once again, and the results were positive, “I’ve had the pleasure of working closely with Marc Von Em as a singer, but when I heard his original stuff, I asked him to open up a 10,000 seat gig. Just him, his guitar, and his songs. He killed it!” said Thomas.

KJ Denhert’s special blend of urban folk and jazz has earned her four Independent Music Award nominations and in ’09, she was named as one of Jazz.com’s top female vocalists. She has appeared scores of festivals and has residencies at Smoke Jazz Bar in New York City, Bar & St. Barth’s, and the Umbria Jazz Festival in Italy. Her very latest, Album No. 9, a collection of 90’s jazz, pop and rock standards, was released on Motema Music in Europe and the U.S. in 2010.

Consistently praised for her pathos, originality and impeccable musicianship, Denhert is a songwriter, guitarist and performer. Although she continues to define herself as an urban folk and jazz artist, Denhert decided to step outside of that box for Album No. 9, going to explore a few of the other genres that have also influenced her throughout her career. The result is a collection of jazz, pop and rock covers and original songs. “This is the album where I got over some of my self-consciousness about the music I love,” says Denhert. Unrestrained in its musical content and delivery, Album No. 9 marks a number of firsts for Denhert, from performing for the first time without her guitar on “Alfie” to writing and recording her first French song and her first reggae song, to unveiling her first video for the iconic Beatles song “Help.”

Purchase tickets, which cost $20, at brownpapertickets.com or 840-424-3900.

Jazz Pianist Sumi Tonooka Performs at Chapel

June 30 concert celebrates new CD release

Local jazz pianist and composer, Sumi Tonooka, makes her live performance debut of songs from her newly-released CD, Now – Live at the Howland, at Cold Spring’s Chapel Restoration, June 30, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. Tonooka has been hailed as “a profound artist, a fierce and fascinating composer and pianist,” by Jazz Times; “provocative and compelling, both in straight-out swinging situations and when she is developing fresh ideas for familiar ballads,” John Wilson, The New York Times; and “Revelatory .. reminds you that originality is possible. She’s made her phrasing and touch personal, her lines breathe .. her compositions .. are rock solid with- out a moment of indecision or mistake. Technique is mastered by imagination, inspiration by intellect. She comes to her own conclusions, which is what jazz is all about,” Peter Watrous, Musician Magazine.

Tonooka’s attraction to jazz began at the age of 13, when she attended a live performance by jazz giant Thelonious Monk. “It was because of his music that I decided to become a jazz musician,” she says. At 15, she left her hometown of Philadelphia to find creative sustenance in Boston with two legendary piano teachers, Margaret Chaloff and Charlie Banacos. After paying her dues on the Boston scene, she moved to Detroit for her recording debut with trumpeter Marcus Belgrave, who served as a mentor for generations of Motown jazz musicians. Returning to Philadelphia, prior to her move to New York, she worked steadily with her trio, featuring drummer Newman Baker and bassist Tyrone Brown, which provided an outlet for her prolific composing.

Since moving to upstate New York in the late 1990s, Tonooka has maintained a significant presence on and off the bandstand. She has taught at Rutgers University and maintains a private home studio. She co-founded the internationally recognized recording label, Artists Recording Collective (ARC), which provides a platform for the artists’ projects to reach a global audience.

Tonooka will be joined in one of her original pieces by Cold Spring’s Gwen Laster, violinist, and Lucy Austin, vocalist, as well as by a couple of her local piano students.

The Chapel is located at 45 Market St., Cold Spring, free parking is available on weekends at the adjacent Metro-North Station. Admission by donation, suggested $15 adults/$10 students and seniors.

Monk’s “To jive in one’s own fashion”...from performances at Smoke Jazz Bar in New York City, Baz Bar in St. Barth’s, and the Umbria Jazz Festival in Italy. Her very latest, Album No. 9, a collection of 90’s jazz, pop and rock standards, was released on Motema Music in Europe and the U.S. in 2010.

Consistently praised for her pathos, originality and impeccable musicianship, Denhert is a songwriter, guitarist and performer. Although she continues to define herself as an urban folk and jazz artist, Denhert decided to step outside of that box for Album No. 9, going to explore a few of the other genres that have also influenced her throughout her career. The result is a collection of jazz, pop and rock covers and original songs. “This is the album where I got over some of my self-consciousness about the music I love,” says Denhert. Unrestrained in its musical content and delivery, Album No. 9 marks a number of firsts for Denhert, from performing for the first time without her guitar on “Alfie” to writing and recording her first French song and her first reggae song, to unveiling her first video for the iconic Beatles song “Help.”

Purchase tickets, which cost $20, at brownpapertickets.com or 840-424-3900.

Jazz Pianist Sumi Tonooka Performs at Chapel

June 30 concert celebrates new CD release

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March 22 2013

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Portions of Warner House Reopened for Summer Tours
By Mary Ann Ebner

I day trip outings fit your schedule, spend an afternoon on Constitution Island. The local treasure served as a fortification site in the 18th century and the eastern foundation for the Great Chain that stretched over the Hudson River to West Point during the Revolutionary War, and the destination stands as a jewel of places to consider for an afternoon of history, Hudson River stroll ing, and outdoor enjoyment.

When New York City lawyer Henry Warner established a Hudson River family heirlo on Constitution Island in 1836, he preserved a Revolutionary War-period wall in the construction, and cut few corners to build what is known and cherished by historians and citizens today as the Warner House. With all the ac commodements of high living, the Warner home on Constitution Island, modest by comparison to the family’s patatial pri mary home, provided a relaxing retreat from the city for Warner, a widower, and his daughters, Susan and Anna. Shortly after the completion of the home, the family lost much of their fortune during the completion of the home, the family lost much of their fortune during the Revolutionary War period as well as part of the Warner legacy throughout this summer’s tour season.

“I don’t think any work is going to be done by the Army this year,” de Koster said, “but we have received permission to use two of the (Warner House) rooms for the tours.” The rooms to be reopened include the kitchen and the old workshop adjacent to the kitchen. A docent will interpret life in the 19th century with the Warner family, and a 20-minute video will be shown which showcases the home and original Warner family furnishings and personal effects.

“We’re very happy to be able to reopen a portion of the house,” de Koster said. “After visitors complete the video, they’ll exit the house for a tour of the outer portion of the home, and our tour then goes to the redoubt and other walking areas.”

Additional tours are offered, and this season’s public tours to the island run June 20 through October 4. The weekday tours depart Wednesdays and Thursdays from West Point’s South Dock. The tours last approximately two and 1/4 hours and are conducted at 10 a.m., 12 p.m., and 2 p.m. Suggested donations for the weekday transportation/tour are $10 for adults, $5 for senior citizens, and $3 for children under 12. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 845-446-8676.

“Advance reservations must be made,” de Koster said. “We also ask people to please leave a callback number due to weather. All of our tours and special events are also subject to change due to the schedule of West Point, so we ask that people check our website as it’s possible that days could be changed.”

The Constitution Island Association also offers weekend tour special events on select Saturdays throughout the season. Shuttle bus transportation to the island is available at the Cold Spring Metro-North train station. Suggested donations for special event transportation/tour are $10 for adults and $5 for senior citizens and children under 16.

“The bus from the train station is going back and forth all day long on a 30-minute schedule,” de Koster said. “This schedule runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and everyone is off the island by 4 p.m. We recommend that people plan for several hours to take the tour and walk the areas, and pack a picnic as it’s always fun to bring what you enjoy!”

This summer’s Special Events include Garden Day (August 4), Reenactment Day (August 26) and Family Day (September 29). A Putnam County Bicentennial Celebration will also be held on the island as a ticketed event ($175 per person) on July 7. The CIA also invites friends and supporters to its Seafood Barbecue fundraising event, hosted by Mount Kisco Seafood, to be held from 5 to 8:30 p.m. this Saturday, June 23. Tickets are $160 per person and may be purchased online at www.constitutionisland.org.

“This is the eighth year we’ve held this fundraising event,” de Koster said. “It’s the only fundraiser we do throughout the year, and this year we will have a very special surprise at the barbecue.”

For more information on tours, schedules or volunteering at Constitution Island, visit the CIA website at www.constitutionisland.org, e-mail the organization at info@constitutionisland.org, or write to the Constitution Island Association, Box 41, West Point, NY 10996. The phone number is 845-446-8676.

Schedule of Events

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“Ticketed Events

Everyone’s reading

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The Hop Draws a Crowd
Craft beer, artisanal fare
By Kevin Foley

Beer, an alcoholic concoction as old as history, continues to claw its way into the U.S. public consciousness as an admirably considered drink beyond the usual mass-market portrayals. The specialty beer-making craft, undergoing a renaissance in this country for several years, has created a growing number of people who appreciate the same rich variety in taste, body, color, and yes aroma, as wine offers.

Introducing people to beer’s constellation of possibility is the mission of a new and popular establishment in Beacon. The Hop at 458 Main St. is not a brewery. Rather the owners seek to honor the beer craftsmanship of others. Upon entering you immediately experience a welcoming shrine dedicated to the discovery, celebration and enjoyment of beer’s long traditions and latest trends.

“We want to elevate beer to the status of food accompaniment.”

Lining the walls and shelves are over 100 different bottled beer brands, from which you can select, for example, a beer made in Germany from a recipe first printed in the 15th century. Behind the bar you will encounter an ever-changing menu of drafts from kegs shipped from breweries around the globe. Just ask for a taste to help you decide or even better ask for a flight of all the tapped beers so you can experience a mix of strong, sweet, bitter and smooth brews that will stimulate your taste buds in new ways.

And if you have questions about the stouts, lagers and porters, rest assured the proprietors are eager to answer them. They will also have some of their own.

They have begun to spread out the times that loyalists toting their special Hop bottles for a refill from one of the taps. “People have begun to spread out the times that they come,” said Kelly, eager to encourage the idea there is room for more.

On one rainy Saturday afternoon, shortly after Kelly sent out a Facebook message announcing he had just tapped a new barrel, a richly aromatic brew from the Californian Green Flash Brewing Co., people began streaming in expressing gratitude; a longer line had not yet formed.

The Hop is closed Monday and Tuesday; visit thehopbeacon.com or phone 845-440-8676 for their hours and more details.

For customers wanting an immersion experience, The Hop offers a table in the kitchen with a five courses of beer and food for $65 per person. “We find people want to stop before we do,” Kelly said with a smile.

“People come in and say we don’t know what they usually like, give them a taste,” said John Kelly, an owner and along with another owner, Matt Hutchins, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America. “We want to elevate beer to the status of food accompaniment. Beer is better than wine in many circumstances,” said Kelly.

Kelly said they consider the place “as a sort of hybrid, not a full-on restaurant.” There are only about a half-dozen round tables for seating along with a small bar and a large display case in the middle of the room around, where patrons can stand to drink, eat and socialize. The plates are not entrees but rather inventive appetizers often using local ingredients such as cheeses, milled crackers and meats, which patrons frequently share with companions. The menu isn’t large on a given night, but it changes often.

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Six Bands On Two Stages: Beacon’s Riverfest

June 30 all-day free music fest runs the musical gamut

Local 845 will present its third annual Beacon Riverfest outdoor music concert in the city’s Riverfront Park beginning at noon on Saturday, June 30. The 2012 line-up of musical artists includes the following headliners, as described by the organizers:

Brooklyn Qawwali Party

This brass band reworks 700-year-old Pakistani Sufi music called Qawwali—think gospel music goes to Pakistan—into a sound that gets folks dancing, shaking, sweating, and even whirling.

The Figgs

Brash punk freaks, recklessly mixing elements of punk and pop but barely losing sight of a solid hook. Long-time backers of Graham Parker too.

Schunkero!

“Party/Folk/Rock/Pop makes cute fun out of the Big Black blueprint.” — Village Voice

The Occulten

Beacon’s original high-octane surf trio inspired by punk, metal, and early rock and roll.

M Shanghai String Band

“Like a modern day medicine show.” — Tommy Ramone

Band videos, photos and more can be viewed at beaconriverfest.com

Beacon Riverfest will take place at Riverfront Park on Saturday, June 30 from noon until 8 p.m. Admission is free, with donations welcome.

Local 845 is producing the event. Under the direction of musician and producer Stephen Clair, who was the recipient of a Dutchess County Executive Arts Award in Oct 2011, Local 845 has continuously produced concerts and live music shows in Beacon and surrounding areas since 2007.

Local 845 presents a variety of original rock, folk, jazz and contemporary musical artists year-round at Beacon’s historical Howland Cultural Center and more non-traditional locales such as Open Space Gallery, University Settlement Camp and Spire Studios.

In addition to launching Beacon Riverfest in 2010, Local 845 also produced Pete Seeger If I Had A Hammer: Concert For A House, a benefit for Habitat for Humanity presented at Washington’s Headquarters in Newburgh, New York.

Since August 2011, Local 845 has produced Scenic Hudson’s Rhythm on The Riverfront Concert Series, four weekly free concerts in Beacon’s newly renovated Long Dock Park, and its In The Pines concerts at Beacon’s University Settlement Camp are one of the most popular mini-festival series in the region.

Beacon Riverfest has secured unprecedented sponsorship to expand this year’s event. The 2012 roster includes marquee sponsors Beacon Natural Market and WFUV-FM, with generous support from Ameriprise Financial Services, Rhinebeck Savings Bank, Dutchess County Arts Council (DCAC), Beacon Arts Community Association (BACA), and the City of Beacon.

For more information, please contact Stephen Clair, festival director at steve@local845.com

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

Sunset Reading Series

(from page 10)

Meeropol adds, “He also has a personal voice. It’s kind of a travelogue memoir and his voice is very much a part of it.”

On the Visit Sunny Chernobyl website the book is described as follows: “From the hidden bars and convenience stores of a radioactive wilderness to the sacred but reeking waters of India’s most fed river, Visit Sunny Chernobyl is a love letter to the world’s most ruined environments, mixing satire, analysis, and good, old-fashioned storytelling to make the case that we have to start appreciating our planet as it is — not as we wish it to be.”

The first fall reading will take place on Sept. 9, and features short story writer Kevin Moffett, whose book Further Interpretations of Real-Life Events was released earlier this year.

Meeropol and Tighe promise that their fifth anniversary season will bring “some big names.” They have already settled upon Sept. 29 as the “Save The Date” Saturday for a big fundraiser, replete with door prizes, games, signed copies of books and more.

For now, it’s back to the business of literature, and this weekend’s reading. Which, as with all of the Sunset Series events, is free, begins at 4 p.m. and will be followed by wine and cheese on the banks of the Hudson.

In summing up, Meeropol says that “although it’s a lot of work, it’s also really gratifying. It started because we both thought that the Chapel is being used well.”

Tighe pipes in, “Our kind of church.”

For more information visit sunsetreadings.org and visitwysunnycherno.com.