



# The Paper

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## Founder's Club Aims to Boost PLAY Haldane Campaign

*With no tax increase option, project hinges on community support*

By Michael Turton

You see them at all manner of facilities — from art galleries and hospitals to community centers and rail trails. Those plaques, the very solid ones that permanently express gratitude to the people, organizations and companies whose financial contributions made an important project possible. Organizers of the PLAY Haldane campaign, which seeks to raise \$2 million to upgrade Haldane's main athletic field, locker rooms and auditorium, hope to see just such a plaque near newly refurbished facilities a year or two from now, specifically thanking members of the Founder's Club.

The Founder's Club is being established to recognize donors who help raise \$100,000 towards PLAY Haldane through contributions of \$5,000, \$2,500 or \$1,000. Dan Hughes, who co-chairs the appeal along with Haldane School Board trustee Jon Champlin, said that despite the sluggish economy, the Founder's Club is off to a good start. "As of now, we have raised \$11,000," he said. "We have many inquiries and ongoing conversations. Some donors are discussing how they may be able to make a more significant donation and how that could be recognized."

Hughes was reluctant to single out individuals who have already pledged but did say, "We have had some nice donations by Haldane alumni who want to give back to their school." He also said that administrators at Haldane "made a very nice donation, and we are in discussions with several other local associations."

Fundraising is almost always a key component of any big community-based project, but in the case of PLAY Haldane, it is perhaps even more vital. Trustees from the Haldane School Board have stated that the project cannot result in any tax increase — so funding must come from other sources. The project does qualify for state aid.

Included in the project is a new artificial turf game field, which, in addition to football, will host boys' and girls' soccer and lacrosse at the varsity and modified levels. The game field will also allow physical education classes to be conducted outdoors. A multi-lane practice track for Haldane students that will also serve as a walking track for the community will also be (Continued on page 14)



Is this building village history or an obstacle to the future?

Photo by K.E. Foley

## Butterfield Committee Scraps Over Hospital Demolition

*Planning Board wants 'lead agency' role*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The tumultuous process leading to ultimate approval, or rejection, of the proposed Butterfield Hospital project continued Monday night (Aug. 27), with scrapping among Butterfield Project Committee members over demolition of the old hospital, the detail and length of scrutiny appropriate for a preliminary "concept" plan, and the role of non-elected advisory boards.

Loss of the village post office if the Butterfield project dies likewise loomed large, and the discussions only got tenser when the Cold Spring Planning Board announced a desire to become the "lead agency" on the project for purposes of certifying local compliance with state laws.

Last winter, the Cold Spring Village Board took on the "lead agency" job when Butterfield developer Paul Guillaro proposed an innovative (for Cold Spring) Planned Unit Development (PUD), requiring an expansive zoning change, for the several-acre site. Guillaro dropped the PUD idea in May, citing frustrations with the approval process. He came back in July with a different design, the implementation of which relies on the property's existing B4 zoning, albeit with revisions to allow mixed-use structures, including retail-commercial outlets, and the presence of all levels of government at Butterfield. Currently, the B4 zone allows medical and single-family residential usage as well as, by special permit, senior-citizen housing; it bars any government institution above the village level, a stricture that prevents construction of a county-town-village office building and U.S. Postal Service branch, part of

Guillaro's plan.

To avert prolonged sub-board by sub-board reviews as well as to obtain multifaceted input on Guillaro's new overall concept and find solutions to potential problems early on, the Village Board this summer created the Butterfield Project Committee, with two representatives each from the Village Board, Planning Board, and Historic District Review Board, all of which must sign off on one facet or another of the redevelopment.

On Aug. 6, Guillaro's firm, Butterfield Realty LLC, applied to demolish the derelict hospital — keeping the existing Lahay Pavilion of medical offices. Two days later, William Bujarski, village building inspector-code enforcement official, forwarded the demolition application to the HDRB, which exercises sole jurisdiction over demolition of historic district structures. The original hospital was built 1924-1925 in a neo-Georgian, classic style reminiscent of colonial Williamsburg, with a somewhat less stately expansion in the same basic style added around 1941 and a 1963 makeover that destroyed the (Continued on page 5)



M&T Bank, Cold Spring

Photo by Maggie Benmour

## Contractors Say Local Economy Hurt by Banks

*Things are changing, bankers reply*

By Ron Soodalter

During the past few years, the federal government has given the nation's banks a substantial transference of funds to help set businesses back on a productive path and put Americans back to work. At best the results of this decision have proven uneven. The economic woes affecting the nation are still evident on the local business scene as well. The construction business is a key component of the local economy. Yet, according to Philipstown contractors who have applied for loans and lines of credit, the area's banks have made borrowing difficult to impossible.

*"I'm a small businessman, but I'm capable of doing a million dollars' worth of business. Get 11 others like me — that's a potential \$12 million. But the banks just don't seem to care."*

The Paper recently interviewed three long-time contractors — Joe Giachinta, Richard Shea and Nick Lisikatos — all of whom have deep roots in the community. Giachinta, proprietor of Mid-Hudson Concrete Products, Inc., lamented the changes that have come about since, as he put it, "the bottom fell out" of the construction business in 2009. "I worked with Fishkill National for years. We'd always gone and talked to them about loans and credit, but after they became M&T, suddenly they just didn't want to be bothered. They pulled our line of credit, which (Continued on page 3)



Mouths to Feed

My Melon Foundation

By Celia Barbour

Many years ago, while writing an article about melons, I brought home several exotic varieties from work. They were heavy. In my third-floor walk-up, I washed them, sliced them open, and scooped out the seeds. Then I cut the flesh — green, orange, pink — into cubes and tossed them in a bowl with lime zest, lime juice, and the merest pinch of salt, after which I stashed the medley in the refrigerator.

I could not stop eating this melon salad, it was so good. The word “addictive” is worn out by now, but in that case it fit. I would write a couple of sentences, push my chair back from my desk, and head to the kitchen to gobble up a few more bites. Eventually, my stomach began to look rather melon-like itself.

I still love melons, not just for their beguiling flavor or luscious, luminous flesh, but also for the way they hide these treasures beneath cool, tough, rough shells — like geodes, or certain hipsters I have known.

But much as I adore melons, they are

one of a few fruits that give the lie to the whole “eat locally” obsession with produce grown close to home. Melons are native to a semi-arid climate, and that’s where they remain happiest — places like California, Provence, and the Middle East. Grown in ideal conditions, they not only turn lovely, sweet, and melon-y, but also develop an intense perfume, as if some fruit-obsessed Willy Wonka had tinkered with the instructions wired into their DNA, cranking up the good stuff to an outrageous volume, and removing any residual pumpkin-aroma.

That said, now that cantaloupe season has arrived here in the Hudson Valley, I’m not about to turn my nose up at a local melon. This morning, I came across some behemoths in the semi-arid parking lot of the Hudson Valley Hospital (which, by the way, is looking quite spruce, post-renovation). Earlier, I had driven a painkiller-addled friend to the hospital for some pre-op tests. As we left the building, we noticed that a farmer’s market had sprouted up in one of the lots. She was in pain and I was in a hurry, but we couldn’t help ourselves. We perused the stands, admiring peppers and peaches, sampling dips and salads. We bought a few things — which, when you’re referring to melons, is immediately too many things, at least as far as the plastic-bag-gripping pads of your fingers are concerned. We hobbled back to the car, feeling nonetheless gladdened to know that a hospital supports the circulation of good, wholesome food — such a vital aspect of health and healing.

Back home, I decided to make an agua fresca, which means “fresh water” in Spanish, and refers, in Latin America, to

any fresh, non-carbonated fruit, nut, or seed juice. I made mine with cantaloupe juice mixed with lime juice and lime zest for old time’s sake, and added a couple of aniseed stars, which I steeped in boiling water along with a tablespoon of honey. At the last minute, I added the very tiniest pinch of salt — maybe 8 or 9 grains in all, just enough to help the melon flavor pop without drawing any attention to themselves.

And then I sat down to write.

Cantaloupe aqua fresca

I hear this is great with white rum, but I cannot say for certain. It is very fine all by itself.

- 1 cantaloupe, seeded, its flesh cut into rough chunks (about 8 cups)
- 2-3 limes, to taste
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1-2 star anise OR 2-3 slices of fresh ginger
- the merest pinch of salt, optional

1. Place the cantaloupe in a blender. Add ½ cup cold water and puree. Set a fine-meshed strainer over a bowl (or line a regular strainer with cheesecloth) and pour the pureed fruit into it. Allow to drain for about 30 minutes, stirring the pulp from time to time to push it through the mesh. Discard pulp.
2. Meanwhile, in a small saucepan over medium-high, heat 1 cup of water to a simmer. Add the honey and the anise stars or ginger slices, and allow to simmer for a couple of minutes. Turn the heat off, cover the pot, and allow the mixture to steep.
3. When strained, transfer the cantaloupe water to a jar or pitcher. Stir in the lime zest, lime juice, and the honey-spice mixture. Add water or ice to desired intensity. Drink right away or store in the refrigerator.



Photo by C. Barbour



Photo by C. Barbour

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# Contractors Say Local Economy Hurt by Banks (from page 1)

was only \$150,000, and didn't want to work with us at all."

Things did not improve when Giachinta moved his account to Chase, where he said he also received impersonal service. "We were just a number to them. At one point, we went to them for a little grace

*"It's practically impossible to get a \$600-700,000 mortgage anymore; lower mortgages are possible, but it takes six to seven months to get one, and they peck you to death with paperwork."*

period, but they didn't want to hear it. I had to lay off half my people. A crew is hard to train, and when you have loyal men working for you, it's hard to let them go. For a while, I paid them out of my own pocket, but eventually I just had to cut back."

For contractors, a line of credit is needed to buy materials and equipment during a project or to finance the acquisition of properties. "I have a project sitting idle for the past three years," said Giachinta. "I had a letter of commitment from Chase, and on the strength of that, I started the project with my own money. Suddenly, they pulled the letter, and I couldn't afford to go forward on my own. The same thing has happened to others as well."

Although Giachinta is currently debt free, he acknowledges that the business is far from where it was 20 years ago. "We used to pour 150 yards of concrete a day. By 2010, we were down to 20 yards, and now we're up to 70." Although M&T has since reached out to him and helped to alleviate some of his money woes, Giachinta's approach to business and the banks has undergone a drastic transformation. "It changed my whole mindset. I'll never borrow money again, if I can help it."

Richard Shea, town supervisor, shares Giachinta's view. "I had a \$1,000,000 credit line with Wachovia, but after they were absorbed by Wells Fargo, the bank pulled it. They let go everyone I knew there and changed everything. You can't get to anybody, and the further up the ladder you go, the more dismissive they are of you. I'm a small businessman, but I'm capable of doing a million dollars' worth of business. Get 11 others like me — that's a potential \$12 million. But the banks just don't seem to care." Shea said he reapplied for his line of credit and was denied, on the mistaken assertion that there was a lien against his house. It took several frustrating days to straighten out the bank's error, after which they still refused to extend him the million-dollar credit line.

As a result, Shea has lost investment opportunities. "Business is better this year than it has been, but the opportunity to invest in properties has not been possible without the necessary line of credit." Shea agreed with Giachinta that his situation is not unique. "I look around, and I see several projects sitting for sale that had gone to the bank for seed money and been turned down. It's a town-wide problem. I'd guess there are \$20 million in stalled projects out there right now. I don't know how any company is surviving without those credit lines, especially the ones with only five or six employees."

Both Giachinta and Shea point to the government bailouts as the source of the problem.

"The federal government is unaware of the wall that separates businesses from

what was meant to be available and affordable money," said Shea. "The banks got their funding, but they refuse to make it available to the people who need the loans. The bailout money just sits there; they hold onto it to make more money." According to Giachinta, "The government had the right idea; they just didn't implement it right. The mistake they made was to give the banks the money without seeing to it that they put it out on the street to get the economy rolling."

Nick Lisikatos founded Lisikatos Construction, Inc. with his father in 1986. It is an excavation company and, as such, is equipment-intensive. "These days there are no bargains in borrowing money. We usually finance directly through the manufacturer for our heavy equipment needs," said Lisikatos. Although he maintains a cordial relationship with staffers at M&T, he no longer relies on lines of credit. In the past, slow payment on the part of his clients placed him in the position of re-paying the bank late as well. Now, he places his clients on a "progress payment" footing — so much up front, another percentage halfway through the job, and final payment at the end — and sees no need to rely on banks for loans. "You need liquid money equal to what you want to borrow, so why borrow? There's no such thing as available money anymore." Shea concurs. "If you have money, they'll give you the money; otherwise, no."

## Mortgages also a problem

All three agree that banks require a perfect credit rating, from either a business or a private citizen, before they will even consider extending a loan. Lisikatos, whose clients are nearly all residential, described the ordeal he sees people going through in attempting to acquire a mortgage. "Nowadays, applying for a loan is a lengthy process, with a redundancy of paperwork, and you'd better have an A-1 credit rating. The average citizen who may have had some colorful credit is out now." According to Giachinta, even with sterling credit, the process is lengthy, and the result often disappointing. "It's practically impossible to get a \$600-700,000 mortgage anymore; lower mortgages are possible, but it takes six to seven months to get one, and they peck you to death with paperwork."

## Banks respond

Corporate policy prohibits local bank employees from speaking to the media; two banks directed *The Paper* to public relations people closer to the top of the organization. Wells Fargo declined to comment.

"We want to keep small businesses



Nick Lisikatos Photo by Maggie Benmour

alive out there. We are continuing to lend. In New York state, in the first half of this year alone, we've extended \$1.4 billion in credit," said Michael Fusco, New York City-based spokesman for Chase. Asked to what he attributed Chase's success in a devastated economy, he responded, "We make it a practice to make responsible decisions, and to lend responsibly." Nor is Chase alone in pointing to an upswing in lending trends over the past few years. Chet Bridger, M&T's Buffalo-based vice president of Corporate Communications, cited \$71 billion in national loan originations and renewals in the past three years alone, adding, "We've placed additional emphasis on growing business in the Hudson Valley, through careful and responsible lending."

With billions in loans to small businesses, why can't local contractors find the money and credit they need? There are no easy answers. Explained Mike Keegan, M&T's regional president for the Albany and Hudson Valley market, "We're a large community bank, and we can only be successful if we accommodate our local clients." He acknowledged contractors have had a rough time generally. "This is one of the worst cycles since the Great Depression, and the construction business is one of the most profoundly affected." However, he sees the contractors' problem as one of demand, not financing. "Without the promise of new business, no infusion of money will help."

Responding to the contractors' assertion that a "sterling" credit rating is necessary these days for a loan or line of credit, Keegan stressed, "We've always tried to maintain consistent underwriting standards. We generally don't loosen standards when the economy is hot and

then tighten things back up when the economy slows, which we believe some of our competitors may be in the habit of doing. The big question is, what was it that caused the banks to pull or reduce your line of credit? If you borrowed in, say, 2007, when the economy was much healthier, and found yourself in trouble in 2009, you might not have been treated as well as you'd have liked. These days, we're stressing personal service. If people have had a long-standing relationship with us, and they have a problem, we want to work with them. There's no upside to losing customers." Joe Giachinta's renewed relationship with Cold Spring's M&T branch would tend to bear this out.

The two groups view the issue through different lenses. The contractors, facing a business in which competition has grown, jobs are smaller and fewer and farther between, and revenues have shrunk appreciably, see the banks as the underlying cause of their woes. They see banks as impersonal, disinterested, and unwilling to provide needed funding to help their construction customers create new business.

Conversely, the bankers stress long-standing local relationships as key to a healthy lending program, point to an upward trend in small business loans that increases by billions annually, and express a willingness to help their loyal customers work through their problems. The perceptual gulf is wide. M&T's Keegan suggested a roundtable meeting and discussion, in which members of the local construction community can meet with him and other bank officials, in the hope of finding a common ground.

   
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LETTERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The

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The Giving Tree

Dear Editor:

The Giving Tree

by Shel Silverstein

was my favorite book to read to my kids about a tree; no matter what phase of life it was in, it was always giving. First it provided shade, then a hiding spot, a place to climb, apples to sell, wood to build a home, and in the end what seemed like a sad stump was also a place to sit and rest one's weary bones.

Haldane's playground has a "Giving Tree." It was a spot to meet my kids. It gave me shade while I watched them on the playground. As the subject of many art classes over the years, thanks to Mrs. Cendali, I know our tree has been appreciated. With my youngest of three kids going into sixth grade, my middle going into 10th and my oldest a sophomore in college, Haldane's Giving Tree has been a monument throughout their lives. Many generations of Philipstown families will miss this tree.

I did notice over the last few years that our Giving Tree was starting to lean. I wondered if I was imagining it leaning a little more each year, but last Spring I noticed that the tree didn't have as many leaves, and those that grew seemed to be



The Giving Tree

Photo by Leslie Uribe

turning brown and covered the blacktop earlier than the fall season. The angle of the Giving Tree scared me a little, and I was saddened to think it might be coming close to the end of its life.

Today, I happened to stop at Haldane and was a witness to the taking down of our giving tree. I was shocked, but I

knew it was for the safety of our children. I hope we can all reminisce in the joy Haldane's Giving Tree gave us, and thanks to Mr. Silverstein's wisdom, perhaps we can find a new way to enjoy the remnants of our tree.

Leslie Uribe, Cold Spring

# Revolutionary History Comes Alive During Constitution Island Events

The Constitution Island Association held a full day of events on the historic 280 acres on the southern end of Cold Spring last Saturday, Aug. 25. Throughout the afternoon, reenactors in War of the Revolution garb marched in formation, held firing lines, charged with bayonets, and drove their horses toward onrushing foes. When not acting out battle scenes, the elaborately costumed troops mingled with visitors to discuss

their hobby and answer questions. In addition to the re-enactments, there were presentations on aspects of Revolutionary history on the island and in the Hudson Valley as well as on the Warner family, which occupied the historic house on the grounds during much of the 19th-century. The association hopes to someday reopen the house fully to visitors. Only the kitchen was available on this day.



A Revolutionary army officer

Photo by K.E. Foley

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War of the Revolution honor guard greets visitors.

Photo by K.E. Foley



# Butterfield Committee Scraps Over Hospital Demolition *(from page 1)*



An ornate arch still stands in the old hospital. Photo courtesy of Cold Spring Village government

original third floor and original architecture and replaced it with a suburban-modern building.

### Hospital demolition

So far, the HDRB members have opposed Guillaro's idea of tearing down the hospital.

"What we've already been on record about is preserving the hospital building. This does not preserve the hospital building," HDRB member Carolyn Bachan said Monday, as the committee perused Guillaro's preliminary plan for the redevelopment.

"We're open to anything but just outright demolition without having it demonstrated that it doesn't work" to re-use the hospital, HDRB Chairman Al Zgolinski added. "That's the part that concerns me. Why can't the existing building be used for any of the other uses proposed?" Guillaro's entire plan features three single-family homes, condominiums for retirement-age buyers, the municipal building, post office, and retail-commercial square.

Guillaro informed the committee, "I'm not going to develop this project with that [old hospital] building there. It's just not economically feasible."

Zgolinski advised that Guillaro "keep the '63 addition," if nothing else. "From what I hear, you're saying you don't want to deal with it at all. We haven't seen" any evidence from Butterfield Realty of the need to demolish, he said.

"It's a sick building," Guillaro declared. "Once you start with a building like that it just becomes a money pit. I really don't want to keep this building, and financially I can't afford to keep this building; I really can't. If I can't take the building down this plan is not going to happen."

Mayor Seth Gallagher tried to steer the group toward considering the concept as proposed, or recommending realistic alternatives, and defined the committee's role in part as "finding solutions to problems."

That prompted protests from Bachan and Zgolinski that he simply dismissed them and their approach, defined by Zgolinski as "saving the hospital building."

Trustee Matt Francisco, the other Village Board representative to the committee, defended the HDRB members as acting in their capacity as architectural experts; he urged that the issue of hospital demolition be settled before the committee takes up other aspects of the

project to any extent.

Gallagher said the HDRB members are also villagers tapped to serve on boards to benefit the community. If the project stalls, "there are real reverberations, including loss of the post office, including loss of the senior center."

"That is so false," Bachan remonstrated, wondering why, if not housed in the old hospital, the post office and municipal offices simply could not be accommodated in other structures Guillaro builds at Butterfield.

The municipal building, senior citizen center, and post office "will not be built unless this [entire redevelopment] is built," Gallagher asserted.

Guillaro said the post office has already rejected quarters in

the old hospital.

The mayor said the differences over the hospital demolition and related issues reveal "a broader problem with how the boards work sometimes. They don't realize that there are many repercussions to their work, and it's very easy for them to work in their own little world ... . In this case it's going to have severe implications for the rest [of the village] — loss of the post office. I take that very seriously."

### A developer's frustrations

The developer expressed exasperation that what he thought was to be a review of his preliminary plan and the related zoning kept getting bogged down in the minutiae usually reserved for studying detail-laden site plans. "I'm just trying to get to the zoning part and we don't get there." He pointed out that under the existing B4 provisions he could construct 15 or 16 single-family homes and/or medical-related facilities. "Everybody's ignoring that I can do these things" now at Butterfield, he said. "What I'm having a hard time with is, why do we discuss things that are as a right" a developer's prerogative?

"What is the definition of 'as a right'?" Planning Board Chairman Joe Barbaro questioned in return. Whatever Guillaro designs under existing zoning, "the Planning Board has a right to review it and perhaps limit it because of other considerations," Barbaro said. "You're still coming to the Planning Board to get approvals."

Guillaro informed the committee that the post office wants to install temporary trailers on the Butterfield site, to use when its lease runs out at the Foodtown Plaza this fall. "I don't have a problem with it as long as we're going to be moving ahead with the plans," he said. "I'm not renting space to the post office so the project can just sit. I need to have some direction in the next couple of months."

### Planning Board input

The committee also took up a nine-point Planning Board critique. In one item, the Planning Board said a condominium building "is still too large and needs [to be] softened"; in another, the Planning Board expressed concern about the condo concept altogether. Condominiums pay less in taxes than comparable fee-simple (such as single-family, stand alone) homes.

"I think the Planning Board feels it is very unfair for low- and middle-income seniors to be paying one tax rate and wealthy seniors from out of town moving in and paying a lower rate," said Arne Saari, one of two Planning Board members on the Butterfield Committee. "In other words, you're subsidizing."

It's not clear whether buyers of the condos would be out-of-town newcomers as opposed to Cold Spring residents selling existing homes and downsizing.

Gallagher answered that in another sense, it's "a subsidy going back the other way, too" because the childless condo-dwellers, aged 55 or above, would not burden the school district with additional enrollments and because the project includes retail and commercial space. Overall, "it's going to have a net-positive impact" on the tax base, he said. He likewise recalled legal advice from the village attorney that the village cannot mandate the form of ownership of structures legally built. "I think it's not really the purview of the Planning Board."

The critique also announced that as the project gets more formally underway, "the Planning Board wants to be designated as lead agency ... . Since the PUD component of the original plan has been removed, we feel our board is better suited for this review." Barbaro explained that "we're just putting our stake in the ground."

The mayor was not enthused. "My instinct is to keep it [lead agency status] with the Village Board, especially as you can see the problems we can have with boards and just the way things can get really stalled in ways that certainly are legal but don't necessarily serve the needs," he said. "It is a reality. That's what we're dealing with here and that's why we have this larger group and why

we're trying to do this thing together." He described an official June Planning Board report on Butterfield as "very personal" and "not professional" and read a sample. In it, the Planning Board called Guillaro's PUD timetable "surprisingly unrealistic" and said it "might have reflected his perceived ability to bulldoze the community into acceptance by angling our need for a new post office location. If not fulfilling Mr. Guillaro's expectations of lightning-fast approval caused him upset, frankly, he deserved it." Last March, the report added, the Planning Board had determined "that a pause was required to solicit the views of the community rather than continue marching forward like lemmings off a cliff with a proposal that was not sufficiently vetted and that the village would be living with for decades to come."

Gallagher termed such language "very emotional. And we're trying to get away from that."

### Public comment

Public comment, a contentious topic at meetings of late, also came up when an audience member, Arthur Lopatin, posed a question. Gallagher suggested the committee entertain it but not accept further audience remarks.

"What are you, a Stalinist?" Lopatin asked.

"No, would you like to leave?" Gallagher responded.

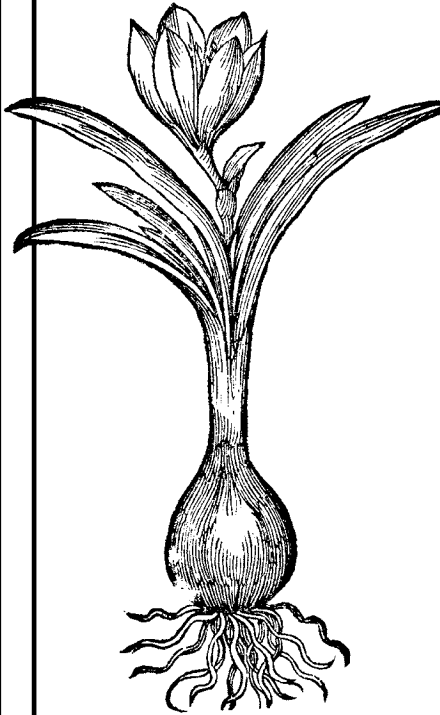
"You call a cop and make me leave," Lopatin challenged. "I dare you to. Is this meeting open to public comment or not?"

Again the mayor said it was not and Lopatin replied, "I stand corrected," and stormed out, with a parting remark: "This is a farce."

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# Senior Citizen Picnic Features Politics with Partying

*Informal poll: get rid of hospital to get senior center*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Cold Spring Village Board’s annual senior-citizen picnic featured politics as well as partying on Saturday, with three candidates for office stopping by and the mayor conducting an informal poll in which attendees endorsed demolition of the old Butterfield Hospital building to get a senior-citizen center and new post office.

On an afternoon of blue skies laced with clouds, the approximately 65 aged residents and a few future seniors — such as three members of the Village Board — mingled, chatted and dined on a lunch of grilled hotdogs and hamburgers, salads, and cookies and cheesecake, washed down by a variety of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. As in the past, the event took place at Mayor’s Park.

Trustees Matt Francisco and Bruce Campbell assisted Mayor Seth Gallagher as hosts, although Gallagher noted that Campbell deserved the most credit for making all the arrangements, soliciting donations of food from local stores and restaurants, and overseeing everything. Residents Steve Etta and Joe Russo lent a hand with the cooking and other chores on Saturday, too.

In addition, three Democratic electoral candidates turned out: New York State Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, seeking re-election; Steve Rosario, a former Town Board member hoping to represent Philipstown in the Putnam County Legislature; and State Senate contender Terry Gipson.

Gallagher took advantage of the occasion to plug development of the hospital site to get benefits in return. “We are working on trying to make something at the Butterfield property” that is good for the community as well as for the developer, he said, briefly addressing the seniors.

The anticipated gains include a senior-citizen center, space for the current U.S. Postal Service branch when its present lease expires, and enhanced county presence. “We’re looking for more of a county interest in Philipstown,” he explained. “Also, it’s really important that we keep a post office in Cold Spring. That’s critical.”

Ultimately, what happens will be the



Senior residents enjoy lunch and good company at the annual village-sponsored picnic. Photo by L.S. Armstrong

result of input from villagers, as well as the local government and the developer himself, the mayor said. Acknowledging that some residents want to preserve the old hospital, he warned that “to save the building, you may lose the whole project,” and with it a senior center and post office.

He then conducted an impromptu show-of-hands vote on how many seniors wanted to save the old hospital and how many favored tearing it down. About 15 people sought to save the hospital and 20 to 25 voted to get rid of it. But confusion clouded the vote, as one or more seniors appeared to vote twice — once for each

option. So the mayor tried again, this time declaring in clear tones that saving the hospital was tantamount to losing a senior center, post office, and other sought-after structures. This time the vote came out overwhelmingly in favor of demolishing the hospital.

Later, as the mayor talked to seniors individually, one asked what she and her contemporaries could do to ensure success for the argument that the old hospital should go to make room for something better. “People have to come out to meetings and say that,” Gallagher replied.



Philipstown Town Board member Betty Budney, second from right, and State Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, right, get lunch; Galef carries a copy of *The Paper*. Photo by L.S. Armstrong



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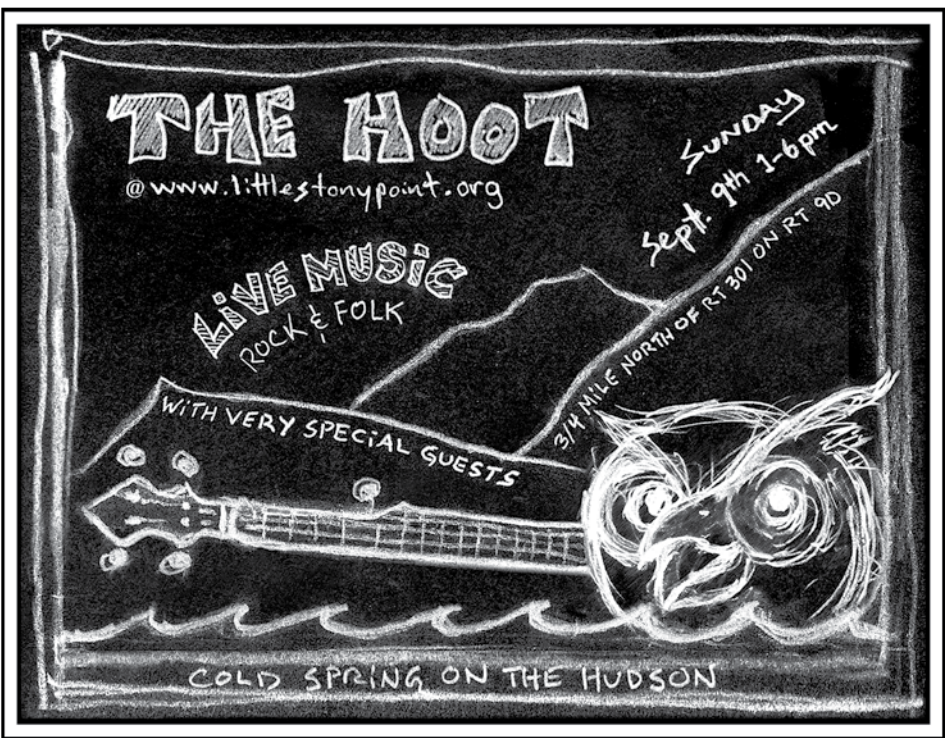
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# The Calendar



Swear and Shake

Photo by Allison Olszewski

## Amateur Musicians Work With Pros at Play Weekend

*Two concerts feature coaches and workshop participants*

By Christine Simek

Play Weekend Hudson Valley is an amateur chamber music workshop that will take place in and around Cold Spring next weekend, Friday, Sept. 7 to Sunday, Sept. 10. This first-ever Play Weekend Hudson Valley will offer two public concerts at Our Lady of Restoration Chapel on Market Street as a part of their schedule of events.



Rachel Evans, left, and Arlene Metrick rehearse for the upcoming Play Weekend Hudson Valley. Photo courtesy of Rachel Evans

# Brooklyn Indie Music Migrates North to The Living Room

*Little Silver and Swear and Shake: two bands with 'city edge'*

By Alison Rooney

The Living Room's vital signs have been strong in its first year. Opened as a hybrid host to classes, an event space and a retail shop, it has shaped and defined itself in response to the community and now, minus the storefront business, is establishing itself mainly as a venue for all sorts of events. Some of these events are produced by The Living Room's owners, Nathalie Jonas and Phil Nobel, while many others are presented by people who have

rented out the space for a special occasion or classes. The Living Room made a splashy entrance with a jam-packed opening concert by the well-known indie group The National, and the opening act for that concert, Swear and Shake, is returning on Sept. 8 to headline, along with Little Silver, another Brooklyn-based band with Hudson Valley roots. This concert is house-produced, with Jonas seeking each band out, thinking they'd be great together. Nobel notes, "There's a sweet spot for what audiences here are into, and we thought this would really appeal." Jonas adds: "On

the one hand their music fits right into the folk/singer-songwriter scene here in Cold Spring. However, they also bring with them a bit of young, Brooklyn/city edge, which I think would appeal to a certain Cold Spring audience. Our hope for this show is to get a mix. The bands are doing their own promotion, and it's so easy to get here from the city, so ideally people from all over will come to the concert." Little Silver has been dubbed by *Magnet Magazine* as "a perfect example of the new generation of folk, featuring twanging acoustic guitar punctuated by carefully conducted vocal harmonies, all dripping in ... (Continued on page 15)

Founded 25 years ago in Princeton, N.J., Play Weeks and Play Weekends provide adult musicians the opportunity to expand their musical horizons with concentrated ensemble playing and personal, intimate coaching from members of a renowned faculty. This weekend features co-directors and coaches Rachel Evans, a Juilliard graduate (Continued on page 11)



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Merci, Matisse



SITTING on  
the BENCH  
❖ by Tara ❖



As regular readers of my work will have noted, I am an old fashioned creature. I am not fond of change and that includes so-called technological progress. Often I see people walk into the Country Goose chattering on their cell phones. When they leave with or without a purchase they are still talking, talking to some invisible person about nothing very much.

The other day, a regular customer strolled in and he was not talking on his phone. No, he had come to say that he had been clearing out the basement of his weekend home in Putnam Valley and found a ten-year-old copy of the Journal News which he presented to the boss. His reason: On the front page of the newspaper's business section were two stories about shops on Cold Spring's Main Street. How thoughtful of him.



Now, I am fond of old-style newspapers that are printed on paper and can be held — like the one you're reading — so that they can lie in a basement for years and still be recovered and studied. Alors, I hear that most people nowadays get their news from TV or the internet. That news is as fleeting as the wind.

One of the stories in the Journal News concentrated on the boss with a nice picture of her but the most fascinating paragraph was about me. I feel it's my duty to my readers to quote it in full: "A black Labrador named Lady Tara, trailing a long green leash stayed close to Burton (the boss) Burton leaves the leash on Tara so that she can step on it if the dog tries to make a break out the front door when a customer comes in."

Isn't that sweet? Of course, I was only a puppy at the time and now I'm much wiser. I would never leave my post in the store where I welcome customers with a good wag of the tail. Together with my welcome, a customer can find the latest edition to The Ugly Doll Family - Ugly Buddies. Two Ugliers for the price of one. Almost as cute as moi. Come on down to The Country Goose and check them out yourself.



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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](http://philipstown.info). Send event listings to [calendar@philipstown.info](mailto:calendar@philipstown.info). See you around town!

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 31

### Health, Sports & Outdoors

#### Sunset Kayak Tour

6 P.M. HUDSON VALLEY OUTFITTERS  
63 Main St., Cold Spring  
845-265-0221 | [hudsonvalleyoutfitters.com](http://hudsonvalleyoutfitters.com)  
Cost: \$80. Call to register.

### Art & Design

#### Cheval Glass Exhibit

9:30 A.M. – 5 P.M. BOSCOBEL  
1601 Route 9D, Garrison  
845-265-3638 | [boscobel.org](http://boscobel.org)

#### GAC Current Sculpture Exhibition

9:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M. BOSCOBEL  
1601 Route 9D, Garrison  
845-265-3638 | [boscobel.org](http://boscobel.org)

#### Nice/Sarrantonio Exhibition

10 A.M. – 5 P.M. GARRISON ART CENTER  
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison  
845-424-3960 | [garrisonartcenter.org](http://garrisonartcenter.org)

#### Manitoga Tour

11 A.M. – NOON RUSSEL WRIGHT DESIGN CENTER  
584 Route 9D, Garrison  
845-424-3812 | [russelwrightcenter.org](http://russelwrightcenter.org)  
Admission: \$15/adult; \$13/seniors; \$5/child under 12 | Reservations required. Register online at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com).

### Theater & Film

#### Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival: The 39 Steps (Theater)

8 – 11 P.M. BOSCOBEL  
1601 Route 9D, Garrison  
845-265-9575 | [hvshakespeare.org](http://hvshakespeare.org)  
Call for tickets.

#### The Night of the Hunter (Film)

8:30 – 10 P.M. EDWARD HOPPER HOUSE  
82 N. Broadway, Nyack  
845-358-0774 | [edwardhopperhouse.org](http://edwardhopperhouse.org)

### Music

#### Live Music Night

SILVER SPOON CAFÉ  
124 Main St., Cold Spring  
845-265-2525 | [silverspooncoldspring.com](http://silverspooncoldspring.com)

### Meetings & Lectures

#### Living in the Light of Divine Sanity: A Retreat for People of Color

3 p.m. Fri. – 3 p.m. Sun. GARRISON INSTITUTE  
14 Mary's Way, Route 9D, Garrison  
845-424-4800 | [garrisoninstitute.org](http://garrisoninstitute.org)  
Cost: \$230 - \$290. Call to register.

#### Free Computer Help

2 – 3 P.M. DESMOND-FISH LIBRARY  
472 Route 403, Garrison  
845-424-3020 | [desmondfishlibrary.org](http://desmondfishlibrary.org)

#### Beginner AA Meeting

8 – 9 P.M. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
10 Academy St., Cold Spring  
845-265-3220 | [presbychurchcoldspring.org](http://presbychurchcoldspring.org)

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

### Kids & Community

#### Farmers' Market

8:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M. BOSCOBEL  
1601 Route 9D, Garrison | [csfarmmarket.org](http://csfarmmarket.org)

#### Food Pantry

9 – 10 A.M. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILIPSTOWN  
10 Academy St., Cold Spring  
845-265-3220 | [presbychurchcoldspring.org](http://presbychurchcoldspring.org)

#### Antique Show & Flea Market

8 A.M. – 5 P.M. 428 ROUTE 216, STORMVILLE  
845-221-6561 | [stormvilleairportfleamarket.com](http://stormvilleairportfleamarket.com)

#### New York Renaissance Faire

10 A.M. – 7 P.M. 600 ROUTE 17A, TUXEDO  
845-351.5171 | [renfair.com/ny](http://renfair.com/ny)  
Tickets: Adults: \$22; Children (5-12): \$11

#### Dance Beacon/Ballet Arts Studio Open House

10 A.M. – NOON STUDIO | 107 Teller Ave., Beacon  
845-831-1870 | [dancebeacon.com](http://dancebeacon.com)

### Health, Sports & Outdoors

#### Public Canoe Trip

11:30 A.M. – 1 P.M. CONSTITUTION MARSH  
845-265-2601 Ext. 15 | [constitutionmarsh.org](http://constitutionmarsh.org)  
Reservations required.

#### Campfire Kayak Tour

6 – 9 P.M. HUDSON HIGHLANDS NATURE MUSEUM  
120 Muser Drive, Cornwall  
845-534-5506 Ext. 204 | [hnnaturemuseum.org](http://hnnaturemuseum.org)  
Reservations: \$60 - \$70. Reservations required.

#### Yoga at Storm King

10:15 – 11:15 A.M. STORM KING ART CENTER  
1 Museum Road, New Windsor  
845-534-3115 | [stormking.org](http://stormking.org)

#### Constitution Marsh Kayak Tour w/ Instruction

10 A.M. HUDSON VALLEY OUTFITTERS  
63 Main St., Cold Spring  
845-265-0221 | [hudsonvalleyoutfitters.com](http://hudsonvalleyoutfitters.com)  
Call for reservations. Cost: \$110

#### Bannerman Island Tour

1:30 – 4:10 P.M. BEACON LANDING  
(800) 979-3370 | [prideofthehudson.com](http://prideofthehudson.com)  
Cost: \$130/adult; \$25/child 11 and under.

### Art & Design

#### Despertar La Más Profunda Expresión

(Awakening the Deepest Expression) Opening Reception

3 – 5 P.M. HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER  
477 Main St., Beacon  
845-831-4988 | [howlandculturalcenter.org](http://howlandculturalcenter.org)

#### Manitoga Tour

11 A.M. & 1:30 P.M. RUSSEL WRIGHT DESIGN CENTER | See details under Friday.

#### Nice/Sarrantonio Exhibition

10 A.M. – 5 P.M. GARRISON ART CENTER  
See details under Friday.

#### Cheval Glass Exhibit/ Free Admission Saturday

9:30 A.M. – 5 P.M BOSCOBEL  
See details under Friday.

#### GAC Current Sculpture Exhibition/Free Admission Saturday

9:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M. BOSCOBEL  
See details under Friday.

#### Art & Crafts Fair

10 A.M. – 6 P.M. ULSTER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
249 Libertyville Road, New Paltz  
845-679-8087 | [quailhollow.com](http://quailhollow.com)  
Admission: \$8/adult; \$7/senior; children 12 and under free.

#### Light & Landscape Exhibition Beekeeper Apiary Tour

NOON, 1 P.M. & 2 P.M. STORM KING ART CENTER  
1 Museum Road, New Windsor  
845-534-3115 | [stormking.org](http://stormking.org)

#### Dia Public Tour

1 – 2 P.M. DIA: BEACON  
3 Beekman St., Beacon  
845-440-0100 | [diabeacon.org](http://diabeacon.org)  
Free with admission.

### Theater & Film

#### Village of Brewster Film & Food Fest

4 – 10 P.M. OAK STREET, BREWSTER  
845-279-2477 | [VOBFilmFestival.com](http://VOBFilmFestival.com)

#### Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival: Love's Labour's Lost with Closing Party (Theater)

8 – 11 P.M. BOSCOBEL  
See details under Friday.

### Music

#### The Doansburg Chamber Ensemble

7 P.M. ST. MARY-IN-THE-HIGHLANDS  
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring  
845-228-4167  
Tickets: \$10, seniors & students \$9

#### Live Music Night

SILVER SPOON CAFÉ | See details under Friday.

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Wesley Mann, left, (Clown 2) and Jason O'Connel (Clown 1) in Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's *The 39 Steps*  
*Photo by William Marsh*

**Rhythms of the Soul – A Night of Dancing**  
8 – 10 P.M. HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER  
477 Main St., Beacon  
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

**John Hall**  
8:30 P.M. TOWNE CRIER CAFÉ  
130 Route 22, Pawling  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

**The Spinners**  
8 – 10 P.M. PARAMOUNT CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
1008 Brown St., Peekskill  
914-739-2333 | paramountcenter.org  
Tickets: \$30 - \$50

Meetings & Lectures

**Free Computer Help**  
2 – 3 P.M. DESMOND-FISH LIBRARY  
See details under Friday.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Kids & Community

**Antique Show & Flea Market**  
8 A.M. – 5 P.M. | See details under Saturday.

**New York Renaissance Faire**  
10 A.M. – 7 P.M. 600 ROUTE 17A, TUXEDO  
See details under Saturday.

**Not Your Mama's Sunday School**  
11 A.M. – 2 P.M. SCHOOL OF JELLYFISH  
183 Main St., Beacon  
845-440-8017 | schoolofjellyfish.com | Fee: \$65

**Family Tour**  
1 – 2 P.M. STORM KING ART CENTER  
1 Museum Road, New Windsor  
845-534-3115 | stormking.org

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

**Patterson Flea Market**  
8 A.M. – 4 P.M.  
3161 Route 22, Patterson  
845-265-4414 | pattersonfleamarket.com

Health, Sports & Outdoors

**Bannerman's Castle Hard Hat Tour**  
10 A.M. HUDSON VALLEY OUTFITTERS  
63 Main St., Cold Spring  
845-265-0221 | hudsonvalleyoutfitters.com  
Call for reservations. Cost: \$130

**Bannerman Island Tour**  
1:30 – 4:10 p.m. Beacon Landing  
See details under Saturday.

Art & Design

**Art & Crafts Fair**  
10 A.M. – 6 P.M. ULSTER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
See details under Saturday.

**Nice/Sarrantonio Exhibition**  
10 A.M. – 5 P.M. GARRISON ART CENTER  
See details under Friday.

**GAC Current Sculpture Exhibition**  
9:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M. BOSCOBEL  
See details under Friday.

**Cheval Glass Exhibit**  
9:30 A.M. – 5 P.M BOSCOBEL  
See details under Friday.

**Manitoga Tour**  
11 A.M. & 1:30 P.M. RUSSEL WRIGHT DESIGN CENTER  
See details under Friday.

Theater & Film

**Cold Spring Film Society Presents *The Iron Giant*/*Ghostbusters* (Double Feature)**  
8:30 P.M. DOCKSIDE, COLD SPRING  
coldspringfilm.org

**Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival: *Romeo & Juliet* (Theater)**  
7 – 10 P.M. BOSCOBEL  
See details under Friday.

Music

**Live Music Night**  
SILVER SPOON CAFÉ  
See details under Friday.

**West Point 1812 Overture Concert with Fireworks**  
7:30 – 9 P.M. TROPHY POINT AMPHITHEATER  
Cullum Road, West Point  
845-938-2617 | westpointband.com

**Classic Jazz**  
5 – 8 P.M. WHISTLING WILLIE'S  
184 Main St., Cold Spring  
845-265-2012 | whistlingwillies.com

Religious Services

**Our Lady of Loretto**  
7:30, 9, & 11:45 A.M. 24 FAIR ST., COLD SPRING  
845-265-3718  
ourladyoflorettocs.com

**St. Mary's Episcopal Church**  
8 & 10:30 A.M. 1 CHESTNUT ST., COLD SPRING  
845-265-2539 | stmaryscoldspring.org

**St. Philip's Episcopal Church**  
8 & 10 A.M. 1101 ROUTE 9D, GARRISON  
845-424-3571  
stphilipshighlands.org

**St. Basil's Academy Greek Orthodox Chapel**  
8:30 A.M. ROUTE 9D, GARRISON  
845-424-3500 | saintbasilacademy.org

**South Highland Methodist Church**  
9:30 A.M. 19 SNAKE HILL ROAD, GARRISON  
845-265-3365

**First Presbyterian Church**  
10 A.M. 10 ACADEMY ST., COLD SPRING  
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

**St. Joseph's Chapel**  
10:15 A.M. 74 UPPER STATION ROAD, GARRISON  
845-265-3718 | ourladyoflorettocs.com

**Church on the Hill**  
10:30 A.M. 245 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING  
845-265-2022 | coldspringchurchonthehill.org

**United Methodist Church**  
11 A.M. 216 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING  
845-265-3365

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Kids & Community



**28th Lasdon Labor Day Antiques Fair**  
10 A.M. – 5 P.M.  
LASDON PARK & ARBORETUM  
2610 Amawalk Road, Katonah  
914-273-4667  
cordshows.com  
Cost: \$7; children 12 and under free

**Bridge Club**  
9 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER  
477 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-4988  
howlandculturalcenter.org | Fee: \$3

Health, Sports & Outdoors

**Constitution Marsh Kayak Tour w/ Instruction**  
10 A.M. HUDSON VALLEY OUTFITTERS  
63 Main St., Cold Spring  
845-265-0221 | hudsonvalleyoutfitters.com  
Call for reservations. Cost: \$110

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

Art & Design

**Cheval Glass Exhibit**  
9:30 A.M. – 5 P.M BOSCOBEL  
See details under Friday.

**GAC Current Sculpture Exhibition**  
9:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M. BOSCOBEL  
See details under Friday.

**Art & Crafts Fair**  
10 A.M. – 4 P.M. ULSTER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
See details under Saturday.

(Continued on page 10)

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The Calendar

(from page 9)

Theater & Film

**Sleepwalk With Me (Film)**  
12:10, 2:10, 4:10, 6:10, & 8:10 P.M. JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER  
364 Manville Road, Pleasantville  
914-747-5555 | burnsfilmcenter.org

Music

**Turning Point American Roots Festival to Benefit Piermont Police Athletic League**  
NOON – 5 P.M. GOSWICK PAVILION/RITTENBERG BALL FIELD  
95 Ferry Road, Piermont  
845-359-1089 | turningpointcafe.com  
Tickets: \$15; children 12 and under free. Alcohol-free event.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Meetings & Lectures

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

**Cold Spring Planning Board**  
7:30 P.M. VILLAGE HALL  
85 Main St., Cold Spring  
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

**North Highlands Fire Department Company Meeting**  
8 – 10 P.M. NORTH HIGHLANDS FIRE HOUSE  
504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring  
845-265-7285 | nhfd21.org

**Women's AA Meeting**  
7:30 P.M. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
10 Academy St., Cold Spring  
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Kids & Community



**First Day of School**  
HALDANE & GARRISON SCHOOLS

**Seniors Bus Trip to Fishkill**  
10 A.M. PICK-UP AT CHESTNUT RIDGE, COLD SPRING  
10:15 A.M. PICK-UP AT PERKS PLAZA, COLD SPRING  
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com  
Call to register.

Health, Sports & Outdoors

**Mah Jongg Open Play**  
10 A.M. – 1 P.M. VFW HALL  
Kemble Street, Cold Spring  
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Art & Design

**Cheval Glass Exhibit**  
9:30 A.M. – 5 P.M. BOSCOBEL  
See details under Friday.

**GAC Current Sculpture Exhibition**  
9:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M. BOSCOBEL  
See details under Friday.

Music

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

Meetings & Lectures

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

**Bible Study**  
7 – 8 P.M. CHURCH ON THE HILL  
245 Main St., Cold Spring  
845-265-2022 | coldspringchurchonthehill.org

**Garrison School Board**  
7:30 P.M. GARRISON SCHOOL  
1100 Route 9D, Garrison  
845-424-3689 | gufs.org

**Life Support Group**  
7:30 – 9 P.M. ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
1101 Route 9D, Garrison  
845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Health, Sports & Outdoors

**Adult Co-Ed Volleyball**  
7:30 – 9:30 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER  
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison  
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com  
Cost: \$3/night. Ages 18 and older. Philipstown residents only.

Art & Design

**Despertar La Más Profunda Expresión (Awakening the Deepest Expression) Exhibition**  
1 – 5 P.M. HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER  
477 Main St., Beacon  
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

**Cheval Glass Exhibit**  
9:30 A.M. – 5 P.M. BOSCOBEL  
See details under Friday.

**GAC Current Sculpture Exhibition**  
9:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M. BOSCOBEL  
See details under Friday.

Music

**Poetry Workshop/Open Mic**  
6 – 9 P.M. BEAN RUNNER CAFÉ  
201 S. Division St., Peekskill  
914-737-1701  
beanrunnercafe.com

Meetings & Lectures

**Holistic Moms of Putnam County Presents Reiki 101**  
6:30 – 8:30 P.M. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
10 Academy St., Cold Spring  
http://home.homewebs.com/hmnputnamctyny/

Meetings & Lectures

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

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# Summer Sunset Music Series Ends Sunday

## *Buddy Traina Band wraps up the season*

By Michael Turton

It's a sure sign that the seasons will soon be in transition. The Summer Sunset Music Series will play its final notes for 2012 on Sunday, Sept. 2 at 5:30 at Cold Spring's bandstand.

The Buddy Traina Band will perform a makeup show for a concert washed out by bad weather earlier this summer. It's a fitting finale, since Traina coordinates the popular riverfront concerts.

Traina has been performing for 45 years, and his band brings an eclectic blend of rock 'n' roll, folk, jazz and pop to the stage. He handles vocals and guitar with Mario Trombetta on drums, Bill Donovan on bass, and Randy Sanna on keyboards.

"This year's series has been a great success," Traina said. "It's our 12th year." He said that the Sunday evening shows offer residents a chance to hear local talent as well as previously unknown but talented groups. The venue is definitely part of the magic of the series. "It's such a wonderful setting — right on the Hud-

son River," Traina said.

The popularity of the series among regional musicians creates a challenge for Traina in scheduling shows each Sunday evening from early July through August. He's been doing it for four years. "It's a six-month job putting it together — and I get 60 to 70 applications from bands each season," he said. "I've probably got 100 musicians mad at me — they all want to play here!" Despite the tough calls in choosing which bands make the cut, Traina wouldn't have it any other way. "I like doing it," he said.

Traina originally signed with Laurie Records and now owns his own label, Bone Records. He and his band cover classic old tunes as well as his own unique originals. Traina has played with the Shirelles, the Happenings, and Dion & the Belmonts. The Summer Sunset Music Series is sponsored by the Cold Spring



Buddy Traina, right, and his band will perform the last concert of the Summer Sunset Music Series at Cold Spring's bandstand at 5:30 on Sunday, Sept. 2.

Photo courtesy of Pattie Traina

Area Chamber of Commerce. Traina, a member of the chamber's board of direc-

tors, coordinates the series as a volunteer.

# Amateur Musicians Work With Pros at Play Weekend

(from page 7)

and Beacon/Garrison resident who has toured around the world with various ensembles; Cortlandt Manor resident and pianist Cynthia Peterson, also a Juilliard graduate and a former faculty member of CUNY and SUNY who has made appearances at the American Academy in Rome, Canada and at Yale; Play Week Director and cellist (and a founding member of Brooklyn Baroque) David Bakamjian; and guest violinist Sebu Sirinian, who performs with the American Symphony Orchestra and the Brooklyn Philharmonic. Evans and Sirinian are also members of the Meridian String Quartet, a group that recently played a reunion concert at the Philipstown.info office at 69 Main St.

According to Evans, chamber music differs from orchestral or solo music in that, as its name implies, it is music often more suited to informal surroundings and impromptu gatherings, and the reward for the years of practice and patience required to develop the necessary skills to participate in a group experience. "Amateur musicians — as well as many professionals — gravitate to chamber music like fly-fishermen to rivers and streams. It's where all the goodies lie!"

Continuing Evans said, "The greatest Western composers wrote some of their most intimate music for their patrons to play informally at home. For ama-

teur players coming to an event like Play Weekend Hudson Valley, they have an intense chamber music experience, offering them an opportunity to continue to develop skills and discover insights that ideally bring perception and inspiration to a deeper level."

Historically, music has been about community-making, and Western chamber music is a formalized version of that idea. People gather to listen and play, to learn from one another and, as Evans' student Arlene Metrick said, "to be in the joy of total immersion in a musical experience with other people who love it." Play Weekend Hudson Valley was conceived on these very ideas: to offer local amateurs a chance to meet other amateurs and to provide players with an opportunity to gather and make music together in a beautiful setting like Cold Spring.

Before sessions begin for Play Week participants, students fill out questionnaires, and faculty members assign each musician to a trio or quartet based on their skills and experience. Each musician is assigned a piece of music and is scheduled for personal coaching sessions with each of the coaches. Peterson says that Play Weeks and Weekends are wonderful occasions for professional and amateur musicians to work and learn to-

gether. "It is pure joy for all of the musicians involved to be together," she said. "We are all still learning, and we support and encourage one another. That support is a really special thing."

A faculty concert will be held on Saturday, Sept. 8 at 8 p.m. at the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring and will feature Bach's accompanied Violin Sonata in C

minor, Mendelssohn's Piano Trio in D minor, Beethoven's Serenade Op. 8 for String Trio, and a Dvorak Bagatelle for piano quartet. The workshop-participant concert will be held on Sunday afternoon at 1:45 pm, also at the chapel, and will include Vivaldi, Mozart, Zemlinsky, Albrechtsburger, Ravel and Dvorak. Both events are free and open to the public.

Dr. Suzi Tortora's  
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# Any Movement Can Be a Dancing Movement

*Suzi Tortora's studio encourages children to tell stories through dance*  
By Christine Simek

Dancing Dialogue: Healing and Expressive Arts is a dance and movement studio run by Dr. Suzi Tortora, a local psychotherapist, teacher and dancer. Her work integrates psychotherapy, creative dance movement therapy and wellness with the goal of helping children and adults synthesize their verbal and nonverbal actions to forge a greater understanding of themselves and others. An internationally known lecturer, Dr. Tortora offers classes, workshops and private consultations at the Carriage House on Marion Avenue in Cold Spring.

"I'll help you!"

"That's okay, we'll do another one!"

"I know, let's dance together!"

These were some of the refrains



Creative movement class Photo by C. Simek

bouncing around the room during Tortora's Dancing Stories: Musical Adventures class on a stormy afternoon last week. A group of rambunctious 5-, 6- and 7-year-olds were working on their group dances and discussing choreography and music. After introducing the child-inspired themes for the performances (hunters, friendship, and magic) one of the groups set themselves up in the front of the room with long ribbons and sherbet-colored scarves for a run-through.

"Remember, dancing isn't running," Tortora reminds the room before she starts the music. "What are some of the moves you might do instead?" The chorus of voices respond: "Gallop!" "Leap!" "Prance!" "Sidestep!" "Crawl!" The children are excited and jumpy, their bodies revved up like tiny race cars ready to ca-



Suzi Tortora instructing creative movement

Photo by C. Simek

reen onto a track. Once the music starts relief is palpable. Their bodies start to move. And they dance.

To the unknowing eye, this might appear to be an ordinary dance class, but Tortora's focus isn't on teaching only form, but also on helping children along the path of personal wellness and self-discovery by providing activities that enable them to explore the link between their minds and their emotions through the creative movement of their bodies. She encourages children to tell their individual stories through dance.

"We hear about so many issues with body image," Tortora says, "often beginning in childhood. I want to give children the opportunity to feel good about the way they move and for them to know, at a young age, that any movement can be a dancing movement." Seeing and understanding this connection between their bodies and their thinking is vital, Tortora continues, because our bodies hold all of our experiences. "[The body] is like a map of our whole life" she says, "and we can access everything that has happened to us through being in contact with our body."

Tortora is a trained psychotherapist with practices in Cold Spring, in Manhattan and at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center where she is a senior dance therapist in the pediatrics unit. She works with groups and individuals across every age range. Out of her studio in Cold Spring, Tortora holds classes

for babies and their parents that focus on non-verbal communication and multi-sensory awareness, classes for school-aged children emphasizing mindful-awareness and social skills development, and adult authentic movement workshops. Tortora also offers individual counseling to children and adults for the long-term treatment of conditions ranging from chronic pain, anxiety and insomnia, to developmental issues such as autism and attention disorders.

Dance therapy, one of a number of creative arts therapies quickly gaining popularity around the country, is based on the premise that the body, mind and spirit are interconnected. The American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA), of which Tortora is a member, defines dance/movement therapy as the psychotherapeutic use of movement to further the emotional, cognitive, physical and social integration of the individual. In other words, dance therapy takes traditional talk therapy to the next level.

Tortora explains that sometimes traditional talk-therapy isn't enough and that some people can spend years in psychotherapy and remain unable to access some prohibitory element of their pain or unease. "Sometimes the only way to get to certain things is by feeling them," she says. "And very often [the issues] don't have words, or they don't start with words, they start with a feeling."

To begin the process of uncovering this feeling and healing it, she says, is to move your body in a new way, or to examine your breathing; to find a way to drop out of your mind for a minute and listen to what your body has to say. Often, says Tortora, an experiential embodied exercise can bring forth a memory or a thought pattern that can lead to discovery and, hopefully, eventually, to wellness.

Tortora's lifelong training and study has focused extensively on the body and the mind, and this marriage of movement therapy with psychotherapy is crucial to the uniqueness of her work. Tortora notes that the current popularity of body therapies such as yoga and massage has started to normalize the exploration of the mind-body-emotion connections, but if an instructor doesn't know what do once a connection is made, a person can be left exposed and vulnerable.

"Our bodies hold everything," Tortora reiterates, "and moving your body [into

a yoga pose, for example] opens things up. If your not trained as a psychotherapist, you can open something up and not know what to do with it." Working with a trained cognitive therapist who encourages intentional movement, however, can help an individual embody what is happening in their lives, encourage communication of their conflicts, bring a relief to symptoms and lead to improved social and vocational functioning as well as personality growth.

Tortora uses the acronym "SHHH" to describe the concept that she says runs through the heart of all the work she does. "Everyone needs to be Seen, Heard, Held and Hugged," she explains. Misconceptions are inevitable when we rely solely on verbal communication. Learning to use our eyes and ears and hearts to connect with one another can help us move past the misconceptions we project onto other people and cause us all pain.

Back in the Dancing Stories class the children end the session sitting in a circle singing songs together and saying goodbye. "What's the magic of dance?" Tortora asks her troupe of tiny dancers. "No words!" they say, giggling, smiling, their seeing eyes shining. Shhhh....

For more information about Suzi Tortora's work, or for a class schedule, you can visit [www.dancingdialogue.com](http://www.dancingdialogue.com).



Creative movement Photo by C. Simek



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

St. Mary’s Sunday School Celebrates Summer’s End

New season starts Sept. 9

Students, teachers and parents of St. Mary’s Episcopal Church Sunday School celebrated the approaching end of summer with a recent weekend picnic at Bowdoin Park, Wappingers Falls.

In addition to just having fun, the outing helps the children “learn to value fellowship at church and away,” Rosaline Lombardo, Sunday school director, said after the event, held Aug. 11.

St. Mary’s Sunday School resumes in the Parish Hall on Sept. 9 at 10:30 a.m., coinciding with the church’s main liturgical service. Sunday school sessions adjourn in time for the participants to attend the last part of the service in church with their parents. Both the liturgies and Sunday school are open to anyone interested. The church is located at 1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring – at the intersection of Routes 9D and 301 (Main Street).

Sunset Reading Features Short-Fiction Rising Stars

As part of the Sunset Reading Series, Kevin Moffett and Corinna Vallianatos will be reading short fiction on Sunday, Sept. 9 at 4 p.m. at the Chapel of Our Lady Restoration. The Chapel is located at 45 Market St. in Cold Spring. The reading is free and will be followed by a wine & cheese reception.

Corinna Vallianatos’s story collection, *My Escapee*, won the 2011 AWP Grace Paley Prize for Short Fiction, judged by Jhumpa Lahiri, and is forthcoming in October from the University of Massachusetts Press. Her stories have appeared in *Tin House*, *McSweeney’s*, *A Public Space*, *Epoch*, *The Gettysburg Review*, and elsewhere.

Kevin Moffett is the author of two books, *Permanent Visitors*, which won the John Simmons Short Fiction Award, and *Further Interpretations of Real-Life Events*. He is a frequent contributor to *McSweeney’s*, and his stories and essays have appeared in *Tin House*, *American Short Fiction*, *The Believer*, *A Public Space*, *The Best American Short Stories*, and elsewhere. He has received the National Magazine Award, the Nelson Algren Award, the Pushcart Prize, and a literature fellowship from the National Endowment of the Arts. *The Silent History*, a collaborative multi-part narrative he’s written with Matt Derby and Eli Horowitz, will be released as an app for mobile devices in fall 2012.

For more information please visit [www.sunsetreadings.org](http://www.sunsetreadings.org) or call Rebekah Tighe at 845-265-4555.

Artists Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month at Howland Center

National Hispanic Heritage Month takes place each year from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15, and each year, the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon joins the national celebration with an art exhibition recognizing accomplished Latino-American artists of the Hudson Valley. This exhibition, *Despertar La Más Profunda Expresión; Awakening the Deepest Expression*, will be shown at the Center from Sept. 1 – 30, with an opening reception to meet the artists on Saturday, Sept. 1 from 3 – 5 p.m. During the reception, Alfredo Bejar, an acclaimed documentary artist, will show his short film of an Andean Dance Festival: *La Candelaria*. And later in the month on Friday,



St. Mary’s Episcopal Church Sunday School picnic, Aug. 11 Photo courtesy of St. Mary’s

Sept. 28 at 8 p.m., Bejar’s film documentary, *Imagining Mina*, about Peru’s hero boxer, will be shown, followed by a discussion with the artist.

Thirteen artists, Jose Acosta, Salvador Arellano, Alfredo Bejar, Aurelio Castaño, Rafael Figueroa, José Gómez, Nestor Madalengoitia, Wilfredo Morel, Elisa Pritzker, Misael Rios, Fel Santos, Marisa del Pozo Slick and Luis Valentin, will exhibit in a multimedia diversity of paintings, sculpture, photography and jewelry.

For the 18th consecutive year, the Howland Cultural Center takes pride in joining this celebration of Hispanic traditions, which have had a profound effect on the development and fabric of this nation. These annual exhibitions draw attention to the diversity and talent of Latino-American artists who have established renowned reputations for their art not only locally and nationally, but also internationally.

Formal recognition of Hispanic-Americans began in 1968 when Congress authorized President Lyndon Johnson to proclaim National Hispanic Heritage Week, and the observance was expanded in 1988 to a month-long celebration to honor the nation’s Hispanic heritage. During the month-long celebration, Americans celebrate the traditions, ancestry and unique experiences of those who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico, and the countries of Central and South America and the Caribbean. The artists featured in this show claim heritage in a number of Hispanic countries: Cuba, Mexico, Peru, Spain, Columbia, Argentina and Puerto Rico.

According to the most recent U.S. Census, 45.5 million people were identified as Hispanic, and 15 percent of the nation’s total population is Hispanic, making it the largest minority group in the United States, and growing larger each year.

From the 15th century, when Spanish explorers first landed in the Western Hemisphere, the history and development of America and this nation in particular can be attributed to the integral role Hispanics have played by their influence in all areas of American society. The Howland Cultural Center welcomes this opportunity to honor and celebrate the richness of Hispanic-American culture, which is very much a part of this nation’s unique diversity.

The art gallery at the Howland Cultural Center is open from 1 – 5 p.m. every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday for public viewing; there is no admission fee but donations are always welcome. An exception to this gallery schedule is on Sunday, Sept. 23, when the gallery is closed to the general viewing public for a Howland Chamber Music Circle concert

featuring the Walden Chamber Players at 4 p.m.

The Howland Cultural Center is located at 477 Main St. in Beacon. For further information call 845-831-4988 or visit [howlandculturalcenter.org](http://howlandculturalcenter.org).

The Great Wide Sea Will Have You Hooked

A Battle of the Books review

By Aidan Cimino

Editor’s note: *Butterfield Library’s 2012 Battle of the Books team members will be reviewing each of their books. See the Philipstown.info archives for previous stories.*

I recently read *The Great Wide Sea* by M.H. Herlong. This book is about three brothers, their dad and a boat. Their father decides to sell the house and sail around the world in a new boat. Ben, the oldest brother, isn’t happy. A terrible storm hits and the boys wake up with their dad and the radio gone. They also discover a poem in their dad’s handwriting that looks mysteriously like a suicide note.

This was a really good book for fans of realistic fiction. I liked this book mostly because there was always something interesting happening. Even when nothing was going on in the real world, Ben would always be thinking or remembering something that would catch your attention.

Readers who enjoyed *The Cay*, *Kon Tiki* and *The Swiss Family Robinson* will be satisfied with this read. This story of family and sailing will have you hooked. I know I was.

Purpose and Presence: Conversation for Clarity

Creative developers Andrea Rich and LuAnn Arena will conduct a workshop on getting in touch with oneself to boost a business or project on Thursday, Sept. 13 from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison. They will address how to fully engage talents to achieve success.

The interactive event will ask questions about what is truly necessary, aiming to inspire confidence for a creative project, a business plan, or a more purposeful experience of life.

Author/Creative Developer Andrea Rich speaks on artistic entrepreneurship and harnessing one’s talents to become more profitable. Visit [arichproduction.com](http://arichproduction.com) to learn more about her work.

Creative Director LuAnn Arena works with solopreneurs and small businesses, maximizing vision and potential profits by building a unique web presence. See

more about Arena’s work at [funkykitty-productions.com](http://funkykitty-productions.com).

There is no charge to attend this workshop, and all are welcome. The Desmond-Fish Library is located at 472 Route 403 in Garrison, NY. For more information go to [DesmondFishLibrary.org](http://DesmondFishLibrary.org) or call 845-424-3020.

Actors Read The Great Gatsby at Desmond-Fish

Putnam County reads Fitzgerald classic in September

Dramatic readings of F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby*, adapted for the stage by Simon Levy, will take place at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison on Saturday, Sept. 15 at 7 p.m. and again on Sunday, Sept. 16 at 2 p.m.

Kurt Rhoads is the director. Many well-known actors from the local theater scene are taking part, including Matthew Amendt, Brad Bellamy, Michael Borelli, Don Brown, Kate Eastman, Lucky Gretzinger, Suzanna Hay, Val Mudek, Kurt Rhoads and Nance Williamson. Theater lovers who are already regretting the end of summer and missing the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival can see many familiar actors here.

Kurt Rhoads is a co-founder of True-North Theatre Project and has lived in Garrison for 10 years. He has acted and directed at Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival and at Westchester Community College. On Broadway he has appeared with Denzel Washington in *Julius Caesar*. He has worked around the country in theater, most recently in *Merry Wives of Windsor* at the Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, D.C. He and his wife, actress Nance Williamson, received the Patricia Adams award at the Desmond-Fish Library annual Associates Dinner this year. They have appeared in 58 plays together and, perhaps, as many readings.

A \$10 donation is requested to pay for expenses. Places may be reserved by going to [desmondfish.brownpapertickets.com](http://desmondfish.brownpapertickets.com). The reading is presented in conjunction with Putnam County Reads. Libraries and cultural organizations throughout Putnam County will present a variety of discussions, lectures, concerts and other events on The Great Gatsby theme this autumn. Copies of *The Great Gatsby* are available at the Desmond-Fish Library, 472 Route 403 in Garrison. For more information, please go to [DesmondFishLibrary.org](http://DesmondFishLibrary.org) or call 845-424-3020.

The dramatic reading of *The Great Gatsby* will also be presented at the Beacon Institute on Friday, Sept. 14 at 7 p.m.

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# Founder’s Club Aims to Boost PLAY Haldane Campaign (from page 1)

constructed, along with outside rest-room facilities and a concession stand. Locker rooms have long been a source of embarrassment to school officials and will receive a makeover. Also integral to the project are improvements to equipment and facilities in the school auditorium. State funding requires that the project include indoor improvements in addition to upgraded facilities outdoors.

Fundraising won’t stop with the Founder’s Club. In an appeal letter widely distributed in the community, Hughes and Champlin said, “We also plan to have additional opportunities to purchase the naming rights to a seat in the bleachers, the auditorium and even bricks in the walkways to the field. We plan to celebrate and publicize our donors in various areas such as the local paper, our website, a donor board located at the school, etc.”

In an email to *Philipstown.info*, Hughes said, “I do expect more grass-roots donations once we unveil some sponsorship opportunities that are at different financial levels than the Founder’s Club. The Philipstown community is so supportive ... no one could ask for more than our community does for good causes.”

Donations can be made to the Blue Devil Booster Club – Fields Project, a 501(c)3 organization, which is handling the private fundraising for the PLAY Haldane project. Contributions are tax deductible.

In-kind contributions will also be possible as the project gets closer to startup. “We have been in discussions with local contractors and businesses and hope to secure in-kind donations for labor and materials, all under the supervision of the engineers, once we are clos-

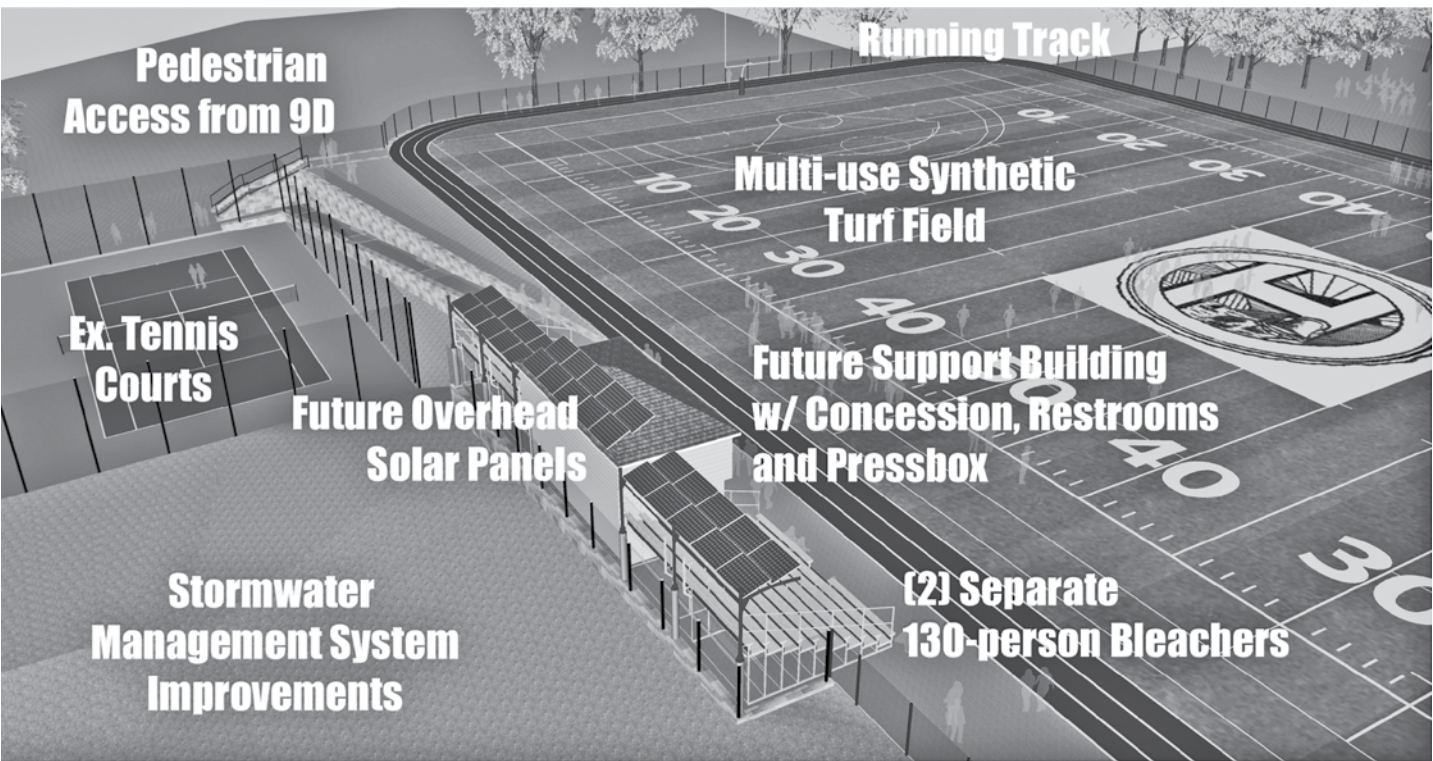


Illustration courtesy of Haldane School District

er to actual product/field specifications,” Hughes said.

While \$2 million is a considerable amount of money, Hughes stressed that the improvements proposed as part of PLAY Haldane are very reasonable. “This is ... not about making any of our Haldane facilities ‘world-class’ luxury venues. The upgrades and renovations planned are cost-efficient, practical, well thought-out and much needed, not luxurious and extravagant.”

Hughes can be reached at [dhughes@kuikenbrothers.com](mailto:dhughes@kuikenbrothers.com), and Champlin can be reached at [champlin@us.ibm.com](mailto:champlin@us.ibm.com). You can also visit their website, [www.playhaldane.com](http://www.playhaldane.com), for more information.

## Haldane Hires Facilities Director

*‘Here it’s more like a happy family’*

By Michael Turton

Michael Twardy is the Haldane Central School District’s new director of Facilities, Operations and Transportation, replacing long-time director Wayne Robinson, who retired earlier this year. Haldane School Board trustees approved the appointment, at an annual salary of \$82,000, on Aug. 14. Twardy, who officially began his duties on Aug. 27, comes to Haldane from the Mahopac Central School District, where he worked for 10 years, most recently as head custodian. In addition to his experience there, Twardy also owned and managed a successful cleaning business for more than 10 years. He holds a degree in business from the University of Massachusetts and a two-year certificate in facilities management.

Twardy had little trouble deciding to seek the position at Haldane. “Since ... working in Mahopac as a custodian, I always had my sights set on being a director of facilities,” he said. “I ... went back to school and got an associate degree in facilities management.” Twardy said that he was sold on the position after speaking with Superintendent of Schools Mark Villanti, Business Manager Anne Dinio and other school officials. “It seemed no matter who I met, they had positive energy,” Twardy said.

At one time Haldane had no director of facilities — something that in hind-



Michael Twardy is the new director of Facilities, Operations and Transportation. Photo by Mark Villanti

cooling systems to manage, storm-water drainage issues, transportation challenges, and many other tasks to supervise, Twardy does not see the actual work as his biggest initial challenge. “My main priority right now is to ensure good communication amongst my staff,” he said. “I need to find out how the day-to-day operations run.”

Haldane will be a very different experience for Twardy compared to Mahopac. “The biggest difference is in size,” he said. “Mahopac was huge, and you seem to get lost in the shuffle. Here it’s more like a happy family.”

Trustees have often praised Villanti for his ability to make good choices in hiring new staff, and he saw abilities and traits in Twardy that he feels will serve Haldane well. “I was most impressed by his work ethic, passion for working in an education setting, his strong knowledge of both cleaning and maintenance, and his leadership abilities,” Villanti said.

Twardy lives in Pawling.

*“I was most impressed by his work ethic, passion for working in an education setting, his strong knowledge of both cleaning and maintenance, and his leadership abilities.”*

sight Villanti said was very dubious. “What a mistake that was,” he said in an email to *Philipstown.info*. “There are so many federal and state requirements made of school districts concerning the health and safety of our facilities that ... to go without a director would be foolish and unsafe. A good director also saves money in the long term.”

Even with aging buildings, numerous capital improvements, heating and

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# Brooklyn Indie Music Migrates North to The Living Room (from page 7)



Little Silver, who will perform on Sept. 8 Photo by Peter Rad

tranquility and longing. Indeed, Little Silver is quite reminiscent of Fleet Foxes or the Head and the Heart.”

David Malachowski of the *Daily Freeman* described Swear and Shake: “A haunting postcard from a faraway, warmer place, [lead singer Kari] Spieler’s moving, heartfelt delivery takes this to a higher place.” Their website bio describes their shows at such New York City venues as the Knitting Factory and The Bitter End as “raucous and full of laughter and dancing.”

Jonas says The Living Room continues to evolve: “We’ve made changes in the last couple of months; we’ve streamlined and the store is gone. The event space aspect has been taking off, and it became clear that it should be our focus.”

The 1,050-square-foot space has lent itself to a variety of uses, from wedding receptions to cocktail parties for local nonprofits, a film screening by a “local auteur” (name not revealed), as well as to the very popular dance parties where

the crowds trailing out onto Main Street have, on occasion, given Cold Spring a taste of nightlife not usually experienced in these quiet streets. A small room off the back is available for rent separately and has been used for everything from massage therapy to guitar lessons. The entire space can be rented “raw” with the renters supplying anything along the lines of catering, flowers, photography, etc., themselves, or alternately Jonas and Nobel can coordinate the extras or steer the renters towards reputable local suppliers.

Regular Zumba, Pilates and yoga classes also dot the calendar, and local and regional arts organizations such as Cold Spring Arts and Local 845 have made use of the large, open room as well, as have bands producing their own events.

Although there is no house sound system (they hope to put one in someday), the space has received, says Nobel, “great feedback on the acoustics.” No amplifica-

tion is needed in the room for spoken voice, as the sound carries well. Bands bring in their own equipment. The dance parties — there have been several — have been packed events, with each one drawing a crowd different to the previous one, according to Nobel. He added that “half the people at the last incarnation were from the city — really, it’s just as easy to get here from Manhattan as it is to go from one end of the city to another for an event or party.”

Nobel and Jonas have lots of ideas for future use of the space: beer tastings, pop-up dinners, more showings of art works. Jonas says her goal is more collaboration with other venues. One such joint undertaking will happen on New Year’s Eve, where they promise “an extravaganza” in tandem with Cathryn’s Tuscan Grill next door, with an “eat and drink there, dance here” menu of festivities. An earlier collaboration happened last May with a Louie Miranda concert for kids accompanied by pizza supplied by Angelina’s.


Jonas and Nobel have lived in Cold Spring since 2009. They “found Cold Spring like everyone else — as day-trippers. We were tired of the city but still



Interior of The Living Room Photo courtesy of The Living Room


needed to be in the city a couple of times a week. This was the closest nice place,” says Jonas. Living in the apartment upstairs from The Living Room, with their backgrounds in architecture (Nobel) and modern dance and Feldenkrais movement teaching (Jonas), they were quick to spot the potential of the large empty storefront below and approached the landlord, who was very amenable to their ideas for it.

Tickets, for the Little Silver/Swear and Shake concert cost \$10 and can be purchased at [info@coldspringlivingroom.com](mailto:info@coldspringlivingroom.com) or by phoning 845-270-8210. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. The Living Room is located at 103 Main St. in Cold Spring. For more information visit [coldspringlivingroom.com](http://coldspringlivingroom.com). To learn more about Little Silver, visit [littlesilver.com](http://littlesilver.com).



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# Free-Range Cats Get Second Chance at Sanctuary in Beacon

Beacon a haven for ‘unadoptables’

By Jeanne Tao

Mid Hudson Animal Aid (MHAA) in Beacon is also known as the Essie Dabrusin Cat Sanctuary, an apt name for this no-kill, free-range cat shelter. The sanctuary’s policy is to give as many cats a chance to be adopted as possible, deciding to keep cats that many other shelters would deem unadoptable.



Free-range cats enjoy the Great Room at the Cat Sanctuary.

Photo courtesy of MHAA

Most shelters would usually euthanize two groups of cats that have their own areas at MHAA: those testing positive for feline leukemia and for FIV (feline immunodeficiency virus). Cats with both of these viruses can still live long, healthy lives and are still adoptable. Since feline leukemia can be transmitted to other cats via bodily fluids, however, a cat with leukemia must be adopted as an only cat or with other leukemia cats. The leukemia room at the sanctuary also requires precautions such as shoe spray and hand sanitizer for those entering and exiting. Cats with FIV, on the other hand, can live with non-FIV cats because of the low risk of transmitting the virus, and the FIV area is an open-air enclosure in the quiet room at the sanctuary.

Feral cats are another group normally considered unadoptable, but MHAA helps socialize feral and semi-feral cats so that they can be adopted. Through their program Feral Friends, which started in 2009, feral cats are partnered with volunteers who visit at least once a week to give treats to, talk to, or play with their assigned cats. Audrey Lodato, manager of MHAA, says that in 2011 alone, 86 feral friends were adopted out, testifying to the success of the program.

The 21-year-old building that houses MHAA was once a greenhouse, ex-

plained Lodato, a long-time animal rescuer who has managed the shelter for the past three years. Because MHAA is free-range, the cats have ample space to roam; even though some have to be separated for special dietary or medical reasons, they are often housed in fenced-off areas nicknamed “airlocks” rather than in cages. Lodato explained that most shelters decide against going free-range because they think the cats will get sick more frequently, “but it’s actually the opposite. The animals, as long as they are taken in properly, are actually a lot happier, which leads to a lot less sickness.”

The sanctuary’s Great Room, with its elaborate system of catwalks and a multitude of cat trees, holds the majority of the felines, who do look comfortable on their pillows and in their beds. During much of the year, the cats also have access via pet doors to a screened-in porch, where many of the feral and semi-feral cats prefer to lounge (at least while the humans are around). In addition to the special-needs areas, there are also rooms with cages for cats that need to be quarantined, including the ever popular, tiny, mewling kittens.

The sanctuary is named after the late Essie Dabrusin, who, along with friend Ruth Valenti of Newburgh, used to rescue abandoned pets in Newburgh in the 1970s. By the late 1980s, Dabrusin was finally able to establish a shelter across the way from the Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) established by her friend



Olivia Banks, a volunteer this summer, says goodbye to Pesto before he is adopted out.

Photo by J. Tao



Audrey Lodato, manager of MHAA, with feline assistant

Photo by J. Tao

Barbara Shea.

Initially run entirely on volunteer labor, MHAA is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 charity organization that relies on private donations for its operation. Lodato reports that they currently accommodate a maximum of 200 rescues during the height of kitten season (late spring through the summer), adopting out about 30 cats every month, with at least one FIV cat adopted each month. Even with this impressive adoption rate, they still have to turn down about 200 cats a month, taking only those that need the special help of MHAA.

If you are thinking of adopting a cat, volunteering at the sanctuary is a good way to get to know some of the cats there. Shy cats, as well as cats who are not in their element amongst so many other cats, are often overlooked by adopters. There are many sweet cats that have been at the sanctuary a long time, according to Lodato. Take Didieo, for example, the calm, polydactyl (extra-toed) tabby who loves everyone but who has a nasal polyp, or Ling, a former feral tabby, or Caprice, a small, all-black cat who needs a little patience to get to know. (Lodato mentions that in many shelters, black cats are not adopted as often because of people’s superstitions about black cats; one-third of the sanctuary’s cats are indeed black or black and white.) The sanctuary is open for adoptions daily from noon to 4 p.m.

There are other reasons to visit the sanctuary, even if you are not considering adopting a cat. Animal lovers who cannot accommodate a cat or another pet at home can volunteer in the Feral Friends program to socialize feral cats,

and of course to give love to friendly cats, as well. Volunteer hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day.

If you cannot adopt or devote time as a volunteer, MHAA accepts monetary donations at their website, [www.midhudsonanimalaid.org](http://www.midhudsonanimalaid.org), or mailed to 54 Simmons Lane, Beacon, NY 12508, or donations of pet and office supplies (de-



Basil waits patiently in the Great Room.

Photo by J. Tao

tailed on their website’s wish list).

MHAA will also hold its Third Annual Catstock Benefit Concert, with four bands playing at Beacon’s Howland Center on Oct. 13. Tickets may be reserved at 845-831-4321 or purchased at Dream in Plastic, 477 Main St. in Beacon, for \$15.





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