Haldane Trustees Begin Tough 2013-14 Budget Talks

Meetings with unions will be part of the process

By Michael Turton

It was a financial discussion that involved many more words than numbers. At their Tuesday, Nov. 20 meeting, trustees for the Haldane School Board began talking about the challenges they face in crafting the 2013-14 budget. While the presentation of the “rollover budget” presented by Business Manager Anne Dinio was a financial discussion that involved many more words than numbers, the board will be presenting an indication of how serious it is, and ask if people look at the budget. An increase of 4.93 percent or $1,081,404 has been on the minds of trustees and anti-taxers for as part of their holiday celebration.

Often, each person gathered around the Thanksgiving dinner table expresses gratitude. One woman said she tries to make a point of jotting down five things she is grateful for. Another said he appreciates that this is the only holiday dedicated “just to thankfulness” and that it pulls families together in a way that is not distracted by patriotism, religion or other factors — elements that he said are “good but not purely focused on family gathering.” And giving thanks is not limited to just the holiday itself. As one person commented, “The feeling of gratitude hits me a few days before Thanksgiving.” Not without some irony, more than one respondent said that they don’t take time out to think about what they are grateful for at Thanksgiving, but that they do at other times of the year.

Not everyone thinks that verbalizing what we are thankful for works very well. This response came from someone who has often had Thanksgiving dinner at her sister’s house: “My sister has sometimes had us all try to say in turn something each is thankful for. This generally draws boos, and the project is abandoned after a couple of lame attempts and a lot of laughter and groans.”

Holiday power rankings

Thanksgiving fared very well in the hearts of Haldane residents when compared to other holidays. A clear majority of respondents ranked it as their favorite holiday, often accompanied by comments such as “by far.” Most other respondents ranked it as their second favorite holiday, usually close on the heels of Christmas. One person called it a dead heat between those two holidays. But it also seems that “bah humbug” is not a term limited only to the yuletide season. A lone respondent referred to Thanksgiving as “the bottom of the barrel” and went on to say, “It is my least favorite holiday of all time due to a great dislike for the festive foods and habits surrounding them. I’d most be thankful not to be obligated to eat so much turkey — or any for that matter!”

Giving thanks: the details

If the American family is an institution that is in trouble, as sometimes portrayed in the media, that assessment is not supported.

Village Board Gets 2 Architects’ Ideas for New Firehouse

Board also agrees to hire 2nd lawyer for HDRB

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Cold Spring Village Board Tuesday night (Nov. 20) heard ideas for a new village firehouse from two local architects, who offered their respective presentations agreed to collaborate. Long talked about, the proposed new firehouse, estimated to cost $2.5 million, would replace the aging and inadequate structure at Church and Main Streets, home to Cold Spring Fire Company No. 1.

In introducing the presentations, Trustee Ralph Falloon, a CSPC member and former chief, said, “This is all about some ideas that can obviously be changed. We don’t know where this is going” so far and in “terms of the money and actual design things will come up that will have to be discussed. We still have a long way to go but we’re finally getting to drawings and numbers we can actually look at, to move forward.”

The architects, James Hartford of River Architects in Cold Spring, and Jamie Copeland of Hudson Design in Garrison, lent their expertise to date pro bono and have provided volunteer professional assistance to the fire company in various ways.

Hartford led the presentations Tuesday, showing images on the meeting hall wall of his concept. Unlike the main door of the current building, its entrance would be on Church Street. His firehouse would sport a traditional station tower with cupola, second-floor outdoor balcony, and look reminiscent of the current village hall, a former firehouse. The building would resemble the 19th-century buildings immediately around it, though constructed of modern, efficient materials, with a brick covering. “I wanted to get out there the idea of making the architecture fit the village,” Hartford said. He did not provide a cost estimate.

Like Hartford, Copeland proposed demolition of the existing firehouse. “Retrofitting never pays. It’s always more cost-effective to,” Copeland said.

Ideas for New Streets, home to Cold Spring Fire Company

River Architects displayed its version of a new firehouse. Photo by L.S. Armstrong

Manager Anne Dinio was the first formal step in what will undoubtedly be an arduous process, this is a budget that has been on the minds of trustees and administration for many months — due mainly to the anticipated continuation of reduced state aid. The rollover budget takes into account all expenditures that are already known for next year — items such as previously negotiated labor contracts, health and pension costs. Expenditures that cannot be calculated yet, such as the cost of fuel, are left at current budget levels, or a zero percent increase.

Superintendent of Schools Mark Volianti was quick to say, “People look at the rollover budget. An indication of how serious it is, and ask if people look at the budget. An increase of 4.93 percent or $1,081,404 has been on the minds of trustees and anti-taxers for as part of their holiday celebration.

Often, each person gathered around the Thanksgiving dinner table expresses gratitude. One woman said she tries to make a point of jotting down five things she is grateful for. Another said he appreciates that this is the only holiday dedicated “just to thankfulness” and that it pulls families together in a way that is not distracted by patriotism, religion or other factors — elements that he said are “good but not purely focused on family gathering.” And giving thanks is not limited to just the holiday itself. As one person commented, “The feeling of gratitude hits me a few days before Thanksgiving.” Not without some irony, more than one respondent said that they don’t take time out to think about what they are grateful for at Thanksgiving, but that they do at other times of the year.

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If the American family is an institution that is in trouble, as sometimes portrayed in the media, that assessment is not supported.

Ruth Eisenhower of Grey Painting attends to customer James Knox, who agrees with her sentiment that she would be more thankful if people were as outraged by war as they are by sex scandals.

Photo by Jeanne Tao
I there is one thing I do not want to think about the day after Thanksgiving, it is food: not cooking it, not eating it, not hunting for it in my leftover-crammed refrigerator. And yet my body seems to have a different agenda. No matter how many extra calories I managed to double-park on my midsection during the feast (estimates place the average American’s total intake at between 2,500 and 3,000 for the one meal), I dis-

cover, not long after I wake up the next morning, that I am once again feeling — can it be? — peckish.

Worse still, by lunchtime I find myself inexorably drawn to the exact same foods that left me catatonic the day before. It makes no sense, but there you have it. We must eat leftovers, even though we are expected to fit into our civilian clothes by the time Monday morning rolls around.

When I was a kid, my mother transformed Thanksgiving leftovers into something wonderful that did not have a name, only a texture; we dubbed it Mush. To make it, she chopped the turkey into bite-size pieces, combined it with whatever outides in flour, and fry them in a skillet in some butter or oil for 10 minutes or so, turning them often, until the outsides are crusty and golden. You can top them with scumbled eggs and smoked salmon, as he suggests, or with Brussels sprouts, if you have no choice.

Recently, I made a new leftover discovery. A plain, roasted sweet potato can be substituted for the tahini in hummus — one cup of the former for two tablespoons of the latter in the hummus recipe I published here on Oct. 23 works well, with a little extra cumin and coriander thrown in for fun.

But the thing I crave most right after Thanksgiving is a turkey sandwich. It actually is delicious — surprisingly better than the sum of its parts. Indeed, my husband, Peter, is such a fan that he suggested I dedicate this whole column to the glories of Mush, I demurred, but included the two preceding paragraphs as a concession to him. Marriage is all about such things, isn’t it?

Additional leftover inspiration came from Jamie Oliver, via his cookbook, Jamie’s Great Britain. In it, I found a recipe that reminded me of something I’d learned at YMCA camp decades ago: that day-old mashed potatoes can be made into fried potato cakes. (Oliver calls them “Glasgow Scones,” which sounds so much nicer than “YMCA Patties”)

Mix the mashed potatoes with about one part flour to every four parts potato, and shape into the jam.

Peeled: A tomato-plum jam

The long ingredient list might make this recipe appear complicated, but it’s actually very easy. After the nuts are toasted, you throw almost everything in the pot and leave it to cook itself.

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Thanksgiving 2012: Beyond the Turkey and Stuffing (from page 1)

by Philipstown residents when it comes to their views on Thanksgiving. When asked what they are thankful for in 2012, the most frequent answer by an overwhelming margin was “my family.” People said it in different ways, but with the same, consistent message. Here is a sampling:

Michael Junjulas, a U.S. government worker at Stewart International Airport and president of the Haldane School Board: “I’m thankful that the Lord gave me such a wonderful family that is healthy.”

Tom Endres, retired army pilot and sustainable farmer: “I am thankful for family, health, spiritual awareness … and I do love turkey.”

John Pavlik, a professor at Rutgers University: “Many things, but family at top of list.”

Dave McCarthy, general manager of Tightslope Interactive: “I’m thankful for the health of my family! The most important thing in the world.”

Dan Hughes, millwork manager: “This year I am especially thankful for my family.”

Mary Jo Mullin, a consultant in philanthropy: “I am thankful … to have landed here (in Cold Spring) and … to have had wonderful parents who made some mistakes but who were loving all along the way.”

Mike Finnegan, organic farmer and reserve army officer, commented on what for many is a much anticipated part of Thanksgiving — kids coming home for the holidays. “I have really enjoyed the ‘bones’ they have brought home from school at Thanksgiving. I love their enthusiasm and youthful idealism.”

Landscape architect Brian Higley was very succinct: “I am thankful for my beautiful miracle of a daughter.”

Ruth Eisenhower, who works at Grey Printing, said she was always grateful for some, such as graphic designer Nicole Graf and one anonymous contributor, were philosophical. “I’d be even more thankful if we could learn to dance with change, to be more aware of ourselves and our surroundings and learn to satisfy what we need with what we have,” Graf said. The anonymous comment, similar to “Thanksgiving and gratitude come from inside. Having more doesn’t necessarily make you more thankful and grateful. Most, though, reflected beyond themselves and their family to the larger community and the national and even global stage, often focusing on political issues and leadership. Andy Chuah, executive director of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, said he would be more thankful “...if we can solve our country’s economic and employment problems, without acrimony and with fairness, and find peaceful resolution in the troubled regions of the world.”

Dave McCarthy said, “I’d be more thankful if there were leaders promoting peaceful solutions and resolving differences through compromise, leaders who could get together with adversaries and agree on a more important and shared common goal.”

Dan Hughes continued that theme, saying, “I would be more thankful if the adults that we elect to govern us act like mature, reasonable and caring adults.”

And Ruth Eisenhower said, “I know this has been going around, but it’s true … I will be more grateful when war enrollment was much less than sex scandals.”

Some simply thought of bettering the plight of others. “I’d be even more thankful if everyone had a family to celebrate with this Thanksgiving instead of being alone,” said Michael Junjulas.

Kathy Marino said she would be more thankful “if fewer people suffered as a result of the hurricane, wars, poverty and addiction.”

A number of people mentioned being thankful that they didn’t suffer as a result of Hurricane Sandy and expressed empathy for those who have.

Two people, Brian Higley and Mike Finnegan, took an eclectic, shotgun approach to their thanksgiving streaks and thankfulness envelope. “I would be more thankful if there were no cancers; if the time changes from daylight savings were halted for ever; if at least $1 billion of clean energy could be extracted from the air; and if even the fancy beer bottles had twist-off caps,” Higley said. Finnegan’s thoughts were just as wide-ranging, saying he would be more thankful “if Giu- nan’s were reopened as a place where everyone in the community could gather as in years past, if someone could articulate a definition of what ‘winning’ is in Afghanistan; why Americans have a tax law that is over 7,500 pages long and so incomprehensible that I don’t know a single person who does their own taxes; and why we still don’t know where our food is from and whether or not it contains genetically modified organisms (GMOs).”

There was also a touch of humor. Mary Jo Mullin said she’d be even more thankful “if Daniel Craig snapped out of it and realized I am his ideal Bond girl.”

Dave McCarthy may or may not have been more realistic, stating, “I would be very thankful if the Jets didn’t stink as badly as they do.”

How do you spell ‘thankful’?

What are you especially thankful for in 2012? And how would you complete that sentence, “I’d be even more thankful if …” Send us your comments, and have a great Thanksgiving.

Village Board Gets 2 Architects’ Ideas for New Firehouse (from page 1)

Copeland pegged the costs of his build- ing at $2.5 million. “Is there $500,000, worth of stuff we could take out of there?” Fallono wondered.

The expense could conceivably be shoul- dered entirely by Cold Spring, or split between the village and Nelsonville. Nelsonville uses the CSFC for between the village and Nelsonville and Philipstown leaders and also prob- ably hold a local referendum and put to the public for a vote. If it goes ahead, the cost “does amount to a pretty substantial increase” in taxes for property owners, he said.

Copeland outlined a scenario in which the firehouse would cost 84 mil- lion, funded through 20-year bonds with an interest rate of 3.5 percent and finance charges to the village of $140,000 each of the 20 years. “The average taxable value of a house in Cold Spring is $356,867,” she wrote. “The new firehouse would increase the taxes on the average house by $134.92. If Nelsonville and Philipstown were to share in the cost, then the increase in taxes for the average house in Cold Spring would be $75.31.”

Fallono said the next steps include conferring with the fire company members to get their thoughts on the designs and other aspects of the project. Meanwhile, it appears the architects will be collaborat- ing as well.

“Why don’t we work on this together?” Copeland asked Hartford, as the presenta- tion wound down. “I’ve been doing this for too long to want to have a turf battle. I like what you do and I think there’s a lot more to be gained by the village if you and I (team up).”

“Sure,” Hartford agreed. “And I think there’s strength in being from the community.”

Nicole Graf working at Grey Printing in Cold Spring

Photo by I. Tao

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Putnam History Museum Hosts Richard Saunders

By Jeanne Tao

On Sunday, Nov. 18, the Putnam History Museum held its 54th Annual Thanksgiving Candlelight Service at the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring, which was free and open to the public. Following the service, a Thanksgiving dinner to raise funds for the museum was held at Highlands Country Club in Garrison, where Richard Saunders was awarded the Elizabeth Todd Healy Volunteer Service Award.

The nondenominational service, which started as the sun set across the Hudson and was lit by real candles in the chapel’s chandelier, was introduced by Chapel Restoration Board President Michael Armstrong, with an invocation and benediction from Father Francis Geer from St. Philip’s Episcopal Church in Garrison. Throughout the service, members of the community — Grey Zeien, Elise LaRecco, Christy Guzzeta and Elizabeth Edelson — read from presidential proclamations by Abraham Lincoln, Ronald Reagan, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Barack Obama.

Interpersed among the readings were hymns sung by all in attendance and accompanied by Elizabeth Ailles, publisher of the Putnam County News and Recorder, on the chapel organ, and musical numbers performed by Cold Spring songwriter AuroraStraus, who is in his eighth grade at Hackley School.

At the dinner that followed, Elizabeth Todd Healy and the Putnam History Museum awarded Richard Saunders the award for exceptional volunteer service, named after Elizabeth Todd Healy, Saunders, owner of the frame and rare-print shop Hudson Rogue Co. in Nelsonville, has served the museum on the collection committee and presented his own collection of images of women with the American flag.

Putnam History Museum's Thanksgiving Candleight Service at the Chapel Restoration on Nov. 18.

Photo by J. Tao

Richard Saunders, recipient of the Putnam History Museum’s 2012 Elizabeth Todd Healy Volunteer Service Award, expresses his gratitude.

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

Waterwheel Arc Returns to West Point Foundry

Scenic Hudson installs 7.5-ton replica

By Liz Schvetzahk Armstrong

More than 100 years after the West Point Foundry shut, a massive waterwheel arrived this week to the site where the original wheel once powered the machinery of an innovative, 19th-century industrial giant.

Employed by Scenic Hudson, owner of the 87-acre West Point Foundry Preserve, crews worked in early afternoon sunshine on Tuesday, Nov. 20 to install a massive spoked arc, reminiscent of a section of the foundry’s wheel. They expected to complete the operation by the end of the day, but other efforts to improve the property will continue until winter calls a halt, with resumption of construction next spring.

Currently closed to the public, the preserve is scheduled to reopen in autumn 2013, when the renovation underway since last June finishes. However, the news media got a sneak preview of the waterwheel, one of several interpretive structures and displays planned by Scenic Hudson. The organization is overhauling the preserve to create a historical park, which it describes as “an education-heritage attraction that will reveal stories of the foundry’s contributions to the Industrial Revolution, its role in the Civil War (including an 1862 visit by President Abraham Lincoln) and the land’s remarkable ecological renewal.”

The foundry ruins, subject of archaeological research projects several years ago, stand in a valley at the south end of Cold Spring, bordering Foundry Cove and marsh. The new park “will retain the natural beauty and tranquility” of its setting, Scenic Hudson promises. Stretches of woods now cover the ground once occupied by the teeming factory complex — and later used by local residents as an unofficial junk disposal yard. In its heyday, the foundry produced not only the cannons credited with helping the Union win the Civil War but steam engines, pipes, farm equipment, household items, and more and transformed a tiny hamlet into the thriving village of Cold Spring.

“It’s exciting — we’re really excited,” Scenic Hudson Parks Director Rita Shaheen said as work proceeded not only on the waterwheel but on a washroom facility and restoration of old foundry walls. Manufactured in Poughkeepsie by Hatfield Metal Fabrication, from a design by Mathews Nielsen Landscape Architects and C&G Partners, the new wheel section is in shiny metal, unlike its wooden predecessor. Shaheen said that Scenic Hudson chose metal to make the wheel piece more durable and also to better depict “what’s old, and what’s new,” with the new wheel rising from the factory ruins around it.

Chris Meyer, president of Meyer Contracting Corp. of Pleasant Valley, the general contractor, said that the project is on schedule so far and that in total about six months of work remains — not including the break for winter.

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

Happy Thanksgiving!

We at The Paper are grateful this holiday for the enthusiastic support of our readers and advertisers as we publish our 26th issue. Thank you for your encouragement, compliments, criticisms, suggestions and contributions.

Putnam County

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Thanksgiving!
Nelsonville to Adopt New FEMA Flood Maps

Bagged leaf pickup, snow ordinance begin Dec. 1

By Jeanne Tao

At 7 p.m. on Monday evening, Nov. 19, the Nelsonville Village Board held a public hearing on revising the local law on flood damage prevention, to remain in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). They also issued some reminders for residents: bagged leaf pickup will occur on Dec. 1, and the snow ordinance banning overnight parking during snowstorms begins Dec. 1 and ends March 31.

New FEMA flood maps

Robert Lusardi, village attorney, had drafted a new local law to adopt FEMA’s new Flood Insurance Study and Flood Insurance Rate Maps. The draft law will be sent on to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) before the Dec. 4 deadline for their review. Once approved by the DEC, the law will be sent on for approval by FEMA before their deadline of Feb. 1. Without these changes, the village would be in danger of suspension from the NFIP on the map’s effective date of March 4.

Mayor Tom Corless explained that the new flood maps are more detailed but have not changed substantially from last year, showing flood areas surrounding Fournedy Creek. As of Monday evening, the village office only had one copy of the maps in their possession for viewing, but Village Clerk Pauline Minners said she would order more. The hearing closed without much public comment.

Snow ordinance

Minners read the snow ordinance that bans overnight parking on village streets 12 - 6 a.m. from Dec. 1 through March 31. Residents must call 845-265-2200 after 5 p.m. to find out whether the ban has been suspended for that night. A limited amount of winter parking is available on North Pearl Street where indicated. All vehicles in winter parking should be removed by 9 a.m. so that the lot can be cleared.

Corless reminded residents that if there is no power and the phone service cannot be contacted, there is absolutely no overnight parking on public streets unless the village suspends it.

The mayor also requested that anyone leaving the village on a day on which it snows or is predicted to snow, to please move cars off the street onto driveways before leaving (and not waiting until midnight when the ordinance begins) so that the streets can be cleared properly. The emphasis was on the need to shovel driveways as well.

Kudos to Central Hudson, Mainlining

During the regular board meeting, Corless and Trustee Anndy Merante both commended Central Hudson’s tree trimming prior to both storms that hit the area in the last month, which they believe helped the power stay on in much of Nelsonville, despite some residents’ complaints about the way in which they had trimmed the trees. Corless added that only the very top section of Healy Road had lost power during Hurricane Sandy when a small tree came down on some wires, which was repaired in a timely manner by Central Hudson.

Corless also said that Mainlining Services Inc. did a good job on the relining project for the winter, residents should continue to clear leaves and debris from catchbasins that are covered by pipes outside their homes, to make sure that water drains properly. Corless also said that Mainlining Services Inc. will be filing a good job on the relining project, mentioning that he had seen part of an old pipe they had cut out that was so clogged, water was flowing through an opening only as wide as a quarter.

To Our Friends and Neighbors:

Thank you to all our volunteers, committee members and candidates for their incredible efforts over the past many months on behalf of the Democratic Party.

We are proud of our victories as well as our hard-fought campaigns. Your efforts have contributed to a stronger Philipstown and a brighter future.

Together we demonstrated the power of a strong, positive message and deep involvement.

As always, we believe this community’s best days are ahead.

Congratulations! You’ve earned it.

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Farmers’ Market Moves Indoors Nov. 24

The Cold Spring Farmers’ Market will move to its indoor location at the Philipstown Community Center at 107 Glencliff Dr. in Garrison (off Route 9D, south of Route 403).

Some new growers will be at the market this Saturday, including the Amazing Live Food Co., bringing in kimchi and spreadable cow’s milk cheese, ice cream and a full line of Roostbrook Farm Dairy. Continental Organics (the aquaponics operation previously featured in Philipsdtown.info) joins Madura Farm, providing two farms with winter-grown vegetables. Full Moon Farm will now be in weekly with meats, and Seatuck Fish Co. in weekly with seafood.

For the holiday season, Shawangunk Growers will be taking wreath orders.

Building Bridges Rower Compete in Boston Open-Water Rowing Championship

A contingent of teenage rowers from Philipstown’s Building Bridges Building Boats organization participated in the Boston area Halli Lifesaving Museum’s (“Icebreaker” North-east Regional Youth Open-Water Rowing Championships this past Saturday, Nov. 17, competing against 25 boats and 35 crews from five states.

According to the HLM, “The Icebreaker draws 200 of the region’s best youth open-water rowers – from Boston Harbor, Lake Champlain, Martha’s Vineyard, Maine’s North Haven, Rockland, Vinalhaven, New Haven, Avery Point, New York City, Plymouth, and Scituate — compete for the coveted ‘Key to the Harbor.’” The young people, from middle school through high school, race throughout the day in a series of round-robin-style heats, culminating in a huge nautical-mile race across the bay.

In their first such event, a “first” and “second” team of fours took to the water, with the first four finishing third in their group and the second four finishing fifth.
Taking Music Classes One Step Further: Stacy's House

By Alison Rooney

Along with the traditional independent preschools and day care centers in Philipstown, there is another option, New York state-licensed home-based care centers. Technically labeled day care, they are not schools per se, but, according to Loretto Padilla, who runs one such facility, the Wondrous Years, “we do all a preschool does.”

Stacy Labriola, who used to conduct twice-weekly music classes at the Wondrous Years and, with the encouragement of Padilla, branched out and started her own entity, Stacy’s House, agrees. By the description of both women, much nurturing, homespun care is provided alongside the preschool versions of ABCs and math play. This week’s feature takes a look at Stacy’s House, with the Wondrous Years covered in a story yet to come.

Stacy’s House is currently in its second year of operation. Labriola, well-known to many in Philipstown in her various musical incarnations, including “Music and Me” teacher, one-third of the MotherLode vocal trio, private guitar instructor, and the variously на that theme — as well as from her many volunteer contributions to the community — runs the program out of her Garrison home. The idea germinated as she decided to “take the music classes one step further — Loretto suggested it,” she says. The journey from idea to obtaining the necessary New York state license took some time, but the program has been a success since opening its doors in Labriola’s expansive home backyard.

A total of 20 children, ages 2 to 5, pass through Labriola’s welcoming door each Monday through Friday, though not all at the same time, as children may attend in any combination of two to five days each week from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Stacy’s House runs from September through the end of June, following the Garrison School calendar, and extending one week beyond, in June. Snacks and lunches are provided every day.

Children ages 2 to 5 participate in some activities together and then separate off into age-specific endeavors, using different books and sorting games. Field trips are tailored to the different ages too.

Mornings begin with individual free play and transition into a host of more organized activities, including art projects — a recent one involved creating Eric Carle-like collages and making books — sorting games, and a reading corner. Themes are based around letters and are expansive and all-encompassing; for instance, the letter “F” led to face-painting, outdoors gardening activities are part of the curriculum.

Themes are based around letters and are expansive and all-encompassing; for instance, the letter “F” led to face-painting, storytime, face-painting, making books — sorting games, and a reading corner. Labriola notes, “We talked about how sometimes it’s good to pull into your own shell sometimes and then explore.”

Afternoons feature lots of music-related activities, with Labriola’s trusty guitar always on hand. On Wednesdays there is complete Spanish immersion, with programs conducted by Yrna Avellanda, whom Labriola calls “so popular here. parents with kids here and older kids at Haldane and Garrison School have hired her to run the after-school Spanish enrichment program classes. We are lucky to have her here.” In addition to Avellanda, Labriola’s right hand has been teacher Jennifer Young. “I have the best help ever — they are fantastic,” says Labriola.

There is no playground per se at Stacy’s House, but rather the large backyard serves that purpose. “We like to bring what’s working inside outside,” observes Labriola, adding that this includes hula hoops, Spanish games, visits to the “ogre’s house” (a nearby structure, and sometimes it’s good to pull into your shell sometimes and then explore). Labriola’s beloved guitar and I have learned that you can actually learn to play in touch regardless, by emailing Stacy Labriola at musicwithstacy@me.com.

Most families find Stacy’s House through word-of-mouth. Although currently full, that can change easily and frequently, according to Labriola, so if interested, it is a good idea to get in touch regardless, by emailing Stacy Labriola at musicwithstacy@me.com.

This article is part of a series on Philipstown’s nursery and Pre-K schools and care centers. To read about others in the series visit Philipstown info.

The Desmond-Fish Library

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Grand Opening Weekend
Saturday ♦ November 24 ♦ 10-5pm
Sunday ♦ November 25 ♦ 1-5pm

Our boutique features gently used books and the finest hand-crafted items from the Hudson Valley:

- Holiday wreaths, quilts, hand made sweaters, hand painted silk scarves, pottery, jewelry, artistic photos, Grandma Phena’s Ginger Cookies, all natural bath and body products and much, much more.

The sale will also be open during library hours
Thursday thru Sunday November 29 - December 2 and
Thursday thru Sunday December 6-9

The Friends of the Library

USSCARE Bake Sale ♦ Dec 8 & 9
372 Route 9D Garrison, NY 10524
845-424-3020 desmondfishlibrary.org

Outdoor gardening activities are part of the curriculum.

Photo by A. Rooney
This Mouse Has Moxie: A Little Country That Could

By Alison Rooney

There's a nation where the economy has slumped. Revenues from their main export have been undercut by cheaply-made imitations from abroad. Their entreaties to the government of this foreign land go unheeded, and the once-proud country is slipping into destitution.

No, the Haldane Drama department is not doing a slice-of-life play about Greece or Spain or any number of present-day countries (the U.S. included), but instead enacting the very topical — and very funny — tale of The Mouse That Roared.

It first came to life in 1955 in the form of a six-part Saturday Evening Post serialized novel written by Leonard Wibberley, then became a popular book derived from the articles, and was followed by a film version, released in 1959 and starring Peter Sellers in multiple roles, and finally, this play, adapted by Christopher Sergel, first produced in 1963.

Director Martha Mechalakos, who read the book and saw the film in preparation for working on the production, said that each version differs from the others slightly, with a more traditional romantic subplot added, naturally, for the movie. She urged her cast to read the book as well, feeling that “whenever a play is based on a literary source, you should go back and read it. It adds to your knowledge of the character — you can incorporate it subconsciously.”

Ultimately, the somewhat zany story remains the same: A tiny (fictionalized) European duchy, Grand Fenwick, is so nestled in both the past and the Alps that its main weapon is still the longbow. Its economy wholly dependent on Pinot Grand Fenwick wine, chaos ensues when, in big, bad old California, a vintner puts out a cheaply manufactured copy of the wine, causing Grand Fenwick's sales to plummet and placing the tiny nation on the brink of bankruptcy, with nary a Euro on hand to save them.

After protests to the U.S. are repeatedly ignored, the powers that be in Grand Fenwick decide that the best course of action would be to declare war on the U.S. Secure in their knowledge that they would not have a chance at winning this war, their covert plan is to lose and then benefit from U.S. sympathy and already demonstrated reparations, rebuilding with help from their former enemy, as Germany did following World War II.

Comic mayhem ensues when the duchy appoints a field marshall, who is unaware of the plan beneath the attack. The tiny army armed with mere bows and arrows arrives in New York City and finds it deserted because of a citywide disaster drill. The “band of archers,” under the leadership of their still-in-the-dark field marshall, stumble upon a secret U.S. government lab after getting mixed up with a phalanx of anti-Q-bomb protesters who see the Fenwick-ians dressed in centuries-old armor and presume them to be men from Mars.

After unintentionally capturing a Q-bomb — a potentially world-destroying “mother of all nuclear weapons” device — and the professor who invented it, the spoiler alert — archers win the battle. They return with both to Grand Fenwick, only to find out that they weren’t supposed to win the war.

The U.S. Secretary of Defense suddenly realizes that the U.S. and Grand Fenwick have been at war for two months and that no one in the U.S. was aware of it. Grand Fenwick now finds itself as a tiny superpower, with ability to control the destiny of the world. Handily it turns out to be a peace-loving duchy with a wise young female leader, and a safer world prevails.

One of the reasons Mechalakos chose The Mouse That Roared was its continued relevance today, in a cat-and-mouse world, where questions as to who has the capability to manufacture weapons of mass destruction still mean that a handful of countries hold all the power while others are at their mercy. Mechalakos said that holding rehearsals during the months before a presidential election made the process all the more interesting and was part of her decision to do a politically themed play this year.

Of course, the other big reason she chose it is that it is, above all, a comedic satire, with rich roles for many young performers. Aping Sellers’ turn in the movie, senior Matt Marino performs more than one role, in his case the gung-ho field marshall and also the U.S. president. The challenge has been fun for him: “I spent the summer working as house staff at the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, where I watched them put on The 39 Steps, a madcap comedy featuring 100 characters played by five actors. Seeing this, I knew I had to try to emulate it, at least

(Continued on page 14)
The Calendar

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Kids & Community

Indoor Tot Park
9 - 11 A.M. & NOON - 2 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
107 Glenlyffe Dr, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com
55 per session. Check for schedule changes.

School Break Mini-Camp (K-3)
9:30 - 11:30 A.M. WILDFLOWER EDUCATION CENTER
25 Boulevard, Cornwall-on-Hudson
845-534-7781 | fnaturemuseum.org

Preschool on the Farm
10 A.M. & 1:30 P.M. COMMON GROUND FARM
79 Fairlane Road, Wappingers Falls
845-235-4424 | commongroundfarm.org

Holiday Pottery and Gift Sale
1 - 5 P.M. MEMBER PREVIEW
5 P.M. OPENING RECEPTION
GARRISON ART CENTER
23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Wine Tasting
4 - 7 P.M. ARTISAN WINE SHOP
180 Main St, Beacon
845-440-6963 | artisanwineshop.com

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Kids & Community

Cold Spring Farmers’ Market
8:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN COMMUNITY CENTER
107 Glenlyffe Dr, Garrison | csfarmmarket.org

Art & Design

Reflections Renewed: Hudson River Images
Revisited - Free Admission for Veterans
9:30 A.M. - 4 P.M. BOCCOBEL
1601 Route 9G, Garrison
845-265-3638 | csfarmmarket.org

Summer Afternoon: Fashion and Leisure in the Hudson Highlands 1850-1950
11 A.M. - 5 P.M. PUTNAM HISTORY MUSEUM
63 Chestnut St, Cold Spring
845-265-4010 | putnamhistormuseum.org

Music

Suzi Tortora’s Baby Cues Baby Moves
Parent & Child Dance & Learn Classes
Ages 3 months - 7 years old
Dance – song – story – play – socialize
Enhance your child’s mind/body/self through dance
Dancing Dialogue: A center for movement, music and dance-based arts supporting healing and self-expression.
Enhance your child’s:
• natural curiosity and creativity
• self-awareness
• confidence and independence
• positive self-image & body-image
• love of learning and discovery
• physical, mental, emotional, social, growth

For more information: www.dancingdialogue.com
suzitortora@mac.com; 845-265-1085
8 Marion Ave Suite 1 Cold Spring, NY

Meet the Animals
2:30 P.M. WILDFLOWER EDUCATION CENTER
25 Boulevard, Cornwall-on-Hudson
845-534-7781 | fnaturemuseum.org

Festival of First Peoples Gala
3 - 6 P.M. LOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER
477 Main St, Beacon
845-631-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Wine Tasting
3 - 6 P.M. ARTISAN WINE SHOP
See details under Friday.

Twilight Tours
5 P.M. & 6:30 P.M. BOCCOBEL
1601 Route 9G, Garrison
845-265-3638 | boccobel.org

Haldane Alumni Basketball Game
5:30 P.M. HALDANE SCHOOL
15 Crawick Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Art & Design

Refections Renewed: Hudson River Images
Revisited - Free Admission Saturday
9:30 A.M. - 4 P.M. BOCCOBEL
See details under Friday.

Summer Afternoon: Fashion and Leisure in the Hudson Highlands 1850-1950
11 A.M. - 5 P.M. PUTNAM HISTORY MUSEUM
See details under Friday.

DiasBeacon Tour
3 P.M. BEAVER ST., BEACON
845-440-0100 | diasbeacon.org
Free with admission.

Blue Collar Blues: Celebrating the Struggle and Satisfaction of Labor
1 - 5 P.M. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
50 Liberty St, Beacon
845-631-5322 | beaconfirstpresby.com

Theater & Film

Dear Governor Cuomo (Documentary)
7 P.M. BEACON THEATER
845-831-2012 | beacontheatrcoldspring.org

Religious Services

Services at St. George’s
7 P.M. St. George’s Church
149 Main St, Cold Spring
845-265-2012 | whistlingwillies.com

Graham Parker & The Rumour
8 P.M. TARRYTOWN MUSIC HALL
13 Main St, Tarrytown
914-633-3390 Ext. 100 | tarrytownmusichall.org

Meetings & Lectures

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

Religious Services

Services at Our Lady of Loretto
9 A.M. - 10 A.M. First Presbyterian Church
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-265-2012 | whistlingwillies.com

Meetings & Lectures

Free Computer Help
2 P.M. DESMOND-FISH LIBRARY
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Religious Services

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9 A.M. - 10 A.M. First Presbyterian Church
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-265-2012 | whistlingwillies.com
### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25

#### Kids & Community

**Descmond-Fish Holiday Boutique**
- **1 - 5 P.M.** Descmond-Fish Library
  - See details under Saturday.

**Holiday Pottery and Gift Sale**
- **10 A.M. - 5 P.M.** Garrison Art Center
  - See details under Saturday.

**Fishkill Historical Society Craft Boutique**
- **10 A.M. - 4 P.M.** Van Wyck Homestead Museum
  - See details under Saturday.

**Meet the Animals**
- **3:30 - 3:30 P.M.** WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTER
  - See details under Saturday.

**Twilight Tours**
- **8:30 & 9:30 P.M.** Boscore
  - See details under Saturday.

#### Art & Design

**Reflections Renewed: Hudson River Images Revisited**
- **Free Admission for Veterans**
- **9:30 A.M. - 4 P.M.** Boscore
  - See details under Friday.

**Summer Afternoon: Fashion and Leisure in the Hudson Highlands 1850-1950**
- **11 A.M. - 5 P.M.** Putnam History Museum
  - See details under Friday.

**Blue Collar Blues: Celebrating the Struggle and Satisfaction of Labor**
- **1 - 5 P.M.** FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BEACON
  - See details under Saturday.

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

**Cocktails & Canvas**
- **2 - 4:30 P.M.** CHILL WINE BAR
  - 173 Main St., Beacon
  - eatpaintlove.com

#### Music

**Celtic Notes**
- **5 P.M.** WHISTLING WILLIE’S
  - 184 Main St., Cold Spring
  - 845-265-2012 | whistlingwllies.com

**Jazz Open Jam Session**
- **845-831-4988** | howlandculturalcenter.org
  - 477 Main St., Beacon
  - 7 P.M. Howland Cultural Center
  - Community Chorus

**Meetings & Lectures**
- **8 P.M.** TURNING POINT MUSIC CAFE
  - 468 Piermont Ave., Piermont
  - 845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

#### 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**
- **8:30 & 10:30 A.M.** 1 CHESNUT ST., COLD SPRING
  - 845-265-2539 | stmaryscoldspring.org

**St. Philip’s Episcopal Church**
- **8 & 10:30 A.M.** 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
  - 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

**Church on the Hill**
- **10:30 A.M.** 245 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING
  - 845-265-3004 | butterfieldlibrary.org

**Our Lady of Loretto**
- **10:15 A.M.** 74 UPPER STATION ROAD, GARRISON
  - 845-265-3718 | ourladyoflorettocs.com

**St. Basil’s Academy Greek Orthodox Chapel**
- **10 A.M.** 216 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING
  - United Methodist Church
  - 845-265-3365

**Church of the Holy Comforter**
- **10 A.M.** 72 UPPER STATION ROAD, GARRISON
  - 845-265-3718 | ourladyoflorettocs.com

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

**St. Philip’s Episcopal Church**
- **8 & 10:30 A.M.** 1101 ROUTE 9D, GARRISON
  - 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

**St. Basil’s Academy Greek Orthodox Chapel**
- **10 A.M.** 216 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING
  - St. Basil’s Academy Greek Orthodox Chapel
  - 845-265-3365

**Church of the Holy Comforter**
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**United Methodist Church**
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  - 845-265-3365

**St. Philip’s Episcopal Church**
- **8 & 10:30 A.M.** 1101 ROUTE 9D, GARRISON
  - 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

**St. Basil’s Academy Greek Orthodox Chapel**
- **10 A.M.** 216 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING
  - St. Basil’s Academy Greek Orthodox Chapel
  - 845-265-3365

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26

#### Kids & Community

**Bridge Club**
- **9 A.M. - NOON, HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER**
  - 477 Main St., Beacon
  - 845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

**Little Bookworms (2 1/2 to 5 years)**
- **1:30 P.M.** BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY
  - 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
  - 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

**Indoor Tot Park**
- **NOON - 2 P.M.** PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
  - See details under Friday.

**Health, Sports & Outdoors**

**Youth Basketball Skills/Drills (Grades 6-8)**
- **6:15 - 7:15 P.M.** PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
  - 107 Glencliffy Drive, Garrison
  - 845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com | Cost: $11

**Men’s Basketball**
- **7:30 P.M.** PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
  - 107 Glencliffy Drive, Garrison
  - 845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com | Cost: $33, Philipstown residents only.

**Music**

**Community Chorus**
- **7 P.M.** HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER
  - 477 Main St., Beacon
  - 845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

**Jazz Open Jam Session**
- **8 P.M.** TURNING POINT MUSIC CAFE
  - 468 Piermont Ave., Piermont
  - 845-359-1089 | turningpointcafe.com

**Meetings & Lectures**
- **7 P.M.** TURNING POINT MUSIC CAFE
  - 468 Piermont Ave., Piermont
  - 845-359-1089 | turningpointcafe.com

**Bardavon Theater**
- **8 P.M.** BARDAVON THEATER
  - 375 Main St., Poughkeepsie
  - 845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

**Music**

**Virtual Jazz Open Jam Session**
- **8 P.M.** TURNING POINT MUSIC CAFE
  - 468 Piermont Ave., Piermont
  - 845-359-1089 | turningpointcafe.com

**Meetings & Lectures**
- **7 P.M.** TURNING POINT MUSIC CAFE
  - 468 Piermont Ave., Piermont
  - 845-359-1089 | turningpointcafe.com

**Bardavon Theater**
- **8 P.M.** BARDAVON THEATER
  - 375 Main St., Poughkeepsie
  - 845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

#### Kids & Community

**Holiday Pottery and Gift Sale**
- **10 A.M. - 5 P.M.** GARRISON ART CENTER
  - See details under Saturday.

**Highland Knitters**
- **NOON - 2 P.M.** PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
  - St. Luke’s Lutheran Church
  - 845-424-3500 | stlukesputnamvalley.org

**Indoor Tot Park**
- **NOON - 2 P.M.** PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
  - St. Luke’s Lutheran Church
  - 845-424-3500 | stlukesputnamvalley.org

**Highland Garden Club Meeting**
- **1 P.M.** BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY
  - 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
  - 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

**Furry Friends Reading Buddies**
- **3:30 P.M.** BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY
  - 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
  - 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

**Kids Craft Hour**
- **4 P.M.** DESCMOND-FISH LIBRARY
  - 472 ROUTE 403, GARRISON
  - 845-424-3200 | descmondfishlibrary.org

**Health, Sports & Outdoors**

**Weight-Loss Surgery Seminar**
- **7:30 P.M. HUGOON HIGHLAND VILLAGE HOSPITAL CENTER WAGNER CANCER CENTER
  - 670 STONEHENGE AVE., CARMEL
  - 914-734-3794 | stopobesityforlife.com

**Board of Trustees Workshop**
- **7:30 P.M. VILLAGE HALL**
  - 85 Main St., Cold Spring
  - 845-265-3011 | coldspringny.gov

**Women’s AA Meeting**
- **7:30 P.M. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
  - 10 Academy St., Cold Spring
  - 845-265-3200 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

**Religious Services**

**Bible Study**
- **7 P.M.** OUR LADY OF LORETO
  - 24 Fair St., Cold Spring
  - 845-265-3718 | ourladyoflorettocs.com

(Continued on page 10)
Dear Governor Cuomo at Beacon Theatre

The Beacon Theatre will screen the new anti-fracking documentary Dear Governor Cuomo at 7 p.m. this Friday, Nov. 23 and Saturday, Nov. 24.

The film, directed by Jon Bowermaster, takes a look at the anti-fracking movement in New York and documents the May 15 rally and concert to ban fracking in Albany. It features Mark Ruffalo, Melissa Leo, Natalie Merchant, Joan Osborne, the Felice Brothers, Medeski Martin and Wood, Sandra Steingraber and many more musicians and anti-fracking organizers in the state.

A Q&A session with Bowermaster and a guest artist (possibly Pete Seeger or Natalie Merchant) will follow. Tickets are $12 per person. Visit the Beacon Theatre's website, thebeacontheatre.com, for more information regarding the film and to purchase tickets. This screening is sponsored by the Hudson Valley Programmers Group and in association with The Woodstock Film Festival.

Dear Governor Cuomo will also be shown at the Downming Film Center in Newburgh at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 26.

The Calendar

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Kids & Community

Indoor Tot Park
9 a.m. - 11 a.m. & Noon - 2 p.m. PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER | See details under Friday.

Mah Jongg Open Play
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. VFW Hall
34 Kamele St., Cold Spring
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Holiday Pottery and Gift Sale
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. GARRISON ART CENTER | See details under Saturday.

Desmond-Fish Library Events
10:15 a.m. MUSIC & MOVEMENT FOR TODDLERS
1:30 p.m. PRESCHOOL STORY HOUR
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-9320 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Senior Holiday Luncheon
NOON. PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Health, Sports & Outdoors

Army Women’s Basketball vs. Columbia
7 p.m. CHRISTI ARENA, WEST POINT
845-938-2506 | gpaarmysports.com

Music

Open Mic Night
8 p.m. WHISTLING WILLY’S
184 Main St., Cold Spring
845-205-2012 | whistlingwillys.com

Meetings & Lectures

Victory Celebration for Barbara Scuccimarra
6:30 p.m. CATHRYN TUSCAN GRILL
91 Main St., Cold Spring
845-424-9261. Cost: $75 per person

Life Support Group
7:30 p.m. ST. PHILIP’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1105 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3071 | auphilichurch.org

Phillipstown Board Workshop
7 p.m. TOWN HALL
238 Main St., Cold Spring
845-205-5200 | philipstown.com

Men’s Group
6:30 p.m. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILIPSTOWN
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-205-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

Garrison School Board
7:30 p.m. GARRISON SCHOOL
1100 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3699 | gdfs.org

Religious Services

Contemplative Prayer
7 a.m. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILIPSTOWN | 10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-205-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

Morning Minyan
8:30 a.m. BEACON JEWISH CENTER
331 Voorlinden Ave., Beacon
845-871-9200 | beaconjewishcenter.org

Thursday, November 29

Kids & Community

Holiday Pottery and Gift Sale
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. GARRISON ART CENTER | See details under Saturday.

Bouncing Babies
10:30 a.m. BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Adult Co-Ed Volleyball
7:30 p.m. PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Cost: $3 per night. Philipstown residents only.

Art & Design

Reflections Renewed: Hudson River Images
Revisited – Free Admission for Veterans
9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. BOSCOBEL
See details under Friday.

Summer Afternoon Fashion and Leisure in the Hudson Highlands 1850-1950
11 a.m. - 5 p.m. PUTNAM HISTORY MUSEUM
See details under Friday.

Music

Herman’s Hermits starring Peter Noone
8 p.m. TARRYTOWN MUSIC HALL
13 Main St., Tarrytown
914-631-3390 Ext. 100 | tarrytownmusichall.org

Meetings & Lectures

Sharon Salzberg and Sylvia Boorstein: The Four Boundless States ( Retreat)
3 p.m. THE GARRISON INSTITUTE
14 Mary’s Way, Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-4800 | garrisoninstitute.org

Retreat lasts through Dec. 2. Register and pay online.

Religious Services

Church of the Crossroads
7:30 a.m. CHURCH OF THE CROSSROADS
506 Grand St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Visit www.philipstown.info for news updates and latest information.
Irish sessions draw aficionados to various locales in Philipstown
By Jeanne Tao

Every first Thursday of the month, musicians gather at the North Highlands Firehouse to play traditional Irish tunes in a slow session (so that beginners to the instruments and/or genre can participate) starting at 8 p.m., followed by a fast session. The music usually lasts until about 10 p.m., everyone sitting around in a large circle, playing or listening to tunes started or called out by individuals.

Before these sessions, as well as on the third Thursday of the month throughout this fall, there has been a series of Irish music classes, beginning at 6 p.m. Various groups of children and adults have been meeting for 30- or 45-minute lessons for beginners or intermediate tin whistle, fiddle, or bodhrán. “Gathering of Irish musicians” founded in Ireland in 1951 by a group of musicians to revive Irish music through an organization called Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (pronounced cah-CAL-tahs col-TA-ri AIR-in), which means “gathering of Irish musicians.” Founded in New York City as well as in Cold Spring, meeting once a month with other musicians at Whistling Willie’s, the Depot Restaurant, and the Silver Spoon, Dillon also recently started a monthly session at Sheeran’s, whose owner is from Ireland, in Tomkins Cove, Rockland County.

While at Whistling Willie’s the group appears more formally under the name of the Celtic Notes, they play in a traditional session format. “We still sit in a circle,” Dillon noted. Such seating encourages everyone to join in. At a recent Sheeran’s session, Dillon noticed a man sitting in the back of the restaurant tapping his foot along with the music, and she asked him if he wanted to sing. She said the audience was amazed when his voice filled the restaurant for a couple of songs.

The classes and sessions are offered through an organization called Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (pronounced cah-WAL-tas col-TO-ry ALL-in), which means “gathering of Irish musicians.” Founded in Ireland in 1951 by a group of musicians who wanted to revive Irish musical traditions, Comhaltas promotes the music of Ireland in every town in Ireland, she said. “The tradition was passed from generation to generation.”

Haldane Trustees Begin Tough 2013-14 Begins Budget Talks

Haldane School Board President Michael Jungtlas said, “In all likelihood, the revenue side of the budget will be a major hurdle. Dinio and Villanti estimate that state aid will be $523,000 less than in years prior to the state’s financial crisis. The state budget, including education grants, will likely be known in mid January.

“What’s playing out here is exactly the doomsday scenario we anticipated – the need to find more than half a million dollars in cuts in order to come in below the state tax cap,” Trustee Peter Henderson said. “In a small school district that is an enormous challenge.”

Villanti said that he plans to convene meetings in December, January and February with Haldane’s bargaining units, the unions that represent teaching and support staff, to discuss the budget situation. When he was elected trustee, Henderson said that if cuts in state aid continued at the same rate in 2013-14, he would have to sign a statement to that effect, or put in a budget freeze. “There’s no secrets,” Villanti said. “We need open, transparent discussions and shared solutions. Consensus is not likely. I firmly believe that if we work hard enough and smart enough, when students walk into school, they won’t see the cuts.”

“Open dialogue is the key for us to emerge intact,” Henderson said. “What we’ve got going here is great. It gets better every year … and we want to keep jobs. People must be free to offer (budget) ideas without fear of being put down. One stupid idea can lead to a creative idea in someone else’s mind.”

New York State Assemblywoman Representative Sandy Galef said she plans to work shop at Haldane to discuss state aid and related budget issues.

“It’s not going to be a ‘gotcha’ session,” Villanti said, “But there is a budget crisis.” She said that in a recent survey, several superintendents across the state indicated that their school districts were headed towards insolvency. “Something is not right when we lose $500,000 in aid, and get $10,000 in new aid.”

Haldane Trustees Begin Tough 2013-14 Begins Budget Talks (from page 1)
bau Is on the Move

After nine years at its current location, bau Gallery is moving to a new and larger space and expanding its programming and art community outreach to 206 Main St. in Beacon beginning Dec. 8. The new location is across the street from Electric Windows near The Roundhouse on the east end of Main Street.

For its first exhibition at the new space, the gallery will explore Apocalypse, a national open call. They asked artists to respond to the theme of apocalypsis in light of the 5,000-year-old Mayan calendar ending on Dec. 21, 2012. Selected artists’ visions will be on display, with an opening reception Dec. 8 from 6 to 9 p.m. The exhibit will run through Jan. 6, 2013. The new gallery hours are Friday 3 - 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 12 - 6 p.m.

bau, Beacon Artist Union, was started in a little pie-shaped gallery space on the west end of Beacon in January of 2004 by six local artists. bau is the longest running cultural community in its nine years in that space. bau aims to foster the growth of the region as a vibrant arts center. bau is the longest running exhibition gallery in the west end of Beacon in January of 2004 by six local artists. bau is the longest running cultural community in its nine years in that space. bau aims to foster the growth of the region as a vibrant arts center. bau is the longest running exhibition gallery in the west end of Beacon in January of 2004 by six local artists. bau is the longest running cultural community in its nine years in that space. bau aims to foster the growth of the region as a vibrant arts center.
The Holiday Fair features crafts, hand-knit and crocheted winter accessories, gifts, cards and photos; decorated Christmas wreaths and trees in several sizes; homemade pastries and other baked goods; soup, stew and a range of food specialties; and unique gift baskets ready to present to family and friends. Some of the finest baskets, a major draw in the past, are raffled off at the end of the day to lucky winners.

Fair sales can be brisk, so St. Mary’s advises shoppers to arrive early. Also in the hall, visitors can warm up with coffee, tea, or hot chocolate; listen to carolers; and act as judges for Martha Washington’s 18th-century Christmas wreaths. The rectory is a stop on the Candlelight Tour. Made available at no charge, the history display allows glimpses of history made real, with numerous 19th-century documents, pictures and similar items relating to the parish, West Point Foundry, and the Hudson Valley. Many show the close links between the foundry and St. Mary’s, since the same individuals guided both through some of the most tumultuous events of the mid-1800s. Copies of Around Cold Spring, a pictorial history of the village and Philipstown, and The Hudson River Valley and the American Revolution and the women who share their love of history — including and preserving our history — are important in history as a devoted patron in support of the American Revolution and the ensuing new nation. This is the 11th year the award has been given, continuing the site’s mission to educate the public about the history of the state and national heritage. Previous recipients are:

- 2005 Patricia Favata — author/historian
- 2006 Barbara Bedell — Times-Herald Record columnist
- 2007 Mary McMahan — City of Newburgh historian
- 2008 Mary Mangione — former Hudson River Valley Greenway director
- 2009 Elizabeth McKean — City of Newburgh Records management director
- 2010 Mary Ann Fish — environmental historian
- 2011 Mara Farrell — community activist
- 2012 Stella Bailey — historian/preservationist

Many women are dedicated to sharing and preserving our history — including those who share their love of history with children by taking them to historic places, those who research the Hudson Valley and share their findings to encourage others to do the same, and those who use their private time or resources to preserve a landmark of historic significance. These are just a few examples of what could qualify a woman to be a recipient of the award. The nomination field is open to any woman who has cultivated interest and awareness of Hudson Valley history, either locally or nationally. Nominations may be completed and submitted by Jan. 4, 2013.

To receive a nomination form, please visit philsaints.org or call 845-562-1195. Garrison Students Focus on Helping Others

This November, the Garrison School PTA sponsored Giving with Thanks, an initiative developed to teach students about empathy and being responsive to the needs of others. On Thursday, Nov. 8, the Garrison School started this program with A Gratitude Attitude, the K-3 Fall Concert. The next morning, Garrison School students, faculty, staff, parents and community members expressed their gratitude to local veterans in a special ceremony honoring their service and dedication to our nation.

During the week of Nov. 13-16, the Garrison School gathered much-needed goods for the Philipstown Food Pantry. On Thursday, Nov. 15, students from kindergarten through third grade made cookie dough for the local food pantry with parent volunteers Andrea Roussel and Danielle Martinelli. The week culminated with a special Giving with Thanks assembly for students and parents. At the event, members from the Philipstown Food Pantry spoke to students and played a short video about homeless children. After the assembly, student representatives from each grade took turns presenting the food donations they had collected. Over the weekend, Garrison School middle-school students delivered the donated food to the Philipstown Food Pantry.

“Garrison School supports an environment where students are encouraged to think about others all year round,” said Principal Stephanie Impellitteri. “Students learned what it means to be supportive members of the community. It was moving to see how the children embraced the concept of giving thanks and acted upon it. I am very proud of all our students.”
slightly, so I talked to Mrs. Mehalacas about maybe trying something like that. When I found I was playing two characters, I was excited, but a little nervous. There’s a certain challenge in creating a character that has many layers in their own right, but doing it with two characters is a completely different experience. It’s been a lot of work, but I know it will have been worth it.”

Hudson Valley Shakespeare’s A Christmas Carol Returns to Boscobel

“I think it’s such a beautiful, joyful, hope-filled story, you can’t help but feel positive about life after being a part of it, either from the performance side or audience perspective. We all feel that, and it’s really special.”

As the recent summer productions of Around the World in 80 Days and The 39 Steps, with their small casts weaving in and out of multiple characters and complex plotlines, have influenced the way the company is presenting A Christmas Carol, O’Brien said, “It goes both ways. Those plays involve people jumping back and forth between characters or narrators, faster than the scenery can move. Audiences are exhilarated or narrators, faster than the scenery jumping back and forth between characters and complex plotlines, have influenced the way the company is presenting A Christmas Carol, O’Brien said, “It goes both ways. Those plays involve people jumping back and forth between characters or narrators, faster than the scenery can move. Audiences are exhilarated or even becomes a new family tradition. For them, it’s such a beautiful, joyful, hope-filled story, you can’t help but feel positive about life after being a part of it, either from the performance side or audience perspective. We all feel that, and it’s really special.”

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Haldane’s The Christmas Carol Production: Focus on Analysis, Not Performance

“I think it’s such a beautiful, joyful, hope-filled story, you can’t help but feel positive about life after being a part of it, either from the performance side or audience perspective. We all feel that, and it’s really special.”

but I think my favorite sections are the narrative ones. Unlike most stage adaptations of A Christmas Carol, which focus mainly on dialogue, some of which Dickens wrote and some of which was created by various adapters, our text is drawn directly from Dickens’ novel. We get to bring to life all of his fantastically imaginative play and put it out for the audience. His descriptive language is so vivid and evocative that we don’t need a set or huge cast to create this magical world; his words paired with our actions are enough. It’s at times funny, frightening, sad and inspiring, but always rich and fulfilling. Another appealing aspect of the production for Hartke is the ability to portray a few characters that are “probable, or certainly, never be cast as elsewhere, which is one of the wonderful perks of doing a full-cast presentation.”

The technical director is Frank Cecchetta, sound by Damian McDonald; video by Jim Mehalacas; lighting by Tyler Mell. Lisa Sheffer is handling the program and advertising; Seamus Carroll the properties; and Joel Goss serves as theatrical consultant.

The Mouse That Roared will be performed at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 30 and Saturday, Dec. 1. Tickets are $10 general admission and $5 for students and seniors.

Any questions can be phoned to Haldane at 845-265-9254, Ext. 111.
The Paper’s Autumn Photofest (from page 16)

Left: Photo by Jeanne Tao
Above: Photo by Kate Vikstrom

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The Paper’s Autumn Photofest

This fall, The Paper collected color photos of autumnal scenes around Philipstown from local photographers. More photos can be seen on our website. Thank you to all who participated!

Photo by Ross Corsair
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Photo by Christine Bockelmann Norris
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