*New York Press Association, 2013

The Philipstown info The 20 CT

The Crucible and All is Calm come to Cold Spring
See page 7

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FREE | FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2014

Gordon Stewart, Our Founder, Died This Week

He lived a multi-faceted life bringing much to the Philipstown community

By Kevin E. Foley

ordon Curran Stewart, the founder of *Philipstown.info* and *The Paper*, died early Wednesday morning, Nov. 26. He was 75 and had suffered from emphysema.

Through an energetic combination of his public participation and strategic philanthropy, Stewart left a clear and lasting mark on the life of the Philipstown community. A relative newcomer to the area, Stewart had deep appreciation for both its natural beauty and its social dynamic.

He and his wife Zanne Early Stewart and their daughter Katy became fulltime residents of Garrison in 2007.

Among his many projects and personal enthusiasms, this 2.5 year-old weekly newspaper and its companion website, which opened on July, 4, 2010, were central to Stewart's local interests. He began the website in response to a growing sense that Philipstown needed a fresh approach to community journalism and information sharing after the *Putnam County News & Recorder*, owned by Elizabeth Ailes and Roger Ailes, chair of Fox News Corporation, had begun to veer toward an ideological approach that alienated many local readers.

"One thing we will not impose are political views. No editorials," he wrote when the website launched. "The only opinion pieces in *Philipstown Dot Info* will be yours" — the website welcomed readers' comments on articles, a new ap-



Town of Philipstown Town Hall File photo

Philipstown 2015 Budget Set at \$9.2 Million

Increase stays within the state tax-hike cap

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Philipstown's Town Board Thursday (Nov. 20) approved a \$9,186,173 million fiscal 2015 budget that stays within the New York state tax-hike cap and pays for town infrastructure, operations, (Continued on page 3)



Gordon Stewart, above, directing the 2013 Messiah presentation

Photo by Ross Corsair

proach to Philipstown journalism. "As to our news policy," Stewart added, "we believe it has never been stated better than this: 'without fear or favor."

Stewart established *Philipstown.info* as a nonprofit funded originally by himself because he was impatient to see it get started and because he wanted the focus on the journalism and technology issues not on fundraising. He always said, however, that he planned to move the operation toward a community-funded model that could serve as an example for other communities around the country to follow.

Stewart applied to the Internal Revenue Service and after a lengthy review process got the organization designated as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization al-

lowing for tax-deductible contributions. During 2014 Stewart lobbied influential local citizens to join a board of directors to form a new corporation to take responsibility for maintaining the presence of *Philipstown.info* and *The Paper*.

The Philipstown Info Inc. board has a statement accompanying this obituary.

Stewart also founded and directed productions with the World's End Theater Company, helped breathe new life into the Philipstown Depot Theatre and played a leadership role in building financial support and art-world recognition for the Garrison Arts Center. He organized and helped fund a special program to invite leading artists to show work at the center and meet with local artists.

Stewart directed and conducted a pro

duction of John Gay's *The Beggar's Opera* in 2012, turning the Depot Theatre into 18th-century Newgate and giving the audience a perspective on the power of satire. Of all his projects and achievements, the one that Stewart valued most was his production of Handel's *Messiah* last December in St. Mary's Episcopal Church. After studying Handel's score intensely and assembling a group of world-class musicians and singers, Stewart conducted two memorable performances that embodied for Philipstown the beauty of composition, harmony, leadership and community.

John Plummer, Stewart's co-founder of World's End Theater, called Gordon "a man of uncommon vision, blistering intelligence and *(Continued on page 2)*

Construction of Sidewalk From Cold Spring to Little

Stony Point to Start in Spring

Philipstown Town Board approves agreement with N.Y. State

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

hanks to an infusion of \$100,000 in state money, sometime in the next six years residents and visitors should be able to use a sidewalk all the way from Cold Spring to Little Stony Point and the start of mountain trails north of the village.

Through multi-government cooperation, work on the sidewalk is slated to begin in April; it dovetails with still-developing plans to construct a Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail between Cold Spring and Beacon.

Philipstown's Town Board last Thursday night (Nov. 20) approved an agreement with the New York Department of



A post across from Little Stony Point guides hikers to trails.

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

Transportation, source of the funds, for the sidewalk work, scheduled to end in April 2020.

As described in state paperwork, the project consists of "installation of 1,750 feet of sidewalk along the west side of County Road 17, also known as Fair Street, to connect Main Street in the Village of Cold Spring to the Washburn Trailhead at Hud-

son Highlands State Park." The Washburn Trail begins across Route 9D, a state highway, from Little Stony Point, part of the state park system, and climbs eastward up Bull Hill. A second trail there leads toward Breakneck Ridge and the ruins of the Cornish estate, slightly farther north.

The distance from Main Street to Little Stony Point ex- (Continued on page 4)

Gordon Stewart, Our Founder, Died This Week (from page 1)



Gordon Stewart, center in the Fourth of July 2013 parade

boundless compassion. To borrow from the greatest theater classic of all time, 'He was a man. Take him for all in all. I shall not look upon his like again."

The Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce named him the Business Person of the Year in 2013.

Among his proudest associations was his membership in Cold Spring Volunteer Fire Company No. 1. Stewart answered emergency calls as a trained fire/ police member deployed to direct traffic at fire and accident scenes or large public events. He regularly attended meetings of the company and happily marched in parades in uniform.

He was a man whose life included various and enriching paths, interests and pursuits. Before he moved to Philipstown, Stewart's career path took him on a long and winding road from his Chicago birthplace to, among other places, Vienna, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and New York City. Along the way he

studied in graduate programs focusing on literature, history and music. At various times he was a theater and film director, a screenplay writer, a trained concert conductor, a mayoral aide, a presidential speechwriter, a stock exchange official, the CEO of a major insurance trade association and the chairman of a pension management firm.

Throughout much of his life Stewart was also a knowledgeable and savvy collector of art. He spoke German fluently.

Stewart's intellectual curiosity and willingness to engage with all social sectors and all manner of community endeavors made him influential in creating or redirecting local organizations and public attitudes in Philipstown.

To every project in which he was involved, Stewart brought an extraordinary depth of knowledge, both academic and experiential, to bear on it. His energy and drive were infectious, at times nearly overwhelming in their boundlessness. Stewart always made time for local engagement and impromptu discussion with local officials and fellow citizens, whether he met them in the Foodtown parking lot, outside Main Street shops or at fundraisers and parties.

Despite his apparent constant local presence Stewart nevertheless maintained an active participation in other professional pursuits involving U.S. national security, corporate, philanthropic, and think-tank interests that demanded travel to Europe, Asia and the nation's capital.

A single conversation with Gordon

Stewart might include a comparison of Beethoven and Handel, changes in NATO

political and military strategy in light of the new Russian threat in Ukraine, the need for developing a new American social security safety net, and of course the need for community supported professional journalism – all projects he was actively working on in the last year of his life.

Stewart was comfortable speaking with anyone, regardless of their role in the community, as long as they were prepared to accept





the consequences of his reaction to whatever they had to say. The man absorbed the details of everything around him and subjected them to serious consideration. Whether the commonplace or the extraordinary, civic, political, cultural, social or personal, he reveled in the details of life in his local community, the direction of the country and the fate of the world.

No ordinary career path

Stewart grew up on the south side of Chicago where he was born July 22, 1939. His father Henry, an adult emigrant from Scotland, was a Presbyterian minister and social worker while his mother Evangeline was a librarian at the University of Chicago where Gordon attended high school and met some of the day's leading professors. At 16 he won a scholarship to Oberlin College where he majored in history and music. He pursued a doctorate in European history at the University of Chicago before relocating to the University of Vienna to study muimagination, talent in many fields — both business and artistic — and a man animated by an energy and a will that were unstoppable. But we, as directors of the organization that Gordon built, feel that a statement of our feelings and plans is appropriate and necessary. We are profoundly saddened by Gordon's loss, and we send our condolences

A Note to Our Readers and Supporters

The Board of Directors of Philipstown Info Inc. learned on Wednesday morning that Gordon Stewart, our chairman, founder and the inspiration behind our journalistic enterprise, died earlier that day. We are devastated by the loss of a leader of

to his wife, Zanne, and his daughter, Katy. In the last six months, as his illness worsened, Gordon showed courage of a rare kind: he dealt with his malady; he defied the limits it imposed on his plans, and he always pressed forward. He was

As directors, we also wish to assure the staff and readers of Philipstown.info and The Paper that we intend to continue to print the newspaper and to produce the website. Working with the staff, we are committed to pursuing a journalism that informs and energizes the conversation in our small community.

We recognize that, to sustain Gordon's vision, we must enlist the support of the community and our readers. Community-owned journalism was a dream that Gordon Stewart dreamt for many years; he was on the verge of fulfilling that dream on the day he left us. We will do everything in our power to ensure that his vision succeeds in Philipstown and serves as a model — as Gordon so devoutly hoped it would — in other communities around the nation.

The Board of Directors of Philipstown Info Inc.

Elizabeth Anderson Ralph Arditi Christine Bockelmann Christopher Buck Stacey Farley

Nicholas Groombridge Bevis Longstreth Frederick Osborn III Joseph Plummer Rudolph S. Rauch



Top, Stewart receiving a framed memento of the website Philipstown.info; above, Stewart donates proceeds of The Messiah in 2013 to St. Mary's church and local food pantry; at left Stewart moderates a 2011 candidate forum with Cold Spring mayoral candidates Anthony Phillips, center, and Seth Gallagher (Photos: staff)

from Yale University. After a stint teaching literature and drama at Amherst College, Stewart moved to New York City to pursue drama and politics. Writing speeches for notable people led to work as chief speechwriter

sic and drama. He then

and executive assistant for New York City Mayor John Lindsay from 1971-73. Later in the decade he was involved in a New York state gubernatorial race and then the successful campaign of Jimmy Carter for president.

During the same decade he had moved to the West Coast where he worked as a screenwriter in Hollywood. He was also asked to direct the first New York City performance of The Elephant Man.

In 1978 he was appointed as deputy chief speechwriter to President Carter. Stewart was especially proud of his Carter association. He often regaled Philipstown.info staff with stories of high drama and low humor in the Oval Office and corridors of the White House.

Following his years on the White earned a master of fine arts in directing House staff, Stewart's career continued in the intersections of politics, business and art. He was a vice president of the American Stock Exchange from 1982-89.

> From 1991 to 2006 he was president of the Insurance Information Institute, an influential property and casualty trade group in New York.

> Since 2010 Stewart had been the chairman of the Named Fiduciaries of the Pension Plan for Insurance Organizations, one of the largest multiple employer pension plans in the United States. He also served for many years with The Geneva Association for the Study of Insurance Economics based in Switzerland.

> When he died, Stewart was working on this year's reprise of Messiah, which had been scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 21.

> A person of many facets, Stewart was one of a kind. Although now absent from our day-to-day existence, his presence in this publication, in his family and in this community lives on. He is fondly remembered and sincerely missed.

Philipstown Gets Budget of Approximately \$9.2 Million (from page 1)

maintenance, personnel and related costs as of Jan. 1. It reflects an increase of approximately 2 percent over 2014, within New York state's mandated limit on tax hikes. (Although the official cap is 1.56 percent, the state permits flexibility to cover local contingencies.)

Board members unanimously adopted the budget at a special evening meeting, but only after tweaking the final draft further to provide \$15,000 more than anticipated for the Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corps (PVAC).

The budget calls for raising \$7,361,732 in taxes and augmenting that income with \$1,694,441 in revenue and \$130,000 in unspent reserves. Not all taxpayers can expect to pay for expenses in all categories. For example, fire protection expense burdens fall to those who live within the bounds of one or another of the four fire department coverage areas. Likewise, residents living outside Cold Spring or Nelsonville bear costs of some town-level services duplicated for villagers by their village governments.

Councilors Nancy Montgomery and John Van Tassel joined Supervisor Richard Shea in adopting the budget. Councilors Dave Merandy and Mike Leonard were absent.

Shea noted that spending for emergency services and the Philipstown Highway Department account for about two-thirds of the budget. Together, they total \$5,084,343, which consists of \$2,065,693 for the ambulance corps and fire departments plus \$3,018,650 for highway and transportation costs. He praised the emergency service volunteers for their dedication, including the Garrison Volunteer Fire Company's (GVC) recent efforts in pulling together its financial data.

The budget gives the Continental Village Fire Department \$259,608, an increase of 2 percent over fiscal 2014; Cold Spring Fire Company No. 1, which covers parts of Philipstown beyond the villages, \$64,425, up 1 percent; the North Highlands Fire Department, whose money channels through the town government from the North Highlands Fire District, \$730,588, also up 1 percent; and the GVFC, \$604,702, likewise an increase of 1 percent.

However, of the GVFC share, the portion for general firefighting dips by 5 percent, from \$538,970 in 2014 to \$510,623. Simultaneously, the department sees a substantial rise — of 101 percent — in spending for its service award program, a firefighter pension. In fiscal 2014, the award required \$36,324. For 2015, it will take \$73,079.

Ambulance corps add-on

When a couple of PVAC representatives arrived mid-meeting to make the case for more money for their organization, they got it — in part. The PVAC received \$193,930 for 2014 and the Town Board's final draft budget called for giving it \$208,930 for 2015, an increase of \$15,000. At the urging of PVAC leader Chris Tobin the board threw in another \$15,000, bringing the PVAC total to \$223,930.

"If we can do it and stay under the cap, I support it," Van Tassel said, shortly before the board agreed to add the extra \$15,000.

Shea said that, even with the change, "we'll still be in the neighborhood of \$48,000 under the cap."

Nonetheless, the PVAC had hoped for a higher amount and Tobin cited revenue concerns as well as crucial needs. As Shea noted before the PVAC men arrived, the ambulance corps seeks to acquire two new ambulances to replace inadequate vehicles.

The sum set aside for town government buildings goes up; it will be \$148,000, 10 percent more than the \$134,000 earmarked in the 2014 budget. "We have maintenance issues" to address, Shea

larly, "we are looking to be doing just a little more maintenance on cemeteries this year," and thus boosted funding for that from \$2014's figure of \$6,800 to \$7,500 for 2015. The town cares for historic graveyards.

commented. Simi-

Basic salaries for Town Board members will continue at the 2014 level. Shea will make \$26,000 as supervisor and the councilors will earn \$18,000 each. Nonetheless, Shea will get a raise in his separate capacity as town budget officer. For 2014, the budget officer job paid \$6,000; in 2015, it will provide \$7,000. He himself called attention to the additional \$1,000. "I did increase the [pay for] the budget officer, and that is me. I'm going to put in a lot of hours on the budget. I just want to be out in front about that," he said.

Highway Superintendent Roger Chirico will again receive \$92,250, as in 2014. Town Clerk Tina Merando likewise will see her salary stay static, at \$51,000. But Amber Stickle, director of recreation and parks, will get \$61,250, up from \$60,250.

As he has previously, Shea described the difficulties of producing a budget that hews to the tax cap while meeting state demands for things that municipalities must do and pay for out of their own funds, even as they contend with dire infrastructure needs. As an example of uncontrollable items, he mentioned various personnel programs and benefits. "We are under the cap. We did meet the state mandate," he said. Yet, given the tension between the cap, imposed expenses and basic needs, "this is all a race to the bottom anyway," he remarked ruefully.

County Officials Join in Gun-Rights Group's Forum on Firearms Laws

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

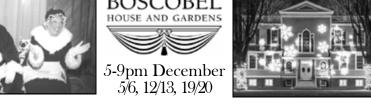
ey Putnam County officials, including County Executive MaryEllen Odell, Sheriff Donald Smith and District Attorney Adam Levy, intend to lend their voices and presence to an upcoming legal forum sponsored by a newly formed group that advocates gun-owner rights.

The county, on its official website, announced their plans to participate as special guests and speakers in the event next week, billed as a training course — apparently geared toward gun aficionados — on "NY Firearm Laws: What You Don't Know Will Hurt You ... What You Will Learn Can Protect You."

Slated for 7 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 3, at the Paladin Center in Carmel, the forum also involves Tom King, president of the New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, the New York state branch of the National Rifle Association, and retiring County Clerk Dennis Sant, who set off a national controversy over his refusal to allow news media access to county files on gun ownership, documents in the public record, after the massacre of school children in Newtown, Connecticut. Sant's successor, Clerk-Elect Michael Bartolotti, who shares his philosophy on gun-related issues; New York State Assemblyman Stephen Katz; and state Sen.-elect Terrence Murphy also intend to participate in the presentation, according to the county website.

The free event is sponsored by the Putnam County Firearm Owners Association, organized this past August "to protect and preserve the rights of firearms owners living, working, or shooting in Putnam County, New York." The group requests those who want to attend to "RSVP" via its email address: putnamcountyfirearmowners@gmail.com.





Check website for listing of each night's attractions. **Twilight Tours** must be booked in advance.

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Maloney & Schneiderman Warn of Tax Scam

Officials remind that IRS doesn't demand immediate payments over phone

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (NY-18) and Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman warned taxpayers in the Hudson Valley to watch out for scam phone calls from individuals claiming to be from the IRS.

Consumers who believe they have been victims of any tax scams are urged to file complaints by visiting the Attorney General Office's website, ag.ny.gov, or calling

Construction of Sidewalk From Cold Spring to Little Stony Point to Start in Spring (from page 1)

ceeds 1,750 feet and the village boundary lies just past Mayor's Park on Fair Street, which runs north from Main Street. Fair Street becomes Putnam County Highway 17 as it continues to the Y-shaped intersection with Route 9D near Little Stony Point. Currently, sidewalks exist on much, but not all, of Fair Street in the village. However, on the county portion there are none, forcing pedestrians to walk on the narrow road verge to reach the Little Stony Point area, where a path cuts in to bring them the rest of the way into the park site.

Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea announced the sidewalk grant when the Town Board took up miscellaneous business after its adoption of a fiscal 2015 budget Thursday. "Right now we've been told we've received the award," he explained. 800-771-7755.

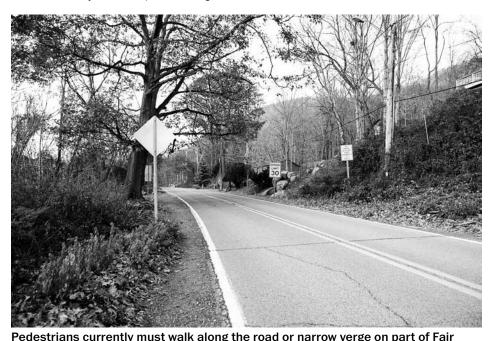
Here are five things the scammers often do but the IRS will not.

- Call to demand immediate payment, nor will the agency call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill.
- Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
- Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a pre-

paid debit card.

- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

Remember, too, the IRS does not use email, text messages or any social media to discuss your personal tax issue. For more information on reporting tax scams, go to irs.gov and type "scam" in the search box.



Street, also known as Putnam County Highway 17 as it stretches toward Little
Stony Point.

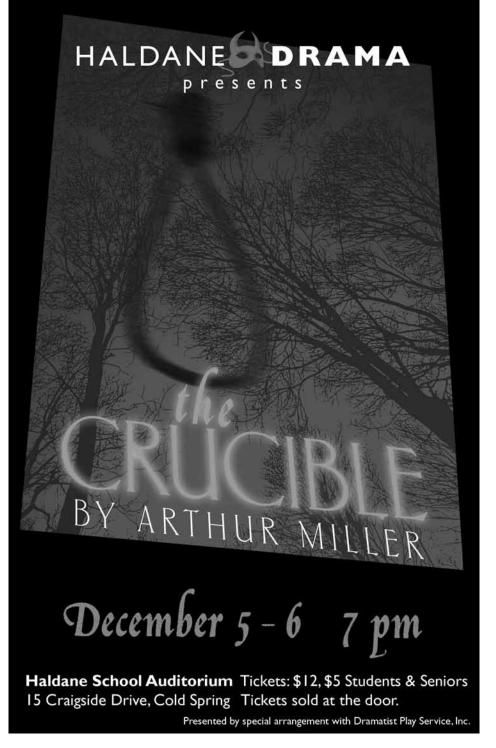
Photo by L.S. Armstrong

"I don't count these until we have them in our bank, but right now we do have a project number," a state procedural item, "and we've been advised that it looks like we are going to get the \$100,000."

The news came as a bit of a surprise to James Hartford, an architect who

lives in Cold Spring with his family and serves as president of the Little Stony Point Citizens Association, a volunteer group that helps maintain the state park. Speaking as an individual, not for the association, Hartford on Monday (Nov. 24) expressed mixed feelings about the pending sidewalk. "I do welcome the added safety that this would presumably provide," he said. Yet, he added, "honestly, a sidewalk to a hiking trail is a funny contraption. What they need to do is make the shoulder safer and slow cars down, and structure parking so that overflow is not clogging the existing shoulder - causing people to walk farther into the traffic lane. Maybe a sidewalk is the answer. But will it be plowed? Who will maintain it? That is quite important."

A crosswalk striped across Route 9D between Little Stony Point and the Washburn Trailhead clearly is intended to enhance pedestrian safety — already. But drivers routinely race past, many seeming to ignore the 40 miles-perhour speed limit and most apparently unaware of the purpose of a crosswalk or the presence of anyone daring to rely on this one to get from the trailhead to Little Stony Point or vice verse.



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Beacon Main Street's 'East End' Becoming Restaurant Row

The Hop reopens in new, larger space

By Brian PJ Cronin

here comes a moment in the life of every successful small business when they wonder if it's time to consider expanding. For The Hop, the combination bar/restaurant/craft beer store on Beacon's Main Street, that moment came very quickly.

"I think it was a few hours into our first night," recalled bar manager John-Anthony Gargiulo. Crowds jam-packed the tiny storefront on opening night four years ago and never left. Rare was the weekend in which the bar stools weren't all occupied, the tables weren't all full and the aisles weren't filled with people drinking, talking and laughing.

More breathing room was in order, so two weeks ago The Hop moved down to the far east end of Main Street. The new space is four times as big with 20 bar stools instead of three, 16 beers on tap instead of nine, and a pavilion out back for when warmer temperatures return. But the implications of the relocation reach far beyond seating capacity.

"Everyone already wanted to be down here at the east end of Main Street, but The Hop is going to push that even further," said Brendan McAlpine, principal of the newly rebranded and rechristened Roundhouse, which sits across from The Hop on the other side of Beacon Falls. "They're now the end of Main Street."

With The Hop now at 554 Main St.; The Roundhouse continuing to transform the throng of factory buildings at the corner of Main Street and East Main into restaurants, condos and event spaces; and crowds from Dogwood at 47 E. Main often spilling out into the street, the once sleepy and shuttered east end

of Main Street has suddenly become a hot commodity. And businesses aren't just opening there: They're staying open, making it past that crucial first year.

"That really bucks the trend," said McAlpine. "There used to be a lot of turnover on Main Street, and a 25 percent vacancy rate. Now you can't find an empty commercial storefront. Beacon's not a big town. Less than 15,000 people live here. That says a lot about not only how popular it's become with tourists but how Beaconites support their local businesses."

It's not just the locals supporting the east end businesses; it's the business owners as well.

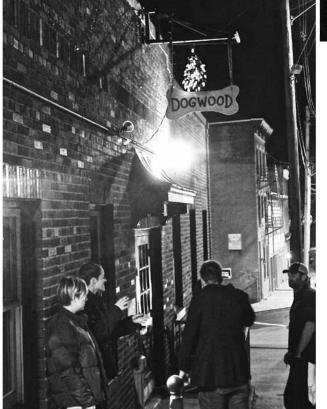
"We've never been competitive with each other; we've always been cooperative," said McAlpine. On more than one occasion, The Hop has supplied The Roundhouse with kegs when orders fell through. Gargiulo sends people leaving The Hop over to Dogwood and The Roundhouse. And when Dogwood first opened, The Roundhouse welcomed them.

"People said to us, 'Aren't you concerned? They're right up the street. They're going to take business away from you," recalled McAlpine. "And we said, 'The more, the merrier.' There's a reason why restaurant rows exist. If there are enough good options in one place, you all bring in more people."

Three and a half years after opening, The Roundhouse is bringing in more people than ever. The restaurant just wrapped up its busiest two-week period in its history. The number of hotel rooms, now at 23, is set to become 40 by next year. They'll need them: The Roundhouse is currently booked for about 70 weddings in 2015.

With all of that going on, The Roundhouse is still planning on opening a spa, a microbrewery, more condos and even a few commercial spaces. So why the rebranding now?

"It was a bit of a mouthful," said McAlpine about project's original name, The Roundhouse at Beacon Falls. "I think everyone knows we're next to the waterfall now." The separate names that each of the site's venues previously sported - Swift for the restaurant, 2EM for the lounge, The Patio for the outdoor dining space have been jettisoned since the public always simply referred to all the spaces as "The Roundhouse" anyway. And the restaurant's menu has been refreshed and streamlined, a move that's already won raves.



"I think the rebranding of The Round-

house has been fantastic," said Gargiulo.

"As a local, I've been going to eat there

more and more. I said to my girlfriend,

'It's nice to be able to just walk here, and

have this experience.' If we want more

people to move to Beacon, we have to

have more amenities like that. People

can't just see us all as bars; they have to

The Hop's commitment to culture and

consumer education is immediately appar-

ent even to those who just pop in to pick

up a six pack for the weekend. Go ahead

and ask them to recommend an unfiltered

wheat beer to go with that casserole you're

putting in the oven tonight, or a local IPA

(India pale ale) that will impress those

see us as culture."

Dogwood, above and left, inside and out.

friends of yours in Vermont you're on your way to visit. They'll give you options. But Gargiulo insists that The Hop's success isn't about the beer at all.

"We've always had great beer and good service," he said. "But the food is the reason that people keep coming back." No mean feat considering the old kitchen consisted of a few hot plates, panini presses and a toaster oven. Now chef Matt Hutchins has an actual commercial-grade kitchen, with gas stoves and a full staff. The menu has grown, as has the

quality of the food.

"Our food is off the charts right now. I honestly think chef Matt is one of the best chefs in the country," said Gargiulo in the calm and measured tones of someone who is neither exaggerating nor bragging. But he admitted that they were all a bit nervous about how the transition would work out.

"We were actually looking at bigger spaces than this one," he said. "This was the conservative choice for us."

Maybe too conservative. Last Sunday (Nov. 23) at 3 p.m., a week after reopening, every bar stool was occupied. The tables were all full. And the aisles were filled with people drinking, talking and laughing.



he lounge at the Roundhouse

hotos by B. PJ Cronin

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The Pan in the Pantry

By Mary Ann Ebner

ne of my mother's part-time endeavors when I was growing up was working as an Avon sales representative in an effort to keep food on the table for her eight kids. She sold lotions and lipsticks and believed in the product. With all those children running around, who wouldn't need a splash of lip color? She may have been tired, but she smiled through assorted shades from rose to copper.

And despite the realities of life, it was easier to feed the family with the help of her giant roaster pan. Having the right kitchen tools (ask any worthy chef) can lighten the load, and she welcomed any shortcuts she could find.

When my mother told me a few years ago that she was downsizing and wanted to pass along a few items, I spoke up for the pan in her pantry.

She purchased her 18-inch Vita Craft in 1949 when she was working in the civil service and living at the women's Evangeline Residence in Washington, D.C.

"A salesman came around to show those pans to some of the girls, and some of us were engaged at the time," Mom said. Without a kitchen but ready to work culinary miracles, this Department of the Treasury single secretary became the proud owner of a new set of finely crafted cookware. The pans remained shiny and new at Evangeline, where meals were prepared for residents. The only time my mother ever came close to a stovetop during those D.C. days was when she made



The pan in the pantry

Photos by M.A. Ebner

a cup of tea in the tiny basement kitchen accessible to the women who lived there.

The roaster once sparkled as the centerpiece of a set. After getting married and raising a family, with year upon year of cooking for a houseful, she was left with one pan that didn't fall apart.

When I unpacked the roaster pan that my mom shipped to me from her home in Colorado, I could almost smell those family favorite chicken and dumplings that we savored for Sunday dinners. On a fortunate weekend or holiday, if the shiny silver roaster pan wasn't in the oven, it sat on top of the stove, covering two range burners. Thick egg noodles and chunks of chicken immersed in a creamy broth simmered for dinner.

Mom showed me how to prepare those dumplings with care. She had learned to make the meal from her mother-in-law, a Depression-era home cook who by necessity made use of every scrap of poultry for the family table.

"Put your flour and salt in a bowl and break your egg yolks right into it," she instructed. "No egg whites at all," she

whispered. "The yolks make them nice and rich." She carefully worked the egg into the flour with a fork and gradually added water until

the dough held together. She formed the dough into a ball and transformed the kitchen table into a giant cutting board by dusting it with flour and rolled the dough with a wooden rolling pin. "Cut them into an inch wide and make them about two inches long." With a butter knife, we made delicate cuts in the dough. We placed the dumplings into her pan where the broth and chicken were cooking at a low boil. Mom insisted that we never stop stirring. We cooked those dumplings until they were just right by her standards. Through her ruby-red Avon lipstick, she

shared the final instructions ... and her appreciation of bright hues: "Add two splashes of yellow food coloring."

The dish was complete, and our family would soon empty the pan. Leftovers rarely existed, but that edible comfort was sealed into memory.

Since receiving the roaster pan, not so bright anymore but still sturdy, I've used it to roast turkeys, prepare contest chili and to replicate those chicken and dumplings. With a slight variation to the recipe, chicken and dumplings takes a place in the dinner rotation around my table, anchored by a couple of growing boys with appetites. When I pull the roaster pan from my pantry, I use the primary ingredients for chicken and dumplings, but the secret isn't in the recipe. It's in the pan.

Chicken and Dumplings

- 1 whole chicken (3 to 4 pounds, with giblets)
- 6 quarts water (varies with bird and pan size)
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 large onion, diced
- 4 stalks celery, coarsely chopped

1 bunch flat parsley, finely chopped yellow food coloring (optional) pepper to taste

Dumplings

- 4 egg yolks 4 cups flour
- 1. Place chicken and giblets in pan and add enough water to just cover chicken. Add a teaspoon of salt and the bay leaves to water and bring to a low boil. Boil for two hours until fully cooked. Remove chicken from pan and cool. Skim impurities from stock. Debone and hand-shred chicken. Dice giblets. Set aside.
- 2. Add onion and celery to the stock. Bring to near boil and simmer 10 minutes. Add chicken and giblets to broth.
- 3. For dumplings, gently mix flour, egg yolks, 1 teaspoon of salt and enough water to moisten firmly. Mix dough and form into a ball. Roll dough out onto floured surface. Using a butter knife, cut dough into 1-inch strips. Divide strips into 2-inch portions, for a batch of 1-by-2-inch egg dumplings.
- 4. Add dumpling strips to near-boiling stock pan. Stir gently until dumplings are cooked through, approximately 10 minutes. Remove the bay leaves. Add parsley and salt and pepper to taste. Serve immediately or refrigerate. Good today, even better tomorrow.



PARAMOUNTHUDSONVAL

1008 Brown Street, Peekskill, NY 10566

The Calendar

Salem Comes to Cold Spring: *The Crucible*

Arthur Miller classic performed by Haldane Drama on Dec. 5 and 6

By Alison Rooney

ast year, in a shift from earlier lighter fare, Haldane's high school drama tackled a 20th-century American classic, *Our Town*, with the cast relishing the opportunity to interpret a formative piece of literature. Haldane drama's director, Martha Mechalakos, decided to continue in this rich vein this year, with the students now traveling back to well beyond the 100-year mark

of *Our Town*'s setting, to the earliest days of European settlement in North America in Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*. With drama proving a strong lure for students, as it consistently has done for the past few years, "double casts" — a separate one for each performance — will transform themselves into the denizens of Salem, Massachusetts, in 1692.

The Crucible, written in 1952, is now such a staple of high school literature and holds such a prominent perch on the list of top-10 plays performed in high school that it is frequently the prism through which many acquire their knowledge of that stretch of colonial history known as the Salem



Haldane sophomore Harper Levy, who plays Mary Warren, in rehearsal



Josie Altucher plays Abigail Williams in a pivotal scene from *The Crucible*.

Photos by Jim Mechalakos

Witch Trial period.

The playwright acknowledged The Crucible as an allegorical representation of investigations by the House Unamerican Activities Committee and related Senate hearings by Sen. Joe McCarthy. Miller, inspired by reading a thousandpage study of the period written in 1867 by the then-mayor of Salem, did meticulous research on what transpired at Salem, transforming it dramatically but keeping true to the personages and his perceptions of their motivations during that tumultuous, dread-filled time. "[Mayor Charles Upham] had not only written a broad and thorough investigation of what was even then an almost lost chapter of Salem's past but opened up to me the details of personal relationships among many participants in the tragedy," Miller wrote later in an article in The New Yorker explaining how he came to write The Crucible.

The Puritan colony of Salem, founded in 1629, was, of course, subject to British laws, one of which was enacted in 1641 and made witchcraft a capital crime. According to many accounts, in 1692, after a child's illness was medically ascribed to witchcraft, other young girls appeared to display the same symptoms. Fingers were pointed, and one girl accused several adult women, initially women easily scapegoated, then others in more prominent positions in society, of responsibility.

The allegations and subsequent arrests of those accused became widespread, and a new court with multiple judges was convened to try these cases. The accused were given no legal representation and were allowed no defense (Continued on page 11)

HVSF's All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914 at St. Mary's

It was a ... moment outside of whatever the conflicts are in life — a magical moment.'

By Alison Rooney

the Armies suddenly and simultaneously went on strike and said some other method must be found of settling the dispute?

~ Winston Churchill, 1914

As much as we wonder "Could this happen again?" about mankind's grimmest moments, one can, with more optimism, apply that question to those rarer synergies, when something in the human-to-human spirit transcends the barriers imposed upon it through wars and other societal divisions. Such a moment occurred precisely 100 years ago, in December 1914, the first year of World War I, in what has come to be called the "Christmas Truce."

In the words of Peter Rothstein, whose musical theater piece about it, *All Is Calm*, will be performed in a Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival (HVSF) production at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring on Dec. 12 and 13: "Thousands of men put down their guns and left their trenches

to meet their enemies in No Man's Land. They exchanged gifts of tobacco, rum and chocolates; even photographs of loved ones. They sang songs, played a game of soccer, and buried each other's dead. Upon orders from above, they eventually returned to their trenches and re-instigated a war that would last four more years."

Rothstein, the founding artistic director of Minneapolis' Theater Latté Da, created the work in 2007 with musical arrangements by Erick Lichte and Timothy Takach, who were affili-

ated with Cantus, a professional all-male vocal chamber ensemble also based in Minneapolis. Rothstein was inspired while attending a Cantus Christmas concert where he was "struck by not only their remarkable sound, but also how their work was pushing the boundaries of chamber music in the ways Theater Latté Da was pushing the boundaries of musical theater."

All Is Calm has proved very popular

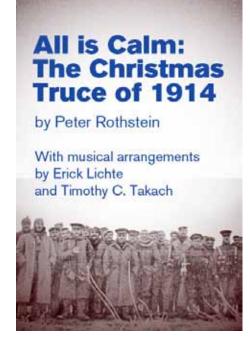


All Is Calm director Moritz von Stuelpnagel

Photo by Paolo Carminati

and in fact has not stopped touring since its inception; this production, unique in that it is mixing professional actors with local men's choir members, is separate from the national tour, which is continuing into its eighth year.

Seizing upon the notion of radio as a guide, Rothstein and his colleagues fashioned their content as a form of "radio musical drama" using only the tools of radio: music, in the form of



trench songs, sentimental and patriotic tunes of the day and Christmas carols from the participating countries.

According to this production's director, Moritz von Stuelpnagel, the text, which proceeds chronologically, is derived largely from correspondence of the period along with some first-hand journalism and interspersed occasionally with quotes from prominent "leaders" of the day. "For the most part, they are 'man on the ground' journal entries, along with some poetry," von Stuelpnagel said, noting that it "begins with the enlisted men going off to war — how the war was 'sold' to them versus what actually happened. (To page 14)

show&sale

thru 11/30, 10 to 5

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Deborah Lecce, Teaching Artist



Virginia Piazza, Teaching Artist



Beth Bolgla, Teaching Artist

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HOLIDAY The Calendar

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Cold Spring Village Offices closed

Local schools closed

Butterfield & Desmond-Fish libraries closed

No recycling pickup in Cold Spring

Kids & Community

Holiday Pottery Show and Sale

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center 23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison 845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Music

David Kain Group

7:30 p.m. BeanRunner Café | 201 S. Division, Peekskill | 914-737-1701 | beanrunnercafe.com

Cherish the Ladies

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe 379 Main St., Beacon 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Electric Beef

9 p.m. Whistling Willie's 184 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-2012 | whistlingwillies.com

Jason Gisser

9:30 p.m. Max's on Main | 246 Main St., Beacon 845-838-6297 | maxsonmain.com

Duchess Di & the Distractions

10 p.m. 12 Grapes | 12 N. Division St., Peekskill 914-737-6624 | 12grapes.com

Qu Boi

10:30 p.m. The Hudson Room 23 South Division St., Peekskill 914-788-3663 | hudsonroom.com

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. St. Mary's Church 1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring | csfarmmarket.org

504 Route 9, Fishkill 845-896-9560 | fishkillhistoricalsociety.org

Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. North Highlands Fire Department 504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring To benefit Philipstown Boy Scout Troop 437

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center See details under Friday.

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library 472 Route 403, Garrison 845-265-3652 | desmondfishlibrary.org

10:30 a.m. Hudson Valley Center for

Family Gingerbread House Decorating Party

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Howland Public Library 313 Main St., Beacon

845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org Santa Visits Secret Garden

1 - 4 p.m. Kismet at Caryn's

Small Business Saturday

Kids & Community

Cold Spring Farmers' Market

Craft Boutique

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Van Wyck Museum

Holiday Pottery Show and Sale

Holiday Boutique

Orange Room Tour, Art, Games (ages 5+)

Contemporary Art | 1701 Main St., Peekskill 914-788-0100 | hvcca.org

72 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-4403



Architecture | Urban Planning | Passive House Sustainable Design | Historic Restoration | Interiors

8 Marion Ave, Suite 3, Cold Spring, NY 10516 845.265.2254 riverarchitects.com

Tree Trimming Party

1-5 p.m. Cold Spring General Store 61 Main St., Cold Spring 845-809-5522 | coldspringgeneral.com

Molly M Designs Trunk Show

1 - 6 p.m. Open Concept Gallery 125 Main St., Cold Spring 845-260-0141 | openconceptgallery.com

9th Annual Alumni Basketball Game

5 p.m. Haldane School 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring 845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Theater & Film

New York Theatre Ballet: The Nutcracker

3 & 6 p.m. Tarrytown Music Hall 13 Main St., Tarrytown | 914-631-3390, ext. 100

Bill Engvall (Comedy)

8 p.m. Mid-Hudson Civic Center 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie 845-454-5800 | midhudsonciviccenter.org

Contradance

7:30 p.m. St. John's Church 55 Wilbur Boulevard, Poughkeepsie 845-454-2571 | hudsonvalleydance.org

Square Dance With Devil's Box

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St., Beacon 845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Chris Talio Trio

8 p.m. BeanRunner Café | Details under Friday

Livingston Taylor

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe See details under Friday.

Live Music

9 p.m. Whistling Willie's | Details under Friday

Allman Brothers Tribute 9:30 p.m. 12 Grapes | See details under Friday.

Crash N Byrne

9:30 p.m. Max's on Main | See details under Friday. **Hev Baby**

10 p.m. The Hudson Room | Details under Friday.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Kids & Community

Holiday Pottery Show and Sale

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center See details under Friday.

Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. North Highlands Fire Department See details under Saturday.

Craft Boutique

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Van Wyck Museum | 1 - 4 p.m. Santa visits | See details under Saturday.

Beacon Farmers Market

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Scenic Hudson River Center Long Dock Drive, Beacon 845-234-9325 | beaconfarmersmarket.org

Fareground Community Pop-Up Cafe

Noon - 3 p.m. Beacon Community Resource Center | 23 W. Center St., Beacon facebook.com/fareground

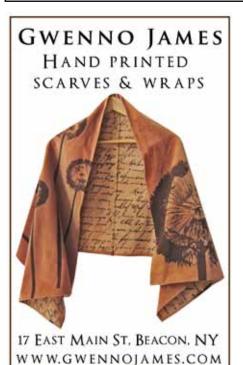
> The Gift Hut Anita Rose Merando will sign copies at: The Gift Hut 86 Main Street, Cold Spring on December 6, and perform songs from the

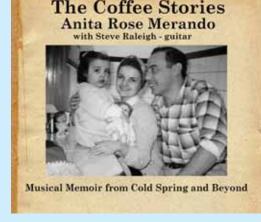
project accompanied by Steve Raleigh and Lew Scott at Whistling Willie's

December 7, 5-8 p.m.

Holiday Boutique

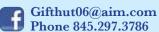
1 - 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library See details under Saturday.





Many of you know that after living in Seattle for close to thirty years, I have come to live in my childhood Cold Spring home. Yes, you can go home

again. This has been a fabulous experience, and in recent months I have set out to share stories and songs inspired by my childhood and my own parenting experiences. This is a simple recording of story, voice and guitar, and I am grateful to Steve Raleigh for his truly beautiful playing, and for his engineering and producing expertise. I'm very



happy to say that my musical memoir project is in production as I write this, with a promise of delivery by December 1st.

Art & Design

Paint Party

7:30 p.m. The Pantry | 3091 Route 9, Cold Spring 845-265-2840 | thepantrycs.com

Theater & Film

Being Ginger (Documentary, 2013)

3 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley 1008 Brown St., Peekskill 914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

National Theatre of London: Of Mice and Men

7 p.m. Downing Film Center 19 Front St., Newburgh 845-561-3686 | downingfilmcenter.com

Music

Karen Hudson and Jim Petrie

4 p.m. BeanRunner Café | Details under Friday

Mitch Woods and His Rocket 88s

7:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe See details under Friday.

Stephen Clair and the Millionaires

8 p.m. Quinn's | 330 Main St., Beacon 845-831-8065 | quinnsbeacon.com

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

Kids & Community

Block Play (ages 0-4)

10 a.m. Beacon Recreation Center 23 West Center St., Beacon 845-765-8440 | cityofbeacon.org

Board Game Night

7 p.m. Cup and Saucer | 165 Main St., Beacon meetup.com/beacon-board-not-bored

Sports

Haldane vs. Yonkers (Girls Basketball)

4:30 p.m. Haldane School 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring 845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Theater & Film

First Monday Salon

6-8 p.m. BeanRunner Café | 201 S. Division, Peekskill | 914-737-1701 | beanrunnercafe.com

Meetings & Lectures

Justice Court

6:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St., Cold Spring 845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

Book Club: *The Ginger Tree*

7 p.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring | 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Parking Committee

7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St., Cold Spring 845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

Place Yard Debris Curbside for Wed. Pickup - Cold Spring

Kids & Community

Holiday Project Workshops (First Sessions)

10 a.m. Parent/Child | 3:45 p.m. Grades K-3 Philipstown Recreation Center | 107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison | 845-424-4618

Howland Public Library

10:30 a.m. Baby & Me (ages 0-2) 4 p.m. Crazy 8s Math Club (grades 3-5) 313 Main St., Beacon

845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Desmond-Fish Library

Noon. Highland Knitters | 4 p.m. Craft Hour (grades 2+) | 472 Route 403, Garrison 845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Art & Design

Center for Digital Arts

5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Retrospective Faculty Show (Opening) | 6:30 p.m. Artist's talk 7 p.m. Cerise Gordon: Art and Narrative of Video Games | 27 N. Division St., Peekskill 914-606-7300 | westchestergallery.wordpress.com

Meetings & Lectures

Arts Booster Club Meeting

3:15 p.m. Haldane School (Merritt) 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring 845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Digital Salon

7 - 10 p.m. Beahive Beacon | 291 Main St., Beacon | 845-765-1890 | beahivebzzz.com

Haldane School Board

7 p.m. Haldane School 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring 845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Library Board Meeting

7 p.m. Howland Public Library 313 Main St., Beacon 845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Putnam County Legislature

7 p.m. Putnam County Historic Courthouse 44 Gleneida Ave., Carmel

845-208-7800 | putnamcountyny.com

Board of Trustees Public Hearing & Workshop 7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St., Cold Spring

845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

Kids & Community

Howland Public Library

9:45 a.m. Come and Play (ages 0-3) | 3 p.m. Toddler Tales (ages 2-3) | See details under Tuesday.

Senior Bus Trip to Fishkill

10 a.m. Chestnut Ridge, Cold Spring 845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Desmond-Fish Library

10:15 a.m. Music and Movement for Toddlers 1:30 p.m. Preschool Story Hour (ages 3-5) See details under Tuesday.

Holiday Project Workshops (First Sessions)

12:30 p.m. Ages 3-5 | 3:45 p.m. Grades K-3 Philipstown Recreation Center See details under Tuesday.

BeaconArts 5th Annual Holiday Member Bash

6 - 9 p.m. The Hop

458 Main St., Beacon | beaconarts.org

The Best Winter Soups (Class)

7 p.m. Homespun at Home 259 Main St., Beacon | 917-803-6857 homecookingny.com/hudsonvalley

Haldane vs. Children's Village (Boys Basketball)

7 p.m. Haldane School See details under Monday.

Theater & Film

National Theatre of London: Of Mice and Men

1:30 p.m. Downing Film Center See details under Sunday.

Meetings & Lectures

PTA Strategic Planning Meeting: Diversity

6 p.m. Haldane School (Merritt) 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring 845-265-9254 | facebook.com/PTALearnDiff

New York Firearms Laws Presentation

7 p.m. Paladin Center 39 Seminary Hill Road, Carmel RSVP to putnamcountyfirearmowners@gmail.com

Planning Board / Historic District Review **Board Workshop (Butterfield)**

7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St., Cold Spring 845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

Garrison School Board

7:30 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D, Garrison | 845-424-3689 | gufs.org

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

Kids & Community

Holiday Project Workshops (First Sessions)

9 a.m. Adults | 3:45 p.m. Grades 4-6 Philipstown Recreation Center See details under Tuesday.

Howland Public Library

10 a.m. Brain Games for Seniors 10:30 a.m. Pre-K Story Time (ages 3-5) 3:30 p.m. Come and Play (ages 0-3) 3:45 p.m. Lego Club (ages 4+) See details under Tuesday.

Butterfield Library

10:30 a.m. Bouncing Babies | 12:30 p.m. Little Bookworms | 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Holiday Boutique

2-9 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library See details under Saturday.

Winter Meat and Vegetable Store (Opens for Season)

3 - 6 p.m. Glynwood Farm | 362 Glynwood Road, Cold Spring | 845-265-3338 | store.glynwood.org



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845-855-1300



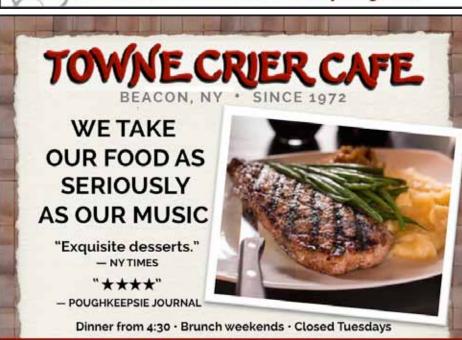
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Brunch Saturday & Sunday 10-3 with live music Sunday

Dinner nightly from 4:30pm · No show ticket needed

Closed Tuesdays

The Calendar (from page 9)

3rd Annual Tree Lighting

5:30 - 7 p.m. Winter Hill | 20 Nazareth Way, Garrison | Carols by Walter Hoving Home Choir

Art & Design

Open House

5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Center for Digital Arts See details under Tuesday.

Film & Theater

David Benoit's Christmas Tribute to Charlie Brown

7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley 1008 Brown St., Peekskill 914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

Music

Solas

7:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe | Details under Friday

Lucinda Williams Boot Camp Band

8 p.m. Dogwood | 47 E. Main St., Beacon 845-202-7500 | dogwoodbar.com

Meetings & Lectures

Zoning Board of Appeals

7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St., Cold Spring 845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

Town Board Meeting

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Town Hall 238 Main St., Cold Spring 845-265-3329 | philipstown.com

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

First Friday in Cold Spring

Kids & Community

Holiday Boutique

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

See details under Saturday.

Preschool on the Farm: Animals in Winter

10 a.m. Common Ground Farm 79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls 845-231-4424 | commongroundfarm.org

Annual Holiday Tea

2 & 4 p.m. Cunneen-Hackett Art Center 9 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie 845-486-4571 | cunneen-hackett.org

Young Adults Connection Group

3-5 p.m. Howland Public Library See details under Tuesday.

Sparkle!

5-9 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Garrison 845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

PTA Kids Holiday Fun Night

6 - 9 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D, Garrison | 845-424-3689 | gufspta.org

Health & Fitness

Navigating Healthcare Options

10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Howland Public Library 313 Main St., Beacon | 800-453-4666 | misnny.org. Appointment required.

Teen Health Day (ages 13-24)

10 am. - 5 p.m. Carmel Fire Department 94 Gleneida Ave., Carmel 845-808-1390 | putnamcountyny.gov

Art & Design

Cindy Booth and SuHua Chen Low: *Transitions*

6-9 p.m. Gallery 66 NY | 66 Main St., Cold Spring 845-809-5838 | gallery66ny.com

Holiday Exhibit (Opening)

6-8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery 121 Main St., Cold Spring 845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

Paint Party

7:30 - 10:30 p.m. The Pantry See details under Sunday.

Theater & Film

The Crucible (Teen Players)

7 p.m. Haldane School | 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring | 845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

The Trial of Goldilocks (Youth Players)

7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre 10 Garrison's Landing, Garrison 845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

(To next page)



3rd Annual

Tree Lighting



Thursday, December 4th, 2014 at 5:30 – 7pm.

Christmas Carols led by The Walter Hoving Home Choir

Food and Drinks aplenty!





Always check online schedule for cancellations: www.skybabyyoga.com .

Nourish Your Soul: First Friday Group Healing with Holly Friday, Dec. 5, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Holiday Boutique, Open House & Cold Spring by Candlelight Saturday, Dec. 6, Noon - 6 p.m.

First Sunday School with Maeve A unique Buddhist-oriented class for children 5 & up and their families

First Sunday of every month, 12:30 - 2 p.m., payment by donation Flow As You Fly: Acro Yoga with Matt Fields-Johnson

Function and Form: Saturday, Dec. 13, 1:30 - 4 & 5:30 - 8 p.m. Connecting the Dots: Sunday, Dec. 14, 1:30 - 4 & 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Unwind with Melia

Tuesday, Dec. 30, 5 - 6:30 p.m. (every last Tuesday)

Register at www.skybabyyoga.com

Monday

9:30 - 10:45 a.m. Vinyasa with Julia

Tuesday

9:30 - 10:45 a.m. Gentle Yoga with Joelle 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Pilates Tower with Bettina

Wednesday

9:30 - 10:45 a.m. Alignment Flow with Julian

Thursday

9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Breath-Centered Asana with Sarah C. 6:45 - 8 p.m. Yin Yoga with Kathy

Friday

9:30 - 10:45 a.m. Vinyasa with Phoebe 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Pilates Tower with Melia 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Pilates Tower with Melia 6:30 - 8 p.m. (First Fridays) Group Healing with Holly 7 - 8 p.m. (all other Fridays) Meditation with Maeve

Saturday

Rotating specialty classes: please see online live schedule Sunday

> 10:30 a.m. - Noon Alignment Flow with Julian 4 - 5:15 p.m. Community Yoga with Kasia



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Salem Comes to Cold Spring: The Crucible (from page 7)

witnesses. Prosecutors and magistrates brought many cases to trial, often allowing what was called "spectral evidence," or testimony about intangibles: dreams and visions. All in all, over the course of a few months, 200 people were accused of witchcraft and 20 were executed. Just a year later, after a different court was convened — one that did not allow spectral evidence — all remaining defendants were pardoned, and, eventually, years later, their families compensated, after the colony admitted the trials were a mistake.

In the 1996 New Yorker article, Miller explained why he felt compelled to write *The Crucible* when he did: "McCarthy's power to stir fears of creeping Communism was not entirely based on illusion, of course; the para-

The Calendar (from page 10)

Neil Berg's Broadway Holiday

8 p.m. Tarrytown Music Hall See details under Saturday.

Calling All Poets

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-4988 howlandculturalcenter.org

Cheaper by the Dozen

8 p.m. The Beacon Theatre | 445 Main St., Beacon 845-453-2978 | thebeacontheatre.org

It's a Wonderful Life

8 p.m. Culinary Institute of America (Marriott Pavilion) 1946 Campus Drive, Hyde Park 845-235-9885 | halfmoontheatre.org

Music

Westchester All Stars Christmas Concert

7:30 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley 1008 Brown St., Peekskill

914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

Judy Gold

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe See details under Nov. 28.

Live Music

Live Music

9 p.m. Whistling Willie's | Details under Nov. 28

9:30 p.m. Max's on Main | Details under Nov. 28

Johnny Fedz & Friends

9:30 p.m. 12 Grapes | See details under Nov. 28.

Joni Blondell Band

10 p.m. The Hudson Room | Details under Nov. 28

ONGOING

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Alcoholics Anonymous | Visit philipstown.info/aa Support Groups | Visit philipstown.info/sg

noid, real or pretended, always secretes its pearl around a grain of fact ... How could one deal with such enormities in a play? The Crucible was an act of desperation ... By 1950, when I began to think of writing about the hunt for Reds in America, I was motivated in some great part by the paralysis that had set in among many liberals who, despite their discomfort with the inquisitors' violations of civil rights, were fearful, and with good reason, of being identified as covert Communists if they should protest too strongly ... The Red hunt ... was becoming the dominating fixation of the American psyche."

Miller went on to describe his own visit to Salem in 1952, where he read the transcripts of the trials, particularly drawn to reports written by Rev. Samuel Parris, a chief investigator at that time. "As with most humans, panic sleeps in one unlighted corner of my soul. When I walked at night along the empty, wet streets of Salem ... I could easily work myself into imagining my terror before a gaggle of young girls flying down the road screaming that somebody's 'familiar spirit' was chasing them ... Naturally, the best proof of the sincerity of your confession was your naming others whom you had seen in the Devil company — an invitation to private vengeance, but made official by the seal of the theocratic state ... The more I read into the Salem panic, the more it touched off corresponding ages of common experiences in the '50s: the old friend of a blacklisted person crossing the street to avoid being seen talking to him ... and so on."

Miller's understanding of these pressures on all sides born of fear translated into characters whose exterior behavior may not always match their inner feelings, something Mechalakos

has emphasized in guiding high school actors through the challenges of portraying them. "Basically you can't take any of the words at face value - they belie what's really behind them," she said.

This is resonating with Leandra Rice, who is playing one of the lead roles. Rice noted: "Initially I viewed my character, Elizabeth Proctor, as plain and nothing too special. Thanks to Mrs. Mech, I see that Elizabeth has a lot of depth, and she is

more complex than what meets the eye. She has a lot of bottled-up pain. This concept has made it a challenge, but a rewarding one."

Another actor, Jeremy Roffman, described the many facets of his character, some initially obscured, similarly: "My character, Giles Corey, initially seemed to me like nothing more than a blunt old man. He doesn't come off as the brightest character either. But as we have rehearsed the play, I've come to realize that as blunt and stubborn as Corey seems, he is honorable and loyal. He can barely control himself as he strives to prove his wife's innocence in court. When asked for the name of the man who provided him with his evidence, Corev refuses to speak because he knows that the man will hang if his name is revealed. In the first act, one of Giles' lines reads, 'I never thought you had so much iron in you.' This is exactly the phrase I would use to describe Giles Corey."



The Crucible cast member Sadie Anderson, in costume

Photos by Jim Mechalakos

Mechalakos generally begins the rehearsal process by doing readthroughs with both casts and talking generally about themes. "It's your job to find out everything you can, whether or not you use it," she tells the actors. Although many in the cast had read the play before (it is part of the Haldane curriculum on certain English tracks), Mechalakos said that "it is so different to inhabit a play rather than just reading it; simply reading it, you often don't get it because you're not getting emotionally beyond the words ... Here there's that balance between big, passionate speeches and their intense undertones. Fear is always an underpinning."

As for discussing the climate in which Miller wrote the play, Mechalakos said that it is broader than just the McCarthy era. "You can take any time period in history, including our own, and see the capacity of humans to hurt each other to save their own skins as well as the use of religious fanaticism in order for political gain. I want something visceral from this play, and it's hard for teenagers to get to that passionate place — the audience should come out of the play feeling drained."

But The Crucible is not just a "political" play — it's also a study of people. Rice said: "This play is relevant today, especially with teenagers. The mob mentality that occurs between Abigail and the rest of the girls can be applied today. We call it peer pressure. The girls in the play along with teenagers tend to do things in groups they would never do alone. The moral to the story is stay true to yourself and your boundaries."

The Crucible will be presented at 7 p.m. at the Haldane auditorium. Tickets cost \$5 for students and seniors and \$12 for everyone else and will be available at the door.



Cast members Theo Henderson and Leandra Rice in rehearsal

Youth Players present:



The Trial of Goldilocks

Dec. 5, 7 p.m. • Dec. 6, 4 p.m. & 7 p.m. • Dec. 7, 2 p.m. The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf

Dec. 12, 7 p.m. • Dec. 13, 4 p.m. & 7 p.m. • Dec. 14, 4 p.m. All tickets \$10: brownpapertickets.com

World's End Theater presents:

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Half Moon Theatre Does It's a Wonderful Life

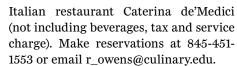
Shows on weekends Dec. 5-20 with special events

The Half Moon Theatre Company presents It's a Wonderful Life: The 1946 Radio Play, Dec. 5-20 (weekends only). In a 1946 radio station studio setting, five actors perform an "on-air" retelling of the tale. The actors portray all of the movie's favorite characters and are joined by a live sound-effects artist, who brings the story to life by encouraging audience participation, especially from kids (and kids at heart).

With a sing-along to popular carols and commercials, the production is for everyone in the family, and carolers will stroll through the theatre. The Culinary Institute of America will offer themed concessions from the Apple Pie Bakery for Christmas, with special treats for children.

The performances are at 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 5, 12 and 19; at 2 and 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6, 13 and 20; and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 7 and 14, with a special performance at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17. The Wednesday show will include a pre-show talk by CIA graduate Eddie Kowalski on his favorite holidav recipes. A sound-effect show will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 12, and at 1:15 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20. Film scholar Sybil DelGaudio will speak at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 7, about the classic film that inspired the play.

A special dinner option will also be offered to Half Moon Theatre patrons on Saturday, Dec. 6 and 13, at \$39 per person for a family-style meal by the CIA's



Tickets are \$35-\$45 and available at 800-838-3006 or online at halfmoonthe-



Lion Scouts Pack 137

Lion Scouts Pack Gets Off to Great Start

Pack 137 still accepting new members

The newly formed Lion Scouts of ■ Philipstown Pack 137 had their first couple of meetings, created their totem pieces and did some hiking and exercise for "Healthy Habits" achievement. More recently, the Lion Scouts have begun their newest theme of "Life Skills" with a trip to the North Highlands Fire Department. The fire department allowed the scouts to tour the firehouse, watch a demonstration on fire safety and equipment and tour the inside of a fire truck.

> The Lion Scouts had their first pack meeting at the Philipstown Recreation Department, where all the Cub Scouts typically convene on a monthly basis. They were able to meet some older Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, and watch and be a part of the meeting where all enjoyed scouting traditions. They watched an official flag ceremony, sang silly songs, created a cool craft, received hadges achievement



It's a Wonderful Life: The 1946 Radio Play

Photo courtesy of Half Moon Theatre

cheered on their fellow scouts for their achievements and much more.

Philipstown Pack 137 has grown to over 50 scouts with over 30 families involved, and has been graciously chartered by the Little Stony Point Citizens Association for many years. The pack welcomes new

> scouts between kindergarten and fourth grade. Those interested in having their sons join the Cub Scouting program should contact Gary Gunther at 845-265-9199 or email cubmaster@cubscoutpack137.org.

HVCCA Offers Spotlight on Women Dec. 7

Panel discussion, short play, dance and music

The Hudson Valley Center **▲** for Contemporary Art presents Spotlight on Women: Panel, Play and Performers, an afternoon of events highlighting the diverse accomplishments of women artists on Sunday, Dec. 7.

From 2 to 3 p.m., there will be a panel discussion about the exhibition on view entitled The Women's Room: Female Perspectives on Men, Women, Family and Nation. The exhibition's curators, Marcy B. Freedman and Livia Straus, along with video artist Sara Shaoul and art history professor Melissa Hall, will discuss the works on view and invite the audience to join in.

From 3 to 4 p.m., theater director Mara Mills presents What Goes Around by



Photo courtesy of HVCCA

Dancers Alice Teirstein and Marsi Burns playwright Donna

Barkman, who acts in the play along with Louise Kaminer. This short play is about two older women who meet for the first time since high school. It explores betraval, redemption and discovery.

From 4 to 5 p.m. is an original dance performance with dancers Marsi Burns and Alice Teirstein moving throughout various spaces of the museum as the audience follows along. They will be accompanied by composer and musician Andy Teirstein. There will be two intermissions and a reception at

Admission is \$5 for HVCCA members and \$7 for non-members. For more information, visit hvcca.org. The program is part of a new initiative called Peekskill: The Power of Women Artists. For information about PPOWA, contact peekskillpowerofwomen@gmail.com.

Christmas Sing-Along Part of Irish Music Program

Dec. 10 carol session at Depot

Ylub Irish has announced that the monthly entertainment at the Cold Spring Depot by the Hudson Valley Irish Musicians will include a Christmas singalong from 7 to 10 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10. Carol song sheets with words will be distributed.

Club Irish is the designation given to regular attendees at the monthly programs at the Cold Spring Depot, which are among presentations by the musicians at several locations throughout each month. Ann Dillon of Cold Spring is coordinator of the musicians. The programs are informal, with visitors invited to eat, drink or do both.

Transitions Opens at Gallery 66 NY Dec. 5

First Friday artist's reception from 6 to 9 p.m.

Pransitions is an exhibition of works I on metal by Cindy Booth and paintings by SuHua Chen Low. Their approach is to transition from what the eye sees in a landscape image to the essence and feeling of the image.

Booth provides glimpses into mysterious worlds of light, color and texture. Using solder and patinas on copper sheets, she creates art by letting go of control, allowing the materials to guide her. The results are reminiscent of fantastic landscapes and aerial views. Booth is a Westchester artist who exhibits her metal paintings and sculpture in the Tristate area.

Low, born in Taiwan, represents a unique convergence of Western oil paint-(Continued on next page)



Spring by SuHua Chen Low

Photo courtesy of Gallery 66 N

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

(From previous page) nique with traditional Chinese landscape art and water and ink paintings. Low goes beyond what a camera does to show the essence of the images she paints. She learned to paint from Taiwan master artists Shih-Ciao Li and Ke-Mei Li, forming the foundation of her Western and Chinese painting works. Low has exhibited in the U.S. and Taiwan.

Small Treasures exhibits in galleries B and C, featuring small works of art and gifts, including handcrafted jewelry and ornaments for the holidays.

Exhibits are on view from Dec. 5–28, with an artists' opening reception Friday, Dec. 5, 6 to 9 p.m. Gallery 66 NY is located at 66 Main St. in Cold Spring. Regular hours are from noon to 6 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. For more information, visit gallery66ny.com or call 845-809-5838.

SPCA Seeks Information on Abandoned Dog

Terrier mix found in Fahnestock Park restroom

The Putnam County SPCA Humane **L** Law Enforcement Department is seeking information in regard to the abandonment of a small white terrier dog, possibly a Maltese mix, in the Pelton Pond women's restroom. Pelton Pond is located off Route 301 within Fahnestock State Park, in the Town of Kent. On the morning of Nov. 22, the Town of Kent dog control officer was dispatched to the location after park employees found the dog inside a plastic crate in the restroom. The dog was examined at the Carmel Animal Hospital and found to be in a severe state of neglect. Both of the dog's ears are severely infected. The dog's fur was heavily matted causing extreme discomfort and preventing the dog from defecating. The dog is also considered underweight and believed to be approximately 3 to 4 years old and un-neutered.

Due to the animal's severe state of neglect and its apparent abandonment, the Putnam County SPCA is investigating this as a criminal case. Officers of the SPCA ask that anyone having information as to the person(s) responsible for this to contact the SPCA on their 24-hour Animal Cruelty Hotline, 845-520-6915, or through the SPCA website, spcaputnam.org. All information will be kept confidential.

Animal cruelty is a class A misdemeanor in New York state carrying a sentence of up to one year in jail, or a fine up to \$1,000 or some combination of the two. Abandonment of an animal is an unclassified misdemeanor in New York state carrying a sentence of up to



Abandoned dog found in Fahnestock

Nov. 22 Photo courtesy of Putnam SPCA

one year in jail, or a fine up to \$1,000 or some combination of the two.

A Gilded Age Christmas at Staatsburgh Historic Site

Children's programs run late November to New Year's Eve

Staatsburgh State Historic Site is preparing for its festive Gilded Age Christmas, featuring holiday decorations throughout the mansion and special children's programs from late November through New Year's Eve. The site opens for the holiday season on Friday, Nov. 28, and offers public hours Thursday through Sunday, from noon to 4 p.m. (closed Christmas Day) through Dec. 31. Special evening hours are from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 12, and additional days for visiting the mansion include noon to 4 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 29, through Wednesday, Dec. 31.

Sundays in December, from 1 to 4 p.m., children ages 6 to 11 and their family members are invited to solve a "history mystery" in the *Holiday Whodunit*. The young detectives will interview costumed interpreters, who portray Gilded Age houseguests and servants. The *Holiday Whodunit* has become an annual tradition for many families, who come each December to enjoy the decorations and crack another Gilded Age case. Children who submit a guess as to "whodunit" will be entered in a drawing for a prize.

Each holiday season, children can enjoy searching for the miniature houses of Mistletoe Mouse throughout the mansion. The site is offering two hands-on craft workshops during the school vacation: Saturday, Dec. 27, and Tuesday, Dec. 30, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Children ages 6 to 12 can make their own mouse houses out of boxes and various craft materials. A parent or guardian must accompany a child; there is a \$5 materials fee per child. Reservations recommended: 845-889-8851.

Staatsburgh's museum shop features a unique selection of jewelry, books, scarves, keepsakes and gifts. The shop will be open during all touring hours.

Site admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors; children 12 and younger are free. The site is located on Old Post Road in Staatsburg, off Route 9 between Rhinebeck and Hyde Park. For more information call 845-889-8851 or visit nysparks.com.



Staatsburg tree

Image provided

Service of Lessons and Carols at Vassar Dec. 7

Choirs lead hymn and carol singing

The college's annual "Service of Lessons and Carols," a Christmas service of readings, choral anthems and congregational carols that culminates in a candle lighting ceremony, will be held in the Vassar Chapel on Sunday, Dec. 7.

This popular event is free and open to the public. The doors will open at 6:30



Vassar Lessons and Carols

Image provided

p.m., with seating on a first-come, first-served basis. The event begins at 7 p.m. A free-will offering will also be taken to support the college's annual philanthropic campaign, Community Works, which provides funding to several Hudson Valley nonprofit organizations (see communityworks.vassar.edu).

The program, co-sponsored by the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life and the Department of Music, will feature Advent and Christmas scriptural readings and an ensemble of 170 singers, including members of the Vassar College Choir, Vassar College Women's Chorus, the Madrigal Singers and the Cappella Festiva Treble and Chamber Choirs. These choirs lead the congregational singing of hymns and carols and will also present anthems by Tomás de Luis de Victoria, Herbert Howells, Calvin Hampton, Caldwell & Ivory, Stephen Rickards, Mark Sirett and Eric Whitacre.

Vassar College is located at 124 Raymond Ave. in Poughkeepsie, and directions to the campus can be found at vassar.edu/directions.

Beacon

Woody Guthrie Workshop at Beacon Music Factory

Michael Eck leads course on folk process Dec. 13

Woody Guthrie described himself as "the biggest song stealer that ever was." In the Beacon Music Factory's workshop Songwriting With Woody Guthrie, participants will look at Guthrie's methods and sources, his philosophy of songwriting and his manipulation of the folk process. They will also sing a bunch of Woody's favorites, so participants are encouraged to bring their voices, ukuleles or whatever they've got — in tune or not!

Instructor Michael Eck is a songwriter, roots scholar and multi-instrumentalist who has performed with artists ranging from Pete Seeger to Patti Smith. He is currently curator and host of WAMC's American Roots Series. He has performed and consulted on Woody Guthrie-related programs for Caffe Lena, Heritage Folk Music, Beacon Institute, the Linda, the Dance Flurry, Capital Repertory Theatre and others.

The workshop takes place Saturday, Dec. 13, from 1 to 3 p.m. and is for ages 13 and up. The class fee is \$25. Register online at beaconmusic factory.com or by phone at 845-765-0472. Refreshments will be served. The Beacon Music Factory is now in a new location at 629 Route 52 in Beacon.

Square Dance at Howland Cultural Center Nov. 29

Dances to be taught, with old-time fiddling and calling

Square dancing returns to the Howland Cultural Center on Saturday, Nov. 29, for an evening of good oldfashioned dancing. The Devil's Box, fiddlers Harry Bolick, Brian Slattery and Jim Garber, will once again provide the music, and Liz Slade, caller, will guide the dancers in squares and big circle dances in the Southern Mountain style. No partners are needed, and all dances will be taught.

The dance will take place from 8 to 10:30 p.m., and the admission ticket costs \$12 and may be purchased at the door;

no reservations are necessary. Light refreshments will be served.

The Howland Cultural Center is located at 477 Main St. (at the east end) in Beacon. For further information and/or directions, call 845-831-4988

Howland Library Offers Crafty Kids Workshops

Dec. 10 program to 'Decorate the Holidays'

Children of all ages are invited to get Ccreative during the cold weather by participating in three winter Crafty Kids workshops presented by artist Tina Chan Sweenie at Howland Public Library, 313 Main St. in Beacon. Sweenie will help the children explore different arts and crafts mediums as they use their imaginations to create unique pieces of art. The workshops will take place on Wednesdays, Dec. 10, Jan. 14 and Feb. 11, from 4 to 5 p.m.

The first workshop on Dec. 10 will feature "Decorate the Holidays" tips and children will experiment with different types of materials to make festive creations. Parents/guardians must register children for the December workshop by contacting Ginny Figlia, head of Youth Services, at youth@beaconlibrary.org or 845-831-1134, ext. 103. Adults must accompany younger children.

Music in Jane Austen's Time at Howland Library

Vassar professor to speak on Dec. 10

Kathryn Libin, associate professor of music at Vassar College, speaks on the instruments and musical contemporaries of Jane Austen's time, at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 10, at the Howland Public Library. She will present a slideshow and play musical recordings.

Libin studies and interprets musical issues in the life and writings of Jane Austen. She has given numerous presentations at national and regional meetings of the Jane Austen Society of North America, and served as musical director for JASNA's 25th anniversary meeting in England in 2003. Libin's latest publication is "Daily Practice, Musical Accomplishment, and the Example of Jane Austen," in *Jane Austen and the Arts: Elegance, Propriety, and Harmony* (Lehigh University Press, 2013)

The Howland Public Library is located at 313 Main St. in Beacon. To see all events currently offered at the library, go to beaconlibrary.org. For more information, call Alison Herrero, head of Adult Services, at 845-831-1134.

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

HVSF's All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914 at St. Mary's (from page 7)

Music was a part of their culture, a way for them to sustain themselves, and quite a bit is conveyed through the songs they were singing; the 'war songs' were particularly truthful."

This is echoed by Garrison's Michael McKee, one of 10 local male singers coming together as a newly formed a cappella group to perform all of the music. "It's a beautiful piece," said McKee. "There are all of these wonderful letters from the soldiers, and the music is well-blended with the letters. It consists of songs

popular at the time, which emerged from common experiences: saying upbeat goodbyes, sailing away from England, a metaphorical connection with home, and the somber return. We sing songs like It's A Long Way to Tipperary, Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag, and then it turns darker, with Hanging on the Old Barbed Wire, I Want to Go Home and Keep the Home Fires Burning. These are interspersed with old German marching songs and Christmas carols from England, Germany and France — we sing O

Christmas Tree in French." McKee came to the project through Davis

McCallum, HVSF's recently appointed artistic director. McCallum heard McKee, a member of the St. Philip's church choir, sing a solo there, and asked him to participate and for advice on rounding up other singers and a music director.

Garrison's Paul Heckert, who holds a master's degree from the New England Conservatory of Music and is minister of music at St. John's Episcopal Church in Cornwall, was appointed as music director. McKee and his fellow singers, consisting of four tenors, three baritones and three basses, all from this area, will be fusing their work with three HSVF professional actors, Sean McNall, who is also serving as the festival's new associate artistic director and director of education; Ryan Quinn, who has appeared at the festival frequently; and, new to the festival, Matt Bittner.

Currently divided into two separate rehearsal groups, with the chorus working together in Philipstown and von Stuelpnagel working with the actors in the city, they will come together in a series of joint rehearsals just prior to the performance dates.

The actors will be essaying many roles and, with those roles, nationalities: French, German, Irish, English and Scottish. "The actors are already hard at work learning the accents," von Stuelpnagel said, adding that the narrative requires a certain kind of "virtuousity of performance."

Von Stuelpnagel sees this production as "especially poignant, as it is taking place during the 100th anniversary of this major event, when both sides laid down their arms ... It was a miraculous event, a large feat of humanity and a testimony to the spirit of Christmas and the holidays in general, not just Christmas itself -amoment outside of whatever the conflicts are in life — a magical moment."

Von Stuelpnagel has "full confidence that these performances will be magical, too, for history fans and others. It's a riveting story and then coupled with that music, in the beautiful St. Mary's space — it's going to be transporting."

In addition to McKee, members of the chorus are Greg Gunder, David Jones, Greg Lozier, Joe Mahon, Dave McDonald, Paul Phillips, Nathan Smith, Sterling Swann and Chris Whipple.

All Is Calm will be performed at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 12, and at 2 and 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 13. Tickets, which have been selling quickly, cost \$40 and can be reserved through the HVSF website, hvshakespeare.org.

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Roots and Shoots

By Pamela Doan

arents where used guilt at meal times to coerce children into eating things they didn't like, usually vegetables. There were starving children in another country who would be happy for that steamed broccoli or green beans. The 2014 equivalent could be the greenhouse gas that is generated by wasting food and sending it to a landfill. The National Resources Defense Council estimates that 40 percent

of all food in the United States is wasted and never makes it onto the table. Climate change is the new starvation complex.

This week is a good time to notice these habits. Brussels sprouts, potatoes, broccoli, onions, garlic, yams, carrots, parsnips, turnips, pumpkin, squash, apples, oranges, lemon and assorted herbs — our Thanksgiving dinners probably included a lot of vegetables and fruit in addition to the main event — an ode to the fall harvest.

After the tryptophan-induced nap and the cleanup come the leftovers. Almost as anticipated as the meal itself, the second and third and fourth meals are devoted to creative uses of post-holiday fare.

Or are they? If 40 percent of our food doesn't make it to the table to begin with and then you throw in the leftovers and the scraps of food discarded during preparation, it all adds up to a significant part of our waste. The Environmental Protection Agency keeps track of these things, and even though Americans are recycling

Turning the Feast Back Into a Harvest



Food and other materials that can be composted and recycled accounts for 35 million tons in landfills annually.

Photo by P. Doan

and composting more than in previous years, food waste still makes up 35 million tons of our landfills every year, and household consumers account for nearly half of that wasted food (groceries and restaurants are another issue). That equates to 20 percent of the total amount of garbage we throw away, more than plastics.

The good news is that our waste is at the lowest rate since the 1980s, with the average person generating 4.38 pounds of waste per day and recycling or recovering 1.5 pounds, but organic materials are still the largest portion of that waste — paper, food waste, landscape matter. This is still a huge area for improvement.

Composting rates have risen as some cities have instituted curbside collection. While that isn't happening anywhere in Philipstown, some municipalities, like Cold Spring, encourage it by offering low-cost composting bins.

Now back to the vegetables that are prepared for Thanksgiving dinner. All

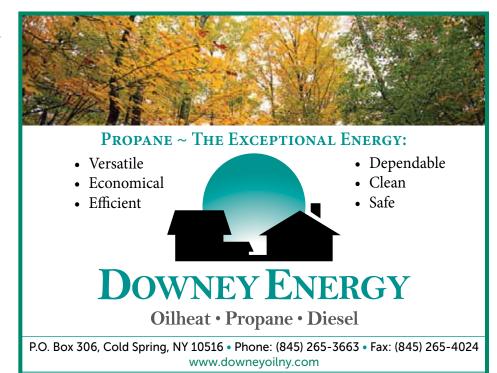
the peels, skins, leaves, stems, cores and seeds make a lot more sense in the garden than in a landfill. Winter composting has its own challenges, though. My compost pile is far enough away from the house that it's unrealistic to trudge through the snow to get to it. I haven't tried vermicomposting and don't have a good place in the house to keep a worm bin in winter. The solution is a winter compost bin that's near the door.

I experimented with do-it-yourself compost bins made from trashcans for two winters now. The most successful has been a plastic trashcan with small holes punched in it with an electric drill. Use a fairly large drill bit and make holes up and down the sides and in the top and bottom for airflow. Compost needs oxygen to break down. Don't make the holes too large, though. The point is to

keep rodents out and the organic matter in while letting it breathe. I put it on top of a couple bricks to let air circulate through the bottom, too.

I made the holes too large the first time I tried this and lined the inside of the can with a screen that's used for windows, but it got caught when I turned the compost with a pitchfork. Switching the screen to the outside of the can didn't help; scraps fell out and collected on it.

With the holidays upon us, it's a good time to consider consumption and take steps to minimize our carbon footprint through recycling and composting during a period that can be very indulgent. Reducing food waste at home can be a great family project that doesn't have to involve guilt, but could instead be an exercise in healthy eating. Whether you do it for the long-term health of our planet or for the starving children in a community not too far off, it will save money and feel good, too.







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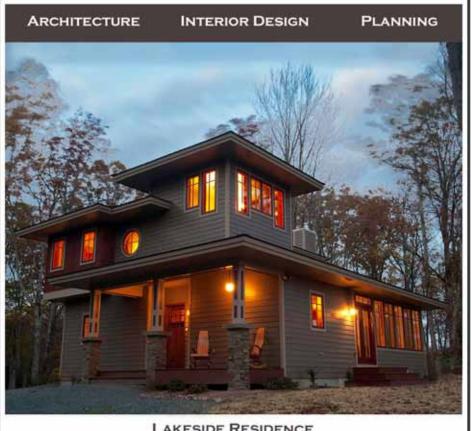
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