

The Philipstown info The 20 CT



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Food Pantry Continues Community Service Tradition

Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings

By Michael Turton

Tothing says Thanksgiving more than a family sitting down together to share a bountiful meal. For some families, thanks for the meal goes to the Philipstown Food Pantry, which provides food to area families in need year-round. Its mission somehow seems even more poignant this time of year when so many others are able to enjoy Thanksgiving dinner without giving it a second thought.



of several Girl Scouts who helped out at last Saturday's pre-Thanksgiving food

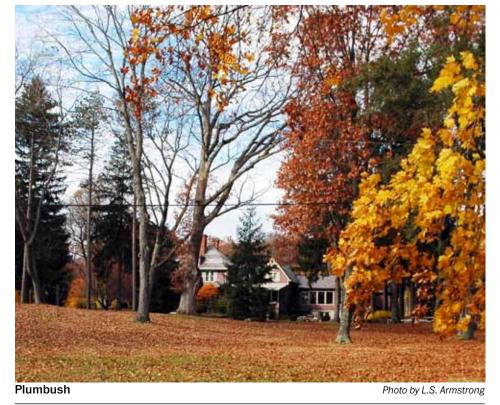
ntry. Photo by M. Turton

Poverty is not a term that describes how average residents of Garrison, Cold Spring and other parts of Philipstown live. But there are people here in need of even the basics, not the least of which is food. The Philipstown Food Pantry, a mission of the First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown, is based in the church hall at 10 Academy St., in Cold Spring. Andrea Bach serves as coordinator.

"These are not people who sit around home doing nothing," Bach said, describing those who rely on the pantry for support. "These are the working poor. For some that means holding two or three jobs — and still there isn't enough money at the end of the month."

Helping the hungry

This year, the pantry provided all the ingredients for Thanksgiving dinner to more than 30 families. Baskets included a large turkey, gravy, potatoes, fresh vegetables, pie and more. Turkeys were again provided by a single, anonymous donor with the rest of the special meal courtesy of donations from many members of the Philipstown community and area businesses. (Continued on page 3)



Plumbush School Approved by Town Planning Board

Warehouse plan for Cyberchron site also reviewed

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Philipstown Planning Board Thursday (Nov. 21) approved plans for turning Plumbush Inn into a primary school, after the applicant, Manitou Properties Co. LLC, agreed to install a sprinkler system to increase safety in the historic building.

At the meeting, its monthly session, the board also began reviewing a proposal to convert the Cyberchron facility on Route 9 into a warehouse, nearly double in size of the current structure. (Some 75 Cyberchron employees once produced rugged, military-scale computers there.)

Manitou Properties school at Plumbush

Although their attorney argued that the law does not demand a sprinkler system, another Manitou Properties representa-

tive promised to provide it after Planning Board members again sharply questioned why the school, a for-profit venture, would not include sprinklers, required or not. A blaze broke out in the building in 2010 but did not thwart inn operations for long. Last summer, Manitou Properties announced plans to buy the property – now formally known as Plumbush Inn at the Parrot House – for a new school for children from preschool to grade 6.

Planning Board Member Anthony D. "Ande" Merante noted that the house is "an old wooden building with 75 young children" anticipated as enrollees. He said that in an emergency "you're going to have significant problems" getting everyone out and that the board did not feel confident the pupils would be safe. He also observed that the building would have no elevator, which, he said, would bar handicapped individuals from seeking employment in the upstairs offices. Manitou Properties indicates it "can't afford an elevator and can't afford a sprinkler system. I find that a bit (Continued on page 3)

Restoring Fahnestock

Partnership raises park improvement funds

By Alison Rooney

he Canopus Lake Beach and Fahnestock Winter Park "campus" hub have not been renovated since initial construction in the 1970s, but maintain popularity as a multi-season destination for visitors and locals alike. After decades of use and enjoyment, the facility is undergoing a major facilities upgrade, and the first stage is nearing completion.

The work, funded by a public/private partnership, follows guidelines recommended in a comprehensive master plan authored in 2010. Phase one of the project includes the renovation of the two buildings - the bathhouse and the concessions building — which serve as the heart of the complex. Along with the redesign and updated, enhanced landscaping of the courtyard area surrounding the buildings, renovations are at a midpoint, with the bathhouse almost completed and the winter recreation area/ café space up next. Phases two through four will begin with improvements to the beach and nearby recreational facilities and wind up with the development of multi-sport athletic fields and improvements to the parking area.

Fahnestock Memorial State Park was established in 1930 with a donation of about 2,400 acres made by Dr. Ernest Fahnestock in memory of his brother, Clarence, expressly for the development of a state park and a parkway. Through the late 1990s and early 2000s, additional land was added to the park to bring the current acreage to 14,082.

A high volume of activities take place within this acreage, from the popular cross-country ski trails to the heavily-reserved cabins which serve as a base for hiking, to myriad lake pursuits: swimming, fishing, ice-fishing, boating and more at Canopus Lake. Fahnestock currently receives 250,000 people each (Continued on page 4)

Their Town

Young actors with Cold Spring roots share lead roles in drama

By Alison Rooney

aldane Drama's fall production this year is Thornton Wilder's emblematic American classic, *Our Town*. This is the 75th anniversary of one of the country's most-produced plays, and it represents a change for Haldane, which has typically presented comedies or lighter dramatic productions. (See related story on the production on page 7.)

The leading part of the Stage Manager (the character name) is ambitious, with pages of uninterrupted text. The role is daunting even to experienced professional actors. Director Martha Mechalakos, working with a complete double





Nolan Shea, left, in character as one of the *Our Town* stage managers; Aidan Gallagher, right, at a recent rehearsal.

*Photos by Jim Mechalakos**

cast (down to the smallest roles) chose two young actors to play the role: Aidan Gallagher, 17, a senior, who will perform Friday night, and Nolan Shea, 15, a sophomore, who performs on Saturday night. She based her decision on their auditions, and didn't realize until it was pointed out later that, in *(Continued on page 6)*

Mouths to Feed

The Scale of Things

By Celia Barbour

or the longest time, I was convinced I had a problem with schedules. My parents, who can hardly bring themselves to steep a cup of tea for a visitor unless it was written down in their calendars ahead of time, have frequently lamented my capriciousness when it comes to making plans. They know, as of this writing, what they will be doing for most of March.

I, meanwhile, am not sure what I'm doing tomorrow.

Yet I realized some years back that I am no outlier in this regard; this is how most of my friends are, too. Our work lives may be governed by demanding timetables, but our downtime is something we mostly make up as we go along. We are open



to (or at the mercy of) whatever experiences may blow our way.

And it seems we have passed this trait along to the next generation. Last weekend, my son Henry invited a friend over to work on a project for school. The work ended, the friend stayed for dinner and then spent the night, one thing evolving into another quite seamlessly. When his dad arrived to pick him up the next morning, the boys were just waking up, so the dad joined us for breakfast: French toast, syrup, juice. Nothing fancy, but it was nice, what with the sharp November sunlight skating across the breakfast table and all of us feeling fresh and genial.

I love feeding people on a whim. It makes me incredibly happy to be able to say, "Here, pull up a chair. There's plenty." And to mean it.

Yet I confess that it took me awhile to get to this point. When I was younger and living in the city, I idolized cooks who could welcome unexpected guests without breaking a sweat. But even though I tried to mimic their gestures of hospitality, inside I would be roiling. Why? I still don't really know, only that I often felt put out by last-minute changes to the logistics of a meal.

Which is strange, because cooking itself is something that demands enormous flexibility. An herb has wilted so you substitute something else; the pot you need is in use, so you commandeer another; the humidity is off; the bread doesn't rise: the rice burns: someone ate all the pasta at snack time.

I could roll with all of this, no problem. But the at-the-table part of the process operated on a different frequency for me. There, I was cursed with rigidity.

I would like to be able to tell vou that some profound revelation got me over this problem, that I discovered some great truth about What Really Matters in this world. But I suspect that what actually cured



Lemon and thyme

Photo by C. Barbour

me was having kids. Not just because their friends and friends' parents quickly became a part of the daily texture of our lives, but because the crazy enormity and unpredictability of their appetites meant - means - that I am always cooking vast quantities of food. Quantities that make no sense to me at all; that, on paper, should serve 8 or 12, but can easily get polished off before the dishes are done.

Last Saturday, I bought nearly twoand-a-half pounds of fish at the market an amount that would once have struck me as insane but now just seems prudent. I'd planned to make it that night, but then Henry's friend stayed and, although I will serve many strange things to other people's children, I won't serve them fish. On Sunday, my mom came by for tea and to drop off some belated birthday presents for George. Naturally, she had called several days in advance to inform us of her plans. But as the afternoon wore on, she decided to stay for supper (go crazy, Mom!), and I was delighted she did. I upped the quantity of rice and salad, and there was plenty of fish to go around - enough, in fact, for a small feast in celebration of serendipity.

Easy Tasty Fish

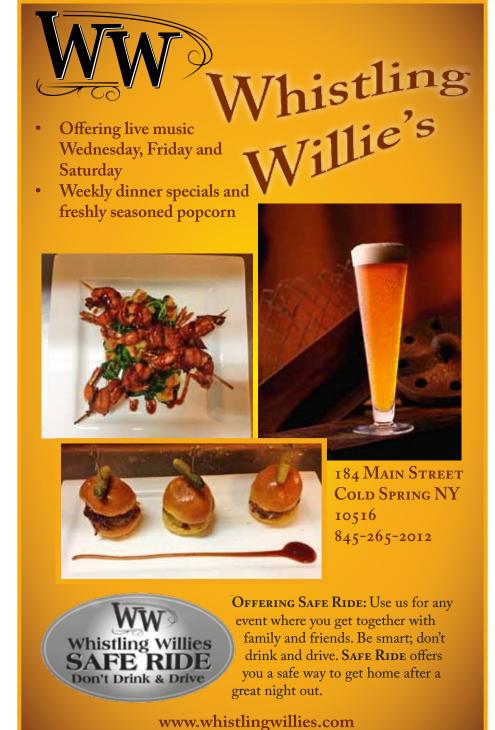
I have used this recipe with all kinds of mild fish; I particularly like it with sea bass. The technique described is for skin-on filets.

2 pounds fish (see note above) zest of 1 lemon 2 tablespoons fresh thyme leaves 1/3 cup parsley leaves olive oil

salt and pepper

for herb butter (optional)

- 2 tablespoons butter, room temperature
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1 teaspoon thyme leaves
- 1 tablespoon parsley leaves zest and juice of ½ lemon
- Lay the fish skin side down on a platter. Mince together the herbs; combine with the lemon zest and rub into the fish. Refrigerate for 20 minutes or up to 4 hours.
- Meanwhile, make the herb butter: mash the butter until soft. Mince together the garlic and herbs and blend into the butter along with the lemon zest. Slowly mix in the lemon juice until combined. Set aside.
- Generously salt and pepper the fish.
- Put an oven rack on the second-highest level and turn on the broiler. On the stove, heat a large oven-proof sauté pan over medium-high. When hot, add a swirl of olive oil — enough to coat the bottom of the pan. After 30 seconds, add the fish, skin side down, and cook until the opacity has risen about an inch from the skin (it will look white), about 7 minutes. Transfer the pan to the oven and allow to cook under the broiler just until the top is opaque, about 1-2 minutes, depending on the thickness of the fish. Top with herb butter and serve immediately.





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Food Pantry Continues Community Service Tradition (from page 1)

About 60 families are registered with the food pantry including as many as 10 seniors. On a normal Saturday morning, 20 to 25 families come to pick up food, but at Thanksgiving, traffic in and out of the pantry increases. Bach said that this year has been more difficult for some families, in part because social security payments have not increased in three years. The food stamp program has also recently cut back benefits.

"The law was changed in 2010 and food stamp cuts started this October," she said. The initial decrease was \$11 per person. "That may not seem much to you and me, but to someone who budgets every penny, it's a lot. We've added four or five new families since October," Bach said, adding that food stamp benefits can only be used for food - not personal-care items such as soap, shampoo or toothpaste. The pantry does accept personal care products as donations.

Stretching donations

But when asked what kind of donations the pantry needs most, Bach didn't have to search for the answer. "More and more it's money" she said, explaining that she can purchase food at much less cost through two state food banks located in Cornwall and Latham, N.Y. There she pays only 16 cents per pound for food purchased for the pantry. To put that in perspective, if someone were to donate \$16 instead of buying and donating 10 cans of tomatoes at \$1.60 each, the food pantry could use the cash donation to buy 100 cans.

The food pantry is strictly a volunteer effort and those involved would have it no other way. "Most of the volunteers here have been here forever," Bach said.

Karen Tangen, a deacon in the Presbyterian Church, has been the assistant coordinator at the pantry for several years. Her reason for volunteering is personal.

"I was one of 11 kids," Tangen said. "If we would have had a food pantry it would have helped a lot." For Tangen, a story from just a couple of years ago illustrates the true spirit of the food pantry. "Three triplet girls, about eight to 10 years old, had a birthday party," she said. "But they didn't want presents. Instead they asked for canned food or money to donate to the food pantry."

Susan Casement volunteers at the pantry along with her son, Steven, a senior at Haldane High School and a former Scout leader. "It's just something we always wanted to do. You don't find time for it until you make time for it," she said. One thing that impresses Casement about the operation is that nothing goes to waste with leftovers going to other local organizations such as St. Christopher's Inn at Graymoor and the Walter Hoving Home in Garrison. She also sees the pantry as a place where community residents give of themselves. "I'm constantly amazed

when I see local residents show up with a huge box of fresh produce from their

Eleven-year-old Julie Geller may hold the record as the pantry's youngest volunteer. She started at age three, although she admits she didn't really start "working" there until about age 7. "I like to help the people who come here, she said. "I realize how fortunate we are."

Although a bit older, Sara Dulaney is a rookie compared to Geller, having started as a food pantry volunteer six months ago. "It's just the right thing to do - and a simple thing to do for community service," the Cold Spring resident and retiree said.

The Philipstown Food Pantry was established more than 30 years ago. To be a beneficiary, applicants must live in Philipstown and fill out a basic form. The pantry operates each Saturday from 9 to 10 a.m. To learn more visit presbychurchcoldspring. org and click on "Making a Difference."

Plumbush School Approved by Town Planning Board (from page 1)

objectionable, to say the least," he said.

Board Member Pat Sexton echoed his concerns, terming it "irresponsible" to ignore a sprinkler option. "You didn't even look into it," she said.

Camille Linson, Manitou Properties lawyer, told the board its job is to determine whether the project site plan meets requirements of the town code.

Referring to himself as "one of the applicants and owners" of the school venture, Rajay Bagaria then informed the board that "I think we're comfortable going ahead with a sprinkler system. We haven't costed it out. The reality is that we don't own the property today, so our access has been very limited."

Planning Board Attorney Steve Gaba

said that "all site plans are supposed to be consistent with the public health, safety and welfare in the town" and "to say that on site-plan approval the board has no consideration whatsoever of fire safety is a bit of an overstatement." However, given Bagaria's declaration of Manitou Properties' willingness to install sprinklers, he added, "it looks like that's a non-issue."

Gaba quickly drafted language, incorporated in the resolution granting site-plan approval, noting that "the applicant has agreed and presented that the main building would be fully equipped with an appropriate sprinkler system." A similar notation is to be inscribed on the site plan itself.

The board passed the resolution.

Cyberchron building

The board took up work on a new submission, from Olspan LLC, to expand the 10,798-square-foot Cyberchron building by adding a new 8,676-square-foot wing, to create a private warehouse of 19,474 square feet. The site is near a wetland and along with the Cyberchron building the parcel includes a single-family dwelling. Olspan proposes retaining the house as a caretaker residence, after it buys the five-acre plot from its current owner, the CF Diversified Corp.

According to Tim Miller, of Tim Miller Associates Inc., a Cold Spring-based consulting firm, Olspan intends to use the ex-Cyberchron building as "a passive warehouse" for the owners' personal items. Miller said the warehouse would not be open to the public and would generate little traffic. Also, he told the board, "there will be no disturbance whatsoever to the wetland." Board Member Neal Zuckerman wondered "what is going to be stored, and for what purpose?"

Miller did not provide specifics.

Olspan's name and interest in a warehouse call to mind the proposal by Nancy Olnick Spanu in 2012 to build a large structure in Garrison to house her family's art collection. Subsequently encountering opposition from neighbors, she withdrew the application.

Two sources familiar with Planning Board activities confirmed that Olspan's project involves Spanu.

The Garrison Volunteer Fire Company invites residents of the Garrison Fire Protection District to an information meeting

regarding the Company's request for an increase in its Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) benefits.

> The meeting will be at the Garrison Fire Co. Station Two Firehouse 1616 Route Nine 1 p.m., Sunday Dec. 1, 2013

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LETTERS

LOSAP helps retain active volunteer firefighters

To: Philipstown Town Board Members, Garrison Taxpayers

Date: Nov. 22, 2013

Re: Garrison LOSAP parity with neighboring towns

Our primary goal is to continue to provide fire and rescue services to our neighbors of the Garrison Fire Protection District, whom we have served since 1929.

To accomplish that goal, we face the difficult task of recruiting and retaining active firefighters. Many hours are invested in training new firefighters, and a good deal of money is spent on their gear (which is required by government regulations). We need to protect that investment.

One program that has been working across the nation is the Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP), which provides active volunteer firefighters with a small pension benefit upon reaching retirement age. LOSAP programs are authorized and controlled by state laws. LOSAP not only helps recruit, but more importantly it helps retain active volunteers. Fire districts that provide LOSAP benefits are better able to keep volunteers active than those that do not.

All four Philipstown fire departments have LOSAP plans. However, the Garrison Fire Department's plan offers half the benefits of the other departments' plans. We would like to have LOSAP parity with other departments in our community. The Cold Spring, North High-

lands and Continental Village LOSAP plans each provide a benefit of \$20 per month for each year of service. Garrison's LOSAP plan provides only \$10 per month for each year of service. It is not only unfair to the existing Garrison Fire Department volunteers, it creates low morale problems leading to difficulties retaining volunteers.

In 2012 the Garrison Fire Company responded to 183 emergency calls for help, many occurring during the night when most citizens were home sleeping. Just over 3,250 man-hours were spent by unpaid volunteers responding to emergencies, as well as doing training, drills, public education, equipment maintenance, and all the many activities required to keep the fire station and its equipment operational and viable.

State law expressly prohibits retroactive benefits in LOSAP. This ballot proposal does not involve any retroactive payments in LOSAP to be awarded to any members of the Garrison Fire Department. It only brings the Garrison LOSAP plan in line with those offered by the other Philipstown departments going forward. The cost to the average Garrison taxpayer is about \$14 per year in property tax.

- Current fire levy = \$603,255
- Current rate = 1.583 per \$1,000 assessed value (AV)
- LOSAP increase = \$24,000
- New Fire budget w/LOSAP = \$627,225
- Approximate new rate = 1.646 per \$1,000 assessed value

- AVERAGE TAXPAYER DIFFERENCE
- = \$14 per year
- If your AV is less than \$250,000 you'll pay about \$9 per year.
- If your AV is less than \$500,000 you'll pay about \$23 per year.
- If your AV is less than \$750,000 you'll pay about \$38 per year.

The Garrison Fire Department consists of your neighbors and friends who are all taxpayers. We are volunteers because we care about our community and the people, our neighbors who live here, and in part because we believe it keeps our taxes low. The cost of a paid fire department could be greater than three times the cost of a volunteer department. By any measure, a LOSAP increase, which merely matches the existing plans of the other departments in our community, should be considered an economical deal for us as taxpayers.

Going forward our goal is to be transparent and to work together with the community to find solutions that are good for the community and beneficial to the fire department. To encourage volunteer firemen and women, we must provide a positive environment for people to offer their time. The alternative is that when the fire whistle blows, no one will respond.

We look forward to serving you in the years to come. Thanks for your anticipated help, and let us know how we can be of help in the future.

Thank you, Garrison Fire Department LOSAP Committee

Restoring Fahnestock (from page 1)

year, fed, in part by its links to the Appalachian Trail. Visitors travel from far and wide, with many coming up from New York City. Locals constitute a good portion of visitors as well. Paul Kuznia, director of the Taconic Outdoor Education Center, says the park is all about "unplugging and connecting people in different ways. Our visitors include hikers, fishermen, photographers — and this is a prime example of taking a park and putting it to year-round use. There are 20 kilometers of trails open when all are operating and there's a strong contingent that comes up to ski - it's a tourist attraction. We want to make this more of an amenity and local destination. In nearly 35 years there had been no major improvements to these buildings.

The overall goals of these renovations are to provide quality facilities with a consistent design aesthetic while utilizing sustainable/green building practices and respecting historic character. The first project, the remodeling and winterizing of the public bathhouse and lifeguard facility, reflects this goal. Design on this initial phase was done "in house" by the Taconic Region of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP), under the supervision of senior architect Patrick Kozakiewicz, who advocated for restoration and renovation of the existing 30-plus-year-old building.

"One of the best things we can do to be green is to reuse our existing buildings," Kozakiewicz said. "It's a good sustainable practice and makes the most sense in this case."

On a tour of the almost-complete bathhouse building, Kozakiewicz pointed out many of the new features, including private toilet and shower facilities intended for family use and complete renovation of other areas designed for multiple patrons; the family rooms being a recent trend. "Sun tunnel" skylights and supplemental windows have been added to



Building No. 2, to be restored, houses equipment rental and the Acorn Café.

Photo by A. Rooney

provide healthy natural light while artificial light is achieved with the latest LED technology designed to last more than 20 years. The building has been fitted with a new and efficient heating and ventilation system exceeding stringent code requirements. Now there is a zoned heat system designed to be used year round during the ski season as needed. Hot water for showers and sinks is provided by an array of solar thermal panels.

In addition to bathing facilities, on the beach side of the bathhouse there is a new First Aid Center with lifeguard facilities. Just outside this area is an exterior shower pedestal, a convenience much appreciated by beach users who need to quickly rinse off and depart.

The concession area, café space and ski center, is slated for renovation next. The design for this facility will be by Sullivan Architects. Newly-created vestibules will help retain heat in the winter while also better define pedestrian circulation. Reorganizing interior spaces will increase the amount of space and storage for the booming cross-country ski, snowshoe, and tube rentals. A minor expansion of the building will give more space to the popular Acorn Café and the

kitchen which serves it. Along with this, the courtyard area will be re-designed improving circulation and the overall patron experience. Stonewall seating and a fire pit will be the centerpiece of a naturally inspired and more functional outdoor space.

Beach improvements slated

After this work is completed, plans shift to the beach area, dredging and engineering so that the beach is naturalized and has more water retention, and improving swimming areas. Also noted in the master plan: "The beach will be made smaller and grass will be planted adjacent to the walkway and on both sides of the existing beach. The grass will be an alternative to the sand and will form a buffer to reduce erosion into the lake during rain events." A fully accessible fishing pier is to be installed, boat rentals will take place closer to the beach and the barbecue areas are to be moved. Grassy areas will be created, for non-sand activities. Features are to include beach volleyball, a new playground, an area for kayaking and a trail around the lake.

The projected work has taken into consideration the natural resources of the area and has *(Continued on next page)*

Vera's Market to Stay Open This Winter

New hours, products and business neighbors

By Michael Turton

ocal residents are sure to do a double-take when an event — that like clockwork has always signaled the beginning of winter — fails to take place this year. Vera's Philipstown Market will not close for the season. The popular roadside produce-and-more stand, located on Route 9 south of Fishkill Road, will keep its doors open after Christmas instead of closing as it has in the past.

"We feel that if we're going to try it for a year - this is the year to do it," Dominic Giordano said of the decision to remain open. "We want to support the new businesses." Giordano, who operates the market in tandem with his mother Vera, his sister Joanne, and his cousin Maria Hughes, was referring to the market's new neighbors - Cold Spring Coffee Pantry and On the Fly Cycling Studio. Both are tenants of the Giordanos and located in the same building. Staying open is a move to change the mindset of their customers who are used to seeing the building close until spring. "Once we close, people don't come around - and we really want them (the two new businesses) to succeed." After Christmas, Vera's will be open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The new winter hours will also signal new product lines. "We'll add gift baskets with local, value-added products — and we're looking into offering house plants as well," Joanne Giordano said. "And we'll add some winter hardware items such as salt, firewood, shovels and charcoal."

Vera's opened in June 1982, and operating the business is no soft touch. Asked what the most difficult aspect is, Joanne replied. "It's hard work, hard labor — seven days a week," to which Dominic added, "And it's hard being away from the rest of our families so much."

While it's a challenge, they also see the bright side of the business. Joanne point-

ed to "Working together as a family" as one of the best aspects. Dominic complimented quality of their customer base. "A lot

the quality of their customer base. "A lot of people come here because they really want to support local businesses."

Joanne refers to those customers as, "The best in the Hudson Valley" — but is also willing to poke fun at them. "I love it when customers come in April and ask if all the produce is local!" But she was also quick to add that she's seen a big improvement in people's buying habits over the years. "People used to buy produce in bulk. There was a lot of waste. The 80s and 90s were very wasteful," she said. "But now, people are much smarter with their shopping. They buy produce

in smaller amounts, every two or three days. They're very loyal — and they really like shopping locally."

One thing that she said has not changed over the years is the dependability and quality of produce from regional farms that the market offers. "Wallkill View Farms, Soons Orchards, Four Winds Farm — they're all so great," she said. During winter months, when regional produce is unavailable, Vera's brings in products from further afield and will continue to offer value-added food products such as Reggiano cheese, olive oil and pasta imported from Italy.

Sitting at a picnic table in the kitchen area, the three Giordanos grabbed a steaming bowl of Vera's homemade lentil soup during a lunch break. Vera praised her grandchildren who often help at the market - including with Christmas tree sales this time of year. And while the market that bears her name will be staying open this winter, don't look for Vera behind the counter. "I'm going down to Florida from the end of January until the end of March," she said. When asked if Dominic and Joanne would be flying down to visit her, the three responded in near-perfect unison. "Are you kidding? We see each other seven days a week as it is!"

Cold Spring Coffee Pantry winter hours are: Monday through Wednesday, 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday-Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. For On the Fly classes call 845-265-2830.



The Giordanos: Joannne, left, Dominic and Vera. Their popular Route 9 market will stay open this winter along with two adjacent businesses, Cold Spring Coffee Pantry and On the Fly Cycling Studio.

Photo by M. Turton

Restoring Fahnestock (from previous page)

been designed to respect and maintain species diversity. Katrina Shindledecker, president of the Friends of Fahnestock and Hudson Highlands State Parks, (FOF-HH), the all-volunteer nonprofit group dedicated to preserving, protecting, and improving the two parks, said that in planning they were "trying to be sensitive to natural resources as well as recreational resources – it's a matter of balance."

The "Campaign to Revitalize Fahnestock State Park" is being funded through a public-private partnership led by the OPRHP, the Open Space Institute's Alliance for New York State Parks program, the Taconic Regional Commission of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the FOFHH. To date, \$825,000 in public and private funding, largely grants and donations, has been raised toward an initial \$1.2 million goal. Half of the money has been raised through private donations, while the remaining \$400,000 was secured through a New York State Environmental Protection Fund grant awarded through Gov. Cuomo's Hudson Valley Regional Economic Development Council. The final \$375,000 is currently being sought, and donations can be made directly to a fund for this purpose.

"We're realists but we've been fortunate to receive support from a variety of venues. As people look for recreational opportunities closer to home there is renewed interest in local assets, high quality ones appealing to the public," said Eileen Larrabee of the OSI's Alliance for New York State Parks.

Shindledecker of FOFHH added, "Campground and beach use have actually increased in recent years because many people aren't taking big long-distance family vacations anymore. And then many of these park visitors head into Cold Spring afterwards and act as economic drivers.

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For me at the core is remembering to step back and focus on family and about what matters: making those memories for families. We want this place to be just that - a clean, safe and fun place where families can come to unplug and make great memories for generations to come."



PHILIPSTOWN DEPOT THEATRE

Philipstown Youth Players present: Treasure Island

by Robert Louis Stevensen, adapted by Diana Hird, directed by Jenn Lee and Diana Hird Friday, Dec. 6 at 7pm, Saturday, Dec. 7 at 3pm and 6pm Friday, Dec. 13 at 7pm, Saturday, Dec. 14 at 3pm and 6pm • Tickets \$12

Treasure Island II: What Happened Next, A Play Reading

Saturday, Dec. 14 at 1pm, Sunday Dec. 15 at 2pm • Tickets \$5 at the door

Tickets: www.brownpapertickets.com www.philipstowndepottheatre.org • Garrison Landing, Garrison, NY

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Nolan Shea, left, and Aidan Gallagher, Our

Town's 'Stage Managers'

Their Town (from page 1)

an interesting mirror of the play itself, which depicts a small town like this one in many ways, both young men are from local families with multi-generational roots. *Philipstown.info/The Paper* spoke with the student actors about parallels between stage and real life, their hometown and its fictitious equivalent, Grover's Corners.

"It's almost a play about Cold Spring. The audience will see it as an accurate reflection of life here and I think they will really enjoy it." ~ Aidan Gallagher

The Paper: How far back do your Philipstown roots go?

Nolan Shea: I think about 400 years — wait, let me text my father. (The correct information: "since before 1870" was relayed later.)

Aidan Gallagher: On my mother's side of the family I believe it goes back to my great-grandfather — in that vicinity. My father's family came from Ireland and Austria and I don't think they have been here as long.

The Paper: Have most family members stayed here, or moved away?

Shea: My dad is one of five brothers. One lives in Beacon, two in Massachusetts, one in Saratoga, so they're spread out. They come back though, because they love it; it's a great town.

Gallagher: There are a lot of Gallaghers in town; I get made fun of. My dad is the eldest of four and three of them are still here. Most of my mother's family is in Beacon; we are all very close.

The Paper: Is having a lot of family living so near a good thing, or can it get claustrophobic?

Gallagher: It's absolutely something I appreciate and I don't take it for granted. Such a caring group of people who are with you as you grow up affects you in a positive way.

Recreation

Shea: It's positive; I really enjoy seeing my cousins.

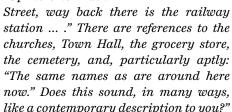
The Paper: In "Our Town" George [the young male character] decides against going away to agricultural college because he can get more from staying home. Do you plan on remaining in this area?

Gallagher: Because I've had such a positive upbringing I would want future generations of Gallaghers to have a similar experience. It is pretty impor-

tant to me that my family continues to live here.

Shea: I'm just a sophomore — I have no idea yet.

The Paper: In the first scenes of the play, the Stage Manager sets the scene of the town: "Up here is Main



Gallagher: Yes, completely. It's amazing how similar it is, from the rows of stores, to the churches found on the smaller streets running off of Main Street. And it's an expression of how in a small town everybody knows everything about everybody.

Shea: You can't do anything without everyone knowing.

The Paper: The geographic setting is uncannily similar to Cold Spring as well. As is this description of life here: "We've got a lot of pleasures here. We like the sun coming up over the mountain in the morning. We all notice a good deal about the birds. We watch the change of the seasons." When you describe 'Gro-

ver's Corners' are you envisioning this town as you speak?

Shea: In one scene in particular, at the beginning of Act III, I've planned out all the mountains I'm describing, viewing them from standing on a hilltop: the range of hills, lakes in front of me.

Gallagher: Most Stage Managers have to fabricate some visual representation of what the town is, but we're so similar it's easier to visualize. I see Storm King,

Bull Hill, all these different mountains.

The Paper: In the play a cornerstone is placed in a bank being built which will give people a thousand years from now an idea of 'the way we are now.' What

would you place in one now, for the same purpose?

Photo by A. Rooney

Gallagher: If Cold Spring were to make a cornerstone for future generations to see what life was like here, it might almost seem necessary to include a scale model of the gazebo, which seems integral to the culture within the village. Or maybe even a painting of a local range of mountains, to reflect on the scenic parts of Cold Spring. It's things like that – that identify Cold Spring as Cold Spring.

Shea: There are a lot of things I would like to put in the cornerstone but the most important ones are: a piece of the great chain that crossed the Hudson; a cannon ball forged at the foundry; a piece of granite from the quarry at Little Stony Point; a model of the gazebo; a painting of the Hudson River; and finally a picture of everyone in the whole town down in the cemetery on Memorial Day.

The Paper: What would you call the "soul" of Cold Spring? Is it a specific location, a time in history, something about the people who choose to live here, some feature of the landscape, or anything else?

Shea: I feel there is only one answer and that is the Hudson River. If we were to be moved away from the Hudson, Cold Spring would never be anything remotely close to being what it is today. All of the nature around us, the people that visit, and the image of the town would be completely different. The Hudson River is what made this town what it is today.

Gallagher: The soul of Cold Spring, to me, is its generational aspect. For hundreds of years, the same families have been living here, a lot like how it is in *Our Town*. And this contributes to the reason why everyone is so close ... it's almost as if we're a big family, rather than a small village, as cliché as it sounds.

The Paper: What was your reaction upon being cast as the Stage Manager?

Gallagher: At first I was reluctant; it was a cumbersome amount of lines. But I've found it's easier for me to channel this character because it's so easy for me to relate to him.

Shea: When the casting list was put up I started looking at [the character of] George and followed down from there. I thought 'I guess I didn't get a part,' and then I moved my eyes to the top and couldn't believe it. I read the play last year in drama so I knew it, but now I've read it eight or nine times and it has stuck to me. It was terrifying at first but I'm a lot happier with it now. It's a lot to learn, but we're trying to break it up and we're excited to do it.

Gallagher: It's terrifying but exhilarating.

The Paper: There is a lot of conjecture about who or what the Stage Manager is; some say he is God, others disagree. What do you think?

Gallagher: It's universally acknowledged that he is some sort of deity, but he is also a civilian in the town. He's enlightening the audience as to the daily lives of the people, so in that sense he's a human being, but he's all-knowing too. The spectrum is broad because of the two different roles he has.

The Paper: One of the Stage Manager's lines goes something like: "You're 21 and you make a few decisions then whisssh, you're 70 ... and that white-haired lady at your side has eaten over 50,000 meals with you. How do such big things begin?" As 17- and 15-year olds, can you relate to that idea?

Gallagher: Yes. It's weird, but it's so true. Time goes by so quickly, and you can easily make rash decisions, which then affect so much of your life.

Shea: You see, through the play, how much can happen in just nine years, and you realize it's true.

The Paper: How do you think the Haldane High School audience will react to this production?

Gallagher: I can't even begin to imagine. It has a very solemn atmosphere.

Shea: It does start out funny — and we'll definitely be playing those scenes out.

Gallagher: I think the high school and the community will respect it. Maybe it's not "entertaining" as some of our other shows in a ha-ha kind of way; it's more of a moral and ethical play.

Shea: It's kind of a test run to see if we can continue to do stuff like this in the future.

Gallagher: It's almost a play about Cold Spring. The audience will see it as an accurate reflection of life here and I think they will really enjoy it.

Our Town will be performed at the Haldane auditorium at 7 p.m. on Dec. 6 and 7. Tickets, available at the door, are \$12 for adults, and \$5 for seniors and students.







The Calendar





Our Town, Bella Convertino as Emily and Peter Close as George, left; Hannah Frith as Emily and Eric Rizzi as George, right

Photos by Jim Mechalakos

Haldane Drama Presents Thornton Wilder's Our Town

Play poses big questions in small town Dec. 6 and 7

By Alison Rooney

r. Eric Richter, who has taught English and dramatic literature at Haldane High School for decades, began including *Our Town* as a class text about seven years ago. "What I like about it," he says, "is the characters are characters they can relate to."

Richter had been gently urging Haldane Drama Director Martha Mechalakos to consider *Our Town* for the fall drama production for a few years, and this year, the 75th anniversary of the original production, she decided to challenge students used to appearing in lighter fare, and guide them through Thornton Wilder's theatrical meditation on not just small-town life, but life itself. By all accounts the students - so many eager to appear in it that during the

auditions Mechalakos decided to double-cast each of the 20-plus roles - have embraced the play, which they will present on Dec. 6 and 7 at Haldane.

Mechalakos began the rehearsal period by gathering the cast together to talk about the play and their response to its content. Divided into three acts, the play, alternately (and sometimes concurrently) comedic and reflective, ultimately grapples with questions about eternity and whether human beings are capable of fully appreciating the day-to-day moments, which collectively equal one's life. Mechalakos insisted that each cast member read the whole play, advising them "there is information about your character not necessarily in the scenes you are in." She also urges them to "find out what all the words mean, and if it says heliotrope or burdock, know what those plants look like and how they smell."

When Richter has taught the play in

his drama class (in which dramatic literature, not acting, is studied), there are always limitations of time, which preclude a full acting out of the play during class time.

"I do ask students on a voluntary basis, from time to time, to act out roles, as I find that giving plays a sense of performance lends itself more readily to an appreciation of them," Richter said. He says that although *Our Town* is known as a very American play, it also "has that universal quality of Greek tragedy." He always asks students to reflect on how much Cold Spring is like Grover's Corners, the fictitious small New Hampshire town in which the play is set. "I talk about the history of it, how 'Polish Town' [in the play] is described as "across the tracks, in the poor area of town," and how Cold Spring's Italian



Haldane English teacher Eric Richter and Our Town director Martha Mechalakos Photo by A. Rooney

immigrant population of the early 1900s lived in a similarly demarcated area. We talk about how Cold Spring was very much a Protestant community prior to the 1900s and how people forget how there was a real division between Nelsonville and Cold Spring There are so many good parallels, for instance there was a drugstore on Main Street with a soda fountain in it [as there is in the play] — there are just so many great hooks for the students."

Along with its charming scenes of the awkward stirrings of young love and its depictions of the warm bonds between long-married couples, there is a darker undertone to the play, touched upon throughout, but (Continued on page 14)

'Arrgh!'

Treasure Island arrives at Depot Theatre Dec. 6

hen the Depot Theatre Youth production of Treasure Island opens on Dec. 6, mischievous pirates and honorable men will share the stage in a struggle to win over the heart and imagination of young, naïve Jim Hawkins. Hawkins will be tossed about by the high seas as he comes to terms with the sort of man he wants to become. As he journeys, the Depot stage will be transformed from simple seaside inn, to urban shipping port, to grand ship, to hidden tropical island. This stage adaptation of the classic tale by Robert Louis





Left, Andrew Nachamkin and Gabriel Keller; right, mischievous pirates and honorable men will take the stage in Treasure Island. Photos by Lisa Sabin

Stevenson brings to life the grand sense of adventure in the original tale.

And yet, the real adventure was in the making of this production. As with all Depot Theatre Youth productions, it is the theatre's vision to create professional theatrical experiences for the youth of

this community. Treasure Island stands as part of this tradition. In creating this production, a cast of 23 talented middle school children from the Philipstown area learned to interpret a script, create characters and work as a creative team. This production of *Treasure Island*

reflects all the great talent and hard work of these young thespians.

For tickets visit brownpapertickets. com or call 800-838-3006.

Cast: Emilia Barth, Erika Bauer, Noah Bingham, Anastasia Coope, Julie Geller, Gabriel Keller, Maia Keller, George Leiter, Harry Leiter, Sasha Levy, Maja Maxwell, Mazzie Maxwell, Aurora McKee, Joia McKelvey, Andrew Nachamkin, Freddy Osborn, Parker Parrella, Anna Rowe, Mason Sharpley, Emerson Smith, Madison Smith, William Speziale, Freya Wood-Gallagher.

Original script: Diana Hird; directors: Jennifer Lee and Diana Hird; assistant director: Riley Bissinger; sets and lighting: Donald Kimmel; costumes: Raquel Vidal. Performances are Friday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 7, at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., Friday, Dec. 13, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 14, at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

HOLIDAY The Calendar Looking for things to do in and around Philip show&sale **Final weekend** 11/30-12/1/13 Both days 10 to 5











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Final weekend

Garrison Art Center garrisonartcenter.org

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 29

Local schools and libraries closed

Cold Spring Village offices closed

No recycling pickup in Cold Spring

Kids & Community

Holiday Pottery Sale

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

Wildlife Education Center Events

11:30 a.m. Fun Facts About Turkeys 1 & 2:30 p.m. Meet the Animals 25 Boulevard, Cornwall-on-Hudson 845-534-7781 | hhnaturemuseum.org

Movies for Kids: Jumanji (1995)

Noon. Jacob Burns Film Center 364 Manville Road, Pleasantville 914-747-5555 | burnsfilmcenter.org

Santa Visits Walkway Over the Hudson

1 - 3 p.m. 61 Parker Ave., Poughkeepsie 845-834-2867 | walkway.org

Lighting of the Menorah: Educators

4 p.m. Cross and Main Streets, Beacon 845-831-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Wine Tasting

4-7 p.m. Artisan Wine Shop 180 Main St., Beacon 845-440-6923 | artisanwineshop.com

Wine & Cheese

5-8 p.m. Antipodean Books 29 Garrison's Landing, Garrison 845-424-3867 | antipodean.com

379 Main Street.

Beacon, NY 12508

Friday 11/29 8:30pm

PETER ROWAN

with YUNGCHEN LHAMO

Saturday 11/30 8:30pm

STEVE FORBERT

guest DON LOWE

Thursday 12/5 7:30pm

JEWMONGUS'

HOLIDAY COMEDY SONGFEST

Friday 12/6 8:30pm

TAV FALCO'S

PANTHER BURNS

Saturday 12/7 8:30pm

JIMMY WEBB

Sunday 12/8 7:30pm

APRIL VERCH BAND

Health & Fitness

Adult Pick-up Indoor Soccer

7:45 p.m. Hudson Valley Sportsdome 240 Milton Turnpike, Milton

Theater & Film

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

8 p.m. County Players 2681 W. Main St., Wappingers Falls 845-298-1491 | countyplayers.org

8 p.m. Whistling Willie's 184 Main St., Cold Spring

Live Music

8 p.m. Cold Spring Depot | 1 Depot Square, Cold

Peter Rowan with Yungchen Lhamo

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café 379 Main St., Beacon

9:30 p.m. Max's on Main | 246 Main St., Beacon

Allman Brothers Tribute Band

9:30 p.m. 12 Grapes | 12 N. Division St., Peekskill | 914-737-6624 | 12grapes.com

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Friday 12/13 8:30pm

COMMANDER CODY BAND

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Saturday 12/14 8:30pm

GARLAND JEFFREYS BAND

guest LATINI & NOWAK

Sunday12/15 7:30pm

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Friday 12/20 8:30pm

BACK TO THE GARDEN 1969

Saturday 12/21 8:30pm

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845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

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Small Business Saturday in Cold Spring

Kids & Community

Cold Spring Farmers' Market

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

Food Pantry

9 - 10 a.m. First Presbyterian Church 10 Academy St., Cold Spring 845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

Recycling Center Open

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. 59 Lane Gate Road, Cold Spring coldspringny.gov

Craft Boutique Weekend

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Van Wyck Museum 504 Route 9, Fishkill 845-896-9560 | fishkillhistoricalsociety.org

Holiday Boutique (Opening)

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library 472 Route 403, Garrison 845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Holiday Pottery Sale

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

Hike Off the Turkey

10 a.m. Teatown Lake Reservation 1600 Spring Valley Road, Ossining 914-762-2912 x110 | teatown.org

Soup Kitchen

11 a.m. Presbyterian Church 50 Liberty St., Beacon 845-831-5322 | beaconpresbychurch.com

Wildlife Education Center

11:30 a.m. Fun Facts About Turkeys 1 & 2:30 p.m. Meet the Animals See details under Friday.

Movies for Kids: Jumanji (1995)

Noon. Jacob Burns Film Center See details under Friday.

Wine Tasting

3 - 6 p.m. Artisan Wine Shop | Details under Friday

Code Springers (ages 5-14)

4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

472 Route 403, Garrison | codespringers.org

Alumni Basketball Game 5 p.m. Haldane School | 15 Craigside Drive, Cold

Spring | 845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org **Lighting of the Menorah: Nourishers** 5:30 p.m. Cross and Main Streets, Beacon

845-831-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org **Health & Fitness**

Red Cross Blood Drive

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Carmel Ambulance Corps 6 Garrett Place, Carmel 800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org

Tai-Chi Chuan Group

9:30 a.m. Arts on the Lake | 640 Route 52, Kent Lakes | 845-228-2685 | artsonthelake.org

Red Cross Blood Drive

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. United Methodist Church 9 S. Mesier Ave., Wappingers Falls 800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org

Adult Pick-up Soccer

Noon, Beacon Memorial Park meetup.com/hudsonvalleycoedsoccer

Sports

Army vs. Houston Baptist (Men's Basketball) 1 p.m. Christl Arena, West Point

845-938-2526 | goarmysports.com

Art & Design

Free Admission to Boscobel Grounds

9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. 1601 Route 9D, Garrison 845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Free Admission for Beacon Residents

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Dia:Beacon 3 Beekman St., Beacon 845-440-0100 | diabeacon.org

Holiday Kickoff Event

5 - 8 p.m. Back Room Gallery 475 Main St., Beacon | 845-838-1838

Theater & Film

The Nutcracker by New York Theatre Ballet

3 p.m. Tarrytown Music Hall | 13 Main St., Tarrytown 914-631-3390 x100 | tarrytownmusichall.org

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

8 p.m. County Players See details under Friday.

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I Am Divine (Documentary)

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

Music

Rock Concert with Local Bands

6-10 p.m. Arts on the Lake | 640 Route 52, Kent Lakes | 845-228-2685 | artsonthelake.org

Peter Calo

8 p.m. Bean Runner Café | Details under Friday

The Differents

8 p.m. Whistling Willie's See details under Friday.

Steve Forbert

8:30 p.m. Town Crier Café See details under Friday.

Bert Rechtschaffer Jazz Trio

9 p.m. Chill Wine Bar

173 Main St., Beacon | 845-765-0885

Jason Gissei

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

Meetings & Lectures

Overeaters Anonymous

8:30 a.m. Graymoor | 1350 Route 9, Garrison 917-716-2488 | oa.org

Free Computer Help

2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library | Details under Friday

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

Kids & Community

Craft Boutique Weekend

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Van Wyck Museum See details under Saturday.

Holiday Pottery Sale

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

Green Workshop (ages 8-14)

11 a.m. - 2 p.m. School of Jellyfish | 183 Main St., Beacon | 845-440-8017 | schoolofjellyfish.com

Family-Friendly Hannukah Party

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance 331 Verplanck Avenue, Beacon 845-831-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Beacon Farmers' Market

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

Wildlife Education Center

11:30 a.m. Fun Facts About Turkeys 1 & 2:30 p.m. Meet the Animals See details under Friday.

Movies for Kids: Jumanji (1995)

Noon. Jacob Burns Film Center | Details under Friday

Holiday Boutique

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

Lighting of the Menorah: Human Rights Advocates

5:30 p.m. Cross and Main Streets, Beacon 845-831-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Health & Fitness

Adult Pick-up Soccer

1:45 p.m. Beacon Memorial Park meetup.com/hudsonvalleycoedsoccer

Art & Design

Drop-In Art Sessions

 $9:\!30$ a.m. - $12:\!30$ p.m. Drawing and Painting from Life (Long Pose)

1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Printmaking Club 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. Basic Etching

Garrison Art Center | See details under Saturday.

Free Admission for Beacon Residents

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Dia:Beacon See details under Saturday.

Theater & Film

Falstaff from the Opera de Paris

1 p.m. Downing Film Center See details under Saturday.

Mary of Nazareth (2013)

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

Music

Ukulele Group

3 p.m. Arts on the Lake | 640 Route 52, Kent Lakes | 845-228-2685 | artsonthelake.org

914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

Primarily Puccini

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

The Great Divas of Gospel

4 p.m. Bean Runner Café | Details under Friday

Open Mic Finals

7 p.m. Towne Crier Café | Details under Friday

Meetings & Lectures

Institute for Jewish Spirituality Retreat (Opens)

3 p.m. Garrison Institute

14 Mary's Way, Garrison

845-424-4800 | garrisoninstitute.org

Brave New Gita Class

4 p.m. Beacon Yoga Center | 464 Main St., Beacon | 347-489-8406 | beaconyogacenter.com

Religious Services

See philipstown.info/churches for Sunday listings

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

Kids & Community

Pocketbook Bonanza Fundraiser

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. County Office for Aging 110 Old Route 6, Carmel

845-808-1700 | putnamcountyny.gov

Bridge Club

9:30 a.m. - 12: 30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St., Beacon

845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Howland Public Library Events

9:30 a.m. Literacy Connections Class 3 - 5 p.m. Drop-in Homework Center (grades 1-8) 313 Main St., Beacon

Indoor Tot Lot

Noon - 2 p.m. Indoor Tot Lot 107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison 845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

845-831-1134 x103 | beaconlibrary.org

Lighting of the Menorah: Public Servants

5:30 p.m. Cross and Main streets, Beacon 845-831-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Health & Fitness

Basketball at Philipstown Rec

6:15 p.m. Youth Skills/Drills (grades 3-8) 7:30 p.m. Men's Pick-up 107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison 845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Kung-Fu Class

7 p.m. Chuang Yen Monastery 2020 Route 301, Carmel | 845-225-1819 | baus.org

Art & Design

Drop-In Drawing & Painting from Life (Short Pose)

9:30 a.m. Garrison Art Center See details under Sunday.

Artist Dialogue with Joseph Squillante

5 p.m. Beacon Institute 199 Main St., Beacon 845-838-1600 | bire.org

Theater & Film

I Am Divine (Documentary)

5:30 & 7:30 p.m. Downing Film Center See details under Saturday.

Music

K104's Not-So-Silent Night with Fall Out Boy

5-8 p.m. Mid-Hudson Civic Center 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie 845-454-5800 | midhudsonciviccenter.org

Community Chorus

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

Open Mic Night

7 p.m. Towne Crier Café See details under Friday.

Beginning Fiddle, Cello & Mandolin

7:30 p.m. Garrison Art Center 23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison 845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

The Exposed Blues Duo (Jazz)

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

(Continued on next page)

Winter Show

New Seasonal Work and Discounted Older Work Saturday, December 7, 6:30 p.m.

TD Studio



#165 Main St. Cold Spring, NY terencedonovan.net 917-974-7303



The Calendar (from page 9)

Meetings & Lectures

Justice Court

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

Beacon City Council

7 p.m. Municipal Center Courtroom 1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon 845-838-5000 | cityofbeacon.org

Board Game Night

7 p.m. Cup and Saucer 165 Main St., Beacon meetup.com/Beacon-Board-not-Bored

Member Meeting

7 p.m. Cold Spring Boat Club 5 New St., Cold Spring 845-265-2465 | coldspringboatclub.com

Member Meeting

7 p.m. Putnam Valley Grange 128 Mill St., Putnam Valley 845-528-2565 | putnamvalleygrange.org

Parent Support Group

7 p.m. 35B Garrison's Landing, Garrison 914-522-9044 | facebook.com/ptalearndiff

Zoning Board of Appeals Workshop

7:30 p.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring | 845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

Kids & Community

Philipstown Community Center

9 - 11 a.m. & Noon-2 p.m. Indoor Tot Lot 3:45 p.m. Holiday Ceramic Workshop (grades K-3) 6 p.m. Holiday Ceramic Workshop (Adults) 6:30 p.m. Foot in Mouth Players (ages 12-19) See details under Monday.

Senior Day Center

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mother Lurana House 166 Old West Point Road East, Garrison 845-424-3184 | graymoorcenter.org

Howland Public Library Events

10 a.m. Knitting Club 10:30 a.m. Baby & Me (0-2) 3-5 p.m. Drop-in Homework Center See details under Monday.

The Gift Hut Featuring ecofriendly, made in the U.S. unique gifts, wooden toys, games, and puzzles for the whole family 86 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516 Hours: Friday, Saturday & Sunday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.



Kids Craft Hour

4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library See details under Saturday.

Lighting of the Menorah: Elders

5:30 p.m. Cross and Main Streets, Beacon 845-831-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Health & Fitness

Putnam Hospital Center

12:30 p.m. Heart Disease Support Group 3 p.m. Pre-Surgery Joint Replacement Class 670 Stoneleigh Ave., Carmel 845-279-5711 | health-quest.org

Hudson Valley Hospital

2 p.m. Diabetes Wellness Workshop 6:30 p.m. Newborn Breastfeeding Class 1980 Crompond Road, Cortlandt Manor 914-734-3896 | hvhc.org/events

Managing Anxiety and Stress While Living With Cancer

6:30 p.m. Somers Public Library 82 Primrose St., Somers 914-962-6402 | supportconnection.org

Sports

Haldane vs. Panas (Girls' Basketball)

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

Army vs. Morgan State (Women's Basketball)

7 p.m. Christl Arena, West Point 845-938-2526 | goarmysports.com

Theater & Film

Journey of the Universe (Documentary) with O&A

7 p.m. Graymoor (3rd Floor Seminar) 1350 Route 9, Garrison journeyoftheuniverse.eventbrite.com

Meetings & Lectures

Highland Knitters

Noon. Desmond-Fish Library 472 Route 403, Garrison 845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Digital Salon

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

Library Board Meeting

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

Board of Trustees Workshop

7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St., Cold Spring 845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

Haldane School Board

7:30 p.m. Haldane School | 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring | 845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org





2nd Annual

Christmas Tree Lighting

W*NTER H*LL

20 Nazareth Way (Just East of Route 9D on Snake Hill Rd)

Thursday, December 5^{th} , 2013 at 5:30 - 7pm

Christmas carols led by The Walter Hoving Home Choir

Food and Drinks aplenty!

The Calendar (from page 10)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

Curbside Bagged Leaves and Yard Debris Pickup - Cold Spring

Kids & Community

Howland Public Library

9:45 a.m. Come & Play (ages 0-3) 10:30 a.m. Toddler Tales (ages 2-3) 2 p.m. Origami Decorations 3-5 p.m. Drop-in Homework Center See details under Monday.

Howland Cultural Center

10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Chess Club 4 p.m. Rivertown Kids Chorus (ages 9-13) See details under Monday.

Mah jong Open Play

10 a.m. - 1 p.m. VFW Hall 34 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring 845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

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. Pre-school Story Hour See details under Tuesday.

Philipstown Community Center

Noon - 2 p.m. Indoor Tot Lot 12:30 p.m. Holiday Ceramic Workshop (ages 3-5) 4 p.m. Holiday Ceramic Workshop (grades K-3) See details under Monday.

Lighting of the Menorah: Artists

5:30 p.m. Cross and Main Streets, Beacon 845-831-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Health & Fitness

Life Support Group

7:30 p.m. St. Philip's Church | 1100 Route 9D, Garrison | 845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org

Art & Design

BeaconArts Holiday Membership Bash

5-8 p.m. Towne Crier Café 379 Main St., Beacon | beaconarts.org/artists/join

Intro & Basics of Fused Glass (First Session)

6 p.m. Garrison Art Center | Details under Sunday

Music

Open Mic Night

7 p.m. Towne Crier Café | Details under Friday

People's Choir with Cat Guthrie

7 p.m. Beacon Music Factory | 12 Hanna Lane, Beacon | 845-202-3555 | beaconmusicfactory.com

Chandler Travis Three-0

8:30 p.m. Dogwood | 47 E. Main St., Beacon 845-202-7500 | dogwoodbar.com

Meetings & Lectures

How to Be a Top Executive Assistant

9:30 a.m. Mahopac Public Library 668 Route 6, Mahopac | 845-278-6738 uwwp.org/management-center.shtml

Planning Board

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

Lake Writers Group

7 p.m. Arts on the Lake | 640 Route 52, Kent Lakes | 845-228-2685 | artsonthelake.org

Garrison School Board

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

Kids & Community

Butterfield Library Events

8:30 a.m. Qi Gong/Tai Chi 10:30 a.m. Bouncing Babies 12:30 p.m. Little Bookworms (Preschool) 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Philipstown Community Center

9-11 a.m. & Noon - 2 p.m. Indoor Tot Lot 9 a.m. Holiday Ceramic Workshop (Adults) See details under Monday.

Senior's Computer Class Registration

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Koehler Senior Center 180 Route 6, Mahopac 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Putnam Valley Senior Center 117 Town Park Lane, Putnam Valley 845-628-6423 | putnamrsvp.com/clc

Howland Public Library

10 a.m. Brain Games for Adults 10:30 a.m. Pre-K Story Time (ages 3-5) 3:45 p.m. Lego Club and Block Party See details under Monday.

Senior Day Center

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mother Lurana House See details under Tuesday.

Holiday Boutique

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

Meat & Egg Store Open

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

Christmas Tree Lighting

5:30 p.m. Winter Hill | 20 Nazareth Way, Garrison

Senior Event: Our Town

6 p.m. Pre-Theatre Coffee Hour Butterfield Library, 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring 7 p.m. Performance (dress rehearsal) Haldane School, 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring

Health & Fitness

Breast & Ovarian Cancer Support Group

10 a.m. Support Connection 40 Triangle Center, Suite 100, Yorktown Heights 914-962-6402 | supportconnection.org

Living with Cancer

6 p.m. Hudson Valley Hospital 7 p.m. Women's Prenatal/Postpartum Discussion See details under Tuesday.

Adult Co-Ed Volleyball

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center See details under Monday.

Art & Design

Discover Abstract Art

10:30 a.m. Garrison Art Center See details under Sunday.

Theater & Film

Poetry Project

6 p.m. Writing workshop | 7 p.m. Open Mic Bean Runner Café | 201 S. Division, Peekskill 914-737-1701 | beanrunnercafe.com

Duke Ellington's Sophisticated Ladies

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

New Romanian Cinema: Closer to the Moon with Q&A

7:30 p.m. Jacob Burns Film Center See details under Tuesday.

Music

Jewmongous' Holiday Comedy Songfest

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

JP Patrick and Friends (Jazz)

8:30 p.m. 12 Grapes | See details under Friday.

The Sweet Clementines

8:30 p.m. Dogwood | Details under Wednesday

Meetings & Lectures

Cultivating the Kind Heart as the Path to Liberation (Opens)

3 p.m. Garrison Institute | Details under Sunday

Astronomy Night

6:30 p.m. Planetarium show
7:30 p.m. Telescope Observation
Kirk Planetarium, SUNY New Paltz
1 Hawk Drive, New Paltz
845-257-1110 | newpaltz.edu/planetarium

Philipstown Freemasons

8 p.m. Masonic Lodge 18 Secor St., Nelsonville 845-265-2244 | philipstown236fam.org

ONGOING

Art & Design

Visit philipstown.info/galleries

Religious Services

Visit philipstown.info/services

Meetings & Lectures

Alcoholics Anonymous

Visit philipstown.info/aa

THE HALDANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT INVITES PHILIPSTOWN SENIOR CITIZENS TO:

A coffee hour at the Julia L. Butterfield Library on Thursday, December 5, 2013, followed by Haldane High School's final dress rehearsal of *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder.

The coffee hour will begin at 6 p.m. at the library and the performance will be at the Haldane Auditorium at 7 p.m.

Transportation from Chestnut Ridge to the library and back is available by calling the library at 845-265-3040 by Monday, December 2.

Otherwise, please park at the back of the library and by the bell at the school.

We look forward to seeing Philipstown seniors on December 5 for this wonderful presentation of this classic play!

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

12x6: local writers read on Dec. 8

Nome to Philipstown.info at 69 Main St., Cold Spring, at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8, and see a broad range of your Hudson Valley brethren (and a couple New York City interlopers) step to the makeshift podium and share six minutes of creative writing. You stand next to them in Foodtown. You smile at them by the gazebo. Here's your chance to see what's floating inside their minds and hearts. They hold a variety of day jobs, including chef and restaurant partner, librarian, fundraiser in the non-profit world, high school teacher, journalist, and small business owner. Readers include: Tom Carrigan, Jen Fitzgerald, Elizabeth Hare, Matt Hereford, Lynn O'Malley, Maddy Owen-Dunow, Natalie Park, Meghann Plunkett, Alison Rooney, Christine Simek, Paul Tomizawa, and Phoebe Zinman Winters. They have all taken part recently in writing workshops with Jeffrey McDaniel in Cold Spring. For more info, email jmcdaniel@slc.edu.

The Garrison Produces **Holiday Dinner Party for Business Celebrations**

Special event slated for Dec. 12

nswering a need among regional businesses for off-site, pre-planned. all-inclusive holiday parties, The Garrison will present an evening of food and entertainment during its holiday party on Thursday, Dec. 12.

Offered at a package price of \$65 per person, the holiday party is reserved for corporate groups, particularly small and mid-sized businesses, with a minimum reservation of six people. Seating will be offered in round communal tables of 10 and 12. Large groups can be accommodated at multiple tables.

"The Garrison's holiday party offers small businesses the perfect opportunity to celebrate the year's end with staff, without having to plan the event," said Chip Allemann, The Garrison's general manager. "We've arranged everything, from the food to the music."

The party, which will run from 6 to 10 p.m., will begin with a 30-minute cocktail reception featuring passed hors d'oeuvres and stationary hors d'oeuvres. Under the direction of Executive Chef Vin Mocarski and Pastry Chef Laura DiGiorno, the dinner menu will include three courses: an appetizer, entrée, and dessert. A cash bar will feature seasonal cocktails.

The evening includes dancing and music provided by DJ David Nazario, as well as valet parking. The Garrison is located at 2015 U.S. 9, Garrison. Visit TheGarrison.com, or call 845-424-3604, ext. 27.

IAm Divine Screens at **Downing Film Center**

 $T^{\text{he Downing Film Center presents}}_{\text{a new documentary about the most}}$ beautiful woman in the world ... the legendary, the outrageous, the one and only ... Divine!

The new documentary I Am Divine, directed by Jeffrey Schwarz, will have special screenings at The Downing Film Center on Saturday, Nov. 30, at 10 p.m., and again Monday, Dec. 2 at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

I Am Divine is a definitive biographical portrait of Harris Glenn Milstead, a.k.a. Divine, and honors him in just the way he always craved — as a serious artist and



Divine playing Edna Turnblad in the original 1988 film by John Waters

Photo courtesy of The Downing

immortal star. Divine's story is told from his early days as a misfit youth in Baltimore through his rise to infamy as a cult superstar. Like characters he portrayed in numerous films, Divine was the ultimate outsider. He transformed himself from a bullied schoolyard fat kid to a largerthan-life personality and underdog royalty as his alter-ego Divine. Divine stood up for millions of gay men and women, female impersonators, punk rockers, the ample figured, and countless other socially ostracized people. He blurred the line between performer and personality and revolutionized pop culture.

I Am Divine combines movie clips, home movies, photos, television appearances and live performance footage with new interviews with John Waters, Ricki Lake, Mink Stole, Tab Hunter, Holly Woodlawn and mother Frances Milstead (who provided her final interview months before she passed away).

Tickets are: general admission \$8.50; seniors \$7.50; students (18-21) \$7.50 and members \$6:50. I Am Divine is not rated and is for mature audiences only. Tickets can be purchased at the box office or at downingfilmcenter.com. The Downing Film Center is located at 19 Front St., Newburgh. Call 845-561-3686 or visit the website.

Verdi's Falstaff Opera at **Downing Film Center**

As part of its opera special programming, The Downing Film Center presents Giuseppe Verdi's Falstaff at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 1.

Captured live at the Opéra de Paris and screened at The Downing in HD, Verdi's final opera is a raucous comedy about the penniless, portly old knight Falstaff who gets tricked - time and again - by the young ladies who rebuff his romantic overtures. This romp of an opera delights in a production from the Opéra de Paris.

Tickets are \$12 for general admission - \$10 for members of The Downing. Tickets can be purchased at the box office or at the website at downingfilmcenter. com. The Downing Film Center is located at 19 Front St., Newburgh. For more information, call the box office at 845-561-3686 or visit the website.

Butterfield Library Offers New Program: Qi Gong/ Tai Chi Class

earn to improve your balance, your

Tai Chi at Butterfield Library at 8:30 a.m. on Thursdays.

Class is open to adults. There is 6. No class Dec. 25. Register online at butterfieldlibrary.org or call 845-265-3040. The Butterfield Library is located at 10 Morris Ave., Cold

Hudson Valley Cancer Alliance Hosts Conference in Fishkill

The Hudson Valley Cancer Alliance presents its first professional conference from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 3, at Hyatt House in Fishkill. The free conference invites oncology professionals, including primary care physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses and social workers. Cancer patients, cancer survivors, caregivers and other healthcare professionals are also welcome to attend.

Speakers for this program, "The Multidisciplinary Approach to Cancer Care and Survivorship," will be Stephanie Smith-Marrone, M.D., assistant attending physician, Department of Medicine at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Ellen Marshall, M.S., L-CSW-R, director of Oncology Support Program at HealthAlliance of the Hudson Valley.

Continuing Medical Education credits will be offered for physicians as well as Continuing Education Units for nurses.

To pre-register for this free program and for questions and assistance for individuals with disabilities, email Jean Le-Pere at leperej@mskcc.org. Seating is limited. RSVP by Nov. 30. Dinner included.

Sponsors include Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, HealthAlliance of the Hudson Valley and the Hudson Valley Cancer Resource Center.

Garrison Students Share Message in *This Old* Gingerbread House

On Thursday, Nov. 14, Garrison School students in kindergarten through third grade performed This Old Gingerbread House, a musical play written by Teresa Jennings and directed by music teacher Karen Bresnan. The musical featured songs and dances by all of the students including solos by the lead performers, third graders Matteo Cervone, who played Hansel, and Caroline Nelson who played Gretel.

Dozens of children dressed as adorable woodland creatures helped themselves to sweets on Hansel and Gretel's gingerbread house. Once they were discovered by Hansel and Gretel, the woodland creatures felt remorseful and set about to make things right by the siblings.

"The play centers on themes about respect and admitting when you have done something wrong," Bresnan said. "The musical was challenging and students have been rehearsing since late September. All of the students worked hard and had fun but they listened to the message of the story and learned, too."

The colorful props, sets and scenery were provided by art (To next page)

ability to focus and lower your blood pressure through Qi Gong &

Barbara Perkins will lead this series of 10 classes designed for all levels of practice. Qi Gong & Tai Chi are slow meditative martial arts that enhance a long list of health benefits.

a \$10 fee per class payable to the instructor. Classes begin Thursday, Dec. 5, and run through Feb.



Students in kindergarten through third grade performed This Old Gingerbread House.

Photo courtesy of Garrison School

HOULIHAN LAWRENCE



PRIVATE RETREAT

3400 square foot Post/beam Contemporary on 2.73 acres with pool. Classic barn-style home offers comfortable/intimate living. Four bedrooms. First floor master. WEB# PO817337 COLD SPRING ..\$1,300,000



MODERN CONTEMPORARY

Light-filled, spacious four-bedroom home on three acres. Located on the Old Albany Post Road, where lush fields, cows and ponds are neighbors. Village, train and schools are nearby. WEB# PO874607 GARRISON......\$650,000



CHARMING CAPE

Looking for your first home? Don't miss this adorable Cape. Dine-in kitchen, dining room, living room, wood burning fireplace and wood floors throughout. Great property. WEB# PO867697 COLD SPRING....\$450,000



VILLAGE FOLK VICTORIAN

Picture perfect home Recent expansion creates

QUALITY CRAFTSMANSHIP

The perfect living/entertaining space. Featuring a formal

entrance, dining room, dine-in kitchen with granite

counters, stone fireplaces, master bedroom suite and four

full baths. WEB# PO844402 COLD SPRING \$799,000

PASTORAL BEAUTY

Peace and serenity on over one acre with gorgeous Sugar Maples/Birch trees. Deeded rights to pond. Stone fireplace. Fir plank floors. Detached garage. WEB# PO820156 COLD SPRING......

Cold Spring Brokerage | 60 Main Street | 845.265.5500

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

(From previous page) teacher Coulter Young and his talented crew of seventh and eighth grade artists, with help from volunteer Courtney McCarthy. Middle school students also provided support as stagehands.

TrueNorth Theatre Presents *The Extremists* at Butterfield Library

The Extremists, starring Kurt Rhoads and Brian Dykstra, is a political satire that turns out to be more than it appears. Written by C.J. Hopkins, this 80-minute one-act play explores the motives behind news broadcasts and pundits.

The alternative production marks the return of the TrueNorth Theatre Project to the Butterfield Library stage at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14.

Rhoads is an actor, director and cofounder of TrueNorth Theatre Project. He has worked in regional theater at the Arena Stage, Old Globe Theatre, Trinity Repertory Theatre, The Denver Center Theatre Company and the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. He has acted and directed at the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival for 16 seasons.

Dykstra, actor and playwright, recently completed a six-month engagement on Broadway with Tom Hanks in *Lucky Guy*. His latest stage work includes playing Tigorin in *The Seagull*, Elyot Chase in *Private Lives*, and Claudius in *Hamlet*.

Registration is required for this event. Visit butterfieldlibary.org. The production is recommended for mature audiences. No one under 13 will be admitted. Butterfield Library is located at 10 Morris Ave., (Route 9D) Cold Spring. Call 845-265-3040.

Department of Health Recognizes World AIDS Day, Dec. 1

Sunday, Dec. 1, is World AIDS Day, a day set aside to increase awareness of the magnitude of the global HIV/AIDS epidemic. To commemorate this international observance, the Putnam County Department of Health is offering special hours on Tuesday, Dec. 3, from noon to 5 p.m., for free, rapid HIV testing and counselling at 121 Main St., Brewster. Free testing for STDs and Hepatitis C will be available at the same time. HIV and Hep C results take just 20 minutes. No appointment is necessary.

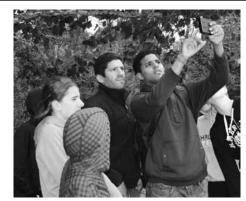
Although new technologies have been developed in the fight against AIDS, such as a rapid HIV test, and new treatments have slowed the progression of HIV to AIDS, the disease remains a major health threat both in the U.S. and worldwide.

"Early diagnosis and prompt, appropriate treatment can make the difference in quality and length of life," said Allen Beals, M.D., commissioner of health, "and it is also the key to protecting others from becoming infected."

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention estimates that one in five infected people do not know they are HIV positive. For more information, contact the Health Department at 845-808-1390. Visit putnamcountyny.gov or facebook.com/putnamhealth and Twitter @PutnamHealth.

Students and Teachers Advance Estuary Study

On Thursday, Oct. 10, students, teachers, Hudson Highlands Land Trust educators and volunteers gathered at the Hudson River's shores, equipped with seining nets, test tubes, notebooks and pens, to



Students and educators gathered at the Hudson River to advance a statewide estuary study.

Photo courtesy of HHLT

advance a statewide estuary study.

Haldane Middle and High School students were stationed at Little Stony Point's beach in Cold Spring, with teachers Mark Patinella, Lee Posniak and Katlyn Yen, HHLT River of Words educator Pete Salmansohn, Susan Butterfass from FDR State Park and Haldane parent Jeanne Fitzgerald. Adults explained procedures necessary to collect the scientific data, then provided oversight as the students did the field work. The students recorded their findings, including water temperature and quality, tides and weather. HHLT's River of Words Education Team helped plan, manage and implement Haldane's involvement.

Another group of Haldane students conducted studies further north in Beacon with the help of the Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries.

In Cornwall, the Willow Avenue School's fourth grade classes studied with their teacher, Debbie Gilson. HHLT River of Words Educator Irene O'Garden worked with these students to create a verbal snapshot of the river using their five senses.

Students from Garrison Union Free School worked with teachers Kevin Keegan and Ian Berger, HHLT's educator Cathy Bakker and stewardship coordinator Matt Decker, and parents Krista Osborn and Lyn Berkley at Garrison Landing on Oct. 17. Garrison School art teacher Coulter Young instructed students on sketching from nature. To learn more about the study, visit hhlt.org or call 845-424-3358, ext. 6.

Beacon

Work:SHOP! Holiday Sale Set for Dec. 14 at Wickham Solid Wood Studio in Beacon

Wickham Solid Wood Studio will host Work:SHOP!, a curated holiday artisan sale featuring high quality gift items and handcrafted works produced by nine notable local businesses. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to

6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14, 578 Main St., Beacon, coinciding with Second Saturday holiday events in town.

"We are very proud to present some of the finest artisans in the Hudson Valley at the sale this year. This is a great chance to acquire affordable pieces from some extraordinary makers," says Jessica Wickham. The one-day event will be held in the Wickham workshop, a renovated hat factory building along the shores of the Fishkill Creek. "The idea is to have the sale in a working studio, with an emphasis on sharing some of the process behind the work."

Artisans participating in the sale include Beacon Bee — body care products using beeswax from local hives; Beth Bolgla Ceramics — functional stoneware; Evan Cohen — woodblock prints; Fabhaus Beacon — laser-fabricated goods; KC Lim — sewn goods; ModCraft — modern handmade ceramics; Rexhill Furniture — wooden boxes and puzzles; Ten Willow — hand blown Malfatti glassware and Wickham Solid Wood Studio — natural edge charcuterie boards. For more information, visit jessicawickham.com.

Howland Public Library Leads Holiday Decorating Workshop

The holidays are upon us. Why not let L your kids do the decorating? Howland Public Library and the Wee Play Community Project will lead a home decorating workshop from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Dec. 7, at Howland Public Library, 313 Main St., Beacon. Tina Chan Sweenie will help children of all ages (with a parent or guardian) find all sorts of unique items to create an amazing centerpiece, wreath ornament, or wall hanging. Children can let their imaginations take over - design a centerpiece with a snowy dinosaur, a bedazzled pinecone wall hanging, or maybe even a wreath made from recycled objects.

There is no registration necessary, and all ages are welcome, accompanied by an adult or guardian. Families may drop in any time after 10:30 a.m. In lieu of a materials fee, Wee Play will give any donations to The Grace Smith House, an organization providing "an open door for victims of domestic violence."

Beacon Arts Brings City of Beacon Together Through Holiday Art Events

BeaconArts is celebrating the holidays by uniting the community through the arts, with a menorah and a Christmas tree from salvaged and welded bicycle parts created by Beacon sculptor

Ed Benavente

Each night, the different candles — or in this case wheels - of the Beacon Hebrew Alliance and BeaconArts bicycle menorah will be illuminated to honor a different segment of the Beacon community. It can be found at the pocket park on Cross and Main Streets and will be lit at 5:30 p.m. from Wednesday, Nov. 27, through Wednesday, Dec. 4, with the exception of Friday, Nov. 29, when the menorah will be lit at 4:00 p.m. On the first night of Hanukkah, Nov. 27, the group celebrated will be children. Pizza and fun will follow at School of Jellyfish, 183 Main St., sponsored by the Beacon Independent Film Festival.

The BeaconArts bicycle Christmas tree lighting will take place from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on Dec. 14. The First Presbyterian Church Choir and the Beacon Music Factory's Ukelele Holiday Hayride and People's Choir will lead a Christmas carol singalong. The Yanarella School of Dance will perform a holiday-themed piece, and Santa will officially welcome the holidays. The event is sponsored by the City of Beacon, BeaconArts and People's Bicycle. The bicycle tree lighting will be at the same location alongside the bicycle-hanukkiah, at Cross and Main Streets.

On Wednesday, Dec. 4, BeaconArts will host their membership renewal party at Beacon's newest performing arts venue, the Town Crier Café, 379 Main St. Wednesday, Dec. 4, is the last night of Hanukkah, and the artistic and creative community are being honored. All are welcome.

Benavente, the artist behind the menorah and Christmas tree, chose bicycles to represent the Beacon community for a specific reason. He says, "The city and community of Beacon, New York, has demonstrated what is possible when you re-invent, reimagine and re-joice. Bicycles, like communities, are powered by people." Visit beaconarts.org/2013-beacon-ny-holiday-events/.



Bicycle menorah created by Beacon sculptor Ed Benavente

Photo courtesy of BeaconArts

DOWNING

A 501 (c) 3 Not-For-Profit Arts Organization

Now → Thurs., Dec. 5

SUN 4:30 7:00, TUES & WEDS

7:30, THUR 2:00 7:30

SAT, Nov. 30 at 10:00 MON, Dec. 2 at 5:30 7:30

Special Opera Film Event

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Haldane Drama Presents Thornton Wilder's Our Town (from page 7)

especially in the last act. "We've talked about the darker layers underneath the town," says Mechalakos, "as well as all the foreshadowing." Richter calls the first two acts "Norman Rockwell, but Wilder really sets you up in those acts — he manipulates you so when you get to Act Three it has more impact."

Both Mechalakos and Richter take umbrage at those who have called Our *Town* sentimental. "There's no way it's sentimental," says Mechalakos, with Richter adding, "It's completely non-judgmental, too. There are no villains. Like Shakespeare, Wilder makes everyone human; there's a gentleness to it."

As for the play's other frequent categorization, that it's "so sad," Mechalakos said she advised the cast to look at it differently and to reflect upon what it ultimately asks: "Most people are in a hurry, especially young people. The older you get, the more you appreciate life. Don't think of it as sad, instead think of it as an opportunity, and think of the afterlife [which the play addresses] as a positive thing, something that goes on and on."

Richter concurred, adding "Something ethereal."

With no props and little scenery or other trappings to help actors get into character, they were feeling their way through, not yet "there" three-quarters

of the way through rehearsal period. "Your average high school actor's process is such that it takes them awhile. They won't inhabit until pretty late in the process. You toss things out and let them assimilate it."

The cast benefited from a field trip to see the lauded New Jersey Shakespeare Festival production of *Our Town*, which just happened to feature professional actor Malachy Cleary, whose son Luke will be performing in the Haldane production (in a different role.) Before the trip Mechalakos was hoping that the students would take in what she had been trying to communicate to them during rehearsals: "How to give the words space, let them evolve in your head." The students enjoyed seeing the production and participating in a talk-back afterwards. They were full of opinions on the direction and acting, with some finding illumination in interpreting scenes or characters and others rejecting the choices made in the other production, feeling conviction in their own take on things.

"I think they're working hard, harder than they have in other plays, because they're finding it rewarding," says Mechalakos, adding, "I think our audience will as well."

Neither an indictment of small towns, nor a valentine to them, Our Town, one of the most widely produced



plays in the world, will play in this town at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 6

and 7, in the Haldane auditorium. Tickets, which cost \$12 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students, will be available at the door.

See the additional story on Our Town on the front page.

World's End Theater Readings Return to First Friday in Cold Spring

Donald Kimmel directs The Lion In Winter

hristmas Eve, 1183: the court of Henry II, King of England. "What shall we hang, the holly or each other?" Most families experience a bit of tension around the holidays. This family, however, has more to fight about than cranberry sauce. Who will be the next king of England? The royal succession is at stake, and everyone has a stake in the game. Henry, the aging

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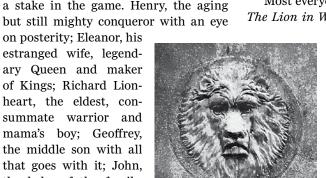
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on posterity; Eleanor, his estranged wife, legendary Queen and maker of Kings; Richard Lionheart, the eldest, consummate warrior and mama's boy; Geoffrey, the middle son with all that goes with it; John, the baby of the family, Daddy's feckless favorite. An intimate portrait of larger than life histori-



The Lion in Winter

cal figures, warts and all, The Lion in Winter premiered on Broadway in 1966, starring Robert Preston and Rosemary Harris, who won a Tony Award for her portrayal of Eleanor. It was adapted by James Goldman into an Academy Awardwinning 1968 film of the same name, starring Peter O'Toole and Katharine Hepburn. The play has been produced numerous times, including Broadway and West End revivals. In 1980, Goldman reflected on the success of the play:

"Most everyone who talks to me about The Lion in Winter is totally convinced

> the play has always been a great success. Even people who actually saw it during its run on Broadway are apt to mention what a hit it was or that they caught it in its second year. In point of fact, Lion opened on March 3, 1966, to highly contradictory notices, including a thunderous dismissal in The New York Times. Eighty-three performanc-

es later, it closed and sank from sight for what I was convinced would be forever. Then came the film."

And the rest, as they say, is history. Hundreds of productions are done all around the world every year, and in 2003 it was made into a television movie starring Patrick Stewart and Glenn Close. The World's End Theater reading will feature Philipstown residents Nancy Swann and Donald Kimmel as Eleanor and Henry. Also featured will be Broadway veteran Aaron Galligan-Stierle (Phantom, Ragtime), Kelsey Olsen (WET's The Seagull, The Way of the World) and Hudson Valley Shakespeare veterans Charlie Murphy, Mark Couchot and Taylor Walsh.

The production will be directed by Kimmel. The performance takes place at 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 6, at The Paper, 69 Main St., Cold Spring. Admission is free of charge on a first come, first served basis.

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Roots and Shoots

Have a Merry, Green Christmas

By Pamela Doan

It's a sign of the season that local garden centers are lining up rows of freshly cut spruce and fir trees. With Thanksgiving coming later in the month than usual, many people will head out this weekend to choose one. There's always a debate for conscientious consumers about how to have a do-no-harm or at least a do-less-harm holiday. When it comes to the tree, personal preference definitely comes into play when choosing between artificial vs. live, but some argue that one is more environmentally friendly than the other, too.

Artificial trees can be used year after year, don't require a new investment while they last, and no live trees are cut down. However, most are made from PVC, a material that doesn't biodegrade and uses oil in production. China is the largest producer of artificial trees and that adds in a significant carbon-producing shipping distance, too.

Real trees, in their life cycle, aid in reducing carbon dioxide. According to Earth911, "A single farmed tree absorbs more than 1 ton of CO2 throughout its lifetime." Real trees can be mulched after the holiday and don't end up in a landfill. Tree farms have a valuable role in our communities, too, keeping land forested and undeveloped. While an informal survey didn't uncover tree farms in Putnam County, there were several options listed in neighboring counties. At many, you can even cut your own. For a complete list, check out this website pickyourownchristmastree.org/NYxmasse.

php. I called a couple of local garden centers, Vera's Marketplace and Garden Center and Sabellico Greenhouse and Florist, and neither had a local source for their stock. Many Christmas trees are shipped from Canada.

Another option is to bring home a potted, live tree that can be planted in the yard after Christmas. Sabellico has potted trees in all sizes from tabletop to full size available. To prepare it for transplant, dig the hole now before the ground is completely frozen. Make a hole about double the depth of the root ball and leave sufficient room on the sides. Evergreens generally prefer sunny locations. Mix compost into the soil if you can.

After the holiday, move the tree to a sheltered spot outside, preferably the garage, to let it acclimate from the warm house to the cold outdoors for a few days before planting. Keep it watered well throughout. When you're ready, hope-

fully there aren't a few feet of snow on the ground, place it in the hole and water it well again. If it's on the small side and you're in a heavy browsing area for deer, protect it with fencing or deer-resistant spray. Spruce trees are less likely to be nibbled on, but fir trees will make a snack during winter.

If you've got a little space in the yard and want the experience of growing your own tree, check the Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District, which has an annual seedling sale in the spring. Last year, the list of seedlings available included Colorado Blue Spruce, Eastern White Pine, and White Spruce, all of which would make great Christmas trees. The seedlings come in packs of ten and cost \$22. Those prices might shift in 2014, but that's a little more than \$2 per tree. With a little time, care and patience, those seedlings could become your future holiday trees, a truly green solution. For the finishing touch, don't forget the LED lights!

Photo by P. Doan

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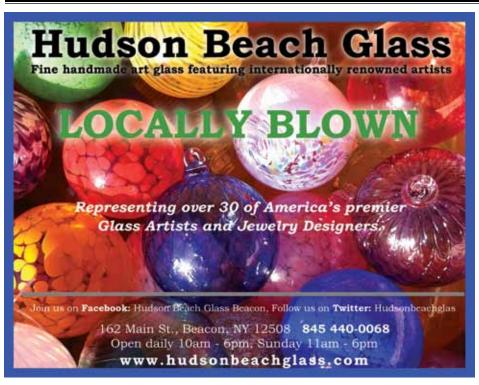
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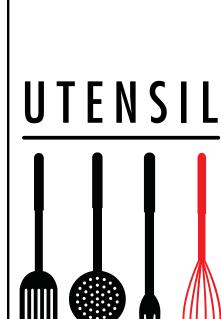
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