



The Paper



The Gordon Stewart
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2015

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Village Mulls November Elections Again

Deputy mayor adds topic to agenda

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Village Board is again discussing moving the village election from March to November after Deputy Mayor Marie Early added the topic to the agenda for the board’s Tuesday (Dec. 1) meeting.

Trustee Michael Bowman objected to the last-minute addition, commenting that the public should have been notified in advance. Early responded that ultimately voters would have to approve a change in the election date through a referendum.

A move to fall elections was discussed during Ralph Falloon’s tenure as mayor but the elections were held as usual in March this year. For the first time, the election was run by the Putnam County Board of Elections (PCBOE). The village had previously run its own elections.

Early listed a number of pros and cons of a date change. On the plus side, she said, a November election would give newly elected trustees “four full months to discuss the new budget.” Currently, trustees elected in March must approve the new budget a month later.

Early also pointed to the cost of having with PCBOE run the election in March. Village Clerk Mary Saari said the cost to the village was \$6,579.65. When the village ran its own election in 2013 and 2014, the cost was \$4,092 and \$4,370, respectively. If Cold Spring switches to November elections, PCBOE would absorb the entire cost.

Early also suggested that a fall election would enable candidates to campaign in more favorable weather than in late winter.

On the negative side, Early said that in a November election, discussion of Cold Spring’s issues (Continued on Page 4)



File photo by L.S. Armstrong

Breakneck Ridge Rescues

Agencies discuss costs and burdens

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Representatives of jurisdictions ranging from volunteer fire departments to New York State government convened in the Cold Spring firehouse Wednesday evening (Dec. 2) to confront the thorny question of who’s responsible for rescuing lost or injured visitors on state land in the Hudson Highlands.

Organized by Putnam County Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra, the forum reflected concern about over-burdening volunteer firefighters with calls from hikers stranded on mountains, especially precipitous Breakneck Ridge, said to be among the most popular day-hike destinations in the nation.

One point made by park officials: Firefighters often do not need to answer calls from hikers; that’s the job of state park police and rangers, with the latter having some emergency medical training, plus other skills.

Participants agreed, though, that frequently in cases involving injuries, local



Philipstown Town Board members John Van Tassel and Nancy Montgomery

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

ambulances and firefighters necessarily get involved.

As the 90-minute, round-table discussion continued, progress — if not permanent solutions — seemed apparent, with reports of efforts already underway and others pending or recommended. These include:

- Corraling of data on the number of lost hikers aided by the staff at Hudson (Continued on Page 5)

Housing Study: Affordability a Major Concern

Regional market sales show modest growth

By Jeff Simms

Although there are signs that the Hudson Valley housing market has begun recovering from the recession, a new study suggests more residents are renting instead of buying. In addition, affordability for both buyers and renters is a significant issue, as people regionwide are spending well beyond their means for housing.

Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress, based in Newburgh, produces the annual housing report, and the 2015 numbers indicate that applications for conventional mortgages and home improvement loans have increased across the region when compared to recession-era figures from 2010. At the same time, government-assisted loan figures are down from 2010.

The Pattern report examined housing statistics in Putnam and Dutchess as well as Westchester, Ulster, Sullivan, Rockland, Orange, Greene and Columbia counties.

“We want to see steady growth in the values of homes, which would be about a 4 to 8 percent annual increase. “Right now, appreciation values are not at that level.”

“The increase in conventional loan and home improvement loans is a positive movement for the economy; however, this is cautious optimism,” said Joe Czajka, Pattern’s senior vice president for research, development and community planning and executive director of the Center for Housing Solutions and Urban Initiatives. “Loan underwriting standards are (Continued on Page 3)

Haldane Alumni Basketball



In the 10th annual Basketball Alumni Game at Haldane High School on Nov. 28, John Zuvic (Class of 1969, right) plays shut-down defense but the Blue Team prevailed, 75-72.

Photo by Peter Farrell



Small, Good Things

Here’s to Everyone!

By Joe Dizney

There are lots of reasons to drink and prime among them is the human need to celebrate. While the current season offers many holidays to honor — cultural and social (Thanksgiving, Kwanzaa), religious (Christmas, Hanukkah), temporal (New Year’s Eve and Day) and even just plain goofy (*Festivus!*) — what we usually seem to be actually celebrating is each other.

These “holy days” are, at heart, festivals of human community and a marker of the things — good and bad—that we experience together — over and over — in our time on earth. They constitute a ritualized, collective sigh of joy and relief — “Look! We made it through another year!” — and in also remembering those of us who didn’t make it, a reminder of just how precious this all is.

To ourselves we raise a glass! But while the social impulse and cultural imperative is to toast these moments with the “spirits” that holidays demand, there are those among us who for one reason or another must, or prefer to, celebrate non-alcoholically, and a flute of Martinelli’s may fit the bill in some quarters, but I am of the mind that a special occasion demands a special libation.

There are some commercially available non-alcoholic alternatives: 12NtM, a sparkling beverage, was created by noted chef David Burke and combines more than 60 herbs, spices, fruit juices and teas into a food-friendly “culinary” blend. Twelve comes in blanc and rouge varieties that are surprisingly complex and enjoyable. Both are available locally at Homespun Foods (232 Main St., Beacon).

California’s Navarro Vineyards (navar-rowine.com) offers a couple of cold-pressed varietal grape juices — a Gewürztraminer and a Pinot Noir — in addition to a very useful Verjus (literally, “green juice”), a

more acidic juice made from unripe grapes. (Lest you get the idea that these are some uppity version of Juicy Juice, realize that these alcohol-free potables are included on the wine list at Dan Barber’s award-winning Blue Hill at Stone Barns restaurant in Pocantico Hills.)

More to the topic at hand, the explosion of craft cocktail culture points to more bespoke and tastier solutions.

We’ve dealt with so-called “shrubs” before (philipstown.info/?p=61519). To refresh your memory, this colonial American method of preserving fruit in a sweetened, vinegar-based syrup was used as a cooling summer beverage when mixed with soda. Later still, shrubs came to be mixed with alcohols, paving the way for a cornucopia of cocktails.

But on their own, sympathetically spiced and blended, they can offer a sophisticated drink alternative, and a food-friendly one, thanks to the vinegar — i.e., “sour wine”— base which is proven to stimulate the appetite and prime the taste buds.

Cranberries, seasonal, tart and available provide the base note for this Holiday Shrub and I suggest a menu of optional spices to allow you to make it your — and



Holiday Shrub Photo by J. Dizney

your guests — own. This shrub alone makes a fine “mocktail,” but I’ve included the recipe for a complementary spiced Apple Cider-Maple Syrup to both “up” the seasonal-regional referents and to serve as an additional stand-alone soda option.

Customize the proportions to your taste and experiment with them in combination with other juices, teas or sodas. Add alcohol if you like — it’s your choice. At times like these, no one should feel deprived or like they’re missing out. Cheers!

Holiday Cranberry Shrub

Makes about 3 cups

- | | |
|--|--|
| Zest/peel of one orange (in strips, i.e. not grated) | 1 cup raw sugar |
| Juice of one orange plus water to make 2 cups total | About 2 tablespoons (total) spices (see Spice Note below) |
| 3 cups fresh cranberries | 1 cup good quality white varietal vinegar (Chardonnay, Moscato, Champagne) |
1. In a medium saucepan, heat juice/water, cranberries, zest, spices and sugar until the mixture just begins to bubble. Reduce to a simmer and cook until the cranberries are soft (about 10 min.).
 2. Remove from heat and allow to cool slightly. Strain mixture through a mesh strainer, draining the liquid into a bowl. (Press down gently on mixture to extract as much juice as possible—you don’t want solids in the shrub.)
 3. Add vinegar to the strained syrup and transfer the shrub to a sterile bottle or jar. Cover and refrigerate until ready to use. (Shrub can be kept for several months in the refrigerator.) (Continued on next page)

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Housing Study: Affordability a Major Concern (from Page 1)

relaxing a bit and values are increasing in some communities, but wages remain stagnant so the gains are modest and the recovery is slow.

“We want to see steady growth in the values of homes, which would be about a 4 to 8 percent annual increase,” he added. “Right now, appreciation values are not at that level.”

According to Pattern’s study, which was culled from 2013 data, Hudson Valley residents applied for 33 percent more home loans in 2013 than in 2010. The increases ranged from 4 percent in Sullivan County to 38 percent in Columbia and Westchester counties and 40 percent in Orange County.

This uptick came after conventional mortgage loan applications dropped 67 percent across the region from the pre-recession years of 2007 to 2010.

Despite this progress, the report indicates, the actual number of applications in 2013 is still far below what it was in 2007 in each of the nine counties. Across the region, the 23,208 conventional loan applications in 2013 are not even half (44 percent) of the 52,609 such applications in 2007.



Joe Czajka

Photo provided

“The mortgage pendulum went from one side all the way to the other,” Czajka said. “Now it’s starting to swing back, but not to pre-recession levels.”

Meanwhile, wages have not kept up with the cost of housing, creating a significant burden for homeowners and renters.

In Beacon, one of six municipalities

highlighted in the study, nearly all of the homes on the market are considered unaffordable, based on Pattern’s metrics. The study defines “unaffordable” as homes in which more than 35 percent of a household’s income goes toward rent or a mortgage payment.

“People are leery of making an investment in a house and then having a job or life change and having to sell and move on.”

The median household income in Beacon is \$96,000, yet the median price for homes on the market a year ago was \$236,000 — well out of the affordable range. The same can be said for Dutchess County renters, 46 percent of whom use more than half of their income for rent.

Pattern’s analysis concluded that 90 percent or more of the homes for sale in the

six highlighted communities — Beacon, Brewster, Poughkeepsie, Newburgh, Kingston and Peekskill — are unaffordable for a household earning the median income.

And while homes are selling in those communities, the disproportionate amount of income required for housing could affect residents’ retirement or educational savings in the long term.

In the short term, high housing costs leave households with limited dollars for other necessities such as food, clothing, healthcare and transportation, as well as discretionary spending, which impacts local and regional economies.

Czajka believes there are currently more renters than buyers in the market because of the short-term commitment of renting.

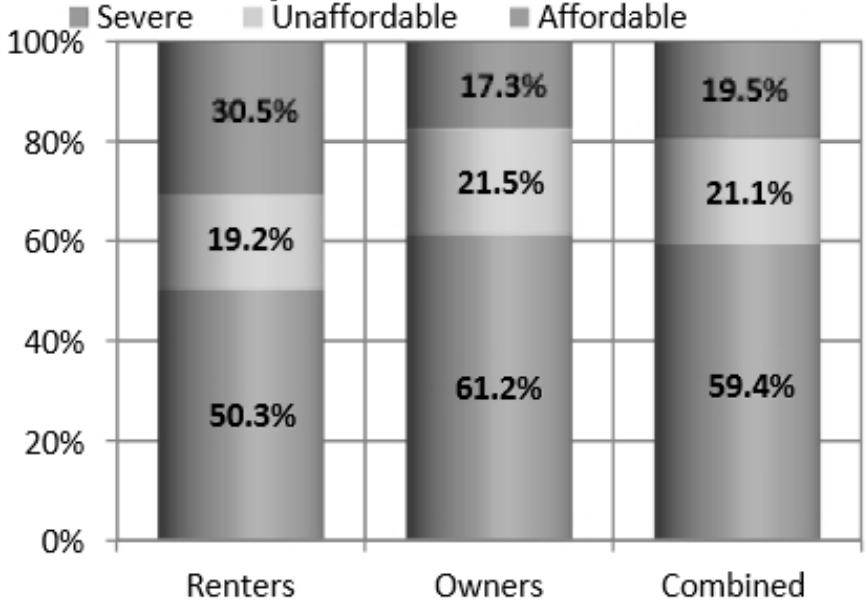
“People are leery of making an investment in a house and then having a job or life change and having to sell and move on,” he said. The full report is available at pattern-for-progress.org in its Reports Library.

NOTICE FOR CLAIMS AGAINST THE GARRISON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF THE TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN

IN FURTHERANCE OF THE Town of Philipstown duty to wind down the affairs of the Garrison Fire Protection District of the Town of Philipstown, which district was ordered dissolved by Resolution of the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown made on November 5, 2015 following a Public Hearing, which dissolution shall be effective upon the formation of the Garrison Fire District and the formation of such Fire District is condition precedent to the within dissolution, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, requiring all claims against the said dissolving Garrison Fire Protection District of the Town of Philipstown, excluding any of its outstanding securities, shall be filed with the Town Clerk of the Town of Philipstown within three months of the date of this Notice and all claims not so filed shall be forever barred, pursuant to General Municipal Law 787(2).

NOVEMBER 5, 2015
TINA M. MERANDO, TOWN CLERK, TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN

Putnam County Cost Burden



(Continued from Page 2)

• Spiced Apple-Maple Syrup

Makes about 1 cup

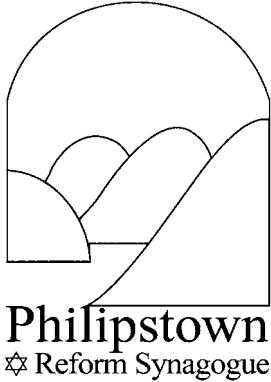
- 3 cups apple cider
- 2 tablespoons spices (see Spice Note below)
- ½ cup maple syrup

1. Combine cider and spices in a medium pot; bring to a boil over medium heat and reduce to ½ cup (about 15-20 minutes). (Note: Watch closely as not to burn or over-reduce.)
2. Remove from heat and add maple syrup. Stir to incorporate and strain through a fine mesh strainer into a small sterile bottle; allow to cool before refrigerating.

• **Spice Note:** For my Cranberry Shrub, the mix was six star anise pods, a teaspoon of cracked nutmeg, a teaspoon of smashed coriander seeds, one cinnamon stick and a couple of smashed cardamom pods. For the Cider-Maple Syrup, I used a teaspoon of cracked nutmeg, 8 to 10 smashed allspice berries, six bruised cloves and a teaspoon of cracked white pepper.

Pre-mixed mulling spices would be fine but any traditional holiday spices in sympathetic combinations will work. Cracked allspice berries and/or nutmeg, cinnamon sticks, bruised cloves, star anise are the immediate suggestions but I suggest experimenting with combinations of those and coriander seeds, cardamom, ginger (fresh or crystalized), black or white pepper (or even cubed), curry powders or even fresh rosemary.

- **To make a Cranberry Shrub** (*non-alcoholic*): Mix two tablespoons of cranberry shrub with about 10 ounces sparkling water. Stir, add crushed ice.
- **To make an Apple Cider-Maple soda** (*non-alcoholic*): Add two tablespoons syrup to 10 ounces sparkling water. Stir, add crushed ice.
- **To make a Holiday Mocktail** (*non-alcoholic*): Mix two tablespoons of cranberry shrub and ½ to one teaspoon Apple Cider-Maple Syrup with about 10 ounces sparkling water or a combination of juice, sparkling juice, tea or ginger ale.
- **To make a Holiday Cocktail:** Fill a cocktail shaker halfway full of ice. Add one ounce of cranberry shrub and two ounces of bourbon, rum or vodka, one teaspoon apple cider-maple syrup. Shake until chilled and pour into a cold glass. Optionally, add ½ ounce of an orange-based liqueur (Cointreau, Grand Marnier) and/or two to three drops of cocktail bitters.



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Maloney's vote

Kevin E. Foley's article calling attention to the support given by Democratic Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney to the Republican House majority's bill preposterously titled American Security Against Foreign Enemies Act of 2015 is a tribute to the news journal he shepherds. Maloney's vote for this abominable, unAmerican bill not only wounds himself but wounds the democracy he is sworn to support and the party he claims as his own. The bill's purpose is simply to embarrass the president in his effort to admit refugees fleeing the horrors of ISIS. For Maloney to lend his name to this effort is disgraceful, something I expect he will discover when the polls open next fall. It flies in the face of the welcoming openness on which this country of refugees was built. FBI Director James Comey has testified (1) that the bill will make it impossible to allow any refugees into

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

the U.S., and (2) that the FBI has in place an effective process to vet all refugees. In spurning these highly informed opinions, Maloney exhibits not an exercise in courage but exactly the opposite, a cowardly dance to tunes played by Trump and others of his ilk.

Bevis Longstreth
Garrison

Foley's story on Rep. Maloney's hasty marriage with House Republicans rightly points to the Congressman's calculation of political capital he might accrue for use in the 2016 electoral games. Ever since the mendacity at the highest levels of government justified the invasion of Iraq 12 war-long years ago, any time a politician invokes "security" for any purpose whatsoever you'd do well to grab your wallet and those copies of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights you keep posted on your fridge and head for Bull Hill. On second thought, before you go,

read the other lead, about Joey Giachinta's accidental death while he was servicing his forklift. It's estimated that, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, an American is 271 times more likely to die from a workplace accident than terrorism.

As for the assurance that this bill would only add the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Director of National Intelligence on to "the stringent screening that is already in place for refugees, with wait times approaching two years," one wonders what our Mother of Exiles, standing with her lamp of welcome in New York's harbor, would say: "Give me your tired, your poor, your absolutely certifiably guaranteeably harmless huddled masses, yearning to be ... rich"? Rather, I think if she could hang her head, it would be in shame, and Congressman Maloney should do likewise.

James O'Barr
Cold Spring

Village Mulls November Elections Again (from Page 1)

could "be lost within the discussion of the general election." She also said that if the village election is conducted in tandem with the general election, "village politics would take on the appearance of [being associated with] national parties," whereas candidates now run independently or as part of local coalitions.

Last March, Trustee Fran Murphy ran independently while Early and Mayor Dave Merandy ran as The People's Party. A year earlier, trustees Bowman and Cathryn Fadde ran as BOFA. Early also wondered if the residents would suffer "voter fatigue" in a November election that would bombard voters with the national debate while detracting from local issues.

If March elections were abandoned, the first vote held in November would result in some members of the board serving terms longer than voters had originally endorsed. Merandy commented that the appearance that some trustees might benefit from extended terms is one of the worst aspects of the potential change.

The discussion will continue at the board's Dec. 8 meeting.

In other business ...

- Tectonic Engineering and Surveying Consultants briefed trustees on its proposal to assess and design repairs to the village dams on Lake Surprise. The firm has done work related to the dams since 2010, including inspections and assessments, maintenance plans and an emergency action plan. Tectonic estimates that their services would cost approximately \$200,000. A second firm, O'Brien and Gere Engineering, had to postpone its presentation before the board. It will now appear in early January.
- Trustees voted to extend the comment period on a proposed amendment to the regulation of snow and ice removal from village sidewalks. Residents now have until Tuesday, Dec. 15, to comment on the draft law that includes a requirement that all sidewalks be cleared within 18 hours of the end of snowfall; businesses keep sidewalks clear at all times between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.; and a prohibition on use of rock salt and salt-based materials. The law calls for fines of \$25 to \$250.
- TriFilm Pictures has requested permission to film in Dockside Park on Saturday, Dec. 12. The proposal includes building a fire on the riverbank. The Cold Spring Fire Company



Representatives of Tectonic Engineering outlined their proposal for repairs to the village dams.

Photo by M. Turton

will be asked to review the request.

- The board's Nov. 24 meeting included a review of proposed lighting upgrades as part of the Main Street Project, scheduled to begin this spring. A week earlier, trustees Fran Murphy and Marie Early led an evening tour of Main Street to discuss lighting issues with several business owners. Brighter LED lighting will not be used to replace the existing incandescent lights mounted on Main Street poles but the traditional, softer lighting maintained as recommended in the Comprehensive Plan. A number of area lights such as those mounted lower on Main Street poles will be added in areas requiring additional lighting.
- The village Christmas tree will be lit at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 6, at the bandstand. Cookies and hot chocolate will be served, and Santa Claus is expected to make an appearance.

Planning Board

- The Cold Spring Planning Board and the Code Update Committee have swapped regular monthly meeting dates. The Planning Board now meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. The Code Update Committee now meets on the first and third Wednesday.
- Scenic Hudson has proposed a minor change to its plans for the 12.7-acre Campbell property located on The Boulevard. At the Planning Board's Nov. 18 meeting, Glen Watson of Badey and Watson Surveying and Engineering, outlined plans to use a "lot line adjustment," rather than the

original proposal to subdivide the property. Under the new approach, the land will still be divided into two tracts, with about eight acres being added to Scenic Hudson's Foundry Preserve. The remaining portion, including the historic Campbell house, will be sold as a private residential lot. Planning Board Chair Matt Francisco told *The Paper* that Village Attorney John Furst confirmed that the new approach is permissible. The change addresses concerns raised by residents on Constitution Avenue who objected to having the additional Foundry Preserve lands about their property. The lot line adjustment will mean that the private lot will now border homes on Constitution Avenue. Francisco said that Scenic Hudson has not yet formally withdrawn its original proposal.

- The Planning Board will hold a public gearing at Village Hall at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10, to receive comments regarding Ella's Bellas, a retail bakery and café proposed for 15 Main St.

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Breakneck Ridge Rescues (from Page 1)

- Highlands and Fahnestock State parks;
- Creation of a “text blast” system to immediately alert all pertinent agencies (park police, other law enforcement, firefighters and other emergency responders) of calls on state park land;
 - Continued pursuit of grant funding for training a rapid-response rope rescue team in Putnam County, with hopes of training beginning as early as this winter;
 - Compilation locally of a list of old roads that could be re-opened into state park property to facilitate easier retrieval of injured hikers;
 - Work by a recently formed state parks task force to consider ways to deal with garbage, trail deterioration, graffiti, and other problems.

Statistics and responses

According to Steve Smith, assistant chief of Cold Spring Fire Company No. 1, so far in 2015 the company has received 21 calls at Breakneck requiring intervention. Of those, most involved at least 2.5 and often four to five hours of work, he said.

“Where’s the assistance and support from the parks, to try to do something to help us?” he asked at the forum, pointing out that an estimated 1,000 visitors a day are thought to go up the Breakneck Trail on weekends.

“We do respond to our calls,” replied Linda G. Cooper, director of the Taconic Region of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. “When people are dialing 911 and the calls are sometimes directed into the fire department, that may be causing you to respond when you do not need to. Our park police go into the woods to find people. We don’t think the fire departments should be responding to everything.”

One factor may be the way dispatchers in Putnam County or across the river in Orange County route 911 calls.

Capt. Michael Cappuccilli of the State Park Police said that for 15 of the last 16 or so years park police generally got the calls about lost hikers. Lately, he said, it seems many calls have been routed instead to volunteer firefighters. “I don’t know why they’re calling the fire department,” he said. “It doesn’t make sense.” Cappuccilli also said that in cases of injured hikers, park rangers stationed at Bear Mountain can respond, “bringing people out” and down a mountain. “They have all the equipment to do that.”

Bill Bauman, who manages Fahnestock State Park, observed that often both park personnel and the CSFC answer calls.

Anthony Sutton, Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services commissioner, reported that recent statistics indicate 11 of 13 calls were assigned to the park police. He said his figures reflect lost-hiker incidents, not medical emergencies. Overall, he recommended “a reasonable response, that’s appropriate to the situation.”

“We’ll never do the wrong thing if we look at this from the perspective of the person who needs help,” Sutton said. “But it doesn’t mean we have to meet the expectations, or unreasonable expectations, of a person who suddenly finds himself lost or twists an ankle or didn’t realize it was going to get as cold and dark as it did.”

Mount Beacon

Phil Dinan, assistant chief of the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance company, suggested that “stupidity plays a big part in it,” such as an unwise decision by someone to tackle Mount Beacon when physically unable.

The state is taking over Mount Bea-

con from the environmental group Scenic Hudson, and Cooper said that incidents on Mount Beacon generally differ from those on Breakneck. “Our issue on Mount Beacon is more jeeps and ATVs,” she said.

Beacon City Administrator Anthony Ruggiero added that “we have issues of abandoned cars” up there as well, and Cappuccilli mentioned people sleeping on Mount Beacon overnight.

A hot spot

Philipstown Town Board Member John Van Tassel, a member of the North

Highlands Fire Department, wondered why the park police don’t staff Breakneck and similar areas full-time on busy days. “This seems to be a real hot spot and it’s getting hotter,” he said.

Cooper responded that with budget constraints, “that’s not a great utilization” of staff. However, “we are shifting some resources here” from elsewhere, she said.

Town Board Member Nancy Montgomery proposed tapping state Office of Emergency Management money, along with state park coffers. “The critical issue is the resources we don’t have” locally, she said. “We’re talking about public safety.”

Discounts Available to Local Vets

Card available from county clerks’ office

Putnam and Dutchess county residents who received an honorable discharge from the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard or Merchant Marines are eligible to participate in a program called Return the F.A.V.O.R. (Find & Assist Vets of Record) that offers discounts on a variety of merchandise and services. Reservists and National Guard also qualify under certain circumstances.

Veterans who file their Certificate of Discharge or Release from Active Duty (form DD214) with the Putnam or Dutchess county clerks’ offices are issued an identification card that enables them to take advantage of discounts. Many merchants honor cards from either county.

“Filing the DD214 with the County Clerk’s Office is an important thing for veterans to do,” explained Putnam County Clerk Michael Bartolotti. “By my office keeping it on file you do not have to worry about losing it. It is an essential document required for many veterans’ services. The Return the F.A.V.O.R program is a bonus.”

Discounts offered by Cold Spring merchants include 10 percent off at Automar, the Gift Hut and Cathryn’s Tuscan Grill, 15 percent off food at Cold Spring Pizza and the Foundry Café and 25 percent off at Romeo & Juliet salon.

A complete list of the participating Putnam County merchants is available at putnam-countyny.com/county-clerk, along with the rules and conditions. The site also has an application for merchants who are interested in participating. For more information, call 845-808-1142, ext. 49301.

For a list of merchants in and near Beacon, visit www.co.dutchess.ny.us/countygov/departments/countyclerk/19397.htm. To participate, veterans must bring their DD214 to the Division of Veterans Services Office at 85 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 105 in Poughkeepsie weekdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. After processing they will be able to obtain their card at the County Clerk’s Office at 22 Market Street in Poughkeepsie. For more information, call 845-486-2195 or email bkendall@co.dutchess.ny.us.

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New Howland Library Director Looks Ahead

Changes coming inside and out

By Brian PJ Cronin

Big changes are underway at Beacon's Howland Public Library. Some are clearly visible from the outside, like the "CLOSED" sign that will remain up until the morning of Dec. 7. As part of a renovation to make the front entrance and the bathrooms comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act, crews are removing asbestos that was discovered inside the 66-year-old building. The library will shut down once again at some point before the end of the year to install the new hands-free "airlock" front entrance; bathrooms will remain closed until the entire project is completed.

But once the library reopens, patrons may notice changes on the inside as well. Most notably, a new face among the shelves. For the first time in 15 years, the library has a new director.

Amy Raff took over as the Howland's director on Oct. 26 after serving as the director of the Woodstock Library for five years, and as the assistant director of the same library for 10 years before that.

"Woodstock is a really small town, so you have the luxury of having a certain free-and-breezy sense about rules and procedures because you know everyone's first name," said Raff. "Beacon is much larger. Double the staff, double the budget, triple the size of the building; the population is much larger and much more diverse. Beacon is — and I'm still an outsider for now — but it's really vibrant and there's a lot going on. Hopefully we'll get to move here while we can still afford it!"

Raff lives in West Hurley, which is a bit of a commute. You can probably guess how she passes the time.

"My listening to audio books has increased now that I'm in the car for an hour and a half every day," she said with a laugh. "I listen to fiction more than I read it. The audio book of *Girl On The Train* was riveting, and it had me sitting in my car in the driveway when I got home because I didn't want to turn it off."

Books have always been a love of Raff's from her high school days, when she would work in the school's library. Raff's job was cutting out articles from newspapers and periodicals, and then organizing them in the vertical file. But it was by watching her high school librarian in action that Raff realized that libraries weren't just about books: They were about people. "If you had a problem, you went to the library and the librarian fixed it for you by getting whatever infor-



New Director Amy Raff outside the Howland Public Library

Photo by B. Cronin

mation you needed," she recalled. "I saw it as a helping profession."

Raff's high school experiences and her love of Richard Brautigan's novel *The Abortion* — which centers around a fantastical library and the librarian who never leaves it — inspired her to get her master's degree in library sciences and then go on to get a certificate in advanced public library administration. "That experience was very helpful," she says of the certification process, "because, oh, the things they don't teach you in library school!"

With a month as the Howland's director under her belt, Raff said her favorite thing about her new position so far is the staff. "It makes all the difference," she said. "Everyone's really well trained and takes their job seriously. Everyone here knows that library work is important work. Most librarians are motivated out of a — well, I'm not going to say a higher calling — but it's for some other reason than it's just a job. That's very obvious from the people who work here."

Once the dust settles on the renovations, Raff and the Howland's board will be able to move onto new projects, such as what to do with the space the library owns two doors down at 307 Main St. It's already led Raff to think about the role that physical libraries will play in the 21st century as more and more patrons are taking advantage of the fact that they can now download or stream books, music and movies from the library's col-

lection online.

"I don't think print books are dead," she said. "People still check them out, they still come here for them, it's still important to have a strong print collection. But instead of the library simply being a storehouse of knowledge, it can be a place that facilitates people creating their own knowledge, to have a place where people can come together or create things together. There's a lot of talk in libraries about creating maker spaces with 3D printers, and low-tech stuff like knitting and fixing radios, and the movement of libraries to facilitate knowledge creation for the betterment of society."

In the meantime, Raff says that patrons shouldn't worry about accruing fines while the library is closed. Although the exterior book drop will remain open for those who wish to return books, any items checked out and normally due while the library is closed won't need to be returned until it reopens. Items that patrons put on hold, normally only kept on the reserve shelf for seven business days before being put back into circulation, will be held throughout the renovations. "Essentially, time's going to stop inside the library while we're closed," Raff explained.

Raff admitted that the closure would present some hardships for the community.

"It makes me nervous to close down the library for 10 days," she said. "What are people going to do with themselves?"

Obituary

Josephine Prentice Sawyer



Josephine Prentice Sawyer, 66, passed away on Sunday, Nov. 8, 2015, surrounded by her family, after a year-long

battle with brain cancer. Jodie was born on March 12, 1949, in Garrison, New York, the daughter of Ezra P. and Anne O. Prentice. Jodie attended the Garrison School; graduated from Garrison Forest School, Owings Mills, Maryland, and the University of Pennsylvania, and moved to North Carolina in 1986. She had a long and accomplished career in human resources, which included founding and running her own executive search consulting firm and working for and with a number of notable banks, including Chase, NationsBank, and First Charter (now Fifth Third).

While Jodie was well known locally for her professional acumen, she is better remembered by those who loved her for her wonderful wit, sharp sense of humor and amazing generosity of spirit as a daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother and friend. She had the amazing ability to befriend and put anyone at ease while still challenging those around her to become better versions of themselves. She is survived by her husband, Dennis; her brothers Nathaniel (Anita) and Michael Prentice; her daughters Kate (Kevin) Sullivan and Anne (Richard) Gardner; step-daughters Hannah and Caroline Sawyer, and her grandson, Benjamin Gardner. Her second grandchild, Grace Josephine Osborn Gardner, is due to be born any day. A memorial service was held in Waxhaw, and a further memorial service is being planned for the spring at St. Philip's Church in Garrison. Donations in her memory may be made to Safe Alliance, a domestic violence shelter whose mission she supported with her time and talents; Safe Alliance is at 601 E. 5th St., Suite 400, Charlotte, NC 28202 or www.safealliance.org. Condolences may be shared online at www.hankinswhittington.com.



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The Calendar

Haldane Drama Presents *The Skin Of Our Teeth*

Thornton Wilder's play, written during WWII, could not be more topical

By Alison Rooney

A fear that the tide has finally turned and humanity is teetering on the edge of self-immolation. Refugees massing, with no one taking them in. Devastating geographic changes resulting from weather patterns as wild and veering as an EKG line during a heart attack. A slingshot-wielding psychopath, bent on destruction. A doomsday-shouting prognosticator, part tout, part seer. Excerpts from last night's 6 o'clock news? Today's *New York Times*? Could be, but actually these present-day afflictions are all a part of a play, written over 70 years ago — during wartime, that particular war being World War II — *The Skin Of Our Teeth*, by Thornton Wilder. And, oh, it's a comedy. Well sort of, kinda.

It's a blend of absurdism, apocalypse, vaudeville and Greek chorus, all in service of the tale of an archetypically, through the ages family who survive epic and



The 'Friday cast' Antrobus family and their maid, (clockwise, from left): Josie Altucher, Becky Gore, Ronan Wood Gallagher, Jeremy Roffman, Bella Convertino

minute disasters of the external environment and their internal household, from ancient times to the present. After an antic first act, where the characters include a (talking) mastodon and triceratops and the Ice Age hovers as more than a plot device, the second act takes place on the 5,000th wedding anniversary of the family matriarch and patriarch, Maggie and George Antrobus, and a carnival atmosphere pervades, while



The 'Saturday cast' Antrobus family and their maid, Sabina: (clockwise, from left) Allie LaRocco, Marina Martin, Leandra Rice, Max Mormar, Theo Henderson

Photos by Jim Mechalakos

impending — think Biblical — floods threaten. The concluding act takes place in an initially nihilistic post-war era, yet, aptly, considering that it was written in the early years of a war, turns hopeful, as the family's saucy, scrappy and resilient maid, Sabina, a central character and commentator, announces that “the end of the play has not yet been written,” thereby transposing Wilder's wish to instill a

(Continued on Page 11)

Gordon Stewart Concert Series Concludes on Dec. 13 with All-Bach Program

'Bach is like that, he must be listened to in quietness of spirit'

By Alison Rooney

Perhaps fittingly postponed from its September date, the third and final chamber music concert in a series sponsored posthumously by *Philipstown.info/The Paper* founder Gordon Stewart will occur soon after the first anniversary of his death. Now taking place on Sunday, Dec. 13, at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring, the 4 p.m. concert features an all-Bach program, with music for solo stringed instruments and trio selections by Johann Sebastian Bach performed by Krista Bennion Feeney, violin; Rachel Evans, viola, and bassist John Feeney. All three musicians are leading artists in both historical and contemporary settings. Proceeds benefit St. Mary's.

It was Stewart's great wish to continue to bring the highest level of musicianship to his own community and these concerts are the culmination of this desire. The

musicians also played in Stewart's 2013 and 2014 Handel's *Messiah* concerts, which drew large audiences at just this time of year.

This program includes Bach's Partita 3 in E Major for solo violin; the exuberant Suite for Solo Cello in G Major rarely heard in concert on viola; and Trio Sonatas 5 in C Major and 3 in D Minor (from *Sonatas for Organ, BWV 529 and 527*) played by violin, viola and bass. Evans noted, “Gordon specifically asked for solo Bach and because Bach didn't write for solo bass we thought we'd try these trios.” Krista Feeney calls the trio of violin, viola and bass “particularly well suited to play these sonatas that in the past were often referred to as *Trios for the Organ*. The right hand of the organist is played by the violin, the left hand by the viola, and the pedal part is played by the bass. When an audience sees and hears the fluency and dexterity required to execute just one of the three



John Feeney

Photo by Ross Corsair

parts on our string instruments, it should help in understanding the majesty and power that belong to the organ above any other instrument.”

Goethe and the music of Bach

Feeney continues: “C.F. Zelter, close friend of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832) and the teacher of Felix Mendelssohn, was instrumental in introducing Goethe to the music of Bach.

Zelter had studied with J.P. Kirnberger, who along with Bach's sons Wilhelm Friedemann and Carl Philipp Emanuel were three of Bach's most important students and who had all lived in Berlin, as did Mendelssohn and Zelter. By the turn of the century, the strongest Bach tradition in Europe was in Berlin.”

As an illustration of the transformational effect this music can have on its players and listeners, Krista Feeney provides excerpts from *Two Centuries of Bach: An Account of Changing Taste*, by Friedrich Blume, relating to Goethe's first exposure to Bach's music:

“(Zelter) summed up his views on Bach in the magnificent words of a letter written to Goethe: ‘... this Leipzig cantor is a divine phenomenon, clear, yet inexplicable.’ ...Goethe had listened carefully and when he was staying in Bad Berka with the mayor and organist Schütz he lay in bed and had Bach played to him. ‘Bach is like that,’ (Continued on Page 14)

PHOTOcentric 2015

An international juried exhibition presented in THE RIVERSIDE GALLERIES at Garrison Art Center

Julie Saul 2015 Juror



Best in Show by Peter Janecke: *Vex Pentaptych*

Other 2015 PHOTOcentric artists

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Elizabeth Arnold	David Burnett	Mallory Gottlieb	Linda Magnusson-Rosario	Jerry Silverman
Manss Aval	Marianne Campolongo	Dave Higgins	Dan McCormack	Susan Lynn Smith
Patricia Beary	Anna Leigh Clem	Matt Howard	Alan Model	Maryann Syrek
Alison Bert	Mark Coggins	Karen Johnson	Allen Palmer	Miroslav Vrzala
Donna Lee Blais	Alexander Diaz	Elliott Kaufman	Anita Peltonen	Nick Winkworth
Deborah Loeb Bohren	Malcolm Easton	Karen Kirkpatrick	Russ Rowland	

Peter Janecke
Ken Dreyfack
Michael Page Miller
Sarah Corbin
Emma Powell & Kirsten Hoving
Craig Colvin
Ken Dreyfack
Bernie Herman
Marti Belcher
Caren Winnall
Jim Dratfield

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

Howland Public Library closed

Sparkle Holiday Celebration

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

Group Show (Opening)

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

The Web of Life (Opening)

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

Shakespeare Situation (Youth Players)

7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre | 10 Garrison Landing, Garrison | 845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

A Christmas Carol in Music

7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon
845-838-6900 x3420 | beaconplayers.com

Christmas Concert for Wounded Veterans

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

Calling All Poets

8 p.m. Center for Creative Education | 464 Main St., Beacon | 914-474-7758 | callingallpoets.net

Henrik Ibsen's Hedda Gabler

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

Dar Williams

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

Howland Public Library closed

Breakfast with Santa

9 & 10:30 a.m. Garrison Fire Company
1616 Route 9, Garrison
845-424-4406 | garrisonfd.org

Breakfast With Santa

10 a.m. Towne Crier Café | 379 Main St., Beacon
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Antiques Appraisal

10 a.m. St. Mary's Church | 1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring | 845-265-2539 | stmaryscoldspring.org



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Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit philipstown.info.

Send event listings to calendar@philipstown.info.

Holiday Workshop (grades 1-4)

10 a.m. Philipstown Community Center
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Sensor Place Opening Reception

Noon – 2 p.m. Beacon Institute | 199 Main St., Beacon | 845-838-1600 | bire.org

A Christmas Carol in Music

2 p.m. Beacon High School | Details under Friday.

Shakespeare Situation (Youth Players)

3 & 5 p.m. Depot Theatre | Details under Friday

Alice in Winter Wonderland Reception

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

PHOTOcentric 2015 (Opening)

5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center | 23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison | 845-424-3960

Silent Auction / Cocktail Party

5 – 7:30 p.m. St. Philip's Church | 1101 Route 9D, Garrison | 845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org
To benefit St. Philip's Nursery School

2015 Small Works Show (Opening)

6 – 9 p.m. The Catalyst Gallery | 137 Main St., Beacon | 845-204-3844 | catalystgallery.com

Holiday Hoot

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

Henrik Ibsen's Hedda Gabler

8 p.m. The Beacon Theatre | Details under Friday

Dr. Lucky's Burlesque Revue

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

187th Anniversary Luncheon

11:30 a.m. First Presbyterian Church
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

Hudson Highlands Nature Museum Holiday Social

1 – 5 p.m. Newburgh Brewery
88 South Colden St., Newburgh | 845-534-7781

A Christmas Carol in Music

2 p.m. Beacon High School | Details under Friday

Puppeteer Vít Horejš: Czech & Slovak Fairy Tales

2 p.m. Chapel Restoration | 45 Market St., Cold Spring | 845-265-5537 | chapelrestoration.org

Cajun Dance with Krewe de la Rue

3 – 7 p.m. St. Luke's Parish House | 544 Wolcott Avenue, Beacon | Benefits Beacon Food Bank

Henrik Ibsen's Hedda Gabler

3 p.m. The Beacon Theatre | Details under Friday

Community Service of Lessons & Carols

5 p.m. South Highland Church
19 Snake Hill Road, Garrison | 845-424-3096

Bicycle Menorah Lighting (Celebrating Artists)

5:30 p.m. Polhill Park | Main Street at Route 9D, Beacon | beaonhebrewalliance.org

Tree Lighting Ceremony

6 p.m. Bandstand, Cold Spring | coldspringny.gov

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

Cooking Dinner with Fernando Sinchi (Class)

10 a.m. & 6 p.m. Philipstown Community Center
See details under Sunday.

Sustaining This Place: Creating a New Hudson Region Landscape

7:30 p.m. Downing Film Center | 19 Front St., Newburgh | 845-561-3686 | downingfilmcenter.com



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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

North Highlands Fire District Annual Election

6 – 9 p.m. North Highland Firehouse | 504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring | 845-265-7285 | nhfd21.org

Trudie Grace and Mark Forlow: West Point Foundry (Talk)

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

Haldane School Board Special Meeting

6:30 p.m. Haldane School | 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring | 845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Bija Kids Preschool Info Session

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

PTA Parent Support Group

7 p.m. Cold Spring Methodist Church | 216 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-424-6130

Winter Tales by Hans Christian Andersen

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

Blues Brothers Party

7:30 p.m. Beacon Music Factory | 629 Route 52, Beacon | 845-765-0472 | beaconmusicfactory.com

Board of Trustees

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

Conservation Board

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Career Assistance Sessions

11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon | 845-249-4642 | dutchessonestop.org | Appointment required.

Winter Tales by Hans Christian Andersen

7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
See details under Tuesday.

Historic District Review Board

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

Cold Spring Chamber Dinner & Elections

6:30 p.m. Hudson House | 2 Main St., Cold Spring
explorecoldspringny.com

Planning Board Public Hearing

7 p.m. Village Hall | Details under Wednesday

Winter Tales by Hans Christian Andersen

7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
See details under Tuesday.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

Shabbat / Hannukah Service & Potluck

6 p.m. St. Mary's Parish Hall
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring | 914-450-4188

Shakespeare Situation (Youth Players)

7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Dec. 4.

Sinatra's 100th Birthday with Doug Ferony

7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley | Details under Dec. 4

Skin of Our Teeth

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

Winter Tales by Hans Christian Andersen

7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
See details under Tuesday.

Henrik Ibsen's Hedda Gabler

8 p.m. The Beacon Theatre | Details under Dec. 4

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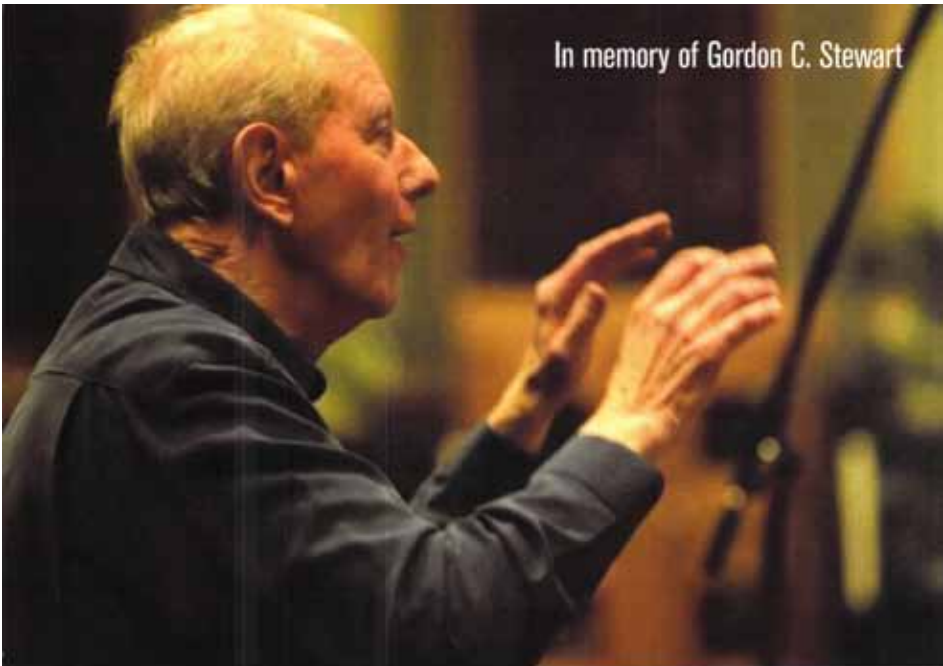


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Lighting of the BeaconArts Bicycle Christmas Tree
December 12; Activities Begin 3:30 pm, Tree Lighting at 4:30 pm;
Polhill Park (Beacon Visitor’s Center)

BeaconArts + Beacon Hebrew Alliance Menorah Lighting
December 6 - 13, Polhill Park (Beacon Visitor’s Center)



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 - Artisan Wine Shop
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 - Smokers Mecca
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- PERFORMING ARTS**
- Beacon Music Factory
 - Ballet Arts Studio and Dutchess Dance Company
 - Center for Creative Education
 - Howland Chamber Music Circle
 - The Beacon Theatre/4th Wall Productions
 - Towne Crier Café
 - Yanarella School of Dance

ACCOMODATIONS

- The Roundhouse at Beacon Falls
- The Swann Inn

GALLERIES

- beacon artists union (bau)
- 3B Art Gallery
- Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries,
- Clarkson University
- Dia:Beacon
- Dream in Plastic
- Ethan Cohen Fine Arts/Kunsthalle Beacon
- The Howland Cultural Center
- Hudson Beach Glass
- The Lofts at Beacon Gallery
- Marion Royael Gallery
- Morphicism
- RiverWinds Gallery
- Theo Ganz Studio
- Terra Luminarium Gallery

DINING AND FOOD

- Bank Square Coffeehouse
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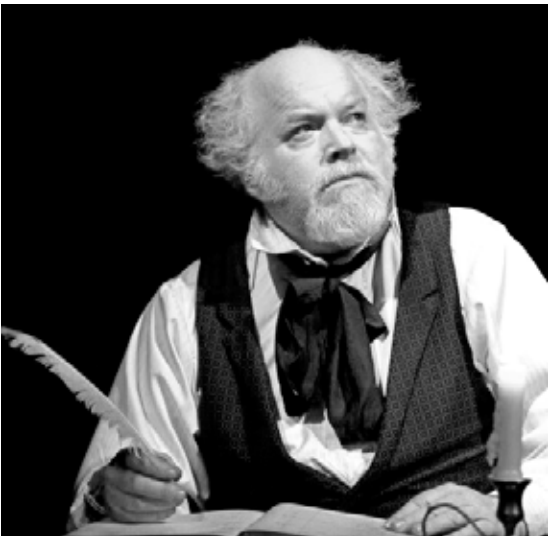
CHECK BEACONARTS.ORG FOR MORE INFO AND EVENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Scrooge Is Bursting Out All Over

Dickens classic a holiday favorite

Multiple adaptations of Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol* will grace local stages over the coming weeks. Beacon High School student performers will present a musical version at the school at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 4, and 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5 and Sunday, Dec. 6. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. Visit [beaconplayers.com](#) for info. Gregory Porter Miller’s one-man adaptation, directed by Christine Bokhour and combining the text of the original 1843 novella with Dickens’ reader’s version of 1867, returns to the Depot Theatre on Garrison’s Landing with five shows from Thursday, Dec. 17, to Sunday, Dec. 20. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors and \$15 for students. Visit [brownpapertickets.com/event/2413954](#) to order. Cold Spring’s Jonathan Kruk brings the story to Christ Episcopal Church in Tarrytown with three daily performanc-



Gregory Porter Miller Photo by Ross Corsair



Darrel James plays Scrooge at The Culinary Institute Photo by Jennifer Kiaba



Jonathan Kruk Photo provided

es on Saturdays and Sundays from Dec. 5 to 20. Visit [hudsonvalley.org](#). Kruk also will perform his one-man show (performing some 30 characters) at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18, at Tompkins Corners Cultural Center in Putnam Valley. Jim Keyes will provide music on instruments ranging from the pump organ to harp. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for stu-

dents and seniors. See [brownpapertickets.com/event/2469858](#). In Hyde Park, the Half Moon Theatre Company will present a five-actor adaptation written by Patrick Barlow, and with costume design by Cold Spring’s Charlotte Palmer Lane, on three week-ends beginning Friday, Dec. 4, at the Marriott Pavilion on the campus of the Culinary Institute of America. There is

also a performance on Wednesday, Dec. 16. The Culinary Institute restaurants will offer special pricing, although CIA restaurants are closed on Sundays and on Saturday, Dec. 19. To purchase tickets, which are \$22 to \$50, call 800-838-3006 or visit [halfmoontheatre.org](#). For dinner reservations, call 945-905-4533 or email [ciarestaurantgroup@culinary.edu](#).

Philipstown Rec to Hold Lacrosse Info Session

Open to players up to sixth grade

The Philipstown Recreation Department Highlanders lacrosse teams for elementary school students will hold an information and registration session on Saturday, Dec. 12 at the Rec Center gym for players in kindergarten through sixth grade. At 2 p.m. the coaches will provide an introduction to the game; players also can be sized for equipment. At 4 p.m. early discounted registration begins for the spring season. For more information, call 845-424-4618.

Chamber to Hold Annual Dinner and Elections

Set for Dec. 10 at Hudson House

The Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual holiday dinner and elections at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10, at the Hudson House Inn, 2 Main St., in Cold Spring. Tickets are \$40 for chamber members and \$45 for guests and community members. RSVP to [info@explorecoldspringny.com](#); also tickets may be purchased in advance on the chamber’s website. The event includes a cash bar and silent auction.

Visit [philipstown.info](#) for news updates and latest information.



Toys for Tots Program Underway

New, unwrapped toys collected in Philipstown, Beacon

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation has launched its annual drive to collect new, unwrapped toys to be distributed to U.S. children living in poverty. Toys will be accepted until Sunday, Dec. 15. The foundation also accepts monetary gifts at [toysfortots.org](#). In Philipstown, toys can be dropped at Appalachian Market at Route 403 and Route 9 in Garrison or Vera’s Market on Route 9 or Foodtown on Route 9D in Cold Spring, plus other locations. In Beacon, toys can be dropped at the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps at 1 Arquilla Drive, in the lobby of City Hall at 1 Municipal Plaza or at the Barking Frog at 436 Main Street.

‘Last-Chance’ Flu Clinic Set for Dec. 10

Most cases seen December through February

The Putnam County Department of Health will offer a “last-chance” flu

clinic from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10, at its offices at 1 Geneva Road in Brewster. In the U.S., flu activity is usually highest between December and February, although cases may linger as late as May. No appointment is necessary, and any Putnam County resident age 3 and older is eligible. The fee is \$25, although there is no fee for those over age 65 or with a Medicare card. High-dose flu vaccine is available for individuals age 65 and older; studies have shown it appears more effective in fighting flu in seniors. So far this year the county health department has given more than 3,700 flu vaccinations, including 2,432 administered in schools. If you have not yet received a vaccine, health officials say it is important to do so as soon as possible because it takes about two weeks for the immune system to build the antibodies needed to provide protection.

St. Philip’s Choir to Perform Vivaldi’s Gloria

In celebration of the season, the Choir of St. Philip’s Church in the Highlands will perform Vivaldi’s *Gloria in D Major* at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 13, as part of the morning service. It will be conducted by Durward Entrekin, the director of music at the church. Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) wrote three settings of the *Gloria* — the one to be performed is the last and best known, composed sometime after 1715. Vivaldi was an ordained priest known as “Il Prete Rosso” (the red haired priest)” and a master violinist. He was an extraordinarily prolific composer best known for his orchestral concertos. He composed more than

500, the most famous being the *The Four Seasons*. The soloists will be Janet Entrekin, Terry Platz, Jane Thornquist, Shelagh Speers and Madeline DeNitto. The Hudson Highlands Chamber Players will accompany the choir. St. Philip’s is located at 1101 Route 9D in Garrison, opposite the Garrison School, where parking will also be available. Beacon Beacon Church to Host Book Fair Local authors invited to attend The First Presbyterian Church in Beacon will host the first Hudson Valley Winter Book Fair on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The festival will include book signings, readings and a used book sale to benefit the church. (Sales of authors’ books will benefit the authors.) If you are an author and interested in participating, email [amityartscenter@gmail.com](#). First Presbyterian is located at 50 Liberty St. The event is co-sponsored by Binnacle Books.

Bring Toys Back to Life

Common Ground holds repair clinic

Common Ground Farm will hold two holiday workshops on Sunday, Dec. 13. At the first, starting at 10 a.m., participants will create ornaments using naturally-dyed wool from Hudson Valley sheep. It is open to adults and kids ages 5 and older. The fee is \$35 per family. The second work- (To next page)



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

(From previous page) shop, focused on toy repair, begins at 2 p.m. Bring toys in need of fixing and Common Ground will provide the supplies, tools and guidance to repurpose, reinvent or repair them. Families have the opportunity to work together, share skills and create meaningful bonds with their consumer products. Toys in all stages of disrepair are welcome. For ages 4 and older. The workshop is co-sponsored by Textile Lab and HV Community Acupuncture. The cost is \$15 per family.

The fee for both workshops is \$40. To register, email education@common-groundfarm.org or visit store.common-groundfarm.org. Common Ground Farm is located on the grounds of Stony Kill Farm Environmental Education Center at 79 Farmstead Lane, off Route 9D, two miles north of the intersection with Interstate 84 (exit 11) in Wappingers Falls.

Bicycle Menorah and Tree to Light Up Beacon

Hanukkah begins Dec. 6 and tree lighting Dec. 12

Each night from Sunday, Dec. 6, through Sunday, Dec. 13, at Polhill Park in Beacon, the different candles of the Hanukkah menorah will be illuminated. In this case, they will be represented by wheels on the bicycle menorah sponsored by Beacon Hebrew Alliance and BeaconArts.

The menorah will be lit each night at 5:30 p.m. from Sunday, Dec. 6 through Sunday, Dec. 13, with the exception of Friday, Dec. 11, which will be earlier. Each lighting will celebrate various members of the community, including artists (Dec. 6), farmers and food (Dec. 7), teachers (Dec. 8), planet protectors (Dec. 9), volunteers (Dec. 10), entrepreneurs (Dec. 11), clergy (Dec. 12), and



The 2014 Beacon bicycle tree

Photo by Ethan Harrison

builders, makers and fixers (Dec. 13). A community Hanukkah party will also take place on Dec. 13.

The lighting of the adjacent bicycle Christmas tree sponsored by BeaconArts and the City of Beacon will take place on Second Saturday, Dec. 12. At 3 p.m., the Wee Play Community Project will organize a simple craft for younger children under the shelter of tents provided by the City of Beacon. At about 4 p.m., children from the Beacon City School District will celebrate with music and dance and at 4:30 p.m. Santa will arrive via a pedi-cab provided by Peoples Bicycle.

“Bicycles, like communities, are powered by people,” says Ed Benavente, who conceived and fabricated the bicycle menorah and tree with recycled parts. The tree has doubled in size since its first lighting in 2011. Polhill Park is located next to the Beacon Visitors’ Center on Main Street at Route 9D.

Beahive to Feature Pop Artist’s Work

Ryan Cronin opening set for Dec. 12

The Beahive in Beacon will exhibit the pop art of Ryan Cronin, with an opening scheduled for 6 to 9 p.m. on Second Saturday, Dec. 12. The exhibit will also include gifts available for purchase that feature Cronin’s work.

“What interests me is using color to steer the eye across the plane,” says Cronin, who grew up in northern Westchester County amid the bright colors and sounds of punk rock, skateboarding and MTV. “I present the subject, but the meaning is not dictated, that is left to the viewer.”

In May, Cronin and his wife, Melanie, opened a gallery in New Paltz showcasing his work. The Beahive is located at 291 Main St., Beacon.

The Krewe is Coming

Cajun band at food pantry benefit

St. Luke’s Church in Beacon will host a Cajun Dance featuring Krewe de la Rue from 3 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 6 to benefit the Beacon Food Pantry. The Krewe traces its roots to the fiddle and dance camp at Ashokan where, in the late 1980s, the fiddler and “Cajun ambassador” Dewey Balfa, along with protégé Steve Riley, introduced Cajun music to the Hudson Valley.

The band includes Roger Weiss on fiddle, Buffy Lewis on guitar, Laren Droll on accordion, Maggie McManus on tee-fer, Gary Graef on bass and June Drucker on drums.

The benefit includes a lesson from Buffy Lewis two-step and waltz basics. Gumbo, goodies and drinks will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$20. There will also be raffles and door prizes. Visit brownpapertickets.com/event/2432549 or call 914-907-4928.



Pop art by Ryan Cronin on canvas and pressed into objects

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Gordon Stewart Concert Series Concludes with All-Bach Program (from Page 7)

he must be listened to in quietness of spirit.”

Feeney explains: “It is very likely that Goethe heard Schütz play the very two organ sonatas that we will be playing a direct transcription of on Dec. 13. These are mature works of Bach’s that were composed for his son Wilhelm Friedemann to develop his organ playing. We are most fortunate that Goethe recorded the effect Bach’s music had upon him”:

“It was there in Berka when my mind was in a state of perfect composure and free from external distractions that I first obtained some idea of your grand master. I said to myself it is as if the eternal harmony were conversing within itself as it may have done in the bosom of God just before the creation of the world. So likewise did it move in my inmost soul and it seemed like I neither possessed nor needed ears, nor any other

sense — least of all the eyes.” ~ Goethe

As Feeney further explains: “In May 1821, when Mendelssohn was 12 years old, and Goethe 72, Zelter brought his student to Weimar to meet and visit as Goethe’s guest, and for 10 days Mendelssohn played Bach for Goethe every morning and evening. Mendelssohn was to visit Goethe four more times in Weimar, the last being in 1830 where Mendelssohn spent two weeks in the company of Goethe, often playing Bach. As Russell Stinson writes in his *The Reception of Bach’s Works from Mendelssohn to Brahms*, ‘As far as Goethe is concerned, surely he knew that his adopted hometown of Weimar was where Bach had composed most of his organ works.’”

Krista Bennion Feeney is concertmaster of the Orchestra of St. Luke’s. Fred Cohn from Opera News praised Krista’s playing: “As soloist in Bach’s first


concerto, Krista Bennion Feeney gave an object lesson in presenting an expressive unbuttoned Baroque singing line.”

John Feeney, noted by *The New York Times* as “the agile and charismatic double bass,” is principal double bass of the Orchestra of St. Luke’s.

Garrison’s Rachel Evans, an internationally renowned violinist and violist, studied Baroque violin and viola in Germany 1995-96 and has played with many of the leading Baroque ensembles in the U.S. and Europe. Evans describes Bach’s works for solo strings as “interesting because of his investigation of counterpoint on instruments that, unlike a keyboard, cannot sustain widely separated pitches. Without giving up his deep exploration of harmony he maximiz-

es the use of his innate narrative ability, transforming the standard dance forms into conversational, intimate and soulful movements.” Evans is looking forward to performing the Suite in G Major, relating, “‘A solo instrumental piece is so intimate,’ my chiropractor exclaimed last week after I played a Bach bourée in his office. ‘So much more than an ensemble!’”

General admission tickets, \$20, are available at brownpapertickets.com/event/1533382. Student tickets cost \$5; children under 18 are welcome free of charge. Supporter tickets, \$100, and sponsor tickets, \$250, include preferred seating and acknowledgement in the program and can be purchased by mailing a check to St. Mary’s, 1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. For more information call 845-265-2539, or visit stmaryscoldspring.org.




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