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)

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 rangers, with the latter having some emergency medical training, plus other skills.

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

- Correlating 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)
2 December 4, 2015

Small, Good Things
By Joe Dizney

There are lots of reasons to drink and prance 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 (New Year’s Eve) —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 temporal and social (Thanksgiving, Kwanzaa), non-religious (Christmas, Hanukkah), and temporal (New Year’s Eve and Day) — we experience here are lots of reasons to drink and prance among them is the human need to celebrate. While the current sea-

prime among them is the human need — especially when paired with the ritualized, collective practice of toasting each other! — and in also remembering those of us who didn’t make it, we raise a glass to ourselves and tastier solutions.

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 Martini’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: 12NOM, 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 useful Verjus (literally, “green juice”), a more acidic juice made from unripe grapes. (Lest you get the idea that these are some uppy 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 point at hand, the explosion of craft cocktail culture points to more be-spoke and tarter solutions. We’ve dealt with so-called “shrubs” before (philipstown.info/?p=6319). 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, pav-

ing the way for a cornucopia of cocktails.

But on their own, synthetically 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

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 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)
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 values of homes, which would be about a recovery is slow. stagnate so the gains are modest and the gains are modest and the recovery is slow.

According to Patten'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 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.

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 Patten'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.

Patten's analysis concluded that 90 percent or more of the homes for sale in the six highlighted communities — Beacon, Brewster, Pound Ridge, 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.

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with teaching and discussion led by Rabbi Helaine Ettinger

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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

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(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 cardamom 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 currants or drink to share.

   • To make a Cranberry Shrub (non-alcoholic): Mix two teaspoons 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 bourbons, rum or vodka, one teaspoon apple cider-maple syrup. Shake until chilled and pour into a cold glass. Optionally, add ⅛ ounce of an orange-based liqueur (Cointreau, Grand Marnier) and/or two to three drops of cocktail bitters.
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, un-American 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 the U.S., and (2) that the FBI has an exercise to vet all refugees. In spinning 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 right- ly points to the Congressman’s calcula- tion of political capital he might accrue for use in the 2016 electoral games. Even since the madcap at the highest levels of government justified the invasion of Iraq 12 war-long years ago, any time a politician invokes “security” for any pur- pose whatsoever you’d do well to grab your wallet and those copies of the Con- stitution 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 Giachini’s accidental death while he was servicing a forklift. It’s reported that, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, an American is 271 times more likely to die from a work- place 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 wel- come in New York’s harbor, would say: “Give me your tired, your poor, your ab- solutely certifiably guaranteeably harm- less huddled masses, yearning to be … rich?” Rather, I think if she could hang her head, it would be in shame, and Con- gressman 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 par- ties,” whereas candidates now run inde- pendently or as part of local coalitions.

Last March, Trustee Fran Murphy ran independently while Early and Mayor Dave Merandy ran as The People’s Par- ty. 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 na- tional debate while detracting from lo- cal issues.

If March elections were abandoned, the first vote held in November would re- sult in some members of the board serv- ing terms longer than voters had origi- nally 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 inspec- tions 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 pre- sentation at Tuesday’s board. It will now appear in early January.

• Trustees voted to extend the comment period on a proposed amend- ment to the regulations on snow and ice removal from village sidewalks. Residents now have until Tuesday, Dec. 15, to comment on the draft law that includes an amendment 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 in- cludes building a fire on the river- bank. The Cold Spring Fire Company will be asked to review the request.

• The board’s Nov. 24 meeting in- cluded a review of proposed light- ing 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 wrapped regular monthly meeting dates. The Planning Board now meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. The Code Update Committee now meets us 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 Badley 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 Findory Preserve. The remaining portion, in- cluding 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 Findory Preserve lands abut 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 garing at Village Hall at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10, to receive comments regarding Ella’s Bells, a retail bakery and café proposed for 15 Main St.

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

Read what your neighbors are saying:
Visit our Comments section online.

For more information on where to find things or what’s happening, visit:
Community Directory
Expanded Calendar
Arts & Leisure
all at philipstown.info

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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4 December 2015
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Breakneck Ridge Rescues

Highlands and Fahnstock State parks;
• Creation of a “text blast” system to immediately alert all pertinent agencies (park police, other law enforce-
m ent, firefighters and other emer-
gency 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, graf-
fiti, 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 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 Preserva-
tion (park police). He said his figures re-

dict lost-hiker incidents, not medical emergencies. Overall, he recommended “a reasonable response, that’s appropri-
ate 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 expec-
tations, 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 Be-
apolice general, sug-
gested that “stupidity plays a big part in it,” such as an unwise decision by some-

one to tackle Mountain Beacon when physi-
cally unable.

The state is taking over Mount Bea-
con from the environmental group Sce-
nic Hudson, and Cooper said that inci-
dents on Mount Beacon generally differ from those on Breakneck. “Our issue on Mount Beacon is more jeeps and ATV’s,” 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 Mont-
gomery 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 Autormar, the Gift Hut and Cathy’s Tuscan Grill, 15 percent off food at Cold Spring Pizza and the Foundry Cafe and 25 percent off at Romeo & Juliet salon.

A complete list of the participating Putnam County merchants is available at putnamcounty.ny.gov/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/de-
partments/countyclerk/10997.htm. To participate, veterans must bring their DD214 to the Division of Veterans Services Office at 85 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 105 in Pough-
keepsie 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 library staff. 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-brave 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 childhood, when she would work in the school library. Raff's job was cutting out articles from newspapers, 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 information 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 collection 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 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?"

New Howland Library Director Amy Raff outside the Howland Public Library

Photo by B. Cronin

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Photo by B. Cronin

Obituary

Josephine Prentice Sawyer

Josephine Prentice Sawyer, 66, of Garrison, 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 G. 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 accomplishments, 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, and radiated 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 Cannon, 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 SaveAlliance.org, a domestic violence shelter whose mission she supported with her time and talents; Safe Alliance is at 601 E. 5th St., Suite 200, Charlotte, N.C. 28202 or www.safealliance.org. Condolences may be shared online at www.hankinswhittington.com.

The Desmond-Fish Library

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845-424-3020  desmondfishlibrary.org
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 sling-shot-wielding psychopath, bent on destruction. A doomed-day-shooting prognosticator, part tutor, 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 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 archetypal, through the ages family who survive epic and 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 5000th wedding anniversary of the family matriarch and patriarch, Maggie and George Antrobus, and a carnivall atmosphere pervades, while 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

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

PHOTOcentric 2015

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

Julie Saul 2015 Juror

Peter Janecke  
Ken Dryfack  
Michael Paige Miller  
Sarah Corbin  
Emma Powell & Kirsten Hoving

Best in Show by Peter Janecke: *You Pentingthytch*

Other 2015 PHOTOcentric artists

Rebecca Ambrosini  
Elizabeth Arnold  
Marisa Avel  
Patricia Beary  
Allison Bort  
Dorina Lee Blais  
Deborah Loeb Behren  
Paul Bonnar  
David Burnett  
Marianne Campolongo  
Anna Leigh Clem  
Mark Cogges  
Alexander Diaz  
Makoli Easton  
Dennis Geller  
Mallory Guthrie  
Dave Higgins  
Matt Howard  
Karen Johnson  
Elliott Kaufman  
Karen Kirkpatrick  
Peggy Kulke  
Linda Magnusson-Rosario  
Dan McCormack  
Alan Model  
Alen Palmer  
Anita Pettman  
Rois Rossland  
Carien Schippers  
Jerry Silverman  
Suzan Lynn Smith  
Maryann Spreck  
Miroslav Vrdoljak  
Nick Winklesworth

Galleries open Tues-Sun, 10-5, 23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison, NY, garrisonartcenter.org  845-424-3960

EXHIBITION

December 5, 2015 – January 10, 2016

Opening Reception Saturday, December 5, 5 – 7pm

The Paper  
December 4, 2015  7
Calendar Highlights
For upcoming events visit philipstown.info.
Send event listings to calendar@philipstown.info.

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 | 845-855-5450 | busterlevigallery.com

The Web of Life (Opening)
6 – 9 p.m. Gallery 69 | 86 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-809-5388 | gallery69ny.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 | 845-639-6900 x3420 | beaconplayers.com

Howland Public Library closed
8 p.m. The Beacon Theatre | 445 Main St., Beacon | 845-424-4618 | skybabyyoga@gmail.com | www.skybabyyoga.com

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

Howland Public Library closed
Breakfast with Santa
9 & 10:30 a.m. Garrison Fire Company | 1616 Route 9, Garrison | 845-424-4400 | garrisonfireco.com

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

Howland Public Library closed
Gingerbread House Workshop
10 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. Community Center | 107 Gandy’s Drive, Garrison | 845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreationcreation.com

LOST CAT
All black, long haired, yellow eyes, no collar. Last seen on East Mountain Rd. South near Essebourne Rd. Family heartbroken. REWARD. PLEASE call with any info: 845-475-1220

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

Cooking Dinner with Fernando Sinchi (Class)
10 a.m. & 6 p.m. Philipstown Community Center See details under Sunday.

Sustainability This Place: Creating a New Hudson Region Landscape
7:30 p.m. Dovetail Film Center | 19 Front St., Newburgh | 845-561-3086 | dovetailfilmcenter.org

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

North Highlands Fire District Annual Election
6 – 9 p.m. North Highland Firehouse | 5045 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring | 845-265-7266 | nhfd21.org

Trudie Grace and Mark Forlenz: 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 Crospade Drive, Cold Spring | 845-765-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Elia Kids Preschool Info Session
7 p.m. Beahive Beacon | 291 Main St., Beacon | 845-765-1890 | beahivebeacon.com

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Career Assistance Sessions
11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Howland Public Library 313 Main St., Beacon | 845-549-4642 | dutchesscotsop.org | Appointment required.

Winter Tales by Hans Christian Andersen
7:30 p.m. Beacon Music Factory | 629 Route 52, Beacon | 845-765-0472 | beaconmusicfactory.com

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

Cold Spring Chamber Dinner & Elections
6:30 p.m. Hudson House | 2 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-3011 | coldspringny.gov

Planning Board Public Hearing
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-3011 | coldspringny.gov

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

Shabbat / Hanukkah Service & Potluck
6 p.m. St. Mary’s Parish Hall
9 Chestnut St., Cold Spring | 914-450-4188

Shakespeare Situation (Youth Players)
7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre See details under Dec. 4.

Shabat'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 Crospade Drive, Cold Spring | 845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Winter Tales by Hans Christian Andersen
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center See details under Tuesday.

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Tickets: www.brownpapertickets.com For more information: 845.285.2539

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Vincent Baldassano  Martee Levi
Ada Pilar Cruz  Maria Pia Marrella
Jenne M. Currie  Ann Provan
Tim D’Acquisto  Ursula Schneider
Barbara Smith Gioia  Jeff Snider
Eric Erickson  Lucille Tortora
Grace Kennedy

December 4, 2015 - December 27, 2015

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SECOND SATURDAY DECEMBER 12

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)

BEACONARTS BUSINESS MEMBERS

GALLERIES
beacon artists union (bau)
3B Art Gallery
Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries
Clarke House
DIA Beacon
Dream in Plastic
Ethan Cohen Fine Arts/Kunsthalle Beacon
The Hawthorn Cultural Center
Hudson Beach Glass
The Loft at Beacon Gallery
Marie Royal Gallery
Morphic
RiverWinds Gallery
Tinsley Gallery
The Vault at Old Stone
Terra Luminarium Gallery

DINING AND FOOD
Butcher’s Block Coffeehouse
Beacon Natural Market
Begia Pantry
Café Amaru
Chill Wine Bar
Dogwood
Elvi’s Bistro
Home spun Foods
The Hop – Craft Beer & Artisanal Fare
Kitchen Sink Food & Drink
Marx’s on Main
Oak Vine Wine Bar

BOUTIQUES AND SHOPPING
After Eden Gallery
Artisan Wine Shop
Beacon Fine Market
Brutalike Books
Blackbird Attic
Bramble & Fox
Lauren & Riley
Merry Go Boont
Mountain Tops Outdoors
Nico & Marley
Shinoda Miro
Utensil
Vintage Boscoph

PERFORMING ARTS
Beacon Music Factory
Ballet Arts Studio and Clutchless Dance Company
Center for Creative Education
Falling Water Music Circle
The Beacon Theatre 4 Arts Wall Productions
Toewe Crís Café
Yanarella School of Dance

ACCOMODATIONS
The Roundhouse at Beacon Falls
Salishan Restaurant
Squaw Kitchen
Two Men Brewing Company
The Santana Taproom
Towne Crier Cafe
The Vault Tap & Spirits

SERVICES AND MORE
291 Main Street - Beacon Telephone Building
Aaron Verdielle/New York Life
AEC Consulting
A Little Beacon Blog
Antiques & Moore
At Home Local
Beacon Art Studios
Beacon Fine Art Printing
Beacon Pilates
Beacon Shop Club
BEMKE/Alndosc Collective
Gala House Realty
Gray Printing
Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union
Joannera Wonder, Realtor
Mount Saint Mary College
Photography by Kimberly Ceccegad
Rhinebeck Bank
River Theraputic Massage
St. Andrews Episcopal Church
The Valley Table Magazine

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CHECK BEACONARTS.ORG FOR MORE INFO AND EVENTS
Haldane Drama Presents The Skin Of Our Teeth (from Page 7)

Mr. Antrobus invents the wheel. “Saturday cast” cast member Ronan Wood Gallagher at right.

Though there is no objectionable language, thematically this production would be best suited to older elementary students on up; younger children may get fidgety.


I've never forgotten for long at a time that living is struggle. I know that every good and excellent thing in the world stands moment by moment on the razor-edge of danger and must be fought for — whether it’s a field, or a home, or a country. All I ask is the chance to build new worlds and God has given us voices to guide us; and the memory of our mistakes to warn us.”

The Skin Of Our Teeth will be presented on Friday and Saturday at the Haldane auditorium. Tickets may be purchased at the door and cost $12; students are $8; seniors are free.

Hans Christian Andersen was a 19th-century master of the short story, and his tales of enchantment and adventure were admired by readers of his day. Through the power of kindness, family, love and imagination to warm the heart and light the way home.

For tickets and information: hvshakespeare.org
Scrooge Is Bursting Out All Over
Dickens classic a holiday favorite

Multiple adaptations of Charles Dick-

ens’ A Christmas Carol will grace local stages over the coming weeks.
Beacon High School student per-
formance will present a musical version at the school on Thursday, Dec. 4, and 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5 and Sun-
day, Dec. 6. Tickets are $12 for adults and $5 for students and seniors. Visit beaconplayers.com for info.

Gregory Porter Miller’s one-man ad-
novation, 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. 7, to Sunday, Dec. 20. Tickets are $25 for adults, $20 for seniors and $15 for students. Visit brown-papertickets.com/event/2469858 to order.

Seniors and $15 for students. Visit brown-
papertickets.com/event/2449585 to order.

Theatre on Garrison’s Landing with five
adaptation, directed by Christine Bokhour
1843 novella with Dickens’ reader’s
aptation, written by Patrick Barlow, and
30 characters) at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18, at Tompkins Corners Cultural Center in Putnam Valley. Jim Keys 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 brownpapertick-
es.com/event/2449585.

In Hyde Park, the Half Moon Theatre Company will present a five-actor ad-
aptation 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 800-838-3005 or visit halfmoontheatre.org. For dinner reservations, call 945-905-4533 or email ciearestaurantgroup@culinary.edu.

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.

The First Presbyterian Church in Bea-
con will host the first Hudson Valley Winter Book Fair on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The festival will in-
clude 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 amytartocrates@gmail.com. First Presbyterian is located at 50 Liberty St. The event is co-spon-
ored by Rinnacle Books.

The Culinary Institute of America is located at 300, the most famous being the “The Four Reasons. The soloists will be Janet
Entrektn, Terry Platz, Jane Thorquint, 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.

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(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@commongroundfarm.org or visit store.commongroundfarm.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.

The 2014 Beacon bicycle tree
Photo by Ethan Harrison

The 2014 Beacon bicycle tree
Photo by Ethan Harrison

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 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 protege 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 ter-fer, Gary Graef on bass and June Drucker on drums. The benefit includes a lesson from Buffy Lewis two-step and waltz basics. Gumbo, goodie 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.

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The Reception of Bach's Works from Mendelssohn to Brahms

Stinson writes in his book on Bach's organ sonatas that we will be playing a direct transcription of on Dec. 13. These are mature works of Bach's that were composed most of his organ works. "It was there in Berka when my mind was at a state of perfect composer and 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 book, 'As the Reception of Bach's Works from Mendelssohn to Brahms,' 'As far as Goethe is concerned, Bach's works for solo strings as 'interest-grabbing because of his investigation of 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 free of charge. Supported tickets, $100, and 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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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. There are mature works of Bach’s that were composed for his son Wilhelm Friedemann to develop his organ playing. We are fortunate that Goethe recorded Bach’s music had upon him.”

“It was there in Berka when my mind was at a state of perfect composer and 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

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