Family Celebrates Husband and Father’s Life as Town Embraces Them

‘My father was not a victim’

By Kevin E. Foley

Tragedy flowed up river last Sunday (Dec. 1) with news of an early morning train wreck that killed four people and left 67 injured. In its wake, a Philippstown family mourned the loss of its husband and father. And an entire town reacted with shock and sorrow over the sudden and permanent absence of a friend and neighbor.

Jim Lovell, 58, died in the derailment of the southbound Metro-North Railroad train carrying him to a freelance work assignment for the NBC television network involving the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree. Lovell boarded the train at 6:20 after saying goodbye to his wife, his companion of 20 years. Nancy Montgomery. The only passenger at the Cold Spring station, he died when the train, running well above the speed limit, jumped the rails after a desperate braking attempt approximately one hour later. The engineer reportedly had briefly dozed at the controls as his train rounded a sharp bend in the tracks. A safety feature that might have alerted him and/or stopped the train apparently only works when the diesel engine is pulling the train northbound, not when it is pushing southbound, according to a report in The New York Times.

“...was not a victim. I don’t want him to be known as a victim, said 17-year-old Finn Lovell in an interview with the New York Times. “Jim Lovell was so much more. He was a loving father, a great Dad, a best friend, an uncle, a great co-worker, always had a smile on his face. He never had anything bad to say about anyone. One of the best people you could ever have meet. I am so proud and blessed to say that I could have called him my father.”

 Aside from Finn, Lovell had two other sons, Jack, 15, and Hudson, 12. He is also survived by a daughter, Brooke, from his first marriage. (See obituary.)

The sudden, almost inexplicable passing of Lovell — a popular, genial, always helpful soul. Stunned by this tragic news, we are deeply grieved for the loss of its husband and father. And an entire town has been touched by reading of the circumstances necessitating the donations.

The description of the funding on GoFundMe is as follows: “Today the Hudson Valley community lost an extraordinary human being. Jim Lovell, a loving husband and father, was an incredible neighbor, friend and incredibly kind soul. Stunned by this tragic news, we are coming together to help Nancy, Finn, Jack and Hudson with this campaign.

This GoFundMe page has been created so everyone can easily donate as little or as much as they can. Please feel free to pass this page on to any of your friends/ family who may be interested in participating.”

Other ways to help: hot meals and Christmas presents will be accepted indefinitely at gofundme.com/5jmdbg. Donations can be made with a note to the family, or anonymously, the choice is up to the donor. A look through the comments reveals the depth of affection and support for the family. Some donations have come from those who do not know the family but have been touched by reading of the circumstances necessitating the donations.

The description of the funding on GoFundMe is as follows: “Today the Hudson Valley community lost an extraordinary human being. Jim Lovell, a loving husband and father, was an incredible neighbor, friend and incredibly kind soul. Stunned by this tragic news, we are coming together to help Nancy, Finn, Jack and Hudson with this campaign.

This GoFundMe page has been created so everyone can easily donate as little or as much as they can. Please feel free to pass this page on to any of your friends/family who may be interested in participating.”

Those who prefer to send a check directly to the family, can mail it to: Nancy Montgomery, PO. Box 224, Cold Spring, NY 10516.

Other plans to aid the family are also in the works. Lovell and Montgomery’s colleagues at the Philippstown Depot Theatre have begun planning for a benefit concert in 2014, which will feature both musicians and bands that Lovell and Montgomery enjoyed and presented, often at the Music Tracks evenings at the Depot Theatre to produce music benefit in 2014

By Alison Rooney

Knowing of the economic challenges facing Jim Lovell’s family in the wake of this sudden death, residents of the North Highlands section of Philippstown have raised funds to support the family’s immediate and future needs. GoFundMe was chosen as the funding site because, unlike other crowd funding sites, the money donated goes to the family with no fees deducted.

According to Toby Shemin, one of those friends who set up the funding process, they are no longer adjusting the target goal, as “we decided to let that goal stay and trust that people knew in a situation like this, there will be a need for all kinds of financial help. We assume the funds will go first to immediate funeral expenses and such, but it is entirely up to Nancy how to use the gifts.”

Donations can be made to Nancy Montgomery’s bank account to raise funds to support the family’s immediate and future needs.

(Continued on page 3)

Holiday flora | See Roots and Shoots, page 13

Public Officials React to Train Tragedy

By Liz Schwetzbuk Armstrong

From local to national levels, public officials reacted to Sunday’s Metro-North fatal train derailment with personal sorrow and, in some cases, calls for targeted government involvement in instances necessitating the donations.

Coming at the close of the extended Thanksgiving weekend, the accident on Metro-North’s Hudson Line killed four riders, including Philippstowners Jim Lovell and his wife, Nancy Montgomery, injured more than 60 others. For Philippstown Supervisor Richard Shea, the loss of Lovell hit very close to home — and hard. At more of a distance, those serving in Albany, Washington, and Carmel expressed sadness and suggested ways government might help either prevent future disasters or cope with those that occur.

Like many in Philippstown stunned by the news of the accident, Shea at times spoke in strained, wistful tones as, in a phone conversation Monday afternoon, he remembered Lovell. “Everyone’s heart-broken,” he said. “It’s hard to comprehend what happened.”

Lovell’s wife, Nancy Montgomery, a Town Board member, serves as deputy Philippstown supervisor and works closely with Shea, and both families live in the North Highlands section of Philippstown. In the wake of the tragedy, the Town Board cancelled two meetings this week.

“Our families are close,” Shea said. “Jim was a good friend of mine. He was a good man. It’s hard to imagine he’s gone. I just feel awful about the whole thing, devastated. He was one of the great ones. I’ve known him since I was a little kid.” They have sons the same age and Shea, and both families live in the same neighborhood.

“I’ve known him since I was a little kid,” Shea said. “Everyone is hurting. It’s hard to imagine he’s gone. It’s hard to comprehend what happened.”

(Continued on page 3)

About the Philippstown Paper

The Philippstown Paper is published each Friday by the Phillipstown.info organization.

Friday, December 6, 2013

90 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING, NY 10516 • www.phillipstown.info

The Philippstown Paper

We are happy to have you join us.

Our issue is packed with information about the community, local events, news and more.

Please visit our website at www.phillipstown.info to view our archives.

Thank you for reading the Philippstown Paper.
Comforting Food

By Joe Dinyey

"You have to eat and keep going. Eating is a small, good thing in a time like this." — Raymond Carver, A Small, Good Thing

There are very few things in life you HAVE to do, and no human activity is sustainable without nourishment — you MUST eat. And as long as we’re doing this thing, we may as well be mindful of the processes — preparing, cooking, eating, sharing — and bring to them as much curiosity, craft, honesty and enjoyment as we can.

Yet even after acknowledging this, I really don’t feel much like cooking, or eating. Or writing about cooking or eating. Here in my village by the river — the foundry town that helped build the steel that helps build the cars ultimately lingering, hospitalized, in a coma. The anonymous, oblivious baker from whom she ordered the cake calls hounding her to collect and pay for the cake she ordered.

After the boy ultimately dies, Ann and Howard, her husband, angrily confront the fleshed-out, harried baker working alone in his shop at midnight. Realizing his mistake, he poignantly apologizes, sharing his own feelings of doubt, loneliness, mistake, he poignantly apologizes, sharing his own feelings of doubt, loneliness, childlessness and inadequacy and, in the process, a palpably human sorrow and compassion. His subsequent offerings — cinnamon buns; dark, fragrant bread fresh from the oven — dress the make-shift altar of their shared sorrow. This is communion. This is community.

I don’t really bake — too much science and not enough art; not enough metaphor. The best I can do today is comfort — unsophisticated, unpretentious, familiar. No hyperbole, just fundamentals: warm, soothing, filling — and, well, comforting.

Macaroni and cheese: the original recipe is buried somewhere in history (reportedly a 14th century English au-recipe exists) and the ingredients, culinary motivations and endless variations, extend to almost every culture. Bacon and leeks are my favorite bullet-unnecessary elaborations. (And can we forget truffle oil ever existed?)

Admittedly there are “healthier” food-stuffs to be had, but sometimes the hungers and privations of the spirit and soul take precedence over things that are “good for you.” As that unnamed baker says: “You have to eat and keep going.” WE have to eat and keep going. This is an offering.

(Celia Barbour’s Mouths to Feed will return shortly)

Macaroni and cheese

For the Béchamel sauce

- 7 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 large shallot, minced
- 3/4 cup flour
- 3 cups whole milk
- 1/4 tablespoon grated fresh nutmeg
- 1/2 tablespoon ground white pepper

For the mac and cheese

- 6 oz. cheese, shredded
- 1 cup grated Pecorino Romano cheese
- 6 oz. Fontina cheese, shredded
- 1 cup grated Pecorino Romano cheese
- 1/2 cup unseasoned breadcrumbs
- 1 teaspoon paprika (smoked paprika if available)
- 1 tablespoon olive oil

1. Using 1 tablespoon of the butter, grease a 2½-quart casserole. Bring a large pot of water to boil for the macaroni. Preheat the oven to 350°F.
2. The Béchamel: Warm the milk and have it at the ready as you sauté the shallots in 6 tablespoons of the butter in a 4-5 quart saucepan.
3. Cook until just translucent (about 3 minutes). Over medium heat, evenly sprinkle the flour over the butter and shallots, whisking regularly so that it doesn’t clump or brown for about two minutes. Slowly whisk in warm milk in batches to incorporate it into a creamy sauce. When all the milk is incorporated add the nutmeg and white pepper with just a pinch of salt. Cook until just translucent (about 3 minutes). Over medium heat, evenly sprinkle the flour over the butter and shallots, whisking regularly so that it doesn’t clump or brown for about two minutes. Slowly whisk in warm milk in batches to incorporate it into a creamy sauce. When all the milk is incorporated add the nutmeg and white pepper with just a pinch of salt. Reduce heat to a very low simmer, stirring occasionally while you prepare the macaroni.
4. Prepare macaroni as per package directions, stirring regularly to keep from clumping. While the pasta boils, slowly melt/incorporate the cheddar, the Fontina and 1/2 cup of the Romano into the white sauce, stirring/whisking regularly as it melts.
5. Drain pasta and return it, off heat, to the large cooking pot. Add the Béchamel-cheese sauce and stir to incorporate. Turn the macaroni-cheese mixture into the greased casserole. Place casserole on a middle rack of the oven and bake for 20 minutes.
6. While the casserole bakes, in a small bowl mix the breadcrumbs, remaining Romano, paprika and olive oil with your fingers to a granular consistency. Remove the casserole from the oven after its allotted 20 minutes and sprinkle the breadcrumb-cheese mixture evenly over the top. Return the casserole to the oven and bake for an additional 10-15 minutes until the breadcrumbs just begin to brown. Serve hot.
Many people were eager to do something to harness the intense but potentially deflating energy such an event can generate and transform it into a tangible, productive gesture. An online donation site set up by the organizers to raise $15,000 to cover immediate expenses will likely result in an amount many times that, but the result anywhere but especially for a small town. Others have started a Christmas gift drive and a cooking circle to provide meals and place in the upcoming concert in the new year is underway. (See accompanying article.)

"We would like to express our thanks for the overwhelming outpouring of love and support from our friends, our family, and our hometown. You have been present for us so often during our lives, always say yes and often rearrange his schedule in order to give us much needed assistance," said Amy Duk, executive director of the Philipstown Depot Theatre. 'He always had a lighthearted presence cutting through the tensions of set-building plans that often go awry. Nancy and Jim brought in many international music acts to the Depot Theatre, such as Tuck and Patti, Maia Sharp and Brussels-based pop outfit race Melody. He was deeply involved in detail in setting up sound for these performances and that included skills in both technical areas one day. The world was made a better place when he picked up my son for an activity, that I will never forget. I feel blessed to have seen Jim recently. Just last week, when he phoned me for an activity, I invited him in for a cup of tea. His response was 'I'll get you next time, John.' I'll always feel like I owe Jim that cup of tea, and hope to continue our conversations one day. The world was made a better place by Jim Lovell."

"I was always there to lend a helping hand, volunteering for events at the Depot Theatre and at senior community lunches at the rec center. Whenever we spoke, we would have thoughtful conversations, largely around family and our community, which he loved. He spoke highly of living in Lake Valhalla and the natural beauty of Philipstown. He was genuinely interested in how I was doing, Jim always offered kind words and support that I will never forget. I feel blessed to have seen Jim recently. Just last week, when he phoned me for an activity, I invited him in for a cup of tea. His response was 'I'll get you next time, John.' I'll always feel like I owe Jim that cup of tea, and hope to continue our conversations one day. The world was made a better place by Jim Lovell."

"Jeff Lovell built a full-service consulting career that included skills in both technical areas of media and writing. He had a long relationship as an audio technician with NBC's Today show, which featured the Rockefeller Center tree lighting to his memory."

In 1977 Jim married his first wife, Patricia Minardi of Garrison, settling in Cold Spring, N.Y., in order to give us much needed assistance," said Amy Duk, executive director of the Philipstown Depot Theatre. 'He always had a lighthearted presence cutting through the tensions of set-building plans that often go awry. Nancy and Jim brought in many international music acts to the Depot Theatre, such as Tuck and Patti, Maia Sharp and Brussels-based pop outfit race Melody. He was deeply involved in detail in setting up sound for these performances and that included skills in both technical areas one day. The world was made a better place when he picked up my son for an activity, that I will never forget. I feel blessed to have seen Jim recently. Just last week, when he phoned me for an activity, I invited him in for a cup of tea. His response was 'I'll get you next time, John.' I'll always feel like I owe Jim that cup of tea, and hope to continue our conversations one day. The world was made a better place by Jim Lovell."
Metro-North train tragedy demands investigation

Dec. 3, 2013
To the editor:
Following is text of an email sent to Governor Cuomo.

Dear Gov.,
I’m sure that you share my anger about the Metro-North train derailment and fatalities. What I imagine we both find particularly hard to understand is how this could occur. Regardless of whether the train was out-of-control due to negligence, operator error or equipment failure, it seems quite clear that the people responsible for our safety are not doing their jobs. Could that train have as easily been overtaken by terrorists during rush hour and imploded into Grand Central at an even higher rate of speed? Is it too expensive to install controls for speed limitations? There are many other questions that should have been asked. I would guess that they were. I think ultimately the buck stops with the Metro-North board of directors. Please hold them accountable. My personal feeling is that they as a whole were negligent. There should be a thorough investigation into the Metro-North Board of Directors proceedings and how this event was allowed to happen. We owe that to the victims.

Sincerely,
John Greener, Garrison

Fund for Lovell Family Exceeds $100,000

(from page 1)

Screen shot of the Go Fund Me donation site

advertising  direCtor
Mary Ann Ebner
arts/Feature  editor
Chip Rowe
calendar  editor
Terry Gipson said in a news statement.
other officials call for action
Stony Point
Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong
Garrison School Board
Mary Ellen Odell and other county officials set up a temporary shuttle to link Cold
The supervisor also mentioned the
other fundraising and/or
sen. Kirsten Gillibrand with Nancy Montgomery at a
75 Main St., Cold Spring, will be collecting wrapped
for them. I think they need to
deliver meals should call Grandetti

Public Officials React to Train Tragedy

(from page 1)

and friends. It was fortunate that I had that opportunity last week.”

He and Lovell often talked, and “he had this really calming influence on me personally. He was a great sounding board, a great listener,” Shea added. She cited Lovell’s strong commitment to his family. “He was very proud of his boys and his daughter” and was “this great father,” Shea said. At Lake Valhalla, near their house, “Jim was like one of the boys — doing back-flips off the high dive
board, teaching them to fish. He was full of life. That’s what makes it all the more shocking.”

Shea also added that Lovell was professionally involved in music and sound production and related fields and for a while had his own company, Bull Hill Mu-
sic, that — among other contri-
butions — assisted with a major fundraising concert for the Little
Stony Point Citizen’s Associa-
tion some years ago.

Through his work with the

“Twilight” and network TV, Lovell interacted with big names and famous people, but “there just wasn’t any hype in Jim. He didn’t make a big deal out of it. He didn’t make a big deal out of anything except his family,” Shea said.

Along with music, Lovell was deeply interested in history, Shea said, and pursued research in New York City libraries and at West Point on local military history.
The supervisor also mentioned the outsourcing of reaction in Philipstown to Lovell’s death and the concern for his family. “It’s nice to see there’s so much support [for them]. I think they need to know that anything they need from the town or their federal representatives, we are going to get. The community is rallying around the family, and that’s as it should be.”

Shea had a far different perspective on members of the town’s news media, who, she said, swarmed around the family home Sunday after the tragedy. “That’s a bad b*%h. They went all up there at Jim’s house, harassing the family” and filming.

“I know it’s a news story, but there are boundaries that should not be crossed.”
Gipson, County Legislature
Decry Unfunded Mandates
Legislators observe moment of silence for Lovecl

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Fans of unfunded mandates would’ve found little favor Wednesday night in Carmel, where State Sen. Terry Gipson, a Democrat, got strong support from creating must-do projects and foisting the costs on counties.

The county legislature’s agenda for the evening already included several measures attacking unfunded mandates, and Gipson’s presentation on his attempts to curb them drew loud applause.

Telling the county legislature that he understood all too well the burden of unfunded mandates, Gipson, a first-term senator and former town official in Rhinebeck, outlined three pending legislative initiatives addressing them. His senatorial district includes Philipstown and other parts of western Putnam County.

Although for three decades, members of the state Assembly and Senate have dreamed up mandates, required programs, public services and actions imposed on lower levels of government, “many of which are good ideas, services which we should be providing. But they have a price.” But they’re asking you to do it, which I think is irresponsible” and consumes dollars a county could spend on dealing with in-county needs. “You weren’t elected to take care of New York State,” he said.

“That’s what I was elected to do. It is our responsibility to pay for the ideas we come up with.”

He is promoting three initiatives on mandates:

• An amendment to the state constitution to ban most unfunded mandates
• County payment relief, or CPR, financial aid for counties to help fund existing mandates
• Relief for providing early-intervention programs for at-risk students, involving social services or education

If successful, the latter two could bring Putnam County about $10 million in state aid. “SOUNDS wondrous,” County Legislature Chairman Richard Othmer commented.

Despite the state’s supposed money woes, Gipson said Albany could pay for the mandate aid he envisions, though it might require something like cutting a few state officials’ salaries.” ‘Tis not about the money is there. That’s not the issue.” Rather, he said, the problem is getting action from his state Legislature colleagues, many of whom have served term after term and “lost touch with reality.”

“What are really needed are term limits on the higher levels,” Legislature Dini Leibez proposed.

Gipson agreed and noted that he has sponsored legislation to limit an individual to 16 years total in the State Legislature, Assembly and Senate combined, or 12 years in either chamber. “It’s a very hard thing to get done,” though he re- marked “of all the bills I’ve sponsored.” This “is not a partisan issue,” he added. His co-sponsor in the Assembly is a Republican, Kieran Larson, of Fishkill.

Unlike most counties in New York, Putnam does not return to villages and towns any sales tax collected in them. At the county-budget level, “we survive on the sales tax and property tax,” noted District 1 Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra, a Republican who represents Philipstown.

Gipson sees mandate relief as a boon to sales tax sharing. “If you’re not having to spend all your money paying for Albany’s ideas, you ought to have more to help out your local governments, and it seems like that’s the right place to start,” he said.

In August, the Philipstown Town Board endorsed Gipson’s proposed constitutional amendment on mandates and the senator sought the County Legislature’s backing for this and his other measures as well.

“I don’t think we’ll have any problem doing that,” Scuccimarra assured him.

Legislator Sam Oliverio, the County Legislature’s sole Democrat (though he has also run as a Conservative Party candidate) asked for Gipson’s assistance regarding the state’s Common Core educational standards and testing, a source of much consternation among parents and teachers. “Have them revamp the Common Core. That is bankrupting our school districts,” asserted Oliverio, the assistant principal at Putnam Valley High School.

“I’m all for putting this whole Common Core on hold, finding a better way to do that,” Gipson replied.

Among other senatorial causes, Gipson mentioned assistance to military veterans. “He’s very pro-veteran and he does a lot of good work,” Othmer observed.

Among other topics, Gipson also brought up the fatal Dec. 1 Metro-North Railroad train accident that killed Philipstown resident Jim Lovell and three other riders and injured dozens more.

“We’re very much keeping tabs on the Metro-North situation,” he said. “While our heart goes out to the families – Philipstown is obviously suffering very much – we are committed to holding MTA and Metro-North accountable, to making sure it does not happen again and that they put in place the safety mechanisms needed to do that.” He promised the legislators “to keep you posted on that as well.”

When Gipson asked his fellow legislators to have other concerns to talk about, nothing came up. “Just keep on doing what you’re doing,” Scuccimarra told him.

After Gipson left, the legislature unanimously approved a set of resolutions attacking various mandates and seeking cost-sharing, or addressing related matters.

One resolution, proposed by Oliverio, requests that the state “abandon the hurried rush to compliance” with the Common Core “and take the time needed to set it right, emphasizing the needs of students.” Another, arguing that “other states throughout the country have been known to send people to New York State to receive benefits” and the county consequently “has experienced an influx of out-of-state residents” claiming welfare, “resulting in an increase of hundreds of thousands of dollars to county taxpayers,” asks that the state “establish a residency requirement for receiving welfare benefits.”

Before adjourning, at Scuccimarra’s suggestion the legislature observed a moment of silence for Lovell, whom she described as “a gentle, quiet man” who “will be sorely missed in our community.”

Above, Nick DePaolis of Cedar Hill Maintenance strings lights on one of six Main Street trees decorated by The Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. To the left, volunteer Mike Chefaio helped decorate the village Christmas tree in preparation for the lighting ceremony scheduled for 6 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 7, at the riverfront bandstand. Santa Claus will also pay a visit. Photos by M. Turton

Fiana, County Legislature

December 6, 2013

www.philipstown.info www.philipstown.info
Van Brunt Projects curates exhibitions at Hudson Beach Glass and St. Mary’s Church

By Alison Rooney

A
ger running one of Beacon’s first noteworthy art galleries – the Van Brunt Gallery – for an eight-year stint, Carl Van Brunt closed up shop in 2010. He opted to take a position as gallery director at the Woodstock Artists Association and Museum (WAAM) and to curate and produce exhibitions independently. Van Brunt, and his wife, Suzanne Ball – now under the banner of Van Brunt Projects – have done just that in recent years.

The latest project, an exhibition of works by Mary Anne Erickson, called Vanishing Roadside, is now open at the upstate gallery at Hudson Beach Glass in Beacon. Van Brunt Projects largely focuses on “pop-up” exhibits, art fairs, and short exhibitions. Van Brunt says that Ball, “has a great feel for the process of picking art.” At WAAM Van Brunt does not function as a curator, but instead handles things like communications, budgets and infrastructure, while the many main gallery shows themselves, featuring works submitted by members, are juried by outside people. His contribution to deciding what is shown there is largely in helping to select these jurors, who are ideally not tied to the Woodstock art community, insuring impartiality.

“This keeps the level up,” says Van Brunt. “Two other galleries contain solo shows by contemporary artists and works from the permanent collection respectively. One advantage to working in this capacity, is that Van Brunt is exposed to an enormous number of artists (there are more than 200 members of WAAM) working in quite a large region, and then, when opportunities for independently produced shows elsewhere open up, he is able to call upon this familiarity and determine which artist or artists might be a good fit with the projected exhibition.

Such was the case this time, when, at short notice, the gallery space at Hudson Beach Glass became available for a key time period. Van Brunt thought that Erickson’s paintings would work well there and, a couple of weeks later, a show was born. “All of the artists aspire to transcend the region,” says Van Brunt, “and I’m able to help some of them where their point of view and my point of view converges in the wider sense.” Van Brunt Projects had previously produced a show, Route 28 at the gallery nearly three years ago, which featured the work of seven artists whose “aesthetic was in keeping with the Route 28 area,” describes Van Brunt.

Each of Erickson’s Vanishing Roadside paintings has a story to tell. These vivid photo-realist images tell a visual story about America’s roadside architectural marvels, those diners, gas stations, roadside stands, and auto courts, which once (and increasingly rarely still) dotted the automotive landscape. Erickson has been lured off the highway documenting these places for more than 30 years. In her blog, vanishingroadside.com/blog/ she engagingly tells the story behind each painting, including how she came to photograph it, its history, its current situation and more. An excerpt from her artist statement reads:

“My love of our uniquely American road-side culture is born out of my childhood …

In the 1950’s post-war America there was a sense of adventure when you set out on a “road trip.” The whole country was a vacation playground with family-owned “mom and pop” motels, restaurants, and diners catering to travelers with their regional themes and local food specialties. Each business did their best to create a unique name, sign, or building that would attract attention and boost their notoriety. But the beginning of the end came in 1956 with the opening of the Interstate Highway system. Simultaneously, “modern” motel chains such as Holiday Inn fascinated travelers, further undermining the old roadways and their related small businesses. Some relics still remain, abandoned, but many have been torn down to make room for a new strip mall or parking lot. I have enjoyed seeking out the icons that remain, and memorializing them for future generations to appreciate! … I started this work in the early 1980s immortalizing some of my favorite Florida motels; as time has passed my fascination with this theme has continued to grow. I’ve come to realize that my passion for preserving these treasures from the past is truly my artistic legacy.”

Van Brunt Projects has a number of forthcoming ventures. In conjunction with the Handel’s Messiah concert at St. Mary’s Church on Dec. 22, they are curating a show called Spiritualized, which will contain art with some spiritual component, loosely defined, “unorthodox and without iconic references,” says Ball. It will include works in a variety of media by Jane Bloodgood, Melanie Einzig, Leonard Freed, Thomas Hubert, Tony Moore, Joel O’Dorisio, Doug and Mike Starn, and Van Brunt himself. There will also be a floor-to-ceiling video by Patrick Kelley in which images of 175 cathedrals cross-dissolve. The exhibit will be open on Dec. 21, at a reception from 6 to 8 p.m., and again from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Dec. 22. A portion of any sales will be donated to St. Mary’s.

In January, Van Brunt will curate a show of works by James Westwater, titled Edge Ponies, at Beacon’s Mad Dooley Gallery. Westwater is a former Beacon resident who moved to Texas, and is returning for a visit. Van Brunt describes his work as “post-post-modern and conceptually very minimalistic small abstracts.” Some of these works are related to a residency he had in Lisbon, where much of this work will be shown later in 2014.

Vanishing Roadside runs through Dec. 21, it had a soft opening on Nov. 23, and there will be an artist’s reception from 6 to 9 p.m. on Second Saturday, Dec. 14. Visit vanbruntprojects.com. Also: Vanishingroadside.com Maryannerickson.com Jameswestwater.com

Suzanne Ball and Carl Van Brunt in front of one of Mary Anne Erickson’s paintings at the Vanishing Roadside exhibit at Hudson Beach Glass

PHILIPSTOWN DEPOT THEATRE

PHILIPSTOWN YOUTH PLAYERS present: Treasure Island
by Robert Louis Stevenson, adapted by Diana Hind, directed by Jenn Lee and Diana Hind Friday, Dec. 6 at 7pm, Saturday, Dec. 7 at 3pm and 6pm Sunday, Dec. 15 at 2pm, Sunday, Dec. 15 at 6pm • Tickets $12

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

Treasure Island II: What Happened Next, A Play Reading
Saturday, Dec. 14 at 1pm, Sunday, Dec. 15 at 2pm • Tickets $5 at the door

Family Dance and Fundraiser

Hosted by Suzi Tortera's Dancing Dialogue & Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce First Friday on Main StreetWhere: 28 Main Street, Cold Spring

Where: 28 Main Street, Cold Spring
When: December 6, 2013 at 6:30 - 7:45PM

Donation of your choice, proceeds will go towards The Friends of Philipstown Recreation Department Philipstown Park Pavilion Project.

Friends of Philipstown Recreation
Dia:Beacon
Opening the collection and connecting with community
By Alison Rooney

Dia:Beacon, which celebrated its 10th anniversary earlier this year, is actively engaging with the local and regional community and hopes to continue to expand and enrich programming and educational outreach. With a managing director, Susan Batton, who lives locally, Dia intends to forge real community connections. It is actively involved in BACA — Beacon Arts Community Association, which has brought in local business Homespun Foods to manage its café, and has collaborated with hometown institutions like Clearwater, the Garrison Institute and Beacon Music Factory's Stephen Clair on events open to those from neighboring communities — including Philipstown — free of charge.

The museum is thriving; last year it saw 80,000 visitors, while 30,000 people viewed Dia's collection of art from the 1960s to the present October alone. Along with the many permanent single-artist, site-specific galleries designed to present that particular artist's work, there are changing exhibitions, new commissions, and a host of activities designed to produce greater interaction between the public and the collection. These activities range from monthly gallery talks — traditional and scholarly lectures — to more experiential activities designed for varying age levels. Dia Art Foundation's Director of Communications Melissa Parsoff says, "We find that once people come and engage, the work is much easier for them to wrap their brains around. It's fascinating to see." Dia's Manager of Education April Lee expanded on this: "We're still finding ways to open the collection up. We learn from our visitors, seeing the way they approach and understand the work."

On quarterly Community Free Days, (CFD) residents of counties from Columbia down to Westchester — Dutchess and Putnam included — are invited to partake of a host of activities, including programs for children, workshops for all ages, as well as collection tours and gallery talks. The programming is intentionally diverse and designed for different types of learners. Examples of activities from CFDs earlier this year included a Mark-Making with Sound program for kids; a session co-led by Lee and Maija Niemisto, Clearwater's director of shipboard programs, examining unique approaches to environmental activism, with a focus on the work of Clearwater founder Pete Seeger and Dia artists such as Walter De Maria, Joseph Beuys, and Robert Smithson; an 'origami lab' interactive tour and workshop for teens; a session co-led by Lee and Maija Niemisto, Clearwater's director of shipboard programs, examining unique approaches to environmental activism, with a focus on the work of Clearwater founder Pete Seeger and Dia artists such as Walter De Maria, Joseph Beuys, and Robert Smithson; an 'origami lab' interactive tour and workshop for teens.

The next CFD, to be held in January, will focus on movement-based awareness of internal landscapes, as well as its connection to the galleries. There will also be a time capsule project involving the community. Dia also offers free admission for City of Beacon residents every Saturday and Sunday. Dia considers its education component thoughtfully, says Lee. "We take cues from how we work with artists. In our work with our educators, first of all we take care in our selection, whether it is for museum guides or the educators on CFDs. We try to provide support and the tools to commission an educational experience which meets our standards and pushes our boundaries." For example, Alii Ross, who will be leading a movement workshop in January was invited to Dia to spend time in the gallery, with a goal, says Lee, of "coming to understand the space and the collection, thereby giving her both the knowledge and the freedom to create something in response to the space. It's the same approach we have with musicians, scientists: to produce a workshop grounded in the space it is in." Parsoff adds, "We've done this with all our dance programs, whether it’s Merce Cunningham, Yvonne Rainer or Steve Paxton — it’s very important that it’s a response to the space."

Dia invests in their guides, those presenting the collection as a whole, or guides who speak specifically on a temporary exhibition, for example the major retrospective on sculptor Carl Andre (the first since the 1970s) opening next May and running.

(Continued on page 14)
The Calendar
Looking for things to do in and around Philipstwon? Grab The Calendar and go. For more details and ongoing events, visit philipstown.info. Send event listings to calendar@philipstown.info. See you around town!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6
First Friday in Cold Spring
Kids & Community
Holiday Boutique
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-2300 | desmondfishlibrary.org
Young Adult Connections Group
3 - 5 p.m. Howland Public Library
315 Main St, Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org
Wine Tasting
4 - 7 p.m. Artisan Wine Shop
180 Main St, Beacon
845-440-6593 | artisantinewineshop.com
Wine & Cheese
5 - 8 p.m. Antipodean Bookshop
29 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3807 | antipodean.com
The Lion in Winter (Reading)
6 p.m. Mount Saint Mary College, New York
845-758-2204 | msmc.catskillmall.com
Art & Design
Opening
6 - 8 p.m. Artisan Wine Shop
63 Main St, Cold Spring
845-265-2204 | themarinagallery.com

Saturday, December 7
Kids & Community
Tag Sale
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Beavie Blaze Beacon | 291 Main St., Beacon
845-765-8590 | beaconblaze.com
Cold Spring Farmers’ Market
8 a.m. - 10 a.m. St. Mary’s Church, Cold Spring
845-424-4618 | philipstowndemocracy.com
Food Pantry
9 - 10 a.m. First Presbyterian Church
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-205-5220 | presbyteriancoldspring.org
Recycling Center Open
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. 59 Lake Road, Cold Spring
845-coldspringgov
Babysitter Training Class
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. St. Basil’s Academy
79 Saint Basil Academy, Garrison
845-222-0676 | redcrossbabysittercourse.com
Christmas Fair
9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. St. Mary’s Church
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-426-2539 | stmaryscoldspring.org
Philips Community Center
10 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Build a Gingerbread House
10 a.m. Holiday Ceramic Workshop (ages 7 & up)
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstowndemocracy.com
Holiday Felt Ornaments Workshop
10 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Build a Gingerbread House
10 a.m. Holiday Ceramic Workshop (ages 7 & up)
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstowndemocracy.com
Holiday Ornaments Workshop
10 a.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | garrisonartcenter.com
Green Workshop
10 a.m. School of Jellyfish
183 Main St., Beacon
845-440-8017 | schoolofjellyfish.com
Family Music Show with Gino Samardzi
10:30 a.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-424-4618 | philipstowndemocracy.com
Holiday Boutique
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Friday.
Ornament Making (ages 3 and up)
10:30 a.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St, Beacon
845-424-1134 | beaconlibrary.org
Soup Kitchen
11 a.m. Presbyterian Church
50 Liberty St., Beacon
845-424-1134 | beaconlibrary.org
Holiday Party and Santa Visit
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave, Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

(To next page)
Annual Wreath Sale
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D, Garrison | 845-424-3689 | gufs.org

Holiday Craft Invitational Show & Sale
Noon - 5 p.m. Putnam Arts Council
See details under Friday.

Cold Spring by Candlelight
2 - 4 p.m. Monticello | 584 Route 9D, Garrison | 845-424-3812 | russiaartcenter.org

Holiday Market and Carnival
2 - 7 p.m. Bank and Division, Peekskill | downtownpeekskill.com | Tree lighting at 4:30 p.m.

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

Code Springers (ages 5-14)
4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library | codespringers.org

Night of 10,000 Lights
3 - 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center | 477 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

The UV Portfolio
464 MAIN STREET, BEACON, NY 12508 | 845-440-7901 | FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 12 - 5 | SUNDAY 12 - 4

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ONE-OF-A-KIND, EXPERIMENTAL, COLOR WOODCUTS BY 13 ARTISTS

Lament of an Expat
How I discovered America and tried to mend it.
Leonora Burton

"It's best to read it with a gin and tonic at your elbow."
~ Literary critic, Kathy Scanlon

"Aren't we giving too much space to this damned book? It's not War and Peace."
~ Newspaper publisher, Gordon Stewart

"The book has pictures, which is nice, but only a tiny one of me on the cover, which is not nice."
~ Columnist, Tara

"I couldn't pick it up so I couldn't put it down."
~ Scribbler, F. Scott Fitzgerald

Buy it at Antipodean Books, Country Touch or Country Goose.
Wishing you a wonderfilled and joyous holiday season

BEACON: THE SPIRIT OF HOLIDAYS REIMAGINED

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SECOND SATURDAY DECEMBER 14

Lighting of the BeaconArts Bicycle Christmas Tree
Saturday, December 14; 4:30 pm; Cross and Main Streets
Dancing, singing, making merry - and Santa has promised to come and light the tree himself! Second Saturday festivities await you on Main Street Beacon at the conclusion of the lighting.

Sponsored by The City of Beacon, BeaconArts, People’s Bicycle, and The Beacon Music Factory

CHECK BEACONARTS.ORG FOR MORE INFO AND EVENTS
North Highlands Engine Co. #1 Prepares for Shootings

The North Highlands Engine Co. # 1 Santa Claus will tour on his big red sleigh on Sunday, Dec. 15, bringing holiday spirit and treats for children. Santa will follow his schedule as closely as possible. Please be patient and dress warmly. The tour includes dedicated stops along wide roads with low traffic, which provides a safe area for Santa and children to meet.

Schedule

Route #1
Noon: (siren sounds) Truck departs headquarters and proceeds to intersection of Rt. 9 and East Mountain Road South.
12:30 p.m.: Santa tours Hiram Rd., Joanne Place, Perk ‘n Soms Court, and Perquiem Rd.
12:45 p.m.: Santa returns to East Mountain Road South to Fenichel Road, through Fenichel to Clove Brook Drive to end at cul-de-sac.
1:15 p.m.: Santa proceeds back to Oak Ridge, to Hy-Vue Terrace, touring Hy-Vue, to East Mountain Road South.
1:45 p.m.: Santa turns left at the intersection of East Mountain Road South, stopping at Downway Lane and in the area of Carlsoo Greenshorne.
2 p.m.: Santa continues on East Mountain Road South to intersection with Esselbourne. Residents of East Mountain Road South and North (above Esselbourne), and Esselbourne are asked to meet at this intersection.

Tour trucks to NHFD headquarters for a break.
2:30 p.m.: Santa proceeds north on Route 9 to intersection of Route 9 and Horta Road.
2:40 p.m.: Santa proceeds north to Brookside Trailer Park.
2:50 p.m.: Santa proceeds to tour Old Alpine Post Road North and Mountain Brook Drive.
3:05 p.m.: Santa stops at Cold Spring Trailer Park.
3:15 p.m.: Santa proceeds north to Brookside Trailer Park.
3:20 p.m.: Santa continues touring drawer Road.
3:30 p.m.: Santa continues south on Route 9, stopping at intersection of Hustis, Beale, and Woods Road.
3:45 p.m.: Santa tours Woods Road and remains on Beale Road.
1 p.m.: Santa continues on Barrett Pond Road to Valhalla Highland area for a break on stop on Highland Road at mailboxes.
1:20 p.m.: From Highland Road, Santa travels to Hustis Road, stopping at intersection of Hustis, Beale, and Woods Roads.
1:45 p.m.: Santa continues touring Hustis Road, traveling to Knollwood Drive and then Knollwood Drive to cul-de-sac.

Santa returns to NHFD headquarters for a break.
2:20 p.m.: Santa proceeds south on Route 9, making a stop at parking lot at intersection of Jaycox Road. Residents of Jaycox Road are asked to meet Santa in this area.
2:55 p.m.: Santa continues south on Route 9 to Post Road Hardware store where residents of Lane Gate Road are asked to meet Santa.
3:10 p.m.: Traveling north on Route 9, Santa enters Post Road Trailer Park, and tours park grounds.
3:30 p.m.: Santa’s last stop will be at Torch Road and Route 9.
If you live on a high-traffic road (Rt. 9, Rt. 301), please meet Santa at designated stops, which were chosen for safety reasons. It allows Santa room to get his overgrown sled off the road. Be careful with children near roads, for as you all know, traffic is heavy this time of year.

If you have questions or special circumstances, such as an ill or handicapped person (child or adult), who would like to see Santa and his elves, call NHFD at 845-265-9905, ext. 11. If no answer, leave a message. Santa will do his best to accommodate everyone.

Gallery 66 NY Features Taking Precedence and Thinking Small

Visitors are invited to Gallery 66 NY for a reception from 6 to 9 p.m. on Dec. 6, featuring live music and refreshments, shopping, and an opportunity to meet featured artists.

December’s Exhibit in Gallery A is Taking Precedence, featuring artists Rick Thurston and Lisa Zukowski. These artists revisit and reflect on images over the passage of time through their treks on land and sea. A devoted lifelong sailor, Thurston has expressed his love of the sea through his mesmerizing painting. Painter, sculptor and multimedia fabricator Zukowski seeks patterns everywhere in the world around her – and she draws her inspiration from them. Featured in Galleries B and C is Thinking Small, an exhibition of art pieces created for the holiday season. Taking Precedence and Thinking Small will be on view from Dec. 6 through Dec. 29, at 66 Main St., Cold Spring. Call 845-809-5838, or visit gallery66ny.com.
Maloney to Host Small Business Workshop

On Monday, Dec. 9, from 8 a.m. to noon, Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney will host a free workshop for small businesses.

Roots and Shoots

Holiday Flora

By Pamela Doan

Holiday plants leave me feeling sad. Festive, holiday specific, and disposable once the season is past. Although I love them as decor, tossing them out in January or February feels like a waste. I have a hard time killing a plant deliberately just to get it out of the house, but would where the Valentine’s Day roses go? Or the Easter tulips and spring lilies? Sacrifices must be made. Or not. If you’re looking for an ongoing relationship with your holiday plants, here are some tips for extending the life of some of the most popular.

Poinsettias are especially difficult for me, to dispose of after the holidays. Although their graceful hues symbolize the season more so than any other for me, making them last past January requires precise care and maintenance. If only I lived in Mexico, where poinsettia grow natively to 10-foot shrubs, then it would be a joy to have them around, but here in Philipstown, not so practical.

In order to get their colorful leaves - bracts, not actual flowers - poinsettia need long nights. At least five days with 12 hours of darkness, putting them in the category of “short day” plants. You’ll have to keep this in mind before committing to maintaining a poinsettia. Into early spring, the poinsettia will keep its colors and more shoots will appear. It will flower on new growth next winter, so cut back the old flowering stems to 4-6 inches and shape the plant as you prune, leaving a few leaves on each stem. Feed it with a houseplant fertilizer twice a month.

Over the summer, the poinsettia can be repotted to a larger pot or put in the ground outside in a warm, sunny location. Keep it well watered. Bring it inside again in September well before the first frost. The plant must be kept in total darkness from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. every day for about 10 weeks at a temperature between 60 and 70 degrees to flower again. This dormant period ends when you start to see the colorful bracts again and then it’s ready to be moved back into the warmth and light. Amaryllis, a bulb, is an easy to grow and showy plant with dramatic flowers. At this time of year, amaryllis can be found at many stores, nurseries and garden centers pre-potted and ready to bloom. Ranging in price anywhere from $50 to $97, these kits don’t take much thought or care to set up. Remove from the box and follow the instructions. Basically the alternative is to purchase your own bulbs from an online nursery and pot your own with a bare root bulb. Since this is another tropical favorite, you can’t plant it outside and expect it to survive in our zone. To save your amaryllis from the-compost pile after it’s done blooming, cut back the stalks to about 2 inches from the top of the bulb. It’s going to need to replenish its food reserves and have a dormant period before next winter in order to bloom again. Give it a standard houseplant fertilizer once a month through the summer. It can be planted outside in June in full sun, but you’ll have to dig it up again in September and re-plant it. At the end of September, place the pot in a cool, dark location and stop watering it to trigger a dormant period. It needs eight to ten weeks of dormancy to produce those wonderful blooms again. Fifty to 65 degrees is best, let the foliage wither and cut it off. Mark the calendar, and after ten weeks, bring it back into the warmth and light and start watering it again. Wait to see your efforts pay off with gorgeous stalks of two to four blooms again. Finally, narcissus or paperwhites are in the difficult family and are the first to bloom through the darkest days of winter, brightening up inner rooms. White Flower Farms online growing guide had a depot open selling paperwhites in multiple dozen bulbs and stagger planting them at intervals for an ongoing display of color. Paperwhites require little more than soil and water to bloom, making them the least sensitive to temperature and light out of the three and the easiest to successfully grow. However, these bulbs won’t bloom again, it’s one-time deal. Add them to the compost pile when they’re finished with their show.

Jazz Vocalist Michelle LeBlanc Performs Dec. 13 in Peekskill

Jazz vocalist Michelle LeBlanc will perform from 7 to 10 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13, at Division Street Grill in Peekskill. LeBlanc brings a repertoire of evocative songs to the stage. She will be joined by Hiroshi Yamazaki on piano. For dinner reservations, call 914-759-6890. Division Street Grill is located at 26 North Division St., Peekskill. Visit divisionstreetgrill.com and micheleleblanc.com.

Toy Drive Begins for Putnam Children in Need

Putnam County Sheriff Donald B. Smith is asking area residents to support this year’s Putnam Community Action Program Annual Toy Drive for the Christmas and Hanukkah holidays for children in need in Putnam County.

The program is seeking donations of new, unwrapped toys or gifts for children between the ages of newborn and 18. Donors are invited to drop off items at the Sheriff’s Office headquarters located off Fair Street in Carmel, at the Town of Kent Police Department, located on Route 52 in Kent, at the Community Action Program Headquarters located at 121 Main St., Brewster, or at banks and businesses participating in the Toys-for-Tots Program sponsored by the Marine Corps League.

Wreath-laying Ceremony Set for Dec. 14 in Fishkill

On Saturday, Dec. 14, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Van Wyck Homestead Museum, 504 U.S. Route 9, Fishkill, the preservation group Friends of the Fishkill Supply Depot will lead the public in a wreath-laying ceremony held as part of the nationwide Wreaths Across America (WAA) event. All are welcome to attend. New York State Sen. Terry Gipson, Duchess County legislator Will P. Tatum III, and Fishkill Town Supervisor Bob LaColla will be among attendees. Visit fishkillsupplydepot.org.

Valley Restaurant

(from previous page) sonal American cuisine showcasing fresh products from the property’s own Garrison Farm as well as other regional farms. Under the direction of Executive Chef Vin Mocarski and Pastry Chef Laura DiGiorno, Valley will feature a 2014 winter menu.

World’s End Bar – adjacent to Valley and sharing the new winter hours – features signature cocktails and beers, and a lounge menu of small plate fare. The Garrison is located at 2015 U.S. Route 9, Garrison. Visit TheGarrison.com or call 845-424-3604.
A talk at one of the 2012 Community Free Days. Photo by Erin Gisler

Teens occupy their own niche within Dia’s educational programming. “We wanted to shift away from traditional structures, and we also wanted to be more inclusive, reaching out to teens throughout Dutchess County and places like Newburgh,” said Lee.

This past year a summer program was developed wherein 16 teenagers were asked to ponder the question “What is the role of a museum in a city?” The teens were recruited through visits to five public schools, along with the Newburgh YMCA.

“Getting the word out. ‘We covered the costs of their transportation to the museum, provided lunches and a stipend. We really wanted to make sure there were no socio-economic boundaries. We asked them to think about what the best ways are for a museum to be connected to a community’,” Lee said.

In collaboration with the Center for Urban Pedagogy, the students interviewed curators, met with the director of education at MOMA, and the chief ambassador for the Tenenent Museum, as well as with former Beacon Mayor, Clara Lou Gould, who discussed the work done by the city to procure a museum. The students also participated in a roundtable with State Sen. Terry Gipson. They created a work based on their findings creating imaginary utopian/dystopian museums of the future. “It was a lot of work,” said Lee, “but so rewarding, and our goal is to step back and support a space for them to create.”

Some of the findings were revelatory and connected to the museum as a whole. Lee explains: “One student told us that ‘my parents didn’t have the prior knowledge to engage with the space and they felt intimidated.’ This showed us that we need to work to make the concepts more accessible; that’s the most profound way to outreach...It sounds simple, but it takes a lot of work to get it right, but it’s essential because this work isn’t meant to be intimidating.”

The next Community Free Day takes place on Jan. 11, 2014, and, along with the movement workshop, will feature Christopher Bennett speaking on the current Alighiero e Boetti exhibit at 2 p.m. For more information, visit diaart.org/.
Ladies Afternoon
Join us Saturday, December 7th
12-4pm
Champagne & Shopping
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