



ThePaper



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See Page 4

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2015

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A Colorful Start to the Holidays

Temperatures were chilly and the wind brisk in Garrison as Winter Hill hosted its fourth annual tree lighting, left, on Thursday, Dec. 3, complete with blazing wood fires, hot cider, hot chocolate, bountiful food and carols by the Walter Hoving Home Choir. In Cold Spring, above, a long-standing tradition continued on Sunday, Dec. 6, with the lighting of the Christmas tree at the riverfront



bandstand. The Cold Spring Recreation Commission provided cookies and hot drinks. And, as it has for many years, the Cold Spring Fire Company brought Santa Claus to the festivities aboard a large red fire truck, much to the delight of the children (and parents) anxiously awaiting his arrival. Look for our com-

plete holiday photo galleries online at Philipstown.info. Happy holidays to all!

Photos by Michael Turton

See video of the choirs of the Hudson Highlands at Philipstown.info.

Federal Bill a Maloney Victory

Congressional action consistent with advocacy

By Kevin E. Foley

The recently passed five-year, \$305 billion congressional budget for national transportation and infrastructure upgrades represents a legislative victory for Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney. The Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST), which obtained increasingly rare bipartisan support, essentially reauthorizes funds for a wide-swath of highway, bridge, transportation safety and public-transit projects across the country over a sustained period rather than having an annual congressional argument over funding levels.

The legislation is expected to bring \$16.5 billion in funding to New York state over the next five years, according to Sen. Chuck Schumer, who leveraged his seniority to boost funding for mass transit and road projects, especially in New York City.

Notably, Congress did not raise the federal gasoline tax, a traditional source of highway funding, to fund the FAST legislation.

Maloney, a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, has made advocacy of rail safety and bridge and road upgrades a hallmark of his three-year tenure in office. His 18th District, which includes Philipstown and Beacon, covers a broad area of the Hudson Valley on both sides of the river. Crisscrossed with highways and bridges, the district is served by Metro-North and Amtrak as well as a major freight line on the west side of the river.

Bipartisan approaches to legislation and closer cooperation between government agencies and the private sector are also themes Maloney has stressed consistently.

"Since day one, I've worked across the aisle with local, state, and federal officials to make critical investments in infrastructure to strengthen our communities, grow our economy and create jobs," he said in a statement. "I'm proud that this bill continues our record of delivering results, particularly the provisions I authored to help make life better for my neighbors in the Hudson Valley."

Among the legislation Maloney successfully inserted into the final bill are:

- The Public-Private Partnership Infrastructure Investment Act, which aims to make it easier for private entities to work with transportation agencies on project planning, execution and financing.
- The Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety Act, which creates \$50 million in funding to make track crossings safer with better signals and other

(Continued on Page 3)



Outgoing CSFC Chief Josh DiNardo

Photo by M. Turton

When Hikers Get Hurt, Firefighters Respond

Cold Spring called 17 times this year

By Michael Turton

Josh DiNardo will remove his chief's hat, emblematic of his position as the lead firefighter with the Cold Spring Fire Company (CSFC), at the end of the year. It's a hat he's worn since January 2014, in a role that required him to take charge of responses to a variety of serious incidents, from structure fires and traffic accidents to drownings and trail rescues. DiNardo was a key player on Nov. 30, 2014, helping to lead the dramatic rescue of a local teenager who had become stranded on a narrow, rocky ledge in an abandoned quarry just outside Cold Spring.

Rescuing lost, injured or stranded hikers has taken on a higher profile of late due to a pronounced increase in the popularity of area trails. A roundtable discussion on Dec. 2 among the agencies involved looked at possible improvements in how agencies, including local fire companies, respond to trail users who find themselves in trouble.

Most incidents take place on lands owned by New York *(Continued on Page 4)*

Housing Boom in Beacon in 2016

Hundreds of new units planned to open

By Jeff Simms

More than 400 apartments and condominiums — overlooking the Hudson River, atop Main Street businesses and filling repurposed industrial buildings — have been approved for construction in Beacon, with many more under review by the city's Planning Board. As many as 100 new units, many of them rentals, could be ready for occupancy in 2016.

"This is the hottest I've ever seen it," said Timothy Dexter, Beacon's building inspector. "It's like a snowball; everybody wants to go to Beacon."

Here is a summary of the largest approved developments:

- The Lofts at Beacon, a conversion of several former textile buildings, will add 114 live/work studio apartments on Front Street between Route 52 and Fishkill Creek.
- 248 Tioronda is slated to include 100 market-rate units along Fishkill Creek, several blocks south of Main Street.
- The Roundhouse complex, which opened in 2012 in the heart of Beacon's business district and includes a restaurant, hotel and events center, will add 78 units creekside.
- Two new developments will add 70 and 50 units, respectively, on land near the Beacon train station over-

looking the Hudson River.

- The former St. Francis Hospital site on Hastings Drive has been approved for conversion to 68 senior housing units.

In addition, several smaller developments, ranging from a handful of apartments to as many as 50 units, are in the city's pipeline.

Dexter said he believes Beacon's proximity and relative affordability continues to draw people from New York City. "The economy has changed [for the better] and Beacon is a desirable place," he said. "And the developers see that the city is investing in itself."

Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress, a nonprofit think tank, recently released its Annual Housing Report, which indicated that the *(Continued on Page 5)*

Roots and Shoots

Gifts for Gardeners

These books will get them through the off-season

By Pamela Doan

With visions of juicy tomatoes and fat bumblebees dancing in our heads, gardeners are gazing out the window, thinking about a spring thaw and the possibilities. Here are Roots and Shoots’ recommendations for books as holiday gifts that could satisfy anyone on your list who likes to get their hands down in the soil.

Native Plants of the Northeast: A Guide for Gardening and Conservation by Donald J. Leopold

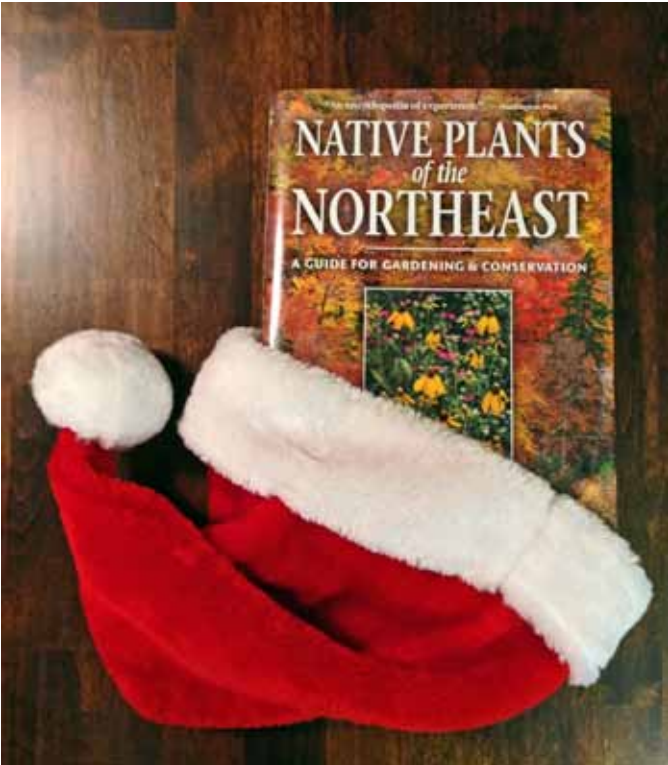
Leopold is a professor of environmental and forest biology at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and has been studying native plants in their ecosystems for decades. This hard-cover guide is detailed and filled with photographs and descriptions of hundreds of vines, shrubs, flowers, grasses and trees that are native to our area. It’s an invaluable resource for anyone interested in ecologically sensitive landscaping. Available from the New York Botanical Garden (nybgshop.org).

Seeing Seeds: A Journey into the World of Seedheads, Pods, and Fruit by Robert Llewellyn and Teri Dunn Chace

This lush book will appeal to anyone who wants to understand more about botany and plant functions but doesn’t want a textbook. The photos have gotten high praise and it looks like a serious visual treat as well as a fascinating exploration of the lives of seeds. Available from Timber Press (timberpress.com).

How to Identify Plants by H. D. Harrington

If you don’t know what’s in the landscape around you, it’s hard to understand it. This book was first published in the 1950s but its illustrations and glossary still stand out for anyone who wants to classify plants. It’s been updated with digital enhancements but just appreciate how all of it was hand-drawn for the first edition. Available from the New York Botanical Garden (nybgshop.org).



What gardener wouldn’t like to see this under the tree?

Photo by P. Doan

The New Shade Garden: Creating a Lush Oasis in the Age of Climate Change by Kenneth Druse

Published earlier this year, this book approaches landscaping and gardening in the context of extreme weather, rising temperatures and erratic precipitation. Plants and trees sequester carbon, of course, and shade gardens can be beautiful and effective tools. This guide includes plant lists, basic topics and more advanced advice about how to extend an existing shade garden. Available from McNally Jackson Booksellers (mcnally-jackson.com).

Onward and Upward in the Garden By Katherine White, with an introduction by E. B. White

White was the fiction editor of *The New Yorker* for 34 years and also published her own essays in the magazine as a gardening columnist in the 1950s. This collection of her essays was gathered by E.B. White after her death and published in the 1970s. Katherine White began by review-

ing gardening catalogues with a witty and incisive style. *The New York Review of Books* reissued the collection this year and her deep appreciation for the natural world will get anyone through the long, cold winter. Available from McNally Jackson Booksellers (mcnallyjackson.com).

Noah’s Garden: Restoring the Ecology of Our Own Backyards by Sara Stein

This book, first published in 1993, has been recommended to me dozens of times. It’s considered to be the bible for an environmental approach to gardening naturally and in harmony with your ecosystem. If you have either a new gardener who is looking for a way forward or someone with an established garden who wants to change their approach, this gift will hit the mark. Available at Amazon.com.

Attracting Native Pollinators by the Xerces Society

Bee populations are crashing and our home landscapes lacking in pollinator-friendly plants contribute to their difficulties. This guide from the Xerces Society, a nonprofit with decades of experience protecting and preserving pollinators and butterflies and other invertebrates, includes plant lists for different regions for home gardeners who want to create pollinator-friendly landscapes through the seasons. Available at xerces.org.

The Hudson Primer, The Ecology of an Iconic River by David L. Strayer

Want to look out on the Hudson and better understand how it works and the aquatic life it supports? Strayer is a freshwater ecologist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook. He has studied the Hudson River for decades and this non-technical book will leave the reader with a new perspective when enjoying the view. Available from University of California Press (ucpress.edu).

Pet Pictures with Santa



The Putnam Humane Society held the first of its two annual Pet Pictures with Santa events on Nov. 28, with typically festive results. The second session will be held at the Mahopac Feed Barn on Route 6 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Saturday, Dec. 12. The suggested donation, which benefits the society, is \$15 per photo. For more information, call 845-225-7777 or visit puthumane.org.

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At Least Three Republicans Want Maloney's Job

National security and economy common themes

By Kevin E. Foley

Perhaps believing a national Republican tide is rising for 2016 or inspired by the many candidates running for the party's presidential nomination, three candidates have declared to challenge Democrat incumbent Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney in the 18th Congressional District, which includes Philipstown and Beacon. A fourth candidate is said to be running but has not filed paperwork.

Republican voters will choose a candidate to oppose Maloney in a primary election on June 28. The congressional election, and the presidential vote, takes place on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

Maloney begins the second year of his second two-year term in January. He twice beat Republican Nan Hayworth, first when she was the incumbent in 2012. The district is generally thought to be competitive for both major political parties.

Dan Castricone

A former Orange County legislator and unsuccessful state Assembly candidate, Castricone filed his Statement of Candidacy with the Federal Elections Commission (required when a candidate raises or spends more than \$5,000) on Oct. 13 and announced his candidacy on Dec. 5, touting the endorsements of several Orange County Republicans, including County Executive Steve Neuhaus. Castricone used invective-laced rhetoric to criticize Maloney as a tool of Wall Street bankers at the expense of the middle class. He has created a campaign site at dancas-



Sakima Brown Campaign photo



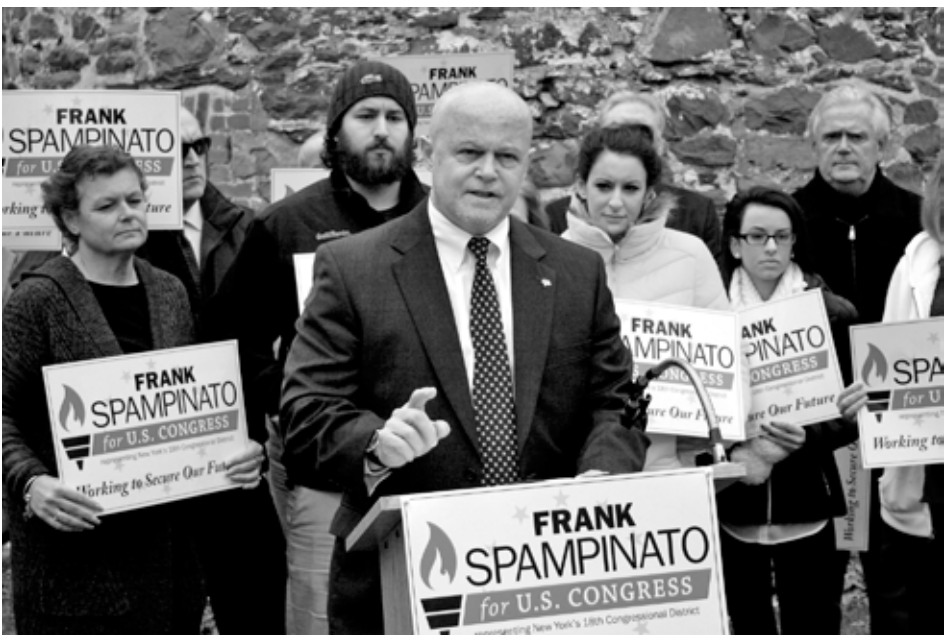
Dan Castricone Campaign photo

tricone.com.

In a statement he asserted the national economy was anemic and claimed "the percentage of Americans who are not working is the highest since the days of malaise during the Carter years. Almost 40 percent of Americans do not work, or have given up hope of finding work." Castricone did not cite a source for his claim.

Frank Spampinato

A Newburgh native who lives in Leesburg, Virginia, Frank Spampinato returned home to Orange County to de-



Frank Spampinato announces his candidacy Campaign photo

clare his candidacy. (The Qualifications Clause of the U.S. Constitution says a candidate for Congress must only be an "inhabitant" of the state in which he or she is running "when elected.") Spampinato filed a Statement of Candidacy on Oct. 29 and has formed a Committee to Elect Frank Spampinato. A veteran of the U.S. Marines, Spampinato said he spent most of his professional career in the Central Intelligence Agency while also serving briefer stints in the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Energy.

"I'm running for Congress because the Hudson Valley needs a representative who will protect the rights, resources and security of every taxpayer in our community," he said. "I know firsthand that the need to protect our country from economic, geographic and technological threats has never been more urgent."

Sakima Brown

The Iraq war veteran and West Point graduate, who lives in Poughkeepsie, filed a Statement of Candidacy on Sept. 23 and has a campaign site at sakima-forcongress.com. Her first quarterly financial disclosure to the FEC on Sept. 30 says she has raised about \$1,200 and spent about \$200. Brown previously ran unsuccessfully for a New York State Assembly seat and is a past president of the Poughkeepsie School Board.

Phil Oliva

Phil Oliva, an advisor and campaign manager for Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino, is also running, according to two media reports. Beyond these reports there is little evidence he has launched his campaign, and he has not filed a Statement of Candidacy with the FEC.

Federal Bill a Maloney Victory (from Page 1)

features.

- The Passenger Train Derailment Prevention Act, intended to require train systems to upgrade technology and roadbeds and reduce speeds to lessen the impact of sharp turns on safety.
- The Safe Bridges Investment Act, which broadened the definition of bridges eligible for federal funding.

The Safe Bridges provision in particular could have significant impact locally and in New York state. The bill makes funding available for county- and municipal-owned bridges, so-called "off-system" bridges previously excluded from access to federal funds. Describing them as bridges "families in the Hudson Valley use every single day to get to school and work," Maloney said they had been "forgotten far too long."

While the agreement to fund projects over a five-year period helps significantly with planning, it is only the beginning of a complex process of identifying, designing, bidding and approving thousands of projects. Applying for and receiving authori-



Congressman Maloney File photo

zation for a project and starting construction can sometimes take years. Many local projects have to filter through the state government as coordinated by the state Department of Transportation with guidance from the governor and legislature. The state also has its own funded projects.



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Help Keep Us Afloat

And so this year of newspapering comes to a close in an orgy of origami. We seek year-end alms in support of a paper that is folded in half by offering a holiday ornament created through the ancient art of folding paper.

From our map that guides visitors (and locals) toward the treasures of Cold Spring magically springs a sailboat, symbolizing our river journey through the world's end shoals of print publishing in the age of digital.

We are a ship's crew, holding a rope, climbing a mast, keeping a lookout, hoping for a fair wind, each taking an oar when the breezes die.

"Help keep us afloat!," we call out through the morning fog. "Help keep us afloat!" we sing in the afternoon sunlight. "Help keep us afloat," we whisper as our evensong.

We sent out the boats so that they might bring back a measure of wealth to see us through another year. This is a season for asking. As a nonprofit venture, dependent on donations, we do so humbly, recognizing how many other worthy endeavors compete for your support.

We couldn't make enough of our boats for everyone who might want to adorn their holiday tree. If you really want one, please ask, as I have a secret stash for a select few who come with check in hand.

We are grateful to those supporters who lent their skills and time not only making the boats (Made in Philipstown! — thank you, Stacey Farley) but also displaying patience in trying to teach the art form to some reluctant scribes. Generally we prefer folding sentences onto paper rather than folding paper into sentences.

The value proposition we offer is that a community's quality of life is en-

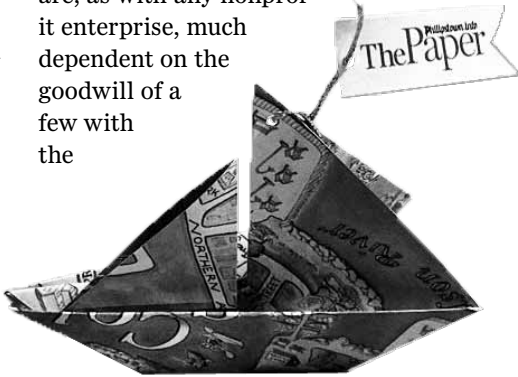


Danielle Martinelli, Rick Gedney, Advertising Director Michele Gedney and Kyoto Gelber.

Photo by K.E. Foley

hanced with a newspaper and website that seeks to reflect the community's life with some fairness, balance, wit and occasional insight. We try to do our work with a light enough touch so that everyone feels they can do business with us even if they're having a bad week.

The bargain we seek to strike is to keep publishing with help from the readers based on what they can afford. We are, as with any nonprofit enterprise, much dependent on the goodwill of a few with the



means to offer significant support. But those individuals or foundations or even we the staff, need to know there is broader support to maintain enthusiasm and momentum and to pay bills. So all contributions matter both financially and existentially.

So, please, contribute if you can. All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. Don't overlook matching gifts if your employer offers them, and we welcome smaller, recurring donations as well — check the "recurring" box when donating at philipstown.info/support.

Thank you for all the comments and critiques. Keep them coming. The board of directors and staff of Philipstown. Info, Inc. wish you Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas.

Kevin E. Foley
Managing Editor

When Hikers Get Hurt, Firefighters Respond *(from Page 1)*

State, particularly at Breakneck Ridge in the Hudson Highlands State Park, considered one of the most popular day hikes in the country. While the meeting concluded that improvements could be made in such areas as communications, data gathering and funding, DiNardo has seen progress in recent months in one key area that directly affects CSFC.

Fewer lost hiker calls

In an interview with *The Paper*, DiNardo said that in the past, the number of calls to CFSC to assist lost or injured hikers was "ridiculous." In 2013, Cold Spring's firefighters responded to as many as 30 calls. Now, DiNardo said, The New York State parks department (in the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation), handles almost all calls from lost hikers.

"We haven't been called out at night for lost hikers in a long time," he said. "The guys at Parks are doing a really good job." Calls to CSFC in 2015 have almost exclusively dealt with injuries. "If we get a call to help someone who is injured," DiNardo said, "we have to go. It just has to be done."

Still, DiNardo sees room for improvement. One change he supports is an increase in the number of trail stewards assigned by New York State Parks at popular trailheads. Currently, he said, three stewards are on duty during peak periods. "They've done an excellent job of helping people down from trails," including Breakneck, he said, while also clarifying routes for hikers and providing practical advice before they set out on their treks.

North Highlands also feels impact

Joe Hyatt, chief of the North Highlands Engine Co. 1, also known as the North Highlands Fire Department (NHFC), told *The Paper* that when the Cold Spring Fire Company gets a call about a hiker, North Highlands firefighters are usually called to their fire hall on Fishkill Road. In some cases they are then dispatched, but more often remain on standby in case CSFC receives a second call while assisting a hiker. Hyatt said that in the past year, NHFC also took the lead in about half a dozen hiker calls.

Hyatt said he'd like to see vehicular access to trails improved. In the past, he said fire companies could drive the old Cornish Estate road from Route 9D all the way to Surprise Lake Camp. He said regaining access to such abandoned roads, an issue raised at the Dec. 2 roundtable, would improve the efficiency of hiker rescues considerably.

Hyatt agrees that funding is also an issue and feels permits would help. "I have to buy a permit to hunt or fish," he noted. "Hikers should be required to buy a permit as well." He said funds raised through permits could be used to fund improved hiker rescue efforts.

Ankle and knee injuries most common

The most common hiker injuries are to ankles and knees, DiNardo said, along with some back and neck injuries. The seasons often play a role. "In early spring, frost can make rocks slippery," he said, and in the fall, fallen leaves obscure rocks along trails, creating a similar hazard. "In summer, heatstroke can be a problem," he said.

DiNardo said Breakneck is where hikers have been injured most frequently, but that in the past year firefighters were called almost as often to the Cornish Estate Trail located between Little Stony Point and Breakneck. Thus far in 2015, CSFC has taken the lead on 17 hiker calls, 15 of which involved injuries, and provided mutual aid to the North Highlands and Garrison Volunteer Fire Companies on another four calls.

Of the 17 calls in which CSFC was the primary responder, 10 were to Breakneck and seven to the Cornish Trail. The average call took an hour and 45 minutes to complete (ranging from 15 minutes to four hours) and involved 10 firefighters. Nine of the 17 calls involved ankle or knee injuries, three were back injuries, two were lost hikers, one a possible broken arm, one a suspected spider bite and one a sick hiker.

Baisley named Firefighter of the Year

Dawn Baisley has been named the Cold Spring Fire Company's 2015 Firefighter of the Year. At its Dec. 1 meeting, CSFC also elected its officers for 2016:

Firematic Officers

Chief: Steve Smith
Assistant Chief: Josh DiNardo
Captain: Chris Godsey
1st Lieutenant: Michael Etta
2nd Lieutenant: Jeffrey Phillips Jr.
3rd Lieutenant: Sal Baisley

Administrative Officers

President: Matt Steltz
Vice President: Ralph Falloon
Financial Secretary: Steve Etta
Treasurer: Dawn Baisley
Secretary: vacant

Should You Say Something?

Sandy Hook group provides guidance to Haldane students, parents

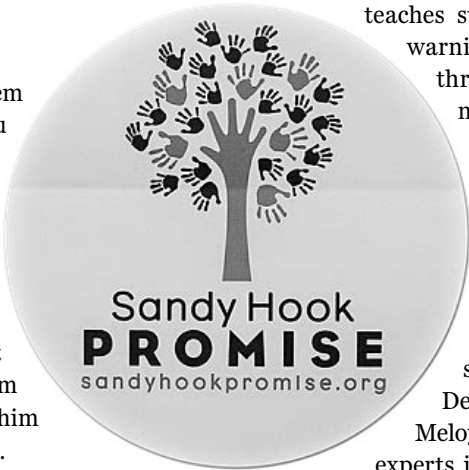
by Alison Rooney

It might seem intuitive: you observe someone's change of behavior and it seems excessive. You look around for help, hoping you can prevent the person from bringing harm to him or herself or others.

Of course, these situations are complex and unpredictable, far more so when they involve children and teenagers still grappling with their own codes of behavior and maneuverings with peers. Social media also can distort perceptions for those most susceptible to being brought down by depression.

It is against this backdrop that Sandy Hook Promise was formed. Launched by residents of Newtown, Connecticut, including 16 families whose children and spouses were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary on Dec. 14, 2012, this national non-profit works to "prevent gun-related deaths due to crime, suicide and accidental discharge so that no other parent experiences the senseless, horrific loss of their child." It does this by developing and implementing mental health and wellness programs that identify, intervene and help at-risk individuals as well as by addressing gun-safety practices.

One of its programs is called Say Something, echoing the familiar admonition, "See something, say something." Putnam County Sheriff's Department Deputy Paul Piazza, the School Resource Officer at Haldane, brought the program to



students in the middle and high schools, and parents were introduced to it at an evening session on Dec. 8 sponsored by the PTA. Donna Moxham of Sandy Hook Promise explained that Say Something teaches students how to look for warning signs, signals and threats, especially in social media, from individuals who may want to hurt themselves or others, then say something to a trusted adult to get them help. According to the PTA, the program is based on "research conducted by Dr. Dewey Cornell and Dr. Reid Meloy, two leading national experts in threat assessment and intervention."

Moxham, a mother of four and former teacher who lives in Newtown, reminded the audience that most people who carry out acts of violence — harming others or themselves — mention their intentions beforehand, either verbally or through posts or tweets. She noted that many people are reluctant to "say something," checking off common responses such as "I thought he just wanted attention" or "I saw his plans but didn't believe he would ever do this." Those that might prevent people from taking action include "He's too young, he'll never go through with it," "I thought someone else would tell someone" and "I'm just waiting for the right moment to say something."

The SHP program has three points it shares with students, Moxham said: (1) Look for warning signs, signals and threats, (2) Act immediately — take it seriously, and (3) Say something to a trusted adult. Noting that schools are usually the safest places in the community, she nevertheless shared statistical research that shows a large number of victims of violence are hurt at school and also that a large number of students report being sad or hopeless for more than two weeks

in the last 12 months.

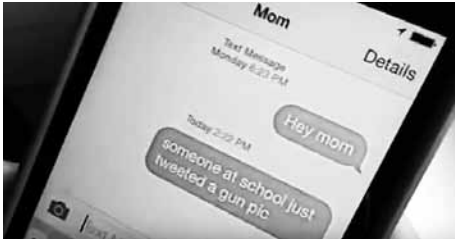
She noted that thoughts, feelings and behaviors that raise concerns can be overt or vague, and include things like espousing increasingly rigid ideologies, giving away possessions and social media posts in the vein of "life isn't worth living" or "someone should blow this place up" that otherwise might be dismissed as teenage angst. Deputy Piazza added that often these communications are not shared in public, but in private online gaming conversations.

Moxham said fears expressed by some teenagers of being labeled a traitor, of being ostracized or even physically hurt if they report suspicious behavior are valid but emphasized it was important to communicate the difference to children and teens of wanting to get someone in trouble versus wanting to help him or her.

As part of the program, students are given a card on which to list three adults they can turn to, with their contact information. They are encouraged to then enter this on their electronic device contacts, as well. Piazza said that the middle school groups, in particular, "gobbled this up and were busy filling them in immediately." The kids have been told they are the "eyes and ears of the school."

Piazza described how Say Something program has been implemented at Haldane, citing special "lunch-and-learn" pairings of high school and middle school students, a peer mentoring program and going into gym classes to talk more informally to small groups of students, rather than at a large assembly. The conversations, he said, extended to other areas of concern: eating disorders, bullying, even experimentation with drugs.

"I felt very fortunate to get in front of them in this capacity," Piazza said, noting that he asked the students whether they would consider him a trusted adult. "They said no, which I totally understood. I'm new and I'm in a uniform. But the kids have many doors open to them



An example from Sandy Hook Promise's website of a text a concerned student might send to a parent.

here — Scott Many [the high school social worker], the guidance counselors and also all the families which interact in the community — I told them not to forget their friends' parents as people they could turn to."

After the presentation, one question to Haldane High School Principal Brian Alm, who was in attendance, focused on whether there were legal protocols for teachers when an issue is brought to their attention by a student. Alm discussed both the mandated reporting procedures, augmented recently by the Dignity for All Students Act, and also the more informal, confidential team approach that goes on in a small school such as Haldane, though he was careful to add that "we don't immediately widen the circle."

Alm explained that only two staff members, Many and the elementary/middle school social worker, Renee Curry, were bound by confidentiality regulations, and that even these regulations have a stipulation that they only apply if the safety of the student or others is not compromised, which is communicated to students. Alm said he always says to students, "The only way other kids will know you told me is if you tell them yourself." There is also a dropbox outside of Many's office where students can drop anonymous notes, and there will soon be, on a pilot basis, a digital version for anonymous emails. There will also be a dropbox placed in the middle school.

For more information on Sandy Hook Promise and the Say Something program, visit sandyhookpromise.org.

Housing Boom in Beacon in 2016 (from Page 1)

regional housing market has shown signs of improvement in the last 12 months, although much of the housing available, particularly in Beacon, is not affordable for families making the regional median income (in Beacon, \$96,000 annually). The study also noted that Hudson Valley residents are increasingly looking to rent rather than buy due to escalating housing costs.

"The level of housing activity in Beacon is a positive sign for the market," said Joe Czajka, senior vice president for Research, Development & Community Planning at Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress and the executive director of the Center for Housing Solutions and Urban Initiatives. "There appears to be a high level of confidence by local officials, lenders and developers. One of the six large-scale developments is for affordable senior housing, which there is a high demand for, and the development is an adaptive reuse of a vacant structure, which helps reduce neighborhood deterioration."

While none of Beacon's new housing projects involve the construction of new roads, and many utilize existing building

space, the city must remain cognizant of the increased demand on schools, emergency services and other infrastructure, Dexter said. "I wouldn't use the word 'concern,'" he said, "Awareness" would be a better term. We have to recognize that there's going to be additional need [for city services]." Dexter also pointed out that new housing will generate tax revenue, which could balance some of the associated costs.

The City of Beacon's comprehensive plan (the document that sets, among other things, long-term development guidelines, typically for a 10-year period) was adopted in 2007. Mayor Randy Casale said he intends to form a committee to review the document in the coming months.

"My belief is we're following the comprehensive plan, which says that for Main Street to be more viable you need



The Lofts at Beacon will include 114 live/work studio apartments on Front Street. Photo by J. Simms

to have more density there to support it," the mayor said. "So, we want to make sure we're on the right track."

The residential building activity is by far the most Beacon has seen in re-

cent years. Casale said he believes "the density will only help to make the city more sustainable and affordable going forward."



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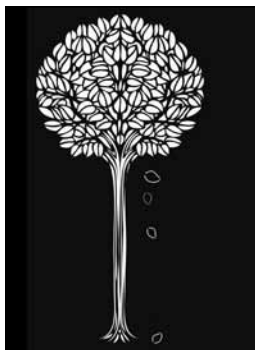
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Obituary

Jane Powell Smith
(1951-2015)

Jane Powell Smith, 64, of Kent Lakes, died peacefully on Dec. 6, 2015, at Regional Hospice and Home Care in Danbury, Connecticut.

Jane was born on Jan. 15, 1951, in Hartford, the daughter to the late William F. and Eleanor (Holcomb) Powell. She attended high school in Garden City, Long Island, and graduated from Virginia Intermont College in Bristol, Tennessee.

On June 24, 1972, she married the love of her life, Ret. Brig. Gen. Donald B. Smith, at Holy Trinity Church in Pawling. Together they raised two children.

Jane was a homemaker extraordinaire. Through her many talents of artwork, cooking, crocheting and home decorating, Jane provided many local charities with hand crafted items utilized during fundraising events. She was the perfect Army wife and always worked tirelessly supporting our soldiers and their families. Jane was a true child of God and her heart was always unto helping others. Her greatest passion and pride was found in loving her family.

Besides her husband of 43 years, now the sheriff of Putnam County, Jane is survived by her son Christopher Smith and his wife, Dr. Mary Smith, of Fairfax County, Virginia; her daughter Cherilynne and her husband, Lt. Col. Jesse Marsalis, of Fort Belvoir, Virginia; eight grandchildren; Jonathan, Elise, Riley, Lindsie, Mitchell, Lillian, Benjamin and Asher Jeremiah; several nieces and nephews; and a “granddog,” Gio. She is also survived by a brother, William “Hap” Powell of Merrimack, New Hampshire, and a sister, Amie Wallace, of Elizabeth City, North Carolina.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, Dec. 19, at 10 a.m. at The Mission Church, 4101 Route 52, in Holmes. A memorial service and interment of Jane’s ashes will occur on Friday, Jan. 15, at 10 a.m. at the West Point Cemetery. Friends may call at Beecher Funeral Home, 1 Putnam Ave., Brewster, on Friday, Dec. 18, from 4 to 8 p.m.

Donations in Jane’s memory may be made to Cancer Treatment and Wellness Center, 400 East Main St., Mount Kisco, NY 10549; Regional Hospice and Home Care Center, 30 Milestone Road, Danbury, CT, 06810; American Heart Association, 501 Merritt 7, PH, Norwalk, CT 06851, and/or Putnam Hospital Center Foundation, 670 Stoneleigh Ave., Carmel, NY 10512.



Aqueduct Slated for Major Overhaul in Philipstown

Major renovations to begin in 2017, continue until 2021

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

After more than a century, the Catskill Aqueduct will soon get some “R and R” — repairs and rehabilitation — when the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) proceeds with work on 14 aqueduct stations in Philipstown over the next six years.

A covered tunnel, the aqueduct carries water from the Catskill Mountains into New York City while supplying other municipalities along the way, including Cold Spring and Nelsonville, in times of urgent need, such as when the Cold Spring reservoirs dip during droughts. Plans for upgrading the aqueduct, already underway, were presented by DEP representatives to the Philipstown Conservation Board Tuesday, Dec. 8, in one of a series of meetings the agency intends to hold with municipalities along the 74-mile aqueduct, which runs largely underground, including beneath the Hudson River.

DEP staff will begin inspections in early 2016, with major work scheduled for 2017 and expected to last until the middle of 2021. In Philipstown, including Nelsonville, the project involves mechanical repairs, sealing of culvert drains and other drain-related work, bridge improvement and installation of new “boatholes” (access hatches originally designed to allow insertion of a small boat into the aqueduct for inspections). It also involves removal from the

aqueduct of “biofilm,” which is slowing down the water flow. Made of mineral build-up and bacteria, the biofilm “looks and acts like mud,” explained Jonathan Hoffman, a DEP engineer and program manager. According to the agency, the aqueduct, built to handle 640 million gallons of water daily, now carries 500 million gallons.

The Catskill Aqueduct upgrades are part of a DEP campaign to ensure “water for the future” and allow the aqueduct to support the New York City water system when leaks and other problems on the Delaware Aqueduct are fixed in 2022. The expectation is that the Catskill Aqueduct overhaul is to “make sure it lasts another 100 years,” said Emily Pereira, one of three DEP program managers who met with the Conservation Board. It also will increase the aqueduct’s capacity so that more water can pass through while the Delaware Aqueduct undergoes repair.

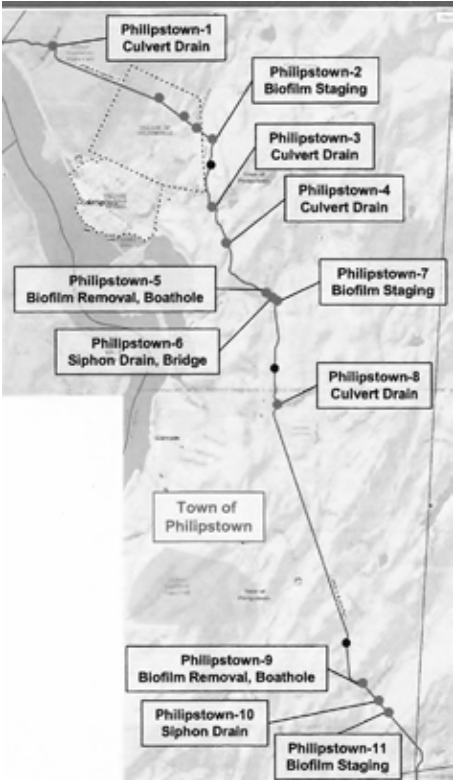
Catskill Aqueduct project areas in Philipstown include sites along Indian Brook and Sprout Brook. Those in Nelsonville include the siphon chamber near Foundry Brook, off Healy Road, just north of the village. These locations add such components as sensitive dirt roads and watersheds to the mix of challenges, as Conservation Board members observed in Tuesday’s session, raising questions about possible effects of temporary chlorination of aqueduct water farther north as part of the project and whether the biofilm contains anything poisonous or otherwise hazardous.

The seeping of chlorinated water into the ground or streams in Philipstown should not be a problem, Hoffman said, because after initial surveys, “there’s no reason to believe anything is leaking in the area.” Likewise, he assured the board, “we don’t anticipate using any chemicals at all” in removal of the biofilm, which “is not toxic.” Asked whether other, non-bacteria creatures — something short of an alligator — might dwell inside the aqueduct, Hoffman recalled finding newt-like amphibians or lizards and said “occasionally you’ll see little fish,” but nothing noteworthy. However, DEP personnel are likely to find tree roots in or around the aqueduct, he predicted.

The DEP expects to finish a draft Environmental Impact Statement in January or February and a final version next summer.



A Catskill Aqueduct siphon chamber overlooks Nelsonville. Photo by L.S. Armstrong



A DEP map shows 11 Philipstown sites, not including three in Nelsonville, awaiting activity in the Catskill Aqueduct upgrading.



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The Calendar

Bird & Bottle Inn Once Again Comes to Life

Specials to be a hallmark of the re-opened historic inn

By Alison Rooney

After 250 years, perhaps it was entitled to a bit of slumber time. Garrison’s historic Bird & Bottle Inn, built in 1761 and known then as Warren’s Tavern, was closed for five years, reopening just a few months ago under the slightly altered name of its new proprietor as Pamela’s Bird & Bottle Inn.

Pamela is Pamela Resch, whose other businesses, Pamela’s-on-Hudson, a special events and catering facility on the Newburgh waterfront, and Pamela’s Traveling Feast, an offsite planning and catering service, tie in with her new endeavor, rejuvenating the much-loved Old Albany Post Road property.

The Bird & Bottle has always been a focal point of hospitality in the region. It is situated favorably near the mid-point of the journey from New York City to Albany. Benjamin Franklin, according to notes published by the inn, “began placing mile markers on the Old Albany Post Road, increasing postal efficiency and allowing travelers to count the miles to Warren’s Tavern and a well-deserved rest.” It was a popular watering hole for both British and



Above, the tap room at Pamela’s Bird & Bottle Inn
Photos by A. Rooney

American soldiers, but eventually the Continental Army seized the property, pressing it into services as a regional headquarters. With the advent of the steamboat, road traffic decreased and Warren’s Tavern closed down in 1832, becoming a farm and sawmill. It wasn’t until 1940 that the property reopened, as the Bird & Bottle.

Seventy-five years on, Resch is happy to carry on the inn-keeping tradition. “I always loved cooking,” she says. “By high school I was throwing lots of parties and doing all the cooking. I started waitressing at 15 and worked my way up: bussing, serving, bartending, hostessing, and doing the cooking. Traveling in (Continued on Page 11)



Pamela Resch, the new proprietor of Pamela’s Bird & Bottle Inn



Pamela’s Bird & Bottle Inn is located on Old Albany Post Road in Garrison.

Haldane Taps Solar Power for Savings

Panels will reduce electric bill by \$21,000 annually

By Michael Turton

The Haldane Central School District has entered the era of solar-generated electricity with the completion of a project in partnership with Monolith Solar of Rensselaer, New York. The \$852,000 project cost the school district nothing but will substantially reduce its electric bills. Part of the project cost was covered by a grant from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

A contract between Haldane and Monolith known as a Power Purchase Agreement includes the installation of 958 solar panels on the roofs of the high school, middle and elementary schools, district office and garage. Monolith installed, owns and will maintain the system throughout the 20-year life of the agreement. It makes money by selling the bulk of the electricity generated at Haldane to the national grid, while providing reduced rates for the district.

According to Mike Twardy, Haldane’s director of facilities, the district’s electrical bill was about \$85,000 last year. The agreement with Monolith guarantees Haldane at least a 25 percent reduction in the cost of its electricity, or a minimum annual savings to taxpayers of \$21,250. (Continued on Page 11)



A view of the Haldane rooftop solar panels

Photo courtesy Monolith Solar

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

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

A Christmas Carol (Dinner Theater)
7 p.m. Bear Mountain Inn
Seven Lakes Drive, Bear Mountain
845-786-2731 | visitbearmountain.com

Holiday Sing
7 p.m. Beacon Sloop Club | 2 Red Flynn Drive, Beacon | 845-463-4660 | beaconsloopclub.org

Shakespeare Situation (Youth Players)
7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

Sinatra’s 100th Birthday with Doug Ferony
7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

Skin of Our Teeth
7 p.m. Haldane School | 15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring | 845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Winter Tales by Hans Christian Andersen
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Henrik Ibsen’s Hedda Gabler
8 p.m. The Beacon Theatre | 445 Main St., Beacon
845-453-2978 | thebeacontheatre.org

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

Second Saturday in Beacon

Christmas Craft Fair
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. St. Mary’s Church
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-2539 | stmaryscoldspring.org

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

Makers-on-Hudson Craft Fair
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

The Hudson During the Revolution (Talk)
10 a.m. Putnam Valley Grange
128 Mill St. Putnam Valley | 845-528-1024
Sponsored by the P.V. Historical Society

Hudson Valley Winter Book Fair
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
50 Liberty St, Beacon | amityartscenter@gmail.com

Pet Pictures with Santa
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mahopac Feed Barn
166 Route 6, Mahopac
845-225-7777 | puthumane.org

Santa Coming to Main Street
11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Outside the Country Goose
15 Main St, Cold Spring | 845-265-2122


Hudson Horror Film Fest
11:30 a.m. – Midnight. Silver Cinemas
1895 Route 9, Poughkeepsie | hudsonhorror.com

Philipstown Highlanders Lacrosse (grades K-6)
2 – 4 p.m. Info Session | 4 – 5:30 p.m. Registration
Philipstown Community Center
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

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Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit philipstown.info.

Send event listings to calendar@philipstown.info.

New Paltz Ballet Theatre: The Nutcracker
2 & 7:30 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie | 845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

Winter Tales by Hans Christian Andersen
2:30 & 7 p.m. St. Mary’s Church
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-2539 | stmaryscoldspring.org

Annual Holiday Party with Santa
3 p.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring | 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Shakespeare Situation (Youth Players)
3 & 5 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Friday.

Bicycle Tree Lighting
3:30 p.m. Kids’ crafts | 4:15 Holiday music
4:45 p.m. Santa arrives | 5 p.m. Lighting
Polhill Park, Main and Route 9D, Beacon

Sparkle Holiday Celebration
5 – 9 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

Buone Feste Holiday Show (Artists’ Reception)
5 – 8 p.m. RiverWinds Gallery | 172 Main St., Beacon | 845-838-2880 | riverwindsgallery.com

Bicycle Menorah Lighting (Celebrating Clergy)
5:15 p.m. Polhill Park, Beacon
beaconhebrewalliance.org

2015 Small Works Show (Opening)
6 – 9 p.m. The Catalyst Gallery | 137 Main St., Beacon | 845-204-3844 | catalystgallery.com

Art by Ryan Cronin (Opening)
6 – 9 p.m. Beahive Beacon | 291 Main St., Beacon
845-765-1890 | beahivebuzz.com

bau Gallery (Openings)
6 – 9 p.m. Herman Roggeman: *Flight of Fancy*
6 – 9 p.m. Jo-Ann Brody: *The Windows Project*
506 Main St., Beacon | 845-440-7584 | baugallery.com

Group Show: Gift Wrapped (Opening)
6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery | 163 Main St., Beacon
212-255-2505 | shop.cluttermagazine.com

Lori Adams: Small Things, Tall Things, Dead Things, Red Things (Opening)
6 – 8 p.m. Theo Ganz Gallery | 149 Main St., Beacon | 917-318-2239 | theoganzstudio.com

Skin of Our Teeth
7 p.m. Haldane School | See details under Friday.

Chris Botti
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Friday.

Henrik Ibsen’s Hedda Gabler
8 p.m. The Beacon Theatre | Details under Friday

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

Common Ground Farm Workshops
10 a.m. Ornament Felting | 2 p.m. Toy Repair
79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls
845-231-4424 | commongroundfarm.org

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

St. Philip’s Choir: Vivaldi’s Gloria in D Major
10:30 a.m. St. Philip’s Church | 1101 Route 9D, Garrison | 845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org

Community Chanukah Party
11 a.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance
331 Verplanck Avenue, Beacon
845-831-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Warm Up at the Washingtons’
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Washington’s Headquarters
84 Liberty St., Newburgh
845-562-1195 | nysparks.com

Santa Coming to Main Street
11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. | Outside the Country Goose
15 Main St, Cold Spring | 845-265-2122

Holiday Drop (the Kids) and Shop
Noon – 6 p.m. Philipstown Community Center
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

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

Woody Guthrie Holiday Fundraiser
1 – 5 p.m. Historic DuBois House
35 Slocum Road, Beacon | 845-242-7822

No Strings Marionette Company
1 p.m. *Wasabi - A Dragon’s Tale*
4 p.m. *Scrooge - A Christmas Tale*
Howland Cultural Center | 477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Winter Tales by Hans Christian Andersen
2:30 & 7 p.m. St. Mary’s Church
See details under Saturday.

Christmas Pageant
3 p.m. Our Lady of Loretto
24 Fair St., Cold Spring | 845-265-3718

New Paltz Ballet Theatre: The Nutcracker
3 p.m. Bardavon | See details under Saturday.

Henrik Ibsen’s Hedda Gabler
3 p.m. The Beacon Theatre | Details under Friday

Gordon Stewart Concert Series: Serenade Trio
4 p.m. St. Mary’s Church
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-2539 | stmaryscoldspring.org
Rescheduled from Sept. 20

Bicycle Menorah Lighting (Celebrating Builders, Makers and Fixers)
5:30 p.m. Polhill Park, Beacon
beaconhebrewalliance.org

Clayton Bryant / Melba Moore
7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Friday.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

Haldane vs. Henry Hudson (Girls’ Basketball)
6 p.m. Haldane School | 15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring | 845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

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

Haldane School Board Workshop: Solar Project Report
7 p.m. Haldane School (Music Room)
15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

Senior Bus Trip to Fishkill
10 a.m. Chestnut Ridge, Cold Spring
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Happy Birthday, Jane Austen
1 – 3 p.m. Howland Public Library | 313 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Holiday Candlelight Tours
1 – 5 p.m. Mount Gulian Historic Site
145 Sterling St., Beacon | 845-831-8172
mountgulian.org | Last tour at 4 p.m.

Philipstown Communities That Care
3 p.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring | putnamncadd.org/ctc

Beacon Chamber Meet-up
5:30 p.m. Mount Gulian
145 Sterling St., Beacon | beaconchamber.org

Beacon Historical Society Holiday Party
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center | 477 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-0514 | beaconhistorical.org

Village Hall Meetings
7 p.m. Code Update Committee
8 p.m. Tree Advisory Board | 85 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

Holiday Candlelight Tours
1 – 5 p.m. Mount Gulian | Details under Wednesday

Haldane PTA
3:30 p.m. Haldane School (Library)
15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldanepta.org

Spotlight on Recovery Support Group
6:45 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
914-582-8384 | drugcrisisinourbackyard.com

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

You Are My Blue / I Am Your Red (Closing)
7 - 10 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-4988

Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearings
7:30 p.m. Village Hall | Details under Thursday

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

The Nutcracker
10 a.m. Westchester County Center
198 Central Ave., White Plains
914-995-4050 | countycenter.biz

Holiday Candlelight Tours
1 – 5 p.m. Mount Gulian | Details under Wednesday

Classic Films for Children: The Gold Rush
4:30 p.m. Chapel Restoration | 45 Market St., Cold Spring | 845-265-5537 | chapelrestoration.org

Sparkle Holiday Celebration
5 – 9 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Dec. 11.

Haldane vs. Clark Academy (Boys’ Basketball)
6 p.m. Haldane School | Details under Monday

International Film Night: Dancing at Lughnasa (Ireland, 1998)
7 p.m. Howland Public Library | 313 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Jonathan Kruk: A Christmas Carol
7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley
845-528-7280
brownpapertickets.com/event/2469858

A Christmas Carol
8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Thursday.

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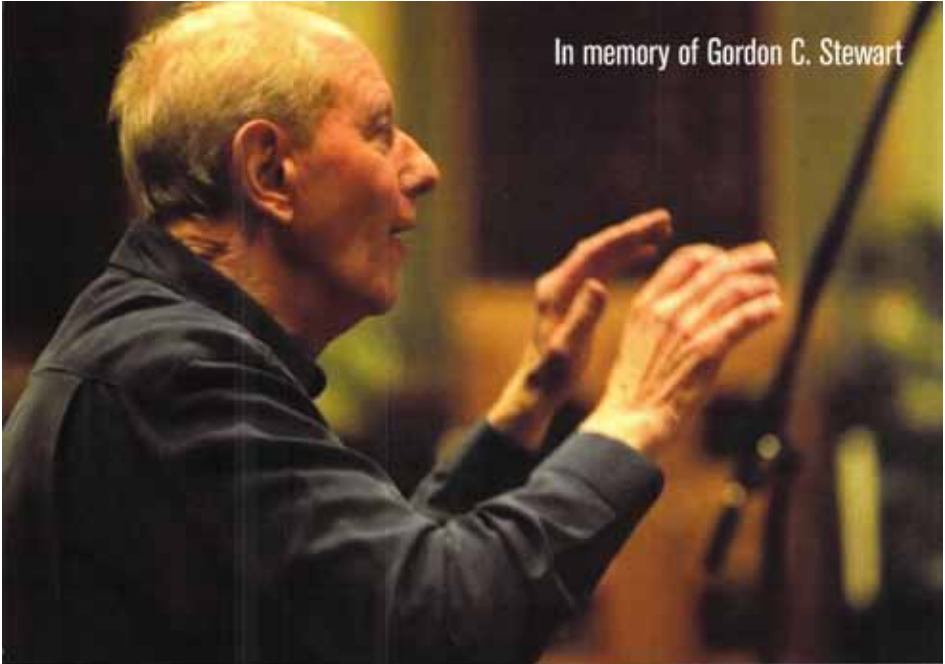
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Illustrated by Maris Howell

Bird & Bottle Inn Once Again Comes to Life (from Page 7)

Europe I got to know different cuisines. It's always been an act of love for me: I get to make people happy for a living. It's a passion. I love details and bringing a vision to life, creating memories. And I love the history of this place. This past weekend we had a couple stay here. Her mom and dad got married here in 1956. They were looking through their wedding pictures and decided to come up here for the weekend. This and other stories I've heard from people since taking over have given me a perspective on how this place has touched people's lives."

As for any ghostly activity, any creaking on the beautiful wooden floors, perhaps, Resch says: "I don't call them ghosts. I prefer blessed souls or spirits. I think they're really happy to have life put back into the place."

Resch first visited the Bird & Bottle seven or eight years ago. She said she was immediately infatuated and cut out a photo of the inn to keep in a journal she keeps. With an extensive background in cooking, catering, event planning and teaching, Resch had a long-standing desire to run a boutique bed-and-breakfast establishment where she could also host special events.

The inn's current owner (the property hasn't changed hands yet) and former operator, Elaine Margolies, heard about Resch while seeking someone to purchase the inn who would love it as much

as she did, according to Resch. Despite her affection for the property, Resch gave a lot of considered thought to the proposition. "I didn't want to jump in and not have it be successful," she says, adding "the unrolling has been very methodically planned."

Now, after some small renovations (or, at least, continued maintenance — there is a caretaker on the premises — that comes with occupying a large, period home), the Bird & Bottle has opened its many doors and windows again. Its four bedrooms (three upstairs and one in an adjacent studio building) are available nightly except for Mondays, with a hot breakfast included. The bedrooms, decorated with colonial furnishings and each with a fireplace, include none of today's electronic paraphernalia. Quite intentionally, there is no telephone or internet service in the rooms, with no televisions either.

The inn is also available for weddings and small wedding parties, with full catering provided. The spacious grounds include a brick patio, waterfall, gazebo, portico and the requisite babbling brook nearby. There is ample space for one or two large tents.

Pamela's Bird & Bottle has already hosted some special events since reopening, including a wine pairing tasting. In the works for later this winter are hands-on cooking classes,



The bedroom of The Cottage, located 50 feet from the main building. Photo by A. Rooney

making good use of the ample, spacious kitchen facilities; a speakeasy night and another featuring a 1920s flavor; and a murder mystery night, along with concerts and, in the spring, art shows outdoors. Resch hopes the local community will partake.

Although the 40-seat dining room and the very atmospheric tap room, its long bar and low ceilings conjuring up the many travelers who passed through, centuries ago, are only used for special occasion dinners, Resch hopes that

nearby neighbors will come to the special evenings. When they do, they may often bring their stories of the place with them. Resch and her staff, many of whom now rotate between her three businesses, have also amassed information on local restaurants, sights and recreational facilities, trying to keep people in the area.

Resch says she may host an open house for the community on Sunday, Dec. 20. Check birdandbottleinn.com for updates.

Haldane Taps Solar Power for Savings (from Page 7)

The more electricity the system generates, the greater the savings.

Enough electricity for 400 homes

In a presentation to the Haldane School Board on Dec 1, Lindsey McEntire of Monolith said the system will generate up to 349,030-kilowatt hours of electricity annually, or enough power to supply more than 400 homes for a year. On average, the project will generate about 60 percent of Haldane's electrical needs. During periods when the Monolith system is offline, such as at night, the grid will supply Haldane's electricity.

Superintendent Diana Bowers said "it was a fun project to work on." The project was undertaken "to be more 'green,' to reduce our carbon footprint, as well as to realize cost savings," she said. The project also has great potential as an educational tool for students in every grade. "Students will be able to follow this project for years," she said. While lessons for younger students will focus on the environmental benefits of solar energy, including how it saves trees and reduces emissions, older students will be able to delve into the math, physics and chemistry behind photovoltaics.

Monolith uses the educational potential of its installations as a marketing tool, providing schools with numerous teaching resources. The company has contracted with 16 districts across New York and McEntire said that



Mike Twardy, Haldane's director of facilities.

Photo by M. Turton

number will triple within two years. One resource Monolith provides is a real-time, online monitoring system that tracks the productivity of Haldane's system. Students, teachers and the public can monitor the high school portion of the system at locusenergy.com by logging in with user name highschool@haldan-eschool.org and password solar21. Electrical output can be viewed in graph form by the day, week, month and year. Similar websites are also available for the main building and district office components of the system.

Residential applications

The company also installs residential systems and has offered to donate \$250 to Haldane's Science Technology Energy and Math (STEM) Program for each local resident who contracts with Monolith to install solar at home. The residential program gives homeowners the option of purchasing the system. McEntire said that the average "price

range for installation is \$7,000 to \$10,000 and that the typical return on investment is about two years. She also said NYSERDA offers grants to homeowners.

School Board trustees first discussed a solar energy project in 2012. The system was up and running at the district office and garage in July of this year and at the high school a month later. The main building's system was completed in November.

Solar panels more efficient in winter

Solar panels convert the sun's energy into direct current. An inverter transforms that power into alternating current, which is fed into the schools' electrical systems. Bowers commented that one of the interesting and perhaps counterintuitive aspects of the project is that solar electricity is generated more efficiently in winter than in summer, a fact that is confirmed by energymatters.com. "A popular misconception is that solar panels work best on the hottest days," the website states. "In fact, it's quite the

"A blue-sky winter's day can see some amazing levels of power produced on an hourly basis compared with summer."

opposite. Heat is the enemy of solar panels; it's just that during summer the days are far longer." The site also points out that solar panels function more efficiently in cooler weather. "A blue-sky winter's day can see some amazing levels of power produced on an hourly basis compared with summer." The downside of winter solar electric production is the reduced number of daylight hours and the greater number of cloudy days.

NY Alert

For the latest updates on weather-related or other emergencies, sign up at www.nyalert.gov.

Bring the Family for Christmas Storytime!

Saturday, December 19 at 2pm

Bring your family to the museum and celebrate the Christmas season with us!

Reverend Frank Geer of St. Philip's Church in the Highlands will read *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *The Polar Express*, and other Christmas classics. Warm up with child-friendly refreshments and holiday treats.

Free for members and all children. Nonmember adults are \$5. RSVP to shannon@putnamhistorymuseum.org.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

St. Mary’s to Hold
Holiday Craft Fair

Opens at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12

St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Cold Spring will hold its annual Holiday Craft Fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12. It features not only crafts but hand-knit and crocheted winter accessories; blankets; decorated Christmas wreaths and trees; Christmas décor, homemade baked goods; stews and a range of food specialties; and of course, St. Mary’s highly anticipated gift baskets.

Visitors can also warm up with some hot beverages including coffee, tea, or hot chocolate. St. Mary’s is located at the intersection of Route 9D and Route 301 (Main Street).

SBA Extends Deadline
for Sandy Claims

Low-interest loan requests open to Dec. 1, 2016

The U.S. Small Business Administration has extended its deadline by a year for residents and businesses in New York affected by Superstorm Sandy (Oct. 27 to Nov. 8, 2012) to apply for low-interest loans to repair physical damage or for economic losses. The new deadline is Dec. 1, 2016.

The extension covers 17 New York counties, including Putnam and Dutchess. Businesses and private nonprofit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other assets. Economic Injury Disaster Loans are available to small businesses and most private nonprofits to help meet working capital needs even if they suffered no physical damage.

In addition, loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace real estate, and homeowners and renters also are eligible for loans up to \$40,000 to repair or replace personal property. Interest rates start at 4 percent for businesses, 3 percent for nonprofits and 1.688 percent for homeowners and renters, with terms up to 30 years.

For more information, visit disaster-loan.sba.gov/ela or call 800-659-2955.

Chapel to Screen
The Gold Rush

Chaplin classic set for Dec. 18

As part of its ongoing Classic Films for Children series, the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring will screen Charlie Chaplin’s 1925 film, *The Gold Rush* at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18,



Image provided

In this classic silent comedy, the Little Tramp heads north to join in the Klondike gold rush. Trapped in a small cabin by a blizzard, he must share close quarters with a successful prospector (Mack Swain) and a fugitive (Tom Murray). Eventually able to leave the cabin, he falls for a lovely barmaid (Georgia Hale), trying valiantly to win her affections. When the prospector needs help locating his claim, it appears the Tramp’s fortunes may change.

The screening is recommended for children ages 7 and older; it includes men shot down with guns, some hand-to-hand roughhousing and a villain falling off a cliff. There is also some drinking and smoking among the characters.

The Chapel Restoration is located at 45 Market St., on the bank of the Hudson River. A \$5 donation is suggested at the door.

Scenic Hudson Appoints
Two Directors

Cold Spring resident expert in corporate governance

Scenic Hudson has appointed two new members to its board of directors. Daniel J. Kramer, a partner at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, LLP, who lives in New

York City and Cold Spring, specializes in representing boards in corporate governance issues. A director of New York University Law School’s Center on Civil Justice, he also serves as a board member of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival and as a fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

In addition, Gary Glynn, former president and chief investment officer of the U.S. Steel and Carnegie Pension Fund from 1985 until his retirement in 2011, rejoined the board to share his expertise in investment and non-profit management. To learn more about Scenic Hudson, which is based in Poughkeepsie, visit scenichudson.org.



Daniel J. Kramer

Send a Care Package to
Troops for \$15

County exec and sheriff organize holiday campaign

For the second year, the Putnam County government and sheriff’s department are working with United for the Troops to raise money through Dec. 18 to send comfort packages to those serving in the U.S. Armed Forces overseas.



For a \$15 donation, the campaign, known as Operation Defend the Holidays, will send a care package to a soldier overseas on the donor’s behalf. Last year, the county received donations to fund 360 packages. United for the Troops was founded in 2007 by by Mahopac residents Jim and Pat Rathschmidt when their son, Luke, was serving with the 82nd Airborne Division of the U.S. Army in Iraq. The organization typically stocks its comfort packages with cookies, DVDs, CDs, snacks and T-shirts, all of which are donated. The \$15 pays for the postage.

Visit putnamcountyny.com/carepackage to make a pledge, then mail a check made out to United for the Troops and with “Operation Defend the Holidays” in the memo line to Terry Oliver, County Executive’s Office, 40 Gleneida Ave., Third Floor, Carmel, NY 10512. Call Oliver at 845-808-1001 for more information.



A Native American crèche on display at Graymoor.

Photo provided

Friars Crèche Exhibit

Includes nativity scene made of elk horn

The Franciscan Friars of the Atonement at Graymoor are hosting a free exhibit through Jan. 12 of crèches from around the world.

“The crèche is a Franciscan tradition,” explained Father Thomas Orians, director of the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, where the crèches are displayed on the fifth floor. “St. Francis of Assisi in 1223 first created a crèche scene in the village of Greccio, Italy. St. Francis wanted people to remember that Jesus was born in a humble stable. Today it has become a humble, simple representation of the true meaning of Christmas.”

The Graymoor exhibit is built on the collection of the late Father Joseph P. Egan and includes hand-made and mass-produced crèches from almost every continent and country. The crèches are constructed of materials as diverse as straw, wood, ceramic, stone, paper — even elk horn.

Graymoor is located at 1350 Route 9. For more information, call 845-424-3671, ext. 2111, or visit atonementfriars.org.

Boscobel Offers Home
Tours Daily

Reservations not required; now through Dec. 31

Boscobel House & Gardens will be offering guided tours of the Boscobel mansion from Wednesday to Monday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Dec. 31,

except for Christmas Day. Reservations are not required. Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$14 for seniors (ages 62 and older) and \$8 for children ages 6 to 14. Tours are free for members of Friends of Boscobel and children under age 6.

Boscobel is located at 1601 Route 9D in Garrison. For more information, visit boscobel.org. Buy tickets in advance online and receive a free child ticket with every two adult tickets purchased, or two adult and two child tickets for \$45.

Family Christmas
Storytime

Rev. Geer will read classics for kids

Families can visit the Putnam History Museum at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 19 and celebrate the Christmas season as the Rev. Frank Geer of St. Philip’s Church in the Highlands will read *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *The Polar Express*, and other Christmas classics. The museum will provide child-friendly refreshments and holiday treats. Children and museum members are admitted for free; non-member adults for \$5.

RSVP by calling 845-265-4010 or email shannon@putnamhistorymuseum.org. The museum is located at 63 Chestnut St. in Cold Spring.

Sponsor an
Animal

Museum offers unique holiday gift

The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in Cornwall has launched its annual program that allows supporters to pay for the food and care of its animals for a year. Sponsorships also can be given as gifts.

A \$25 donation sponsors a fish, frog, mouse, lizard, salamander, dove or invertebrate (crayfish, millipede, tarantula), \$35 will provide for a chipmunk, snake, crow, rabbit, turtle, American eel or Brook trout, and \$50 will take care of an owl or opossum or contribute to a pond habitat, the exhibit construction fund or an outdoor birdfeeder exhibit.

Each sponsor receives a personalized certificate, a photo of the animal and has his or her name displayed in the museum. To download a sponsorship form, visit hnnaturemuseum.org. For more information, call 845-534-7781.



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Scrooge and the three ghosts of Christmas

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Beacon

12th Annual Marionette Show Set for Dec. 13

Vermont puppeteers return to Howland Center

The Howland Public Library and the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon will present two performances Sunday, Dec. 13, by puppeteers Dan Baginski and Barbara Paulson of Randolph, Vermont, the No Strings Marionette Company, providing a Howland show for the 12th consecutive year.

The company will perform *Wasabi, A Dragon's Tale* at 1 p.m. and *Scrooge, A Christmas Carol* at 4 p.m. Both performances take place at the Howland Cultural Center. All children are admitted free but must be accompanied by a paying adult; tickets are \$10 but each adult may bring as many children as he or she wishes. Baginski and Paulson will answer questions after each performance.

The Howland Cultural Center is located at 477 Main St. For more information, call 845-831-1134.

Historical Society Publishes Annual Journal

Focuses on Dutchess County in the Civil War

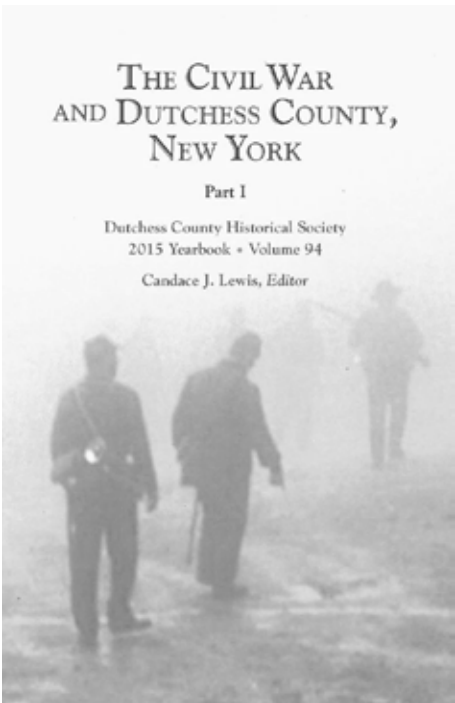
The Dutchess County Historical Society has published the 2015 edition of its yearbook, *The Civil War and Dutchess County, New York, Part I*. Edited by Candace J. Lewis, the 204-page journal includes features such as the Civil War letters of Pvt. Evert Traver of Rhinebeck and “The Second Surrender: Sherman’s 1865 Campaign in the Carolinas and the End of the Civil War,” which included soldiers of the 150th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment. The 2015 yearbook is Volume 94 of the series, which has been published since 1914, one of the longest-running historical publications in the state.

The journal is \$25 or free to members; membership starts at \$50 annually. For more information, contact Executive Director Patty Moore at 845-471-1630 or dchistorical@verizon.net. Back issues of the journal are \$15 each, and the society also sells a number of other titles such



Winter Hill hosted its fourth annual tree lighting on Thursday, Dec. 3, complete with carols by the Walter Hoving Home Choir.

Photo by Michael Turton



as *Portraits of Dutchess County (1680-1807)* and *In Their Own Words: Telling Dutchess County History*. See the “Publications” section at dutchesscountyhistoricalsociety.org.

Coloring Books for Grown-ups

Library invites adults to stay between lines

Adults can unwind while expressing creativity using age-specific coloring books at the Howland Public Library in Beacon from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 15. Adult coloring books offer a variety of designs, often intricate, to get lost in. Colored pencils, fine tipped markers and crayons will be available.

The library also will celebrate Jane Austen’s birthday from 1 to 3 p.m. on

Wednesday, Dec. 16 (the author was born in 1775) with a birthday cake and a screening of the 2005 film adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*. There will be a selection of Jane Austen books and film adaptations on DVD available for check-out.

The Howland Public Library is located at 313 Main St. For more information, visit beaconlibrary.org.



Jane Austen

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Snakes Alive

Live corn snake is highlight of Nature Museum presentation

By Alison Rooney

A simple question was posed at the beginning of Snakes Alive, “a recent presentation by Carl Heitmuller, wildlife educator with the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum (HHNM): Why are you here today?” The first two replies elicited from audience members just about covered the spectrum of reactions to these creatures:

“Because I like snakes,” was simply put, by Jack, a boy from Philipstown.

“My wife is terrified of them, and someone said we had a nest and we came here to find out more,” was the answer given by a man from Garrison, while his wife nodded in agreement.

A concise “it seemed interesting” spoke to the constant fascination these reptiles hold for humans. At this presentation, given as part of an ongoing series at Cold Spring’s Hubbard Lodge, co-sponsored by the HHMN and the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, Heitmuller first defined the most salient characteristics of snakes as a whole, then ran down a list of those most commonly seen in this area, with photos illustrating each snake described. Finally, he brought out a live corn snake, carrying it around the room before releasing it on the floor inside a circle formed by attendees.

We all know, more or less, what snakes are, but their defining characteristics, according to Heitmuller, are that they are in the reptile family, are scaled, and that

most lay eggs in soil, although some do give birth to live young. (For instance, both types of poisonous snake found locally — copperheads and rattlesnakes — hatch their eggs internally and the baby snakes then emerge, alive. This gives them a better chance of survival in the wild.) They lack limbs; are carnivores; have flexible jaws, designed to swallow food whole; they are ectothermic, meaning cold-blooded and are unable to regulate their internal temperature, so if they get cold, they must seek sun in order to survive, and the reverse.

Some (for example, pythons) have two small claws with which to hold onto the females when mating. Most barely have to eat — once a week is the standard. They sleep with their eyes open, not blinking, never closing their eyes. They have a scale which covers their eyes and when they shed their skin, they lose the



A corn snake, which attendees circled around, was the highlight of the Snakes Alive presentation. Photo by A. Rooney



Wildlife Educator Carl Heitmuller allowed kids to get up close and personal with a corn snake. Photo by A. Rooney

scales. Snakes tend to shed their skin in one long piece, often by rubbing against rocks or a woodpile.

The most commonly found snakes in this area are garters, black rat, northern water snake, timber rattlesnake, Copperhead, hognose, milk, Eastern worm, DeKay’s brown, green snake and Eastern ribbon. A few characteristics of each:

Garter — has three yellow stripes. Adults measure 18 to 54 inches. They feed on earthworms, slugs, larval amphibians, some insects, small fish and a few mammals. They hibernate in groups of a few to a few thousand. In spring you can sometimes spot “mating balls” in which hundreds of males are on top of one female, attempting to mate with her.

Ribbon — A bit larger than the garter, the similar — in appearance — ribbon snake also can be differentiated through its larger eyes.

Green — 12 to 20 inches in length, they often overwinter in homes.

Hognose — a stocky mid-sized snake, up to 45 inches in length, with a turned-up snout. They burrow in loose, sandy soil and have a unique defensive behavior in which they play dead and give off a bad odor. Ranging in color from bright yellow with black markings to a sandy brown, the hognose hisses — it’s one of the few to actually make a noise, and feeds mainly on toads.

Black Rat — has a black and white checkered pattern on its underside. Long snakes — the New York state record is about 8 feet — they are powerful constrictors and good climbers with a diet of rodents and eggs. As the snake ages it darkens, going from a camouflage pattern when small to the black color when mature. They hibernate with other snakes in openings in rocky outcrops and in basements.

Black Racer — a fast mover, 3 to 7

feet long, is commonly confused with the black rat. One side is completely black, with a grey belly. It is found mostly in fragmented forests in the eastern part of New York, as far north as Lake George. The black racer will stand his ground and, if disturbed, will turn and face you.

Eastern Milk — just 2 to 3 feet long, is often encountered near barns, sheds, and garages. Slender, with reddish-brown blotches bordered with black edges forming a round pattern on its back, it is a benign snake frequently confused with the poisonous copperhead.

Copperhead — one of the two dangerous snakes, has a pattern which is wide on the side, narrow on the back. A venomous pit viper, it has facial pits that detect infrared radiation, through the holes in its mouth. They are communal den hibernators; their habitat is the forest floor.

Northern water snakes shouldn’t be picked up, as they are skittish, and, while not poisonous per se, they have an anti-coagulant in their bite which can lead to blood loss for the bitten. Their habitat is any permanent body of fresh water, and they consume fish and frogs. Often mistaken for the poisonous cottonmouth, they shouldn’t be, in this area, because cottonmouths are not found here. They are usually 24 to 42 inches and heavy-bodied, brown or reddish brown.

The HHNM will be presenting a similar Meet a Live Snake program at their Wildlife Education Center, located at 25 Boulevard, Cornwall-on-Hudson, on Dec. 12 and 13 at 1 p.m. and again at 2:30 p.m. Other wildlife will also be on display, including the current *Marvelous Moths* exhibit with fun interactive elements. Admission is \$3; free for children under the age of three. For more information visit hhnmm.org or call 845-534-5506.



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