

Philipstown.info The Paper

FREE | FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2014

69 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING, N.Y. | www.philipstown.info

Toy Donation Drive for Children Affected by Ebola

Denniston International, a Cold Spring-based charity, is collecting

By Alison Rooney

At the top of one of the main pages on Denniston International's website is a quote from South African novelist Marion Molteno: "No one ever knows if the little we do makes a difference. But we need to do it just the same." Putting that statement to work, Danielle Pack McCarthy, the founder of Denniston International, a small, local 501(c)(3) nonprofit, has organized an ongoing toy drive, collecting donated new and gently used toys, games and more and delivering them to children affected by the Ebola epidemic in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Denniston International (DI) has a mission "to empower underserved children and youth worldwide to live happy lives and contribute to their world." It approaches that mission in manageable ways, stemming, most often, from getting to know a particular community, be that the community in the town on the island of St. Vincent in which Pack McCarthy served (Continued on page 6)



Denniston Thomas
Photo courtesy of Danielle Pack McCarthy



Beacon's annual Bicycle Tree lighting celebration; see story on page 5.

Photo by Ethan Harrison

With Memories, Tears and Smiles, Gordon Stewart Lauded for Life Well Lived

Service for publisher, speechwriter, arts supporter and free spirit draws crowd

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

With wit, tears, laughter and soaring music, mourners from diverse backgrounds united at St. Mary's Episcopal Church Sunday afternoon (Dec. 14) to remember Gordon C. Stewart, founder of *Philipstown.info* and *The Paper*, whose larger-than-life exploits took him from New York theater aisles to White House power corridors, executive business suites, conductors' podiums and the hills of the Hudson Highlands, on the way amazing, inspiring and sometimes overwhelming those around him.

Stewart, 75, who moved to Garrison with his family in 2007, died (Continued on page 3)



Frederick Osborn III spoke at the memorial service for Gordon Stewart.

Photo by Ross Corsair

Firehouse Plans Unveiled

Three stories; cost estimated at \$6 million plus

By Michael Turton

Toward the end of Monday's (Dec. 15) special meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board, leadership from the Cold Spring Fire Company (CSFC) commented that public input is needed regarding plans for a new firehouse to replace the badly aging existing structure. Given that the cost estimate, at \$6 million, is probably conservative for construction of the proposed three-story, state-of-the-art facility, it is difficult to imagine anything but robust commentary from residents.

Mayor Ralph Falloon began the discussion, commenting that the idea of a new firehouse has "been kicked down the road" for at least 12 years and, referring to the current building, asked a key question: "Are we going to keep investing money in this place?" Before CSFC Assistant Fire Chief Steve Smith described the new plans, Falloon said that ultimately the issue will have to be put to the public in the form of a referendum.

Support for Main Street location

Cold Spring's mayor pointed out that

there is public support for keeping the fire company on Main Street. "Maybe the public will be willing to pay a bit more to stay on Main — away from the park," a reference to a previous, widely criticized proposal to locate the new firehouse in McConville Park, adjacent to Tots Park on Morris Avenue (Route 9D).

Smith, who also heads CSFC's building committee, reviewed a series of drawings for the proposed building, prepared at no cost by Keith Scofield, an architect with the Poughkeepsie-based firm of Liscum McCormack VanVoorhis. Scofield used the Fishkill Fire Department's building as the basis for the design. The concept for the firehouse features brown brick and a bell tower, reminiscent of Cold Spring's historic character.

The plans call for the complete demolition of the existing building. A major challenge in designing and building a new firehouse is the small size of the property. "It's tight," Smith said, describing how Scofield summed up the available space. "It's a really hard site," Smith continued. "Almost like a New York City site."

Modern firehouse design

Scofield's design "gave us a lot more than we expected," Smith said, adding that it incorporates facilities in keeping



Concept drawing of the proposed three-story Cold Spring firehouse with part of the adjacent PCNR building shown to illustrate scale

Photo by M. Turton

with those found in other firehouses in the region. Plans include a basement; first-floor truck storage, decontamination area and laundry room; second-floor

ready room, exercise room, showers and computer facilities; and third-floor meeting room, kitchen and bathrooms. Smith said that the (Continued on page 4)

Small, Good Things

The Lady’s Choice

By Joe Dizney

“An oyster, that marvel of delicacy, that concentration of sapid excellence, that mouthful before all other mouthfuls, who first had faith to believe it, and courage to execute? The exterior is not persuasive.”

~ Henry Ward Beecher, *Eyes and Ears*

That’s one way to look at it, and then there’s this:

“There’s a gallon of shucked oysters in the refrigerator — whatcha gonna cook?” ~ Mom (Elmire Marie LeBlanc Dizney, or “The Big E”)

What is the prodigal son to do when confronted with a culinary gauntlet being lobbed by a hungry and obviously excited nonagenarian (and her octogenarian “baby” sister who was the actual supplier of said bivalves)? You might think this is a somewhat unusual challenge, but that’s how my people rock the holidays in South Louisiana.

Mom, who held down a full-time job as a teacher and librarian while raising five children and never had much of an inclination to the culinary arts, (herself the child of a master, my grandmother) is entitled to such demands. She is however, an enthusiastic and unrepentant shellfish connoisseur and rapacious epicure of the stripe found *only* in Bayou Country.

And as the progeny of such bloodlines I am neither threatened nor intimidated by such provocation — I say, *let the games begin!* For one in the family who actually does love to cook, this is a typical welcome for my too-infrequent visits home and one I gladly accommodate.

We’ve done fried oysters: oyster po’boys, oyster spaghetti, a Hangtown Fry (a traditional San Franciscan gold rush-era omelet featuring oysters and bacon), an oyster frittata. In addition to the requisite few being sluiced down raw, there was an animated conversation on the potential merits of oyster pizza — fried first, of course, seasoned with tasso, perhaps? You get the picture. ...

My *podno* and New Orleans-based chef Frank Brigtsen had recently shared a recipe for his mother Ernie’s oyster-bread dressing as a tribute to her in the New Orleans’ *Times-Picayune*, and while I am partial to such abracadabra, especially around the holidays (there is *nothing* like a good oyster dressing with a roast turkey, goose or slab of beef) the lady of the house has suggested Oysters Mosca.

Mosca’s is a legendary family-run Louisiana Creole-Italian restaurant of the type that food writers (Calvin Trillin, Jane and Michael Stern) drool over — out of the way, rumored mob ties, physically charmless and fully genuine and authentic. Oysters Mosca (also called Oysters Italian style) is a signature dish, “composed” (although they would never use that term) of oysters in a mixture of sautéed onions, garlic and spices and baked with a generous dusting of breadcrumbs and a bit of Parmesan cheese.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with this dish. *But*, never one to leave well enough alone (“It’s not done ’til it’s *overdone!*”), the *second* time I proceeded to make this dish in a week (a gallon of shucked oysters is a *lot* of oysters) I was reminiscing (or maybe just fantasizing) about a combination of oysters and artichokes from somewhere in my forgotten past, and the accompanying recipe is the result of that rumination.

My major deviation from the Mosca’s seasoning is the substitution of a splash of soy sauce as a replacement for a classic brown French stock, but if you happen to have some lying around, be my guest. There is a bit of subtlety lost but



Oyster-artichoke gratin

Photo by J. Dizney

not as much as the effort required to get there displaces. This makes a great appetizer or side dish and is rich and elegant enough to make a meal in itself accompanied by a salad and some crusty bread. (I should note that Adam’s Fairacre Farms

usually has shucked oysters on hand and given a day or two will get quantities, so a call beforehand is recommended.)

Which is just what *we* did and apparently it was enough of a success for she-who-*never*-cooks to request the recipe. So here it is, Mom. Merry Christmas.

Oyster-Artichoke Gratin

Serves 4 as a side dish

- | | |
|--|--|
| 3/4 cup breadcrumbs (or panko) | 2 cloves garlic, minced |
| 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese | 1 stick celery, diced |
| 1 1/2 to 2 dozen shucked and drained oysters (reserve the oyster liquor) | 1 teaspoon oregano |
| 4 tablespoons unsalted butter (plus a bit for the gratin dish) | 1 teaspoon basil |
| 4 tablespoons olive oil | 9 ounce package of frozen artichoke quarters |
| 1 medium yellow onion diced small | 1 to 2 tablespoons soy sauce |

1. Mix the breadcrumbs and Parmesan and mix in 2 tablespoons of melted butter and a tablespoon or so of the olive oil. Crumble it all together with your fingers. Set aside. Butter a small gratin dish and “dust” with 1 to 2 tablespoons of the breadcrumb-Parmesan mixture and set aside. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Heat 2 tablespoons butter and 3 tablespoons of the olive oil in a large skillet or sauté pan. When hot, add onions and cook for 3 minutes. Add garlic, cook for another minute and add celery, oregano and basil. Cook for another two minutes and add artichokes, stirring to warm through (about a minute).
3. Add 1/2 cup of the reserved oyster liquor and the soy sauce (to taste) and cook on medium heat to fully cook the artichokes, about 5 minutes. You want the liquids to reduce but not dry out completely, so add additional oyster liquor as necessary to keep it moist.
4. When artichokes are cooked and liquid has reduced, gently stir in oysters until just incorporated and remove from heat. Stir in 1 to 2 tablespoons of the breadcrumb mixture. Gently spoon the oyster and artichoke mix into the prepared gratin dish.
5. Sprinkle enough of the remaining breadcrumb mixture over the dish to just cover and bake on the center rack of the oven for about 30 minutes, until top is just barely browned. Check after 20 minutes and every 5 minutes thereafter. Remove from oven and serve warm.



artful cooking / event planning
845-424-8204
www.freshcompany.net

Everyone’s reading
Philipstown.info
The Paper

Advertise your business here

call 845.809.5584
email ads@philipstown.info



your source
for organic,
biodynamic &
natural wines

— BEACON, NEW YORK —
artisan
wine shop

where food meets its match

180 main street / beacon, ny 12508
845.440.6923 / monday-saturday 10-7 / sunday 12-5
www.artisanwineshop.com

3-Time Winner: Best of Hudson Valley Magazine

With Memories, Tears and Smiles, Gordon Stewart Lauded for Life Well Lived (from page 1)

suddenly Nov. 26, fighting the emphysema that had not deterred his plans to brighten Philipstown’s holidays with further productions of *Messiah*, the Handel masterpiece he conducted last year. Before he and *Messiah* could return to St. Mary’s, the Cold Spring church became the site of his memorial service. Yet *Messiah*, like Stewart’s legacy, goes on, with two performances scheduled for Dec. 21.

The 275-plus attendees who packed St. Mary’s and spilled out its doors last Sunday included four men who eulogized Stewart after encountering him in one or more of his many capacities: Garrison neighbor always ready to reach out to others; White House speechwriter with a commitment to service and habit of going where he wanted, invited or not; local theater aficionado who built a new ensemble to perform old, classic plays; and friend to those who play a different sort of role in local governance and public affairs.

The neighbor

Frederick Osborn III, philanthropist and activist on the boards of several area organizations (including that of Philipstown Info Inc., the parent of *Philipstown.info*), knew Stewart as a friend, neighbor and a “very good man ... one of the greater, far greater” on the scale of those met in life. “The range and depth of his talents and accomplishments were astounding” and as a result, “Gordon Stewart intimidated me,” confided Osborn. He mentioned Stewart’s work not only in launching a newspaper but supporting other new public-spirited projects, such as Hudson Valley Seed and the Farm to School program. “The zest for a better world is what Gordon Stewart” exemplified, with “an enthusiasm and gusto that was contagious.” Osborn noted that Stewart believed “being kind, caring, and listening to your fellow human beings is what matters far more than what you’ve accomplished” in a career and other pursuits, as important as those are. He taught that “it’s nice to be important but much more important to be nice,” Osborn said.

The Oval Office speechwriter

Hendrik Hertzberg, President Jimmy Carter’s chief speechwriter, recalled his adventures with Stewart, the deputy chief speechwriter, in sites ranging around the world, including Vienna — where, thanks to earlier orchestral studies, Stewart proved adept at “hitting all the best coffeehouses in town” — and the presidential inner sanctum, which Stewart, though not authorized, “somehow infiltrated himself into” to coach Carter on a speech he and Hertzberg had drafted, the famous albeit misnamed 1979 “malaise” speech. Hertzberg reminded the congregation that, contrary to political lore, the speech garnered widespread praise, though Carter himself wrecked the momentum it built by reshuffling his Cabinet a few days later. “The speech was a huge success and Gordon deserves an enormous amount of credit for that,” Hertzberg said. “Because of that [coaching], this was the best-delivered speech Jimmy Carter had ever made.” Stewart’s brazen intervention was typical, Hertzberg pointed out. “Gordon made his own agendas, his own life, his own career.”

In a subsequent staff exit interview, Hertzberg recounted, Stewart defined speechwriting not as an exercise in manipulation of emotions, presidents or the nation but a form of service, asking provocative questions: “How do we make things work? How do we find something that we believe in — that we can do about the situation ... and lift people up?” He could have been talking about all his life ... and actions,” Hertzberg said.

The political leader

Richard Shea, Philipstown’s town supervisor, and Stewart interacted in the sphere of local public affairs but shared interests and discussions that ranged far beyond. Voice sometimes breaking, he spoke of Stewart’s deep love for his wife, Zanne, and daughter, Katy, and commitment to his community. “For me, Gordon was a mentor in the true sense,” Shea revealed. “With the same importance and consideration he’d give to a world leader, he’d advise me. He encouraged me to see more and do more — and do more well.” Shea, like others, listed Stewart’s assorted personas: “A writer, a musician, an author, a publisher, a conductor, a director, a presidential advisor, a husband, a father, a friend, a fireman — a fireman!” Stewart served in the volunteer Cold Spring Fire Company No. 1. “I’ve never known a person like him. He took the talents he had and not only used them but multiplied and shared them,” Shea marveled.

“Now that time has come when we can no longer wonder ‘What is next?’ ... Now is the time for thanks and reflection — for thanks for improving our lives, for bringing so much beauty to this community. Gordon was my friend and I will miss him more than words can express.”

“Not one of us imagined this time would come so soon, a time when we could no longer wonder what was next, what would be the next surprise, the next treasure Gordon would provide in a seemingly endless trove,” Shea said. “Now that time has come when we can no longer wonder ‘What is next?’ ... Now is the time for thanks and reflection — for thanks for improving our lives, for bringing so much beauty to this community. Gordon was my friend and I will miss him more than words can express.” Given Stewart’s propensity for shaking things up, he added, “I’d say the afterlife is in for some big changes!”

The theater director

About four years ago, artistic director, TV-series writer and Cold Spring resident John Plummer found himself recruited by Stewart to join World’s End Theater, a new Philipstown-based troupe. This past September, Stewart tapped him again, to deliver a eulogy at the service he was already planning for the days after his death. “Despite Gordon’s special gift for staying long past the scheduled end time of the meeting, he has now departed,” Plummer observed.

Like Shea, he highlighted Stewart’s generosity in mentoring him in numerous ways — in short, in life itself. “Gordon is, quite simply, great,” in the Buddhist sense of “the greater self,” Plummer said. “Gordon suffered much and frequently for others’ sake. He suffered the attacks of the foolish; he suffered the ignorance of many,” as well from his own physical limitations. “But he never met a suffering he couldn’t transform into joy. Gordon was the people’s companion. He is immortal, and fathomless, and he is here,” in *Messiah*, *The Paper*, in everything Katy does in her life and in the culinary creations of Zanne (a food editor and gourmet cook), Plummer said.

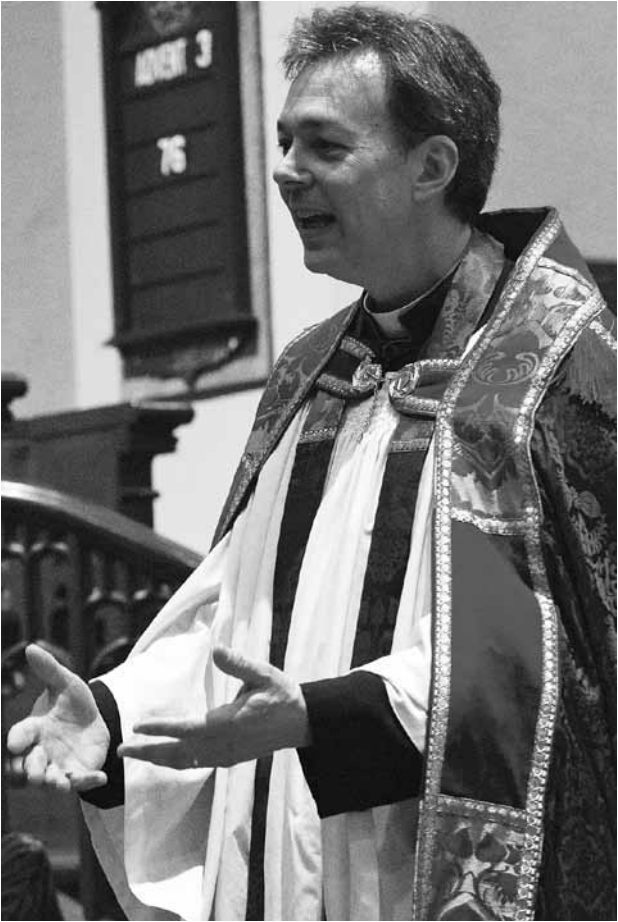
The journey

In his sermon, Rev. Shane Scott-Hamblen, St. Mary’s rector, spoke of his friendship with Stewart, which began relatively late in Stewart’s life and continued for long months as he quietly battled disease. Scott-Hamblen noted that Stewart, son of a 19th-century Calvinist

minister, had always been wary of religion. Yet the skeptic from the staunch Presbyterian family and the Episcopal priest grew close, as “this journey he asked me to go on with him” unfolded and Stewart pondered what lay ahead. “It was honest,” Scott-Hamblen said. “It was real, and it was big — as with everything with Gordon. It was a beautiful journey, and unexpected, but something holy was at work and I see the fingerprints of God.”

The music

Beginning with a prelude of *Make Our Garden Grow* from Leonard Bernstein’s *Candide*, by vocalists and instrumentalists, the memorial service interwove magnificent outpourings of music with the eulogies and the prayers of an Episcopal service. Violinist Rachel Evans performed the solo *Largo* from the *C Minor Sonata* by Bach, and Ronald Madden, bass, sang the solo *The Trumpet Shall Sound* from Handel’s *Messiah*, accompanied by Butch Barnard on the trumpet. Courtenay Budd, soprano, and James Ruff, tenor, joined Madden in providing the classical vocal touchstones of the service. And at the beginning and end, the congregation lent its voices, too, on the hymns *Lord of All Hopefulness*, which uses a traditional Irish melody, and *Sing With All the Saints in Glory*, derived from Beethoven’s *Ode to Joy*. Besides Barnard and Evans, Rachel Handman, violinist; Dr. Cynthia Ligenza, violist; and Christine Gummere, cellist, took part, along with John Drew, St. Mary’s music director. On the lawn before the service, a kilted Seth Gallagher, an in-



Rev. Shane Scott-Hamblen Photo by Ross Corsair

strument-maker and former mayor of Cold Spring, played poignant Celtic airs on his bagpipes in tribute.

Lined up outside the church, members of the Cold Spring Fire Company saluted as the service ended.

Attendees included New York State Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, Town Councilors Dave Merandy and Nancy Montgomery, Village Trustee Stephanie Hawkins, members of other town and village boards, theater personnel, at least one former White House staff member (besides Hertzberg), Stewart’s relatives and scores of individuals from across the valley, if not the country, who slipped into the church unobtrusively and paid their respects to the man who, in Shea’s words, “brought his whole world to this small town.”

The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary-in-the-Highlands



WHERE EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

CHRISTMAS EVE

FAMILY MASS AT 3:30 PM WITH CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

FESTIVAL MASS AT 10:30 PM WITH THE SAINT MARY’S CHOIR

RECEPTION IN THE PARISH HALL AFTER MASS

CORNER OF ROUTES 9D & 301 IN COLD SPRING
(845) 265-2539
WWW.STMARYSCOLDSRING.ORG

Philipstown.info

ThePaper

PUBLISHER

Philipstown Info Inc.

MANAGING EDITOR

Kevin E. Foley

ARTS/FEATURE EDITOR

Alison Rooney

SENIOR CORRESPONDENTS

Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Michael Turton

LAYOUT EDITOR

Kate Vikstrom

CALENDAR EDITOR

Chip Rowe

calendar@philipstown.info

REPORTERS

Sommer Hixson

Pamela Doan

PHOTOGRAPHER

Maggie Benmour

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Michele Gedney

For information on advertising:

845-809-5584

Email: ads@philipstown.info

Advertising closing: Tuesday at noon

Requirements: PDF or jpeg (minimum 300 dpi)

Review our rate sheet: www.philipstown.info/ads

© philipstown.info 2014

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form, mechanical or electronic, without written permission of the publisher. Advertisements designed by *The Paper* are copyrighted and may not be reproduced in whole or in part without permission.

Cold Spring Fire Company Assistant Chief Steve Smith outlined plans for the proposed firehouse. Photo by M. Turton

Representatives support land conservation

Dear Editor,

Although the defeat of the Supporting America’s Charities Act in Congress (H.R. 5806) last week is disappointing, Hudson Valley residents should be encouraged that local representatives Sean Patrick Maloney (D) and Chris Gibson (R) remained firm in their support of the bill, which would have made permanent increased tax deductions for donations of conservation agreements by private land-owners. Voluntary conservation agreements continue to be the least expensive way to retain our communities’ character by preserving historic landscapes and protecting working farms forever, ensuring these natural lands are not inappropriately subdivided or exploited.

In true bipartisan fashion, Reps. Maloney and Gibson understand that the scenic landscapes of the Hudson Valley bring economic benefit to local communities through tourism and outdoor recreation, and support job growth. They realize that open space also bolsters cultural resources and business sectors alike, safeguarding the region’s quality of life.

Before the vote in the House of Representatives, Rep. Maloney said, “Conservation easements preserve our environment, boost our economy, and create jobs, and making this important provision permanent will allow our farmers the certainty they need to make important long-term decisions about protecting their land for future generations.”

At the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, we are encouraged by the close vote on the Supporting America’s Charities Act

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(the bill needed 67 percent and received 65 percent). We worked with other non-profit organizations to speak with one voice on this crucial issue and raised awareness on Capitol Hill of the importance of land conservation. This is a strong foundation upon which to build our campaign to make the enhanced federal tax incentives for conservation agreements permanent in 2015.

Saving land continues to be a shared, bipartisan American value. The Senate was not involved in the vote, but both New York Sens. Charles Schumer and Kristen Gillibrand support land conservation. I encourage your readers to contact their representatives, thank them for their unwavering support of conservation, and further encourage the passage of permanent conservation incentive legislation in the next Congress.

Andy Chmar
Executive Director
Hudson Highlands Land Trust

HDRB decision disappointing

To the Editor:

I was shocked and saddened to hear that the Historic District Review Board wants the two new Butterfield project buildings facing Chestnut Street to relate to the architecture of the Drug World, Foodtown strip mall, and the Lahey Pavilion, the three biggest aesthetic eyesores in Cold Spring — they should never have been built, but they were built before we had a Historic District Review Board, which is supposed to save us from architecture that does not relate to the character of Cold Spring ... in the case

of the strip mall I use the word “architecture” lightly. (I have nothing against authentic modern architecture — I live in a modern house, but outside the village, in a forest, which was recently featured in the Putnam History Museum modern architecture show.) The HDR Board’s reasoning is, “To make sure the appearance is in character of the village.” The shopping strip complex (now with a Dunkin’ Donuts added) is NOT the character of the village. Cold Spring is a 19th-century village, with 95 percent of the architecture relating to that period ... one of the very few villages left on the Hudson not totally visually destroyed and charmless. Let’s keep it that way and be proud of it. The Butterfield project’s nearest neighbors, the Chestnut Ridge apartments and the Nest, both made an attempt to fit into the 19th-century look, and NOT the mindless architecture of the strip mall complex nearby. And Paulding Avenue, on the other side of the Butterfield complex, contains some of the most beautiful historic homes in Cold Spring. The entire project should be of one character, as presented by Mr. Guillaro, who did such a beautiful job on the old lumberyard space. It would be easy to make the Lahey Pavilion relate: Add a pitched roof, put mullions in the windows and some 19th-century trim. And there is no need to flip building No. 1, which would make more parking facing Route 9D — we already have more than enough parked cars on 9D with the shopping mall complex parking areas. Please, let’s not destroy Cold Spring any more than it already has been.

Joe Chapman
Cold Spring

Firehouse Plans Unveiled (from page 1)

meeting room would have a capacity of 125 to 130 people, slightly larger than the current space.

Among the current building’s shortcomings mentioned at Monday’s meeting was the lack of laundry and decontamination facilities, even though they are considered a requirement. The current building also has no exercise room. Asked by Trustee Stephanie Hawkins if that facility is required, Smith said that firefighters are supposed to stay in shape but that it’s difficult to force volunteers to do so. He pointed out that in New York City, firefighters have to “work off the pounds” when their weight gets above acceptable levels. Falloon said fitness rooms are common at most firehouses now, explaining that more than 40 percent of fatalities among firefighters are health related — not caused by

fire. Smith said that “pretty much everything” included in the design is required.

The numbers

The architect estimated construction costs at \$320 per square foot. The proposed building would total 19,458 square feet compared with the current structure, which is slightly more than 4,800 square feet.

Smith said that the estimate of just over \$6 million probably doesn’t represent the full cost. Other expenditures would include offsite storage of equipment during construction, a construction trailer and demolition of the existing building.

Falloon said that with only 894 taxed properties in Cold Spring, a \$6 million bond spread over 20 years would cost taxpayers an additional \$500 per year. Over 30 years the annual cost would be reduced to \$400.

Trustee Mike Bowman asked about savings should a new firehouse be built on a flat, open site such as adjacent to Tots Park. Smith estimated the cost would drop to between \$3.5 and \$4 million, in part because on a larger lot the structure could be built on one floor. An open site would also permit the facility to be built in phases, reducing the initial cost. A multi-story building such as the one now proposed for Main Street could not be built in phases. Citing savings in the millions of dollars, Bowman suggested that, when hired, the new village attorney should again look into the legalities of building the firehouse at McConville Park.

Resident Frank Haggerty asked if a Nelsonville location might be considered since it has more open area. Falloon said that it could be possible to form a new fire district consisting of Cold Spring, Nelsonville and part of Philipstown. In that scenario, the cost of the facility to Cold Spring would be reduced, since it would

have only 62 percent of the assessed property value in the district. “But that is a whole other can of worms,” Falloon said. CSFC currently provides fire protection for Nelsonville and a portion of Philipstown and is reimbursed for the service.

Strong rationale, feedback needed

Hawkins urged the fire company to provide a strong rationale for the proposed facilities. “We [the Village Board] and the community need to hear the justification for things that are not legally required so we can make it happen,” she said.

CSFC President John Landolfi explained that the architect was told to put everything into the plans that normally go into today’s firehouses. “We want to move forward. We want to hear from the community,” he said. “If everybody thinks three stories are ridiculous ...” He didn’t finish the sentence.

When Smith commented to Village Board members that “we can discuss what can be eliminated — it’s your building,” Falloon responded, “It’s our building ... we need to do as much of the work together as we can.”

CSFC plans to hold an open house to showcase the plans and seek public comment.

“Cooperation” may have to be the watchword in 2015 and beyond, not to mention “tolerance.” Real progress toward a new, multimillion-dollar firehouse will be a major financial challenge. And further down the road, its construction can’t help but disrupt village life to some extent. But the firehouse is not the only major project on the horizon. Substantial initiatives including repair of the village dams, Main Street reconstruction, upgrades to wastewater treatment facilities and the removal of coal tar at the Cold Spring Boat Club will no doubt put those watchwords to the test.

NOTICE OF CLOSURE

The Philipstown Highway Department will be closed on December 26th. In the event of a storm the crews will be called in.

Have a Happy Holiday.

Santa Arrives in True Beacon Style for Bicycle-Tree Lighting

New location is park/city square off Route 9D

By Brian PJ Cronin

Few people know how to make an entrance like Santa Claus. That was evident in Beacon last Saturday night, when the man in red arrived at the park on the corner of Main Street and Route 9D for the city’s fourth annual tree lighting. Delayed by Second Saturday traffic, Mr. Claus rolled down Main Street in a pedicab pedaled by Jon Miles of the Peoples Bicycle shop. With the Grinch by his side, looking suspiciously like Beacon City Council Member Ali T. Muhammad under the mask, sculptor Ed Benavente playing the role of the reindeer on a golden bike of his own, and a full police escort, Santa arrived to cheering kids of all ages. The mood had been set long before Santa arrived, with music and dancing provided by the Beacon Music Factory, the Center for Creative Education and local elementary school students. The WeePlay Community Project held an ornament-making workshop for children

to make their own decorations for the tree. And the tree was, of course, no ordinary tree. As with the previous three years, the tree was actually a sculpture constructed by Benavente out of old bicycle parts. “It gets a little bit bigger every year,” said Benavente about this handiwork. “My plan is always to build it in the middle of the summer when I can still feel my fingers, but somehow it always comes down to the week before.” This was the first year that the lighting was held at the pocket park on the corner of Main Street and Route 9D. The lot at Cross Street and Main, the event’s previous location, was recently sold. While the new landlord offered to let the event continue at Cross Street, Dan Rigney, president of BeaconArts, said it was better to come up with a new permanent site for the event. The pocket park, home of the Beacon Welcome Center, has slowly been transforming into the sort of public square the city sorely lacks. Rigney said that having the tree lighting there would help further develop the location. “It’s a site that’s controlled by the city, and the visibility of the park to those driving back



Santa arrives for tree-lighting celebration driven by John Miles of People’s Bicycle. Photos by Ethan Harrison



An up-close examination of the bicycle tree by Beacon kids

Million-Dollar Stocking Stuffer

State funds part of Fjord Trail project

By Kevin E. Foley

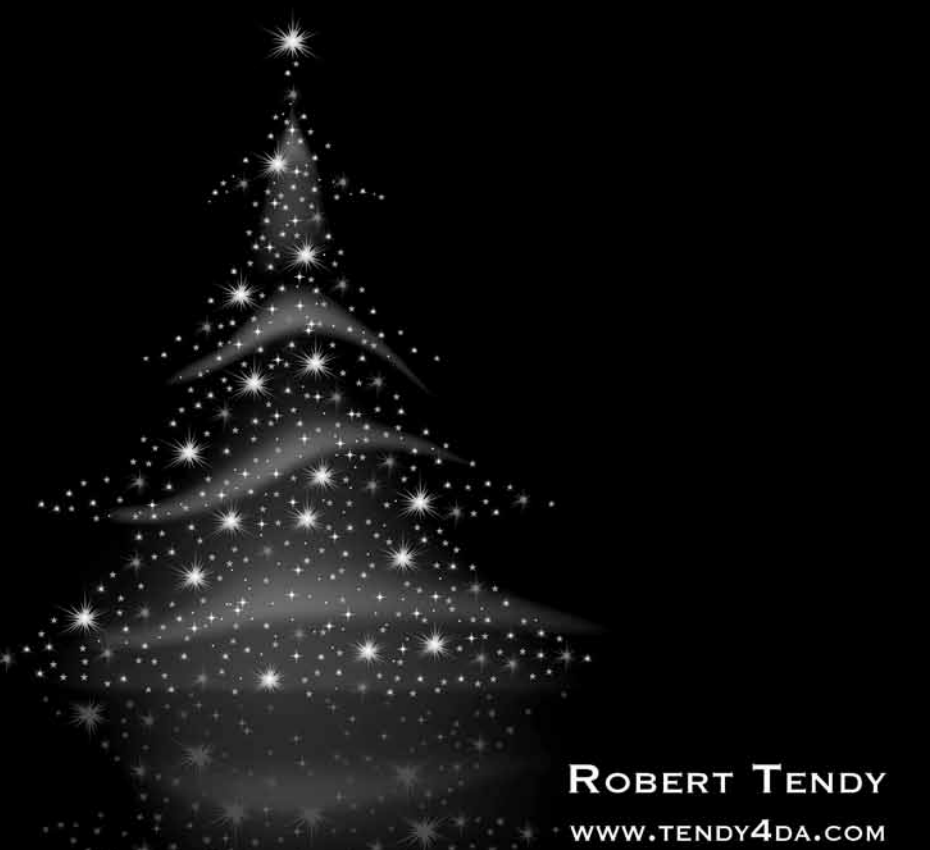
Proponents of the Fjord Trail, a planned hiking and biking pathway running along the Hudson River between Cold Spring and Beacon, received an early holiday present Thursday, Dec. 11, when Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced a new round of economic development grants, including \$935,000 for the project. The funding is part of Cuomo’s Regional Business Council initiative, wherein locally created projects intended to increase economic activity and job opportunities are provided with seed money from the state government. In this round of grants, 852 projects received funding for a total of \$709.3 million. Advocates for the Fjord Trail include all the local governments that encompass the area the path would traverse, including the towns of Philipstown, Fishkill, the city of Beacon and the Village of

Cold Spring. Scenic Hudson, the regional nonprofit land preservation and environmental protection group, is also a major driver of the project. Still in the design stage, the Fjord Trail will ultimately cost several million dollars. This fresh round of funding will allow for progress on what many consider a critical feature of the project, the creation of a safer, more orderly way for visitors arriving by car and train to access hiking trails in Philipstown and Fishkill along the Route 9D corridor, including the popular destination Breakneck Ridge. Currently cars are often parked along the edges of 9D with pedestrians walking along the roadway perilously close to traffic. According to the grant announcement, the money is intended to help create a new visitor’s center for the Hudson Highlands State Park area at Little Stony Point just north of Cold Spring, improved train access and better parking for both cars and bicycles in and around the Breakneck Ridge train platform as well as an Americans with Disabilities Act-accessible path to the Breakneck Ridge trail head.

and forth on Route 9D is fantastic,” he said. “It’s a public space that needs to be developed a little bit more, as it welcomes a lot of people to Beacon, and this is going to help set this park in people’s minds.” The spirit of excitement continued to develop as Santa strolled to the porch in front of the Beacon Welcome Center and led the crowd in a countdown to lighting the tree. Santa’s flair for the dramatic was evidenced once again by the fact that the tree failed to light on the first two tries. But the third time was the charm, and the tree burst to life with multicolored lights, spinning wheels and a rotating disco ball at the top that cast

stars across the faces of awed children at the foot of the tree. Benavente said it’s no wonder the children find the tree so entrancing. “When you talk about Christmas, for a lot of kids a bike is the best gift you could ever get, because it’s your first taste of freedom,” he explained. “You’re self-propelled. So when Beacon was lacking its own tree ceremony, I thought, ‘Why not make it an art project, something symbolic of the town?’ Like Beacon, a bicycle is powered by people. And besides,” he added, gesturing grandly to the illuminated tree towering above the park, “who doesn’t like a bicycle?”

WISHING YOU
JOY AND PEACE
THIS CHRISTMAS
AND
CHANUKAH
AND INTO THE NEW
YEAR.



ROBERT TENDY
WWW.TENDY4DA.COM

NOTICE

All bills outstanding against the Town of Philipstown, Putnam County, New York, must be submitted for payment by 1 p.m. on Monday, December 29, 2014, to the Town Clerk’s Office at 238 Main Street, P.O. Box 155, Cold Spring, New York.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN
DATED: December 3, 2014

This Ornament Has History

Family celebrates the carrot's 113th Christmas

By Michel Turton

When 25-year-old William Bennett and his wife Louise presented their 5-month-old son William with an ornament, a gift to help celebrate the infant's first Christmas, they could not have imagined that their small act of kindness would prompt a news story more than 100 years later. But it did.

Born in Trenton, New Jersey, in 1876, William Bennett Sr. was a tugboat captain with the Dalzell Towing Line, where he helped the large ocean liners of that era dock in New York Harbor. He married Louise in 1900, and the young couple moved into their home next to the Brook-

lyn Bridge. William Jr. was born in 1901, and later that year the young parents gave their son a Christmas ornament — a gift destined to become a family treasure and the source of yuletide conversation among their descendants for generations to come. The ornament was an orange, velvet carrot.

William Bennett Jr. moved to Brewster shortly after the Second World War. After his death in 1949, “the carrot” — as it is simply but reverently referred to within the family — was passed on to his niece, Carol Hamel, a resident of Putnam Valley. This Christmas, Carol's 11-month-old granddaughter Shaylee becomes the carrot's heir-apparent, the first member of the fifth generation to lay hands on the beloved ornament. Shaylee's parents, Bob and Alanna (McGuire) Hamel, also live in Putnam Valley.



A very young William Bennett is pictured here holding “the carrot” circa 1903. Photo courtesy of the Hamel family

“I always find it interesting when looking at faded black-and-white family Christmas photos from decades ago ... that somewhere on those trees ... is the carrot ornament we're fortunate enough to still have,” Carol said. “I have cousins who would love to have it, but I'm the oldest,” she said, a



Eleven-month-old Shaylee Hamel, with her father Bob Hamel and her grandmother Carol Hamel, already seems fascinated by “the carrot.” Photo by M. Turton

hint of mischief in her eyes. She said that when relatives visit over the holidays, the first words uttered are always the same: “Where's the carrot?” She confessed that when the relatives depart, “I check to make sure it's still there!”

Her son Bob said that the carrot has never missed a Christmas and that milestone anniversaries always prompt comments that add to the ornament's mystique: “This is 90 years for the carrot!” “This is 95 years for the carrot” “This is 100 years for the carrot!”

Carol and her son agree that the carrot's monetary worth doesn't warrant an appearance on *Antiques Roadshow*, but that does nothing to diminish its value to the family. Bob even said, somewhat seriously, that at one point his mom wor-

ried about who the carrot would eventually be passed down to. “I had to have a family so that someone could inherit the carrot!” he said.

The Hamels also have a large, gold ball, a Christmas tree ornament that they think is as old as the carrot. Of considerable weight, it was meant to be placed on the lower part of the tree to help hold the branches down. The family definitely treasures it as well, but as Bob puts it, “It's just not as good a story.”

The carrot's Christmas past and Christmas present are secure, and its Christmas future also seems to be in good hands. “I'll have the carrot someday, and then I'll pass it on to Shaylee,” Bob said. “Then we'll just have to keep it going for another 113 years.”

Toy Donation Drive for Children Affected by Ebola (from page 1)

during her two years (1998-2000) in the Peace Corps, or the community of Philipstown, where things — and people — can fall through the cracks as easily as anywhere else. As DI's site notes, “Our organization tries to ‘do something’ when the feeling of what to do may feel overwhelming.” It's looking beyond the huge, seemingly impossible-to-solve problems and often getting down to business, relieving some of the pressures that go along with those big-picture issues.

This new initiative began after Pack McCarthy watched a *60 Minutes* episode “on the incredible work of International Medical Corps (IMC) in a Liberian Ebola clinic,” she explained. “One of the most heartbreaking images of the piece was a small boy infected with Ebola. He sat in an area for infected patients, being taken care of by his father. And this would happen all day long: sitting there, nothing to play with, nothing to do.” During the stretches when there isn't certainty over whether someone is infected or not, they must simply wait. And, for children, this means sitting around in rooms with adult workers all suited up in protective coveralls, with no real chance for connection, even for hugs. “I couldn't watch that and then just get up and go to bed,” Pack McCarthy said. “They have nothing to latch onto, no trains, no dolls, no objects of comfort. It's an issue of comfort and comforting.”

Pack McCarthy immediately got going. She began by contacting the International Rescue Committee, with whom she had worked previously. For logistical reasons, they and a number of other aid organizations were unable to implement her idea, but eventually she contacted the agency she had seen on *60 Minutes* (IMC) and, after discussions in which Pack McCarthy assured them enough items would be collected, and after IMC vetted Denniston International and its background, they agreed to a combining of efforts — with DI in charge of collecting, packaging and shipping the toys over to IMC



The community has already responded to Denniston International's drive for toys for children in Africa affected by the Ebola crisis. Photo courtesy of Danielle Pack McCarthy

field offices in Sierra Leone and Liberia and IMC then taking over to distribute them. Pack McCarthy described IMC as an “on-the-ground organization; they're already there in these communities and are working from the ground up, getting to work. They're totally dedicated and extremely professional and have been active on a longstanding basis,” working to help avert and/or manage health crises such as malaria and AIDS/HIV in various locations around the world.

Pack McCarthy started organizing for this initiative during the second week of November; the various clearances needed have taken up much of the time since then, but now all is set and collecting has begun, with boxes already appearing on

her porch. DI is covering the cost of the shipping and IMC is doing the same in devoting its resources to distribute the shipments. The first shipment was scheduled to go out around Dec. 19, to receiving offices in Liberia and Sierra Leone. Throughout the process, there will be photographic documentation of the journey from here to the actual clinics and other areas of distribution, so donors and their families will be able to see the results of the contributions.

DI is seeking toys new or gently used (the guide to gently used being “I want to be proud of what I'm sending,” per Pack McCarthy), toys including cars, trucks, building blocks, Duplo-type Legos, crayons and markers, complete boxed games

(like checkers, Chinese checkers, Connect 4, dominoes and chess sets), children's books in English, picture books and gently used magazines for both children and adults. Financial donations, earmarked for shipping costs, can be made through the DI website. Donations can be made during regular business hours at boxes at Butterfield Library, Haldane High School, where the Student Council and the Model UN class have done some organizing, and through Living Yoga Studios in Philipstown Square on Route 9; a free yoga class there is offered to anyone making a donation.

Pack McCarthy calls the spirit of the community “exceptional — people just want to help; they're often looking for a personal connection to a cause.” Perhaps it is simply giving back, for DI has directly helped others, over the past few years, in this community. They have focused on small, acute needs, needs they have found out about through “relationship building — getting to know the community.” It is through asides, quiet conversations, that Pack McCarthy has found out where the needs are here.

For example, a coach mentioned that an avid player on his Little League team would be sitting out the season the following year. Follow-up determined that the family couldn't afford the fees, and DI paid those fees. Another time, someone noted that a Spanish-speaking family had a child who would be attending kindergarten at Haldane in a year, inevitably hampered right off the bat by not speaking any English. DI paid for a year of preschool for that child, where the focus was on language acquisition. “It's the little things that are overlooked,” said Pack McCarthy. The DI website echoes this, stating their “true belief that small acts create great change.”

The inspiration for all of this is DI's namesake, a boy from St. Vincent named Denniston Thomas. Pack McCarthy first met him when “he left mangoes on my porch.” He lived a few (To page 14)

The Calendar

Harlem's Rattlers and the Great War

Writing history about soldiers in war wasn't Jeffrey T. Sammons' first choice. The New York University history professor's primary interests are race and sports. He has a book on boxing to his credit, with one on golf soon to be published. But when a suggestion came his way to chronicle the path of a regiment of African-American soldiers through the travails of the American entry into World War I and the country's resistance to fully accepting the role of those soldiers, he believed he had to do it.

Harlem's Rattlers and the Great War was a "labor of love, with a lot of blood, sweat and tears," that took over a decade of research to complete, Sammons told an audience at the Desmond-Fish Library on Sunday, Dec. 7. Appearing with Sammons for a discussion of the book was the heir to a storied Hudson Valley name, the library's president of the board of trustees, Hamilton Fish V. The library is named in part after Fish's grandfather (the third H. Fish), who played a significant role in the formation, deployment and aftermath of the 369th Regiment. Fish V has had a varied and interesting career involving journalism, documentary film, politics and campaigns for social justice.

The regiment, according to Sammons, flew under a Gadsden flag featuring a coiled snake and the motto "Don't Tread on Me," which dates back to a Revolutionary War general, hence the name "Rattlers" even though the unit was better known by the early 20th-century media-imposed name of the Harlem Hell Fighters.

Ever since the end of the Civil War, New York state's African Americans had sought to form an all-black National Guard regiment. Over the years, such efforts were met with hardened opposition, in part, said Sammons, because the National Guard of the day was as much a prominent social institution as a military one, and members, especially the leaders, could not accept the idea that blacks would attain any-

(Continued on page 10)

Books on Big Subjects with Local Roots

By Kevin E. Foley



Power on the Hudson

Imagine for a moment going to the Cold Spring dock and looking across the Hudson toward a giant hydroelectric power plant built into Storm King Mountain. Atop the mountain would sit a large lake of pumped-up water waiting for release to create electricity. Imagine thick electrical power lines emerging from the river and moving across Philipstown aboveground toward eastern Putnam County and Westchester carrying the power from the water.

Hardly seems possible that any entity would propose such an idea now, but in 1962, Consolidated Edison (Con Ed), the New York City-based energy company, did just that, and they spent more than a decade and a fortune in company funds trying to make it happen.

Ironically, the proposal was announced on the same day, Sept. 27, as the publication of Rachel Carson's seminal environmental book *Silent Spring*. Both that book and the struggle over Storm King Mountain had enormous impact on the history, laws and politics of considering our natural environment in an advanced industrial age.

Power on the Hudson by Robert D. Lifset, a professor of energy history at the University of Oklahoma, closely studies the Storm King controversy. For anyone interested in understanding the past and how it informed the present in the Hudson Highlands and in the larger world of environmental awareness and energy production, this accessible, 300-page work can provide the prospective and the details.

The book is an outgrowth of Lifset's Columbia University doctoral dissertation. As a student, he had a broad interest in the politics of environmental conflict but was uncertain where his scholarly research should be directed. At the suggestion of an uncle he decided to focus on the Storm King battle, which was a precedent-setting legal imbroglio with a healthy dose of politics in the mix. With voluminous records to review and people to interview, the work took up much of the 2000s, Lifset said in an interview with *The Paper*.

(Continued on page 11)

Terry Platz Is One of Several Local Singers Returning to Perform *Messiah*



Terry Platz
Image courtesy of Motherlode Trio/Penny Millar

'It's transcendent and overwhelming. Some phrases are so overwhelmingly beautiful it's hard to get through them.'

By Alison Rooney

This Sunday's two performances of Handel's *Messiah* will, as with last year's, feature a panoply of professional, New York City-based musicians and singers, most with many performances of the oratorio under their belts, along with a contingent of local singers. For a few of those local singers, last year's performances were their first times at bat in this epic and challenging work. Philipstown's Terry Platz sang last

year, and though she was not among those performing the piece for the first time, it was still like nothing she had ever done before. Platz, who will be returning to sing in both performances on Dec. 21, called last year's concerts "a culmination of my whole life's love of music ... truly one of the most magical experiences of my career."

Having performed *Messiah* many times previously in, among other places, "group sings at Lincoln Center with people screaming their lungs out," Platz in this *Messiah* was "piqued by the use of period instruments." Her love for the work is formed by feeling "a part of it. There's the history aspect of it — you're singing something that people for centuries have sung. It's transcendent and overwhelming. Some phrases are so

overwhelmingly beautiful it's hard to get through them."

Platz, a member of Philipstown's homegrown MotherLode Trio as well as a member of the St. Philip's Church choir, grew up in a very musical family — her father, "a jingles producer, used to arrange quartets for my family of four to sing." After attending St. Olaf College, with its renowned music program, Platz had a career as a professional singer, working in recording studios singing backup and jingles, but she "never took the path of [becoming a] 'legitimate' musician — which most of this group was."

Being able to read music well, she devoted time to studying the score, and although it was familiar to her, in this and last year's edition, "there were many selections I

(Continued on page 14)

The Calendar

Holiday Religious Services

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

Blue Christmas Service

7 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
50 Liberty St., Beacon
845-831-5322 | beaconpresbychurch.com

Jazz Nativity

5:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

Christmas Pageant

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

Community Hannukah Party

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

Blue Christmas Service

5 p.m. South Highland United Methodist Church
19 Snake Hill Road, Garrison | 845-526-3788

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Services

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

3:30 p.m. Family Mass and Pageant
10:30 p.m. Carols and Candlelight Mass
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-2539 | stmaryscoldspring.org

St. Philip's Episcopal Church

5 p.m. Family Service and Pageant
11 p.m. Midnight Service
1101 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org

First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown

5 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

United Methodist Church

7 p.m. Candlelight Service
216 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3365

First Presbyterian Church

8 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
50 Liberty St., Beacon
845-831-5322 | beaconpresbychurch.com

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day Service

Christmas Service

10 a.m. St. Philip's Episcopal Church
1101 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

Kids & Community

Sparkle!

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

Holiday Party

7 - 10 p.m. Beacon Music Factory
629 Route 52, Beacon
845-765-0472 | beaconmusicfactory.com

Film & Theater

Musical Revue (Youth Theater)

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

Artisan Dance Company: The Nutcracker

7:30 p.m. Sugar Loaf
1351 Kings Highway, Chester
845-610-5900 | sugarloafpac.org

A Christmas Carol

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

Cheaper by the Dozen

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

It's a Wonderful Life: The 1946 Radio Play

8 p.m. Culinary Institute of America (Marriott Pavilion) | 1946 Campus Drive, Hyde Park
845-235-9885 | halfmoontheatre.org

Music

KJ Denhart

6:30 & 9:30 p.m. 12 Grapes
12 N. Division St., Peekskill
914-737-6624 | 12grapes.com

Rock Band Boot Camp: Purple Rain

8 p.m. Southern Dutchess Bowl
629 Route 52, Beacon
845-765-0472 | beaconmusicfactory.com

Open-Mic Night

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

Ricardo Gautreau & Friends

8 p.m. BeanRunner Café
201 S. Division, Peekskill
914-737-1701 | beanrunnercafe.com

We Three Duos

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

Royal Khaoz

9 p.m. Whistling Willie's
184 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2012 | whistlingwillies.com

The Compact

9:30 p.m. Max's on Main
246 Main St., Beacon
845-838-6297 | maxsonmain.com

Viktoria Tocca

10 p.m. The Hudson Room
23 South Division St., Peekskill
914-788-3663 | hudsonroom.com

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

114th Annual Christmas Bird Count, Peekskill

Email office@sawmillriveraudubon.org

Kids & Community

Breakfast With Santa

8:30 a.m. Bear Mountain Inn
55 Hessian Drive, Highland Falls
845-786-2731 | visitbearmountain.com

Cold Spring Farmers' Market

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

Beary Merry Christmas

10:30 a.m. Trailside Zoo
3006 Seven Lakes Drive, Bear Mountain
845-786-2701 | trailsidezoo.org

Santa Visits Secret Garden

1 - 4 p.m. Kismet at Caryn's
72 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-4403

Cooking With the Mediterranean Diet (Class)

2 p.m. Dempsey House
1992 Crompond Road, Cortlandt Manor
914-734-3780 | hvhc.org/events

Origami Fun (ages 7-11)

2 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
917-318-7801 | compassarts.org

Christmas With the Ellisons

4 p.m. Knox's Headquarters
289 Forge Hill Road, Vails Gate
845-561-5498 | nysparks.com

Free Admission

5 - 8 p.m. Mid-Hudson Children's Museum
75 N. Water St., Poughkeepsie
845-471-0589 | mhcm.org

Sparkle!

5 - 9 p.m. Boscobel
See details under Friday.

Sports

Army vs. St. Thomas Aquinas (Women's Basketball)

1 p.m. Christl Arena
Fenton Place, West Point
845-938-2526 | goarmysports.com

Film & Theater

Westchester Ballet Company: The Nutcracker

12:30 & 4:30 p.m. Westchester County Center
198 Central Ave., White Plains
914-995-4050 | countycenter.biz

It's a Wonderful Life: The 1946 Radio Play

1:15 p.m. Sound Effects Show & Tell
2 & 8 p.m. Performances
Culinary Institute of America (Marriott Pavilion)
See details under Friday.

Artisan Dance Company: The Nutcracker

2 & 7:30 p.m. Sugar Loaf
See details under Friday.

The Colonial Nutcracker

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

A Christmas Carol

4 & 8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Friday.



4 1st violins
3 2nd violins
2 violas
2 cellos
1 bass
2 oboes
2 bassoons
2 trumpets
1 tympani
1 harpsichord
1 positiv organ
1 solo soprano
1 solo countertenor
1 solo tenor
1 solo bass
20+ chorus

A Philipstown

Messiah

by George Frideric Handel Parts I and II (abridged)

A special benefit for Saint Mary's-in-the-Highlands, and Philipstown Food Pantry

Featuring top professional period instrument players and singers
Prepared and conducted by Gordon Stewart in 2013, and performed in his memory.
July 22, 1939 – November 26, 2014

Sunday, December 21, 2014
2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., Reception: 3:30-4:30 \$20, \$100, \$250, \$500

Tickets: www.brownpapertickets.com

All costs for these performances have been donated in the spirit of the season.
All tickets and contributions will be tax-deductible to the extent provided by the law.

Saint Mary's-in-the-Highlands, 1 Chestnut Street, Cold Spring, NY 845-265-2539 stmaryscoldspring.org

Nut/Cracked
7:30 p.m. Fisher Center
Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson
845-758-7900 | fishercenter.bard.edu

Cheaper by the Dozen
8 p.m. The Beacon Theatre
See details under Friday.

Hung With Care: A Holiday Burlesque Cabaret
8:30 p.m. Cunneen-Hackett Theater
12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie
845-227-7855 | trinityplayersny.org

Music
Hudson Valley Philharmonic: Handel's Messiah
2 p.m. Ulster Performing Arts Center
601 Broadway, Kingston
845-339-6088 | upac.org

C'mon Beach, Let's Dance
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Ray Blue Quartet
8 p.m. BeanRunner Café
See details under Friday.

A Very Slambovian Christmas
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe
See details under Friday.

Otterknockers
9 p.m. Whistling Willie's
See details under Friday.

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

Backbeat With Rudy
9:30 p.m. Max's on Main
See details under Friday.

Little Larry Jr. & The Squall
10 p.m. The Hudson Room
See details under Friday.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

Kids & Community
Breakfast With Santa
8:30 & 10:30 a.m. Bear Mountain Inn
See details under Saturday.

Beacon Farmers Market
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Scenic Hudson River Center
Long Dock Drive, Beacon
845-234-9325 | beaconfarmersmarket.org

Kids' Open-Mic Night
6 - 8 p.m. 12 Grapes
12 N. Division St., Peekskill
914-737-6624 | 12grapes.com

Health & Fitness
Free Level 1 Yoga Class
9 a.m. Living Yoga Studios
3182 Route 9, Cold Spring
845-809-5900 | livingyogastudios.com

Sports
Army vs. Maine (Men's Basketball)
1 p.m. Christl Arena
Fenton Place, West Point
845-938-2526 | goarmysports.com

Film & Theater
Nut/Cracked
2 p.m. Fisher Center
See details under Saturday.

Artisan Dance Company: The Nutcracker
2 p.m. Sugar Loaf
See details under Friday.

Westchester Ballet Company: The Nutcracker
2 p.m. Westchester County Center
See details under Saturday.

A Dancer's Dream (2013)
3 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

Cheaper by the Dozen
3 p.m. The Beacon Theatre
See details under Friday.

A Christmas Carol
7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Friday.

Visit www.philipstown.info for news updates and latest information.

Music
Beacon Music Factory Solstice Celebration
Noon - 2 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | beaconmusicfactory.com

Hudson Valley Saxophone Orchestra Holiday Concert
1 & 3:30 p.m. Cunneen-Hackett Theater
12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie
845-227-7855 | trinityplayersny.org

A Philipstown Messiah (Benefit)
2 & 5 p.m. St. Mary's Episcopal Church
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-2539 | stmaryscoldspring.org

Winter Concert & Sing-Along
3 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
914-420-4515 | harmonyandco.com

Jim Brickman: On a Winter's Night
3 p.m. Bardavon
35 Market St., Poughkeepsie
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

Pick 'n' Grin Acoustic Session
6 - 9:30 p.m. Dogwood | 47 E. Main St., Beacon
845-202-7500 | dogwoodbar.com

The Costellos / Paul Byrne
7:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe
See details under Friday.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

Kids & Community
Vacation Camp (ages 5–12)
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. All Sport Health & Fitness
17 Old Main St., Fishkill
845-896-5678 | allsportfishkill.com

Holiday Art Camp (ages 5+)
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Embark | 925 South St., Peekskill | 347-453-3182 | embarkpeekskill.com

Film & Theater
The Graduate (1967)
7:15 p.m. Downing Film Center
19 Front St., Newburgh
845-561-3686 | downingfilmcenter.com

NEW YEAR'S EVE
Annual Bash featuring
Chris O'Leary Band • Simi Stone
Plus multi-course buffet!



379 Main Street.
Beacon, NY 12508

Friday 12/19 8:30pm
"WE THREE DUOS"
Karen Savoca & Pete Heitzman
Sara Milonovich & Andy Goessling
Michele & Rick Gedney

Saturday 12/20 8:30pm
A VERY SLAMBOVIAN CHRISTMAS

Sunday 12/21 7:30pm
Winter Solstice Holiday Show
THE COSTELLOS
guest **PAUL BYRNE**

Friday 12/26 8:30pm
"Spero Plays Nyro"
Laura Nyro Tribute
THE CHRISTINE SPERO GROUP

Saturday 12/27 8:30pm
WILLIE NILE

Sunday 12/28 7:30pm
THE GARLAND JEFFREYS BAND
Open Mic Wednesday 7pm
Tickets and info: townecrier.com • 845-855-1300

"A gem... The Towne Crier takes its food seriously."
— NY Times

Wednesday 12/31 9:30pm
NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION
CHRIS O'LEARY BAND • SIMI STONE
Just Added! **MILTON**

Friday 1/2 8:30pm
THE MCKRELLS
also **MANDOLIN MADNESS**
with Barry Mitterhoff (Hot Tuna)

Saturday 1/3 8:30pm
RED MOLLY

Friday 1/9 8:30pm
BEAUSOLEIL
avec Michael Doucet

Saturday 1/10 8:30pm
EMPIRE ROOTS ALL STARS BAND

Friday 1/16 8:30pm
JOE CROOKSTON & THE BLUEBIRD JUBILEE
also **THE KENNEDYS**

OPEN FOR BRUNCH, LUNCH AND DINNER
Wed. from 4pm • Thu. & Fri. from noon • Sat. & Sun. from 10am
Kitchen closes 9:30pm (Fri. & Sat. at 10:30pm)
Closed Mon. & Tue.

Music
Avram Fefer Trio (Jazz)
8 p.m. Quinn's | 330 Main St., Beacon
845-831-8065 | quinnnsbeacon.com

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

Kids & Community
Vacation Camp (ages 5–12)
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. All Sport Health & Fitness
See details under Monday.

Holiday Art Camp (ages 5+)
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Embark
See details under Monday.

Winter Arts Holiday (ages 4–9)
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
917-318-7801 | compassarts.org

Desmond-Fish Library
4 p.m. Craft Hour (grades 2+)
6:30 p.m. *The Polar Express* (2004)
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Sports
Westchester Knicks vs. Erie
7 p.m. Westchester County Center
198 Central Ave., White Plains
914-347-4409 | nba.com/dleague/westchester

Meetings & Lectures
Highland Garden Club
Noon. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve
Local libraries closed

Kids & Community
Vacation Camp (ages 5–12)
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. All Sport Health & Fitness
See details under Monday.

Holiday Art Camp (ages 5+)
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Embark
See details under Monday.

Music
Cherish the Ladies: A Celtic Christmas
8 p.m. Tarrytown Music Hall
13 Main St., Tarrytown | 914-631-3390, ext. 100
tarrytownmusichall.org

Meetings & Lectures
Light Through a Prism: Jewish Conceptions of Divinity
10:30 a.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance
331 Verplanck Ave., Beacon
845-831-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Christmas Eve Services
See page 8.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day
See page 8.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26
Butterfield and Desmond-Fish libraries closed
Cold Spring Village offices closed
Putnam County offices closed
No recycling pickup in Cold Spring

Kids & Community
Vacation Camp (ages 5–12)
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. All Sport Health & Fitness
See details under Monday.

Open House
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Knox's Headquarters
289 Forge Hill Road, Vails Gate
845-561-5498 | nysparks.com

Health & Fitness
Navigating Healthcare Options
10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon | 800-453-4666
misn-ny.org. | Appointment required.

(To page 10)



This Christmas!
Featuring the famous jazz/gospel vocalist
Rene Bailey
Saturday, Dec. 20, 5:30 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church
10 Academy Street
Cold Spring
(walk up Main Street past Whistling Willie's, turn right on Academy and walk half block, church on left)

Donations gratefully accepted in support of jazz music programming
Wine and cheese reception to follow performance

The Calendar (from page 9)

Music

Spero Plays Nyro

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe
See details under Dec. 19.

Greg Phillips

9 p.m. Whistling Willie's | Details under Dec. 19

Rhonda Den t & The Bad Cats

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

Curtis Winchester Band

10 p.m. The Hudson Room | Details under Dec. 19

Meetings & Lectures

Village Zendo Meditation Retreat (Opens)

3 p.m. Garrison Institute
14 Mary's Way, Garrison
845-424-4800 | garrisoninstitute.org

ONGOING

Art & Design

Visit philipstown.info/galleries

Religious Services

Visit philipstown.info/services

Meetings & Lectures

Alcoholics Anonymous

Visit philipstown.info/aa

Support Groups

Visit philipstown.info/sg

Support Groups

For a full list of area support groups, visit:
philipstown.info/sg

Harlem's Rattlers and the Great War (from page 7)



Jeffrey T. Sammons

Photo by K.E. Foley

a long career in politics, including 13 two-year terms representing the Hudson Valley in Congress. He was a forceful, ambitious character given to lecturing people on what was wrong with their approach to issues, whether on the football field or in national debate. "There was always this assumption, with never a shred of doubt, there would be interest in whatever subject he spoke about," said his grandson. But during the war, Fish was "incredibly loyal to his troops; he stood up for them in difficult situations under domestic attack from their own military and under fire in Europe," said Sammons, "long after he stood up for their right to serve in the military."

Both men spoke of Fish's drive and personal ambition, which sometimes overtook his good intentions. He wanted to run the regiment, not thinking much of the leadership. Yet we are told that for all his pushing and breaking of dishes, "there was something about doing the right thing that came from a sense of who he was that restrained him," said his proud grandson. When Fish V, a progressive Democrat, first ran for Congress, his grandfather, a conservative Republican, supported his opponent.

A defining moment for the Rattlers' role in the American war effort came when they began the journey home after the fighting ended, to find themselves less than full citizens despite their contribution to making the world safe for democracy. In Europe, a planned monument to them was blocked by the American military. They traveled across the ocean alone and not with their larger National Guard unit. And then fearful authorities tried to block a homecoming parade.

"They didn't want 3,000 black soldiers marching in New York City. They weren't the same men who had gone over. War is a transformative experience ... I'm going to be blunt. They had killed white people and they had seen P ree ... so how were you going to keep them down on the farm?" asked Sammons rhetorically, referencing a famous WWI song.

The parade took place. While the public that turned out was enthusiastic, Sammons described the media coverage as "vulgar and dreadful." Still, he recounted, the event gave rise to greater African-American pride and is seen as the beginning of the Harlem Renaissance in the arts. Many of the soldiers went on to play roles in the nascent civil rights movement over the next 50 years. "The genie was out of the bottle," said Sammons.

thing resembling a similar social status.

Even when a law establishing such a unit passed in New York, National Guard opposition curtailed it for two years, until the need for troops to fight in Mexico and then in Europe created a necessity for it. Still, the regiment was not formally included in the New York guard, achieving only detachment status. The commander of the guard demanded no blacks be made officers, and while a few were ultimately appointed, they held minor positions. Hamilton Fish was made a captain.

Sent into the maelstrom of WWI, the Rattlers at first were limited to a role as laborers by the American commanders until French army demands for assistance resulted in their assignment to the trenches. The French, according to Sammons, awarded 179 *Croix de Guerre* (cross of war) medals to the regiment during their years under fire. Their combat service, he said, was the longest of any American outfit. One severely wounded member, Henry Johnson, is still under consideration for the Congressional Medal of Honor. Gaining American recognition for combat service, rather than just the music from the regimental band, proved a hard road for the Rattlers.

Hamilton Fish III was a legendary Harvard football player who went on to

Hudson Beach Glass

Fine handmade art glass featuring internationally renowned artists



LOCALLY BLOWN

Join us on Facebook: Hudson Beach Glass Beacon, Follow us on Twitter: Hudsonbeachglas

162 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508 845 440-0068
Open daily 10am - 6pm, Sunday 11am - 6pm
www.hudsonbeachglass.com



iGuitar®

Workshop

- Custom Guitars
- iGuitar USB
- Factory Direct Sales
- Expert Repairs & Setups
- USB/Synth Upgrades
- Lessons

Patrick G. Cummings
290 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
845•809•5347 x226
www.iguitarworkshop.com
sales@iguitarworkshop.com





The Gift Hut

Featuring ecofriendly, made in the U.S. unique gifts, wooden toys, games, and puzzles for the whole family



86 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516
Hours: Friday, Saturday & Sunday
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

 Gifthut06@aim.com
Phone 845.297.3786



Hamilton Fish and Beacon resident Flora Jones

Photo by K.E. Foley

Power on the Hudson (from page 7)

“What took time was understanding the positions of all sides. Good history involves the extension of empathy. Con Ed honestly thought it was doing the right thing. History is often written by the victors,” said Lifset, emphasizing he wanted to help dispel any mythologies around the struggle to protect Storm King, such as the idea that the entire environmental movement was born during this particular episode.



Robert Lifset
Source: academia.edu

Lifset sets the historical context by fully exploring Con Ed’s thinking and the issues surrounding the economics of energy production during the period. He points out that during the years of the Con Ed proposal, other projects such as a gypsum plant at what is now Little Stony Point Park were also proposed and that the Hudson Valley region had a long history of industrial activity.

He also covers the varied activities of groups and individuals, some famous and some forgotten, involved in political machinations and protest, educational initiatives, aggressive advocacy and effective fundraising within the growing environmental movement. Gov. Nelson Rockefeller (and brother Laurance), Congressman Richard Ottinger as well as heads of federal agencies and New York City officials all play a role. The origins of present-day groups such as Clearwater and Riverkeeper and leaders like Pete Seeger and Robert Boyle and their associates all find a place in Lifset’s narrative.

Central to the book’s perspective, however, is the long battle involving committed legal opponents engaged in hearings before the Federal Power Commission and in the federal courts where environmental advocates would gain new standing for citizen opposition to the siting of power plants and other projects that raise questions of degradation of the natural world.

Lifset’s highlights as groundbreaking the introduction of ecological evidence as the basis for an argument before a board or a court to deny permission to proceed with a project. “The evolution, direction and effectiveness of environmentalism changed after its proponents placed ecological arguments front and center; this book argues that a strong focus on ecology is a central component of modern environmentalism,” wrote Lifset in his introduction.

Protecting nature’s aesthetic beauty

had long played a part in the national conversation in the expansive western regions of the country as well as the more settled east, including the Hudson Valley. Lifset maintains that demonstrating that a human enterprise will harm the balance of nature, in the case of Storm King, the killing of large quantities of fish for example, opened a new citizen relationship with nature, science and the political and governmental system that accounts for a broader consensus today on preserving open spaces, protecting wetlands and closely examining any large construction, especially an energy-related one.

Birth of Scenic Hudson

The current significant regional influence of the Scenic Hudson organization, with its network of parks and open spaces (Cold Spring’s West Point Foundry Preserve and Beacon’s Long Dock Park among them), its planning prowess (the proposed Fjord Trail) and lobbying heft (\$1 million in state funds for the Fjord Trail), derives directly from the Storm King fight.

According to Lifset, when Con Ed first proposed its plant on Storm King it worked to blunt possible opposition by securing negotiated support from the two leading local environmental organizations of the day, the Palisades Park Interstate Commission, which controlled the Storm King site, and the Hudson River Conservation Society.

However, individuals from smaller groups interested in maintaining hiking trails and preserving open space began meeting to discuss possible strategies for opposition and fundraising. Out of those deliberations, which Lifset discusses in detail, arose the idea of forming a new group dedicated at the time to just focusing on opposing the plant.

GCEF Raises \$19,500 During Fall Fundraisers

Fund commits \$25,800 for enrichment programs

The Garrison Children’s Education Fund (GCEF) raised a total of \$19,500 during the fund’s fall 2014 fundraising efforts, which included a successful October Golf Marathon Fundraiser and Fall Appeal, completed in November. The Fall Appeal brought in over 100 donors and raised \$12,000 with an emphasis this year on GCEF’s commitment to supporting a state-of-the-art library at GUFS. Money raised will support a variety of academic, artistic and athletic curriculum-enhancing activities.

GCEF welcomes grant proposals from any member of the GUFS community, including teachers, administrators and parents. Grants are awarded on an ongoing basis throughout the school year and the fund will continue to evaluate and support new programming for the spring.

- GCEF has committed \$25,800 for 12 programs during the 2014–15 school year:
- **Library Connection Grant:** \$10,000 to purchase of over 400 content-rich, relevant and intellectually challenging books.
 - **Hudson Valley Seed (HVS):** \$4,000 for the development of a sustainable, year-round school garden for curriculum in grades K–4.
 - **Jazz Ensemble:** \$3,350 for musical instruction that will teach middle school students to read jazz band arrangements and improvise solos.
 - **Hudson Valley Shakespeare School Workshop:** \$1,925 to bring the touring production of *Macbeth* to GUFS for students in grades 7 and 8.
 - **Chef in the Classroom:** \$1,260 to provide monthly cooking sessions to grades K–4 and 6.
 - **Sloop Clearwater:** \$1,250 for the annual fifth-grade sail on the sloop Clearwater as part of their study of history, ecology, art and music.
 - **Percussion Ensemble:** \$1,200 to bring a professional percussionist/teacher for students in grades 4–8.
 - **Artist in Residency:** \$1,100 to host Hudson Valley artist Andrew Lattimore for a three-session residency at GUFS to work with students grades 3–8.
 - **PTA After-School Programs:** \$500 to support fall and winter chess with students in grades 1–8.
 - **Constitution Marsh Eagle Program:** \$500 for fourth-graders to participate in the “Eagles on the Hudson” program at Constitution Marsh.
 - **Liberty Science Center:** \$362 to partially cover the fourth-grade visit to the Liberty Science Center in New Jersey.
 - **Challenger Space Center:** \$350 for the sixth-graders to experience a simulated mission to Mars at the Challenger Space Center.

GCEF’s next fundraiser is the 16th Annual Spring Thaw, which will be held on April 18 at Glynwood from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Spring Thaw is GCEF’s biggest fundraising event of the year to support enrichment programming at GUFS.

PHILIPSTOWN
DEPOT THEATRE

World’s End Theater presents:

A Christmas Carol

A new one-man fully-staged version of this classic Dickens holiday ghost story. Featuring Gregory Porter Miller as all the characters you know and love, with movement and direction conceived by Christine Brooks Bokhour.

Friday, Dec. 19, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 20, 4 p.m. & 8 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 21, 7 p.m.

Tickets at brownpapetickets.com

845.424.3900 • www.philipstowndepottheatre.org
Garrison Landing, Garrison, NY (Theatre is adjacent to train station.)

DOWNING
film center

19 Front St., Newburgh, NY
845-561-3686
www.downingfilmcenter.com

Now Showing

Wild (R)

**** “It’s one of the year’s most galvanizing cinematic experiences.”
~ Rex Reed, *New York Observer*

FRI 4:45 7:30
SAT 2:00 4:45 7:30
SUN 1:00 3:45 6:30, MON 7:30
TUE 2:00 7:30, WED 1:30
Thursday ~ Closed
Merry Christmas!

YOUR BEST BET — buy tix *ahead* at box office or at www.downingfilmcenter.com

HIGHLAND STUDIO
FINE ART PRINTMAKERS

845-809-5174
www.thehighlandstudio.com

HIGHLAND PRINTING & PICTURE FRAMING

Serving Cold Spring, Beacon, NYC & beyond since 1997

- Great selection of frame mouldings •
- Beautiful archival rag & photo papers & canvas •
- Printing for artists and photographers is our specialty •
- Expert scanning of all sizes •
- Art Gallery • Prints Available •
- Specializing In Local Scenes • Old And New •

31 Stephanie Lane • Cold Spring • New York • appointments suggested

Joseph’s Fine Jewelry

Buying Gold, Silver, Diamonds, Coins, etc.
Specializing in estate jewelry. We buy to resell, not to scrap.

171 Main Street
Cold Spring NY 10516

- Thursday & Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Saturday & Sunday 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Store: 845-265-2323 • Cell: 914-213-8749

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

(From previous page) different theme to help little ones learn about the world around them through stories, crafts and games.

Bouncing Babies will be held Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Ms. Johanna leads this fun and friendly “Mommy & Me” program. Exposing a baby to books and reading from the very beginning helps to develop language and speech. A little one can play on the soft toys while parents meet other parents and caregivers. A simple story, songs and bubbles complete this introduction to story time. Drop-ins welcome.

Little Bookworms and Bouncing Babies will run for six weeks and will end on Thursday, Feb. 12. To register for Little Bookworms or for more information about the Butterfield Library’s programs and services, visit butterfieldlibrary.org or call 845-265-3040.

Adult Writing Workshops Offered in Philipstown

Two workshops at Butterfield Library and Rec Center

The Butterfield Library and Philipstown Recreation Center will offer two adult writing workshops starting in the new year, designed to help everyone discover their writing voice and tell their stories, whether they stem from imagination or memory.

The writing workshop is for those who have always wanted to write but think they’re not writers and for writers who need encouragement/inspiration, are blocked or don’t know how to move forward, want to hone their craft or want to explore stories for personal memoir.

Using the Amherst Writers and Artists method, Susan Wallach provides a safe and encouraging atmosphere to write, using prompts (evocative prose, poetry, photos and props) to spark writers’ creative voices. All the participants need is pen and paper. Wallach is a former editor at Random House and a published author, and she has ghostwritten for Holt Henry Books for Young Readers and Temple University Press.

There are two workshops. One meets on Monday nights, starting Jan. 12 and running for six weeks until March 2 (with no meetings on Jan. 19 or Feb. 16) from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring. The cost is \$120 and is limited to seven participants. Pre-registration is required. To register or for more information, email susanwallach1@verizon.net.

The other workshop meets on Tuesday nights, starting Jan. 13 and running for six weeks from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Philipstown Recreation Center. Register through the Rec Center by calling 845-424-4618.

HHLT Donates Connecting to Libraries and Schools

Commemorative book also available for purchase

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust has announced that it is donating copies of its newly released book, *Connecting: Celebrating the People and Places of the Hudson Highlands*, to public school and community libraries within its Highlands mission area in commemoration of its 25th Anniversary.

Christine Ashburn’s photographs capture the deep connection between the land and the people, and local residents have shared their stories of the ties that bind us to the Hudson Highlands. In the series of essays that complement the pho-

tos, Col. James M. Johnson describes historic events that shaped the nation’s history; Jocelyn Apicello and Jason Angell write of their experience farming family land; Gwendolyn Bounds reflects on the renewal found through outdoor recreation; Irene O’Garden discusses how the Highlands have inspired the arts; and Lisa Mechaley and Andrew Revkin look ahead to future generations.

Those interested in purchasing a copy of *Connecting* can pick one up at the HHLT office in Garrison or at local retail outlets, including Boscobel House and Gardens Gift Store (Garrison), Garrison Café (Garrison), Putnam History Museum (Cold Spring), Clearwaters Gifts at Jones Farm (Cornwall), Hudson Highlands Nature Museum Nature Store (Cornwall) and Storm King Adventure Tours (Cornwall-on-Hudson). Copies are priced at \$85 per book (\$75/book for orders of 10 or more). All proceeds from book sales support HHLT’s conservation mission.

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Receives Major NYS Grant

Grant to support 2015 education and outreach programs

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival (HVSF) has been awarded \$71,600 by the New York State Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) to support HVSF’s innovative, hands-on arts education and outreach initiatives in 2015. Programs supported by the REDC award include performances, workshops and residencies in area middle and high schools; training and work experience for early-career theater artists through HVSF’s Conservatory Company; professional development for educators at the Shakespeare Institute & Teacher Resource Workshop; and Shakespeare Summer Camp for ages 8–16. HVSF’s grant is part of \$709.2 million in economic and community development grants awarded by the REDC.

“We are deeply grateful to the REDC for this award,” said HVSF Artistic Director Davis McCallum. “Central to our mission is the idea that Shakespeare belongs to everyone. This award will allow HVSF to continue to widen the circle of people we can reach, helping youth and adults to develop crucial life skills like imagination, collaboration and communication.”

Each academic year, HVSF’s Shakespeare performances and arts-education programs serve more than 40,000 students in more than 40 middle and high schools in the Hudson Valley. The Shakespeare Summer Camp serves area youth ages 8–16. The Shakespeare Institute and Teacher Resource Workshops offer professional development to scores of teachers and arts educators in the Hudson Valley each year. The HVSF Conservatory Company provides 21 weeks of professional training and work experience for up to 20 early-career theater artists and technicians annually. HVSF’s outreach programs in summer 2015 will include free and affordable touring outreach performances of *The Tempest* and *An Iliad*. For information about HVSF

Education and Outreach Programs, call Sean McNall, associate artistic director and director of education at 845-809 5750, ext. 18, or at smcnall@hvshakespeare.org.

Beacon

Artisans Guild Show and Sale Continues in Beacon

Proceeds benefit Beacon High School artist prize

Hand local artists a bag of blank compact discs, a few feet of old oak fencing, a stash of vintage fabric scraps, some foraged pine cones and birch twigs and get ready for some surprises just in time for holiday gift giving.

Hudson Valley Artisans Guild members transformed raw materials that others may have relegated to the scrap heap into items like a barn owl to hang in a window, a jewelry box for treasured jewels, a log cabin quilt, a birch-branch Christmas tree complete with ornaments and a large diameter pine cone wreath fit for the White House.

Through Dec. 28, visitors to The Lofts at Beacon at 18 Front St. may view these upcycled works and the work of other guild members. Visitors will find drawings and photographs of local scenes and attractions like the Walkway Over the Hudson, Sloop Clearwater and Mount Beacon. Local jewelers and fiber artists are also exhibiting at this show and sale.

The show was planned to benefit a Beacon High School artist. The Hudson Valley Artisans Guild will grant a best artistic expression award to a Beacon High School student whose artwork will be selected from submissions to the January show at The Lofts at Beacon.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday .

Quinn’s Offers Heavy Metal Shows in January

Vomit Fist plays Jan. 8, Downfall of Gaia on Jan. 22

The eclectic character of the live music presented at the Beacon club Quinn’s has distinguished it among Hudson Valley venues. They’ve had hardcore punk, experimental noise, Eastern European folk songs, Iranian pop, and jazz every Monday night. Now, they will have heavy metal again, as two shows take place in January.

Vomit Fist, with special guest Mucus, will perform on Thursday, Jan. 8, and the German/U.S. band Downfall of Gaia will make their U.S. debut and open their North American tour at Quinn’s with special guests Yesod and Hush on Thursday, Jan. 22.

Vomit Fist hails from New York City, delivering hard, fast blackened grindcore with ultra-high energy stage performances. Founders Nick Vürdoth Didkovsky and his son Leo Lurkrot Didkovsky teamed up with Malcolm Skrag the Screecher Hoyt and burst onto the underground metal scene in 2013, playing hardcore matinees, all-ages shows, DIY garage events as well as festival dates and club gigs. They released their first EP *Forgive but Avenge* in July 2014.

Founded in 2008 and having under-



Downfall of Gaia

Photo courtesy of Quinn’s

gone several changes on drums, the quartet Downfall of Gaia is now comprised of Dominik Goncalves dos Reis (guitar and vocals), Peter Wolff (guitar and vocals), Anton Lisovoj (bass and vocals) and Michael Kadnar (drums), who are located in Berlin, Hamburg and New York City. Their debut album *Epos* was released in 2010, which was realized with the help of several DIY-labels. In 2012, their new doom and sludge sound was heard on their second album, *Suffocating in the Swarm.f.f Cranes*.

Quinn’s is located at 330 Main St. in Beacon. Each show will begin at 9 p.m. with no cover charge, although donations for the bands will be requested.

Howland Library to Begin Tail Waggin’ Tutors

Kids read aloud to dogs 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from Jan. 21

Howland Public Library on 313 Main St. in Beacon invites children in grades kindergarten through fifth to participate in Tail Waggin’ Tutors, held from 4 to 5 p.m. every first and third Wednesday of the month beginning Jan. 21. Children who need practice, especially those with reading difficulties, will have the opportunity to read out loud to Aries, a specially trained therapy dog from Therapy Dogs International (TDI). “Dogs are wonderful — they listen patiently and they don’t criticize.”

Children will have the opportunity to sit with Aries, a *Cane Corso*, in a quiet spot in the library, get to know him, choose a book and read to their furry buddy. Aries’ good friend, Ella, a Great Dane, will be joining him sometimes, too. A child can relax and forget about how hard he/she thinks reading is and, instead, look forward to it. TDI and Howland Public Library hope to enhance children’s love of books and lay the foundation for a lifetime of reading and learning.

Aries and owner Caley will be at the library between January and April. Parents may sign children up for a 15-minute time slot. Parents may register children multiple times, but the library will try to give priority to those who have not yet had a turn. Registration is ongoing; register by contacting Ginny Figlia, youth services librarian, at 845-831-1134, ext.103 or youth@beaconlibrary.org. For more children’s programs, check the library’s online event calendar at beaconlibrary.org.

Toy Donation Drive for Children Affected by Ebola (from page 6)

houses down from her, and his family had little money. They had no electricity and no sheets on the mattresses laid out on their floor. Denniston, at 11, was always working and giving money to his parents for basics. “He became a presence on my porch,” Pack McCarthy explained. “I helped him study for the common entrance exam to high school. He studied really hard and he passed.” Close to the end of her Peace Corps assignment there, Pack McCarthy worked with a nearby Catholic school, St. Joseph’s Convent Marriacqua, which she called “a school that prides itself on academic excellence, and has a priority to take in poor children who would not be able to afford an education elsewhere. They accepted him.”

“He was my first, one-on-one sponsored child,” Pack McCarthy explained. After her departure, “we would write letters to each other. I started hearing from him that he wasn’t feeling well,

and I asked the principal to check up on him. It turned out that he had fluid in his lungs, and eventually he got well enough to travel to the U.S. for treatment. During my time in the Peace Corps, all my family had visited me and met him, and really took to him, so when he came here, he felt like family. During his first week here he felt OK, but soon it was determined he had leukemia.” During a year of treatments at Westchester Medical Center, which Pack McCarthy called “a horrible time,” she was amazed by the generosity of those around her, which extended to his passing at age 14. “The costs of the funeral were donated, and the cemetery donated the plot.”

Now, Pack McCarthy wants to continue “what Denniston would want to do.” DI, which she founded in 2003, supports his former school in St. Vincent, where things are changing: “Now school is a right, not just something for people with money. But some parents can afford

school fees, but not enough for lunch, or travel. So the principal alerts me and we earmark funds for specific issues.”

The benefits of this charitable work are not just for the recipients. Pack McCarthy has three boys, two elementary-aged and a baby, and the older two understand already that surrendering not

just some toys, but finding the good ones and giving those up for someone with greater needs, is what counts.

Donations are ongoing and will be accepted well beyond the holiday season. For more information, visit dennistoninternational.org and internationalmedicalcorps.org.

Terry Platz Is Returning to Perform in *Messiah* (from page 7)

have never sung before — the lesser-known sections. Though I never learned to play piano well enough to play it through, I was able to plunk out a few notes and practice, practice. There are online methods, too, and of course you can listen to YouTube, doing it over and over again.”

Still, even assiduous preparation was not complete training for the “scary tempos” of the actual performances. “My vocal chords were challenged by the speed,” Platz recalled. But the terror was matched by exhilaration. “To watch Rachel [Evans, the concert master] was like watching a wave — you had to be so tuned in. And Rachel was so in sync with Gordon [Stewart, the conductor]. It was so exciting to watch the movement of the musicians.”

This year’s performances will be much altered by the absence of Stewart, who passed away just before Thanksgiving. Having planned for these performances to take place regardless of





whether he would be around to guide them, Stewart requested that an empty podium represent him.

“The symbolic, empty podium will be a major challenge,” Platz said, “but we’ll have to tune in even that much more because of it, and Rachel was the pulse last year, as she will be this year.”

Stewart will be much missed, though. “It was impossible not to be inspired by his story last year,” Platz related. “He told us the story of his father emigrating from Scotland to this country without a penny in his pocket, but with a *Messiah* score tucked under his arm ... Gordon couldn’t have completed his life without doing this. As a singer, watching him conduct was like looking into his soul.”

Messiah will be performed at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Cold Spring at 2 and 5 p.m. Dec. 21. At press time, a few seats were still available (both of last year’s concerts sold out), and tickets, which cost \$20, are available at brownpapertickets.com or at the door.

Tired of Ridiculous Utility Bills?



Which Money-Saving Energy Solution Is Right For You?

Solar Electric


Solar Pool Heating

Energy Audits


Solar Hot Water

Energy Efficient Boilers

Energy Efficient Lighting





CALL FOR YOUR FREE ENERGY EVALUATION




Smart Home SERVICES

Smart Home Services is a Merger of

 BURKE &  Mid-Hudson

PLUMBING SERVICES

845.265.5033 • SmartSystemsNY.com



LEARN WHICH REBATE CREDIT AND INCENTIVES WORK FOR YOU!

Call Smart Home Services for all Residential & Commercial Needs!

ELECTRIC • PLUMBING • HVAC • SOLAR • GENERATORS



ROYALTY CARPET

YOUR FULL SERVICE FLOORING STORE

GIVE YOUR FLOORS THE ROYAL TREATMENT

Full service flooring:

- All types of flooring sales and installation — carpet, laminate, hardwood, ceramic tile, & resilient floors

Carpet, upholstery, ceramic tile & grout cleaning

Commercial janitorial cleaning

Damage restoration:

- Restoration of property damaged by fire, smoke or water

Call today to schedule affordable flooring services, occasional and specialty cleaning, or regular janitorial services. You always get a FREE estimate. Payment plans are available.

Royalty Carpet • 288 Main Street • Beacon, NY 12508

845-831-4774 • royaltycarpetinc@gmail.com

Thank you to our advertisers

We are grateful for your support and encourage our readers to shop local.

Contact us: ads@philipstown.info



The Paper

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Cold Spring Physical Therapy PC

John R. Astrab PT, DPT, OCS, MS, CSCS

Medicare, United Health Care, Railroad, Tri-Care, No-Fault, Workers Compensation Insurance Plans Accepted

1760 South Route 9 • Garrison NY 10524

845.424.6422

johnastrab@coldspringnypt.com

coldspringnypt.com

Lynne Ward, LCSW

Licensed Psychotherapist

Individuals • Couples • Adolescents • Children

Addiction Counseling

75 Main Street

Cold Spring, NY 10516

lynneward99@gmail.com

(917) 597-6905

GROUP SHOW

BUSTER LEVI

GALLERY

121 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516

BUSTERLEVIGALLERY.COM



Deb's Hair Design

Open Tuesday - Saturday

Call for an appointment.

845.265.7663

deb1954@aol.com

290 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516

ROGER GREENWALD, AIA

REGISTERED ARCHITECT

RESIDENTIAL SPECIALISTS

Tel: 845-505-9331

172 MAIN ST., Beacon, NY 12508

NY License 036259

roger@greenwaldarchitects.com

GREENWALDARCHITECTS.COM

Julia A. Wellin MD PC

Board Certified in Adult Psychiatry and in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Medication, Psychotherapy, Hypnosis, EMDR, Addiction Counseling

Individuals, Couples, Adolescents

Jwellinmd@aol.com

Cold Spring Healing Arts

6 Marion Avenue

Cold Spring, NY 10516

212.734.7392

1225 Park Avenue

New York, NY 10128

Roots and Shoots

Gifts for the Gardener: Books about Gardening and the Environment

By Pamela Doan

There are many issues that have stood out for me this year, and as the year draws to a close, it's a natural time for reflection. Since it's also a gift-giving season, I decided to combine the two here with my favorite subjects: books, gardening and the environment. Long before I was a plant geek, I was a plant nerd. There you have it.

Climate change has been the most pressing issue on my mind for years now; my gardening and landscaping approach is always about trying to minimize harm, and I want to help the acres I tend here in Philipstown to recover and restore to a better natural state. Everywhere I look, I see the impact of global warming. Whether it's stretches of forest where nothing grows but invasive, non-native plants; a bird sighting off-season; or a species that has moved north — the signs of loss are evident, and it is a loss; make no mistake.

If that cheery subject makes you want to read more, then here are some suggestions for books that will also make good gifts for people who want to know what's happening in the world and try out new ways of gardening and landscaping.

The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History by Elizabeth Kolbert

Kolbert's book from 2006, *Field Notes From a Catastrophe: Man, Nature and Climate Change*, defined the climate change crisis for me and shaped my thinking about what was happening. What I love about both books is her field-work with every situation she describes and uses as an example of the crisis. In



What's on your holiday gift list for your favorite gardener? Photo by P. Doan

The Sixth Extinction, she chronicles the rapid pace of species loss happening in the world now and gives it scientific and historical context, arguing that what we've set in motion, humans being the "invasive species" throughout the world, will wipe out much of the natural world. Whether it's the secondary effect of our actions, like burning fossil fuels and putting too much carbon into the atmosphere, or heedlessly moving fauna and flora all over the world out of native habitats and spreading disease, Kolbert documents the mass extinctions that are occurring now in real time. She doesn't offer solutions and doesn't seem particularly hopeful about the situation, but it's

reading that creates urgency. *The New York Times Book Review* included *The Sixth Extinction* in its top 10 books of 2014.

Seeds of Hope: Wisdom and Wonder From the World of Plants by Jane Goodall

I haven't finished reading this book yet, but I recommend it for anyone looking for the bright spots in the global environment. Goodall, known for her work with chimps, writes here about her lifelong engagement with the natural world around her, including an early love for a special tree. I loved her memoir, *Reason for Hope*, and 15 years later, she remains impassively faithful to her belief that we can still pull ourselves out. *Seeds of Hope* has

her gentle and reverent voice and is good reading for dark and quiet winter days.


The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden by Doug Tallamy

Tallamy gave a presentation at a conference I attended at the Native Plant Center last spring about fragmentation, dividing up and rupturing habitats through development, and the loss of biodiversity of plants and animals. Essentially, when we landscape our yards with the same six shrubs and flowers as all the rest of our neighbors and cover the majority of the space with grass, we've annihilated the ecosystem and disrupted the natural flow of nature by developing the land into plots for homes and buildings. Tallamy has great ideas about how to restore pathways for nature in your home landscaping in this book.

Farming the Woods: An Integrated Permaculture Approach to Growing Food and Medicinals in Temperate Forests by Ken Mudge and Steve Gabriel

I've been curious about agroforestry, planting in the woods instead of traditional pastureland, and also permaculture, a sustainable, ecosystem-based approach to landscape and garden design. (I've got this book on my personal Christmas wish list — thanks, honey!) Both of the authors are researchers at Cornell University, and I attended a presentation Gabriel made at a conference and was excited about a lot of his ideas. These are the kinds of forward-thinking approaches that are necessary to both adapt to climate change and mitigate our impact.

Happy gift giving!



LIMITED EDITIONS REALTY, INC.
10 MARION AVENUE, COLD SPRING, NEW YORK 10516

JAMES LOVEGROVE
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson

After over 30 years of professional sales and management experience, I have decided to focus my energies and complete attention on helping my neighbors and friends find that one property that can become home for years to come.


My new career in real estate, with Limited Editions Realty, is an exciting new chapter for me and I look forward to the rewarding challenges ahead. Should you, someone in your family, or a friend be looking for a new home, or wish to sell the home they currently own, I would appreciate the confidence of your referral in assisting them with their transaction.

I can be reached at 845-588-0909, by email at james@limitededitionsrealty.com or at 10 Marion Ave., Suite 2, Cold Spring, New York 10516.

May 2015 bring you much joy and happiness!


Jim Lovegrove

www.LimitedEditionsRealty.com • 845.265.3111



PROPANE ~ THE EXCEPTIONAL ENERGY:

- Versatile
- Economical
- Efficient
- Dependable
- Clean
- Safe



DOWNEY ENERGY
Oilheat • Propane • Diesel

P.O. Box 306, Cold Spring, NY 10516 • Phone: (845) 265-3663 • Fax: (845) 265-4024
www.downeyoilny.com



The Spa
at Bear Mountain

View our menu of services or book online:

www.bearmountainspa.com
98 Hessian Drive, Bear Mountain, NY 10911
Located on the third floor of the Bear Mountain Inn
845.233.2152

Offers cannot be combined.

Mention this ad and receive 100 loyalty bonus points.

Purchase a \$200 Spa Gift Certificate, receive \$20 bonus. (must be purchased by November 30, 2014)

Give the Gift of Relaxation: Become a member of The Spa at Bear Mountain and receive a FREE massage or facial every month. (Check website for details or call.) Membership may be purchased online or by calling directly.

Looking for the perfect gift? Purchase a gift card online.

Buy 4 Manicures/Pedicures and get 5th one FREE.
Buy 5 Massages and get 6th one FREE.



— BEACON, NEW YORK —
artisan wine shop *for the holidays*
where food meets its match

180 main street / beacon, ny 12508
845.440.6923 / monday-saturday 10-7 / sunday 12-5
www.artisanwineshop.com

3-Time Winner: Best of Hudson Valley Magazine



happy holidays!

beaconarts
beaconarts.org



wickham
CUSTOM WOODWORK
USING HUDSON VALLEY
HARDWOODS

wickham solid wood studio
578 main street beacon NY 12508
www.jessicawickham.com
917.797.9247

Heart & Soul
Organic, Natural & Spiritual Healing



Herbs Spices Teas Oils Body Care Candles
Crystals Jewelry Books & Gifts Galore

500 Main St. Beacon NY www.NYHeartnSoul.com
Wed-Mon 11-6 845.765.1535



MTA. TOPS *outfitters*

Voted Best Outdoor Sports
Store in the Hudson Valley
2008 & 2012
~Hudson Valley Magazine

144 Main St,
Beacon
(845) 831-1997

5 - 50% off everything until December 24!

PRACTICAL
AFFORDABLE
KITCHENWARE

UTENSIL



480 MAIN STREET • BEACON NY 12508
845.202.7181

Hudson Beach Glass
Locally Blown
Gifts: For Her, For Him, For Them



Open Daily
162 Main St, Beacon, NY 12508 www.hudsonbeachglass.com
845-440-0068

River Winds Gallery



172 MAIN STREET BEACON NY
OPEN WED-MON 12-6; 2ND SAT 12-9
845.838.3880
WWW.RIVERWINDSGALLERY.COM