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State Awards \$100,000 Grant to Philipstown for Fjord Trail

*Options include Little
Stony Point car lot,
Breakneck station*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

New York State last week awarded the Town of Philipstown a \$100,000 grant for the Hudson River Fjord Trail — a welcome sum, though considerably less than the nearly \$1 million sought for the hiking-bicycling path, intended to link Cold Spring to Beacon and parallel the river, train tracks, and Route 9D.

According to trail organizers, the money will probably go toward upgrading the Little Stony Point parking lot, along the intended trail route just beyond Cold Spring, or improving the site of the Breakneck Ridge Metro-North train station a bit further north. The coalition consists of volunteers from the community, environmental organizations, and government entities from village to state level, stretching across two counties.



Breakneck Ridge

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

On Dec. 11, New York State Sen. Terry Gipson announced the grant, as well as \$75,000 for Cold Spring for updating its zoning code. Both grants came through New York State's 2013 Regional Economic Development Council Awards program. Philipstown's application had requested \$861,000 this funding round.

Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea discussed the trail grant at the Philipstown Town Board's formal monthly meeting Dec. 12 and provided additional details to [Philipstown.info/The Paper](http://Philipstown.info/ThePaper) this week.

"We had applied for an amount significantly more than that" provided, Shea told the Town Board Dec. 12. "But \$100,000 is a generous grant award. It's big news because we have matching

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Cold Spring Gazebo at Christmastime

Photo by Maggie Benmour

Christmas Traditions: A Sampler

Turkey or lasagna, fresh or faux tree, traditions center on family togetherness

By Michael Turton

Talk to 10 Philipstown families and you'll probably discover that no two are alike when it comes to Christmas traditions. Dinner menus vary widely — from traditional turkey to ham to seafood to no big meal at all. Gifts may be exchanged on Christmas morning, afternoon or the night before. Whether real, artificial or something more avant-garde, there is likely a tree in-

volved. Watch a movie or take a hike — Christmas Day activities are just as varied. The Paper spoke to a small sampling of local residents to see how their Christmas traditions compare.

A treasured ornament that survived World War I

Veterinarian Dr. Peter Bach and his wife, Andrea, enjoy Christmas with a distinct international flavor. "We include lots of German traditions," Peter Bach explained, and with good reason. His great-grandfather came to America from Germany in the late 1800s and Andrea Bach was born in Frankfurt. Bach's most prized Christmas ornament belonged to his grandfather who carried it with him from Germany to Russia and back during World War I. Andrea Bach takes great pride

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The Santas of Cold Spring

By Chip Rowe

Santa has heard it all.

"Were you born on Christmas?"

"Is your last name Claus?"

"Is that *really* your name?"

A lifelong Cold Spring resident, Santa Warren usually smiles and explains that



Santa Warren with her mother, Santa Huston

Photos courtesy of Santa Warren

her full name is Santa Maria, that she was named after her Italian-American mother (although her mother had no middle name), and that she was born on the relatively uneventful date of January 29.

"My mother was 5 feet tall, and I am 5'3", but she was always Big Santa and I was Little Santa," says Warren, who is familiar to many residents of Philipstown because of her volunteer work for local youth soccer, the Haldane PTA and Our Lady of Loretto.

Warren, 43, who doesn't have siblings, says it was tough having the name as a child because of the teasing from classmates — she didn't name either of her daughters Santa (Sarah, 17, Sydney, 10, and Seth, 14, all attend Haldane). But as an adult she loves being called Santa, even with its unique burden — everybody remembers her name even when she can't remember theirs.

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Betty Budney Honored for Town Board Tenure

*County refusal to share
sales tax discussed*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

As the highlight of an otherwise mostly perfunctory meeting, county and state representatives Thursday (Dec. 12) joined Philipstown's Town Board in warm praise for retiring Councilwoman Betty Budney, the board's first female member.

Budney, who decided not to seek another four-year term, leaves the Town Board at the end of the month. In the November election, voters chose Michael Leonard, a member of three town government sub-boards, as the new face on the Town Board, which consists of the town supervisor and four councilmen/women or councilors.

At Thursday's session, Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, a Democrat like Budney, and Putnam County Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra, a Republican, lauded Budney and gave her official declarations of gratitude.

The Town Board presented Budney with a map of the town, mounted to a plaque with the text of a resolution saluting her. She also received a bouquet of flowers and wall triptych of historic postcards from members of the public who had teamed up with her in Lions Club and other volunteer projects.

"Words fall short when trying to describe a person like Betty," Supervisor Richard Shea said. "When you look at the

(Continued on page 4)



Supervisor Richard Shea presents a plaque of gratitude to Betty Budney, who retires from the Town Board this month; fellow board member John Van Tassel pictured in background.

Photo by L.S. Armstrong



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Small, Good Things

Uncommonly Sweet

By Joe Dizney

Boiled cider: not very glamorous-sounding, is it? More a process description than some clever, Food TV-friendly marketing term, boiled cider is simply a culinary reduction of pure, sweet apple cider. No frills, no additions.

My fellow food scribe, Celia Barbour, skirted around the issue in her recent recipe for Apple Cider Caramels (Mouths to Feed: Sugar Mommy, philipstown.info/2013/11/13/mouths-feed-sugar-mommy/) but I thought it deserved a closer look especially around this holiday season.

Backstory: apples have inspired scientists (Isaac Newton), storytellers (Johnny Appleseed) and more since the beginning of time (Garden of Eden, anyone?). Henry David Thoreau wrote that “it is remarkable how closely the history of the apple tree is connected with that of man,” and nowhere is that more true than here in New York and the Hudson Valley where apples are a fact of life and icon of our true-to-life creation myth.

The botanical facts of apple propagation — that apples *NEVER* grow true from seed and in order to be consistently edible must be conscientiously, intentionally hybridized, grafted and cultivated — infuse them with both a wildness and preciousness that only begins to hint at their centrality to the foundation of our country. In the opening chapter of Michael Pollan’s *The Botany of Desire*, he points out, “the apple was ‘the true democratic fruit,’ happy to grow just about anywhere,” and it provided the deprived American colonists with a coveted, if not necessary, civilized comfort: sweetness.

Before colonization and for some time after, there were no honeybees in North America, therefore no honey. The Native Americans of the northeast had relied on maple syrup and

sugar as a primary sweetener. Alternatively, sweetness came chiefly from the flesh of fruit. In colonial America, that increasingly meant the apple, lovingly transported from the old world and naturalized in the new. (One of the first, if not THE first American hybrid — the Newtown Pippin, still grown locally — was discovered and hybridized in the late 17th century in Flushing, N.Y.

Pollan’s other point as regards the apple is that it provided another possibly MORE coveted “need”: alcohol, by way of the fermentation of apple juice and its alchemical transformation into hard cider, applejack or apple brandy. Locally, Glynwood Farm’s continuing Apple Project and its most recent and highly successful celebration of Cider Week have done much to encourage the preservation and economics of Hudson Valley orchards through the craft production of hard cider and apple spirits.

But back to sweetness and boiled cider: While plentiful maples did — and still do — provide a distinctive native source of sweet palatability, it is a seasonal harvest and apples provide an almost perfect counter-seasonal alternative.

Boiled cider is a VERY simple means of preserving the harvest. Pressed and filtered sweet cider is simply boiled and reduced to approximately one-seventh to one-tenth its volume producing a sweet-tart (depending on the apple variety) syrup similar in consistency and color to maple syrup but presenting a distinctive

and useful apple character.

And boiled cider (can we agree to call it apple syrup?) can be used much like maple syrup: in baking, poured on pancakes or waffles or drizzled on things like ice cream or yogurt. But it has a culinary distinctiveness that deserves a wider use, a fact recognized by the American Slow Foods movement, which has placed



Basic boiled cider or apple syrup

Photo by J. Dizney

producer of note is Allens Hill Farm (allenshillfarm.com/), which offers “apple syrup” and apple molasses (a thicker version). Vermont’s Wood’s Cider Mill — woodscidermill.com/ — offers boiled cider and a boiled cider/maple syrup blend. Otherwise, it’s simple enough for the home cook to boil a gallon of fresh, unprocessed sweet cider (I like Soon’s, available at Philipstown Market, aka Vera’s) down to its pure apple sweetness.

Then what? Marinate or glaze pork tenderloin of ham with it or add a bit to a compound sauce for either; glaze squash, pumpkin or purée sweet potatoes. The addition of any-or-all traditional apple spices — cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, allspice, star anise — gives new meaning to the idea of “holiday season-ing.” (I recently made a drink syrup of spiced boiled cider, maple syrup and unsweetened cranberry juice which virtually “screamed” Christmas when mixed with plain soda water. The addition of rum or hard cider would be a logical spirited version.

In keeping with the holiday theme, I offer you a recipe for boiled cider and apple-cranberry relish using boiled cider, fresh and dried apples and cranberries which could deliciously be paired with pork, turkey or duck or the vegetables mentioned above for a festive holiday meal or simply enjoyed with toast or baked goods when you just need something uncommonly sweet.

boiled cider on “The Ark of Taste,” an honor roll of disappearing but worthy American foodstuffs.

Outside of occasional farm stand products, the only commercial New York

Basic Boiled Cider or Apple Syrup

1 gallon sweet cider

Bring cider to a simmer in a large non-reactive (stainless steel) pot. Simmer until reduced to 2-3 cups, taking care that the pot does not boil. (Depending on how high your simmer is and how closely you watch the process, this could take up to six hours.) Strain through cheesecloth into a glass container. Boiled cider will keep refrigerated for six months.

Holiday Apple-Cranberry Relish

Note: If you are serving this alongside meat or vegetables, it’s better to err on the side of tart than sweet, so you can omit the sugar depending on the tartness of the apples. The optional shallots, sautéed in a tablespoon of butter before simmering the fruits and cider is a really nice savory touch. Makes about 2 cups relish.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 cup boiled cider | ¼ cup chopped dried apples |
| Zest and juice (½ cup) of one large orange | ½ cup dried cranberries |
| ¼ teaspoon cinnamon | 2 large apples, peeled, cored, chopped into ½-inch dice (1½-to-2 cups) |
| 5 allspice berries, smashed | 2 tablespoons brown sugar (optional) |
| 10 cloves, smashed | 2 tablespoons minced shallots (optional) |
| 5 star anise pods | |

1. Bring boiled cider, spices, sugar, orange juice and zest to a simmer in a 2-quart non-reactive pot. Simmer for 15 minutes and allow to cool off heat or overnight and strain mixture.
2. Bring strained cider mixture back to a low simmer with dried apple and cranberries for 10 minutes. Add chopped fresh apples and simmer for another 10 minutes. Remember: you’re not making candy. Add a little water as necessary to thin mixture — there’s a lot of natural pectin in apples and this can jell very easily. Cool and serve at room temperature.

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Christmas Traditions: A Sampler *(from page 1)*

in her traditional wooden ornaments from Erzgebirge or a region known as “Christmas Land” in Germany. Their other German traditions include opening gifts on Christmas Eve and sipping on some mulled wine or cider. At work, they include a tradition that Peter Bach picked up while living in England. On Boxing Day there — the day after Christmas — workers trade jobs and the Bachs incorporate that custom at their practice. “People see that other people’s jobs aren’t easy — they learn to appreciate what others do,” Andrea Bach said. There’s no big Christmas dinner for the Bachs. Instead they enjoy something simple, perhaps cold, or a dish that has been prepared ahead of time. “We might watch a traditional Christmas movie together,” Andrea Bach said, adding that *It’s a Wonderful Life* may be her favorite. For Peter Bach, Christmas is about the music. “Andrea is in the choir at the Presbyterian Church and I love the hymns.” This year they’ll share Christmas with their son, Christian, and daughter, Laura, who is returning from Germany for the holidays.

Let the traditions begin

For Joy Albrecht, Cold Spring may be the place where Christmas tradition begins. “We don’t have that many because we always lived in so many different places. Our tradition has been having no tradition,” Albrecht said as she recalled having spent past Christmases in such

exotic locales as Vietnam, Japan, Whistler, B.C., and Hawaii. After her husband, Greg, passed away she purchased a home in Cold Spring. At first “I was here but we sat on camp chairs. There was no furniture, no tree,” she said. This year, the camp chairs have been put away and she



From left, Dr. Peter Bach, Andrea Bach, Joy Albrecht, Bob O'Brien, Curt Landtroop, Zach Landtroop, and Neal Tomann *Photos by M. Turton*

will host a real Christmas, with members of her extended family coming in from Connecticut, New Jersey and New Orleans, seven people in all. “And my grand-dog Bo will be coming, too.” Albrecht said the moms will prepare a big Christmas breakfast with the daughters handling dinner which will include roast beef and salmon. She hopes the group can work in a hike at some point during the day. And this year there will be a tree. “I just wanted something different,” Albrecht said, standing next to her new, 7-foot, ornamental, black-metal tree adorned with many colorful ornaments. Last year, she and her family enjoyed Christmas Eve dinner at Cathryn’s Tuscan Grill. “We’ll do that again this year,” Albrecht said. A new tradition may have been born.

How did mom pull that off?

Bob O’Brien lives in Putnam Valley and often ventures into Cold Spring as part of his business, which could be described as

“carpentry plus.” He was in the midst of a kitchen-plumbing repair when *The Paper* caught up to him. He still marvels when he thinks about Christmas as a young boy. “When I was a kid I’d go to bed on Christmas Eve — and there was no tree, no presents,” he recalled. “When I awoke in the morning there was a tree — and presents. Are you telling me there’s no Santa? I don’t

of mischief in his voice he added, “And we know that Zach is going to have a lot of presents under it for us this year,” a statement that drew a big laugh from both. Curt Landtroop said that his wife Diane’s cousins from Bronxville would be joining them for Christmas dinner this year. He also reminded his son that a fourth member of the immediate family will also be there — “Windsor,” his guide-dog, a black Labrador. Zach Landtroop said that Windsor, “gets really excited when people open their gifts. I think he just senses the joy.”

Wake up ... PLEASE!

“On Christmas Eve we always had lasagna.” That’s how Garrison resident Neal Tomann described his family’s Christmas dinner when he was growing up. “We still do that,” he said. “There was never a big Christmas dinner — because we’d have about 50 people over at Thanksgiving.” His early Christmas memories might be described as “painfully fond.” One of the most noteworthy was the tree. “It was always set up in the living room and it was big — 10 or 12 feet tall,” he recalls. When Christmas morning arrived, the big living room doors were closed. “No one was allowed to go into the living room until everybody was awake — then we’d all go in as one.” That was a bit more drama than Tomann could appreciate. “The problem was being a 5-year-old boy, waiting for your 20-year-old brother to wake up. It’s just painful.” Adding to his pain was that he didn’t have to wait for just one brother. “There were about 15 people to wake up!” Like most families, gift giving was always a part of Tomann’s Christmas and one boyhood present stands out in Tomann’s memory to this day. “I was about 9 years old and I got goalie pads. I swear I didn’t take them off for three days. I think I slept in them.”

The Santas of Cold Spring *(from page 1)*

She says a few people over the years have told her they know someone else named Santa, “but more often they think they misheard me, and they repeat it back as Sandra. If I don’t think I’ll ever see them again, rather than explain, I just go with Sandra.”

Santa is not the only Santa in town. At one time there were three — Warren, her mother, Santa (Frisenda) Huston, who died in 2007, and her mother’s cousin, Santa Maria (Frisenda) Ferrara, 91, also a lifelong Cold Spring resident. Both cousins were named for their paternal grandmother in Italy, Santa (Castrovinci) Frisenda.

Ferrara, who grew up in Cold Spring in the 1920s and 1930s, says she didn’t get much grief about her name, in part because her parents were immigrants. “We didn’t have too many friends” outside of the local Italian community, she said.

Santa translates as “saint” or “holy” in Italian or Spanish. (“I’m a saint!” Ferrara claimed, although, when pressed, she quickly added with a laugh: “Are you kid-

ding?”). Santa was a more common name in the U.S. a century ago. Between 1904 and 1931, it ranked among the top 1,000 for newborn girls. (Ferrara was born in 1922, and Huston in 1929.) In 1990, the most recent census data available, more than 1,200 women had the name, making it the 1,224th most popular, between Dominga and Melodie.

The male equivalent is Santo, although Warren says she gets plenty of junk mail for Mr. Santa Warren. The male Santa familiar to Americans is thought to originate with the Dutch tradition of Sinter Klaas. The name appeared in print in the U.S. as early as 1821, in an obscure poem that begins, “Old Santeclaus with much delight ...”

Warren jokes she could have married someone named Claus instead of her high-school sweetheart, Scott Warren. And Santa Santa was also a possibility, as more than 2,000 people in the U.S. have that surname and surely have grown weary of the Christmas Eve phone calls.

The members of the **Garrison Volunteer Fire Company** wish to thank our neighbors in the Garrison Fire Protection District for voting to support the changes in the Length of Service Awards Program. We look forward to serving our neighbors in the coming years as we volunteer day and night — whenever you need us.



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Constitution Island Association, West Point Renew Relationship

New leaders in charge, Main Street center on hold

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The latest Constitution Island conflict appears over.

During the Revolutionary War, British and American troops traded threats and successive possession of the island, a wooded, peninsula-like prong in the Hudson River just below Cold Spring.

More recently, the volunteer Constitution Island Association and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, long-time allies, fell out over policy regarding the island. Late in November, though, they took steps toward resumed amity.

The Association suspended pursuit of its controversial plan for an office and visitor center on Cold Spring's Main Street. West Point renewed the Association's validation as a group permitted to function on West Point property, after delaying recertification for months. It also promised redoubled efforts to preserve the island's Warner House, a historic home dear to the Association, which owns the contents; Army purview includes the structure itself. And the two sides conferred on Dec. 5, with plans for a lasting pact.

"The meeting was cordial and productive," according to Frederick Osborn III, new chairperson of the Association executive board. "The [Association] officers expressed their appreciation for the prompt revalidation" of the organization, Osborn commented in an email exchange with *Philipstown.info/The Paper* Tuesday evening (Dec. 17). "The garrison commander

pledged his support to undertake a project to repair and renovate the Warner House," tapping Army-related resources.

The Association's mission is "to provide a rewarding, educational, and recreational experience by the commemoration and preservation of the historic, literary, legendary, artistic traditions, and the ecological treasure that is represented by Constitution Island and the Hudson River Valley." Friends of the island and Warners organized the group in 1916 "to preserve the Warner House and its furnishings."

A rift over management

Its relationship with West Point founded in 2012, when the Association's then-incumbent leadership enthusiastically endorsed a plan by Sen. Charles Schumer to turn the island into a national park site, echoing similar suggestions dating back decades. Schumer's concept involved making the island's federal overseer the Department of the Interior instead of the Department of Defense and Army, or letting DOD retain nominal jurisdiction while allowing the Interior Department to control the island day-to-day and open it year-around for visitors (while not necessarily terminating West Point usage).

The Defense Department and Army adamantly rejected the national park idea. However, the Association viewed it as a way to save the Warner House, which needs serious repairs. Bitterness ensued.

For the first time in years, in 2013 the Association's seafood fundraising dinner did not occur on the island. Moreover, Col. Dane Rideout, the West Point garrison commander, allegedly called for the

replacement of top figures in the Association, long led by Betsy Pugh as chairperson and Executive Director Richard de Koster. (Col. Rideout, with responsibility over West Point's building and grounds, consistently declined to discuss the situation with *Philipstown.info/The Paper*, or to either confirm or deny the statements attributed to him, although he did allow an aide to provide limited information on some issues.) Likewise, the Army questioned Association plans to establish a visitor center and office on Main Street, wanting it based on Constitution Island instead — a stance that increased the debate over Association desires to use New York State grant money for the Main Street venture.

Peace overtures

Yet, as 2013 waned, so did the acrimony.

At the Association's annual formal meeting Nov. 17, Pugh announced her departure from the chairmanship and the group's governing board scheduled a separate meeting for Nov. 23 to choose top officers. They picked Osborn, a veteran of local philanthropic and public service positions, as chairman; David Gordon as secretary, and, as treasurer, Vincent "Vinny" Tamagna, Putnam County transportation manager and former county legislator. Also during the board session, de Koster revealed he intends to retire in June. "As a result of these actions," one attendee wrote afterward, "West Point has approved the Association's revalidation for two years and once again opened the island to the Association."

Indeed, on Nov. 25, West Point re-instated the group.

(Continued on next page)

Betty Budney Honored for Town Board Tenure

(from page 1)

depth and breadth of Betty's career and her service to this town, you can't sum that up in words." Nonetheless, he tried. Addressing Budney on behalf of the entire Philipstown population, he took a few moments for "saying 'thank-you' for all you've done for every person in this town." The plaque notes that Budney joined the board Jan. 1, 1989, and in the ensuing years demonstrated "exemplary dedication" and labors exerted "tirelessly for the betterment of the town's economic, cultural and aesthetic development."

Galef described Budney's involvement in town government as "just incredible" and pointed out how Town Board members are on the frontlines of government, close to local citizens and their criticism, and devote endless hours to studying and resolving matters of importance, for the public good. "I'm just so impressed with you." She presented Budney with a New York State Assembly citation in tribute.

Scuccimarra said that in her four years

on the Town Board, she found that Budney "never shied away from a challenge or hard work." She gave Budney a formal County Legislature statement expressing Putnam's appreciation.

Former Town Board Member Dave Brower, who also served alongside Budney, brought her a bouquet — apparently the second of the day, as Budney said the Garrison Volunteer Ambulance Corps earlier had given her flowers. Brower mentioned Budney's volunteerism, including her commitment to providing gift baskets to the town's less-well-off residents.

Budney thanked all those who thanked her. "It's been a privilege and an honor to be a councilwoman. And it's hard for me to step down. I love you all," she told her Town Board colleagues. "I'm really going to miss this, really miss it." However, she said, family needs have increased, as illness and death struck this year. "I just couldn't do it anymore," she said of her Town Board job. "It's hard for me to say

good-bye, but I'll see you out there because I never give up helping someone."

Sales tax sharing

The touchy subject of the county's refusal to share sales-tax revenue with the town, where a portion is collected — especially tax dollars generated by tourism — came up when Scuccimarra delivered her monthly report on county activities. Scuccimarra referred to a recent county meeting with municipal officials, including Philipstown Councilor Dave Merandy.

Scuccimarra announced that County Executive MaryEllen Odell and other county officials are willing to come to Philipstown to present the rationale for not sharing sales tax income. (Most New York counties do return some to towns and villages.) "I think it warrants a workshop so we can go over the numbers and put everything on the table and see what we can do," Scuccimarra said.

She observed that State Sen. Terry Gipson is promoting mandate-relief to spare lower levels of government from having to pay for and implement initiatives devised by the state. "If the county gets mandate-relief, it would free up so much extra money," Scuccimarra said.

Councilor Nancy Montgomery asked about delivering some county services in Philipstown.

"Yes, definitely," Scuccimarra replied. "That's one way they can help us out — by giving more services if they can't share the funds" from sales tax.

Merandy said that Carmel appeared unready to share anything in a very substantive or long-term way. "It sounds like if they have an extra truck, they're willing to loan us that, or something along those lines," without a meaningful commitment, he said.

Scuccimarra expressed hope that "through negotiations, we can pin it down more in specifics — things we need in this town."

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Dini Lo Bue

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(from previous page) “The United States Army Garrison, West Point, and the United States Military Academy are pleased to announce the revalidation of the Constitution Island Association to operate as a private organization on the military installation,” a West Point spokesman, David Reel, confirmed on Dec. 11. Director of the West Point Museum and the USMA liaison to the Association, Reel stated that the authorization “permits the organization to pursue and fulfill its mission to preserve and interpret the historical legacy of the Warner family,” the 19th-century owners of the island.

The Warner sisters, Anna and Susan, lived on Constitution Island for decades, writing books, gardening, and befriending West Point cadets. Their tenure also led to an early suggestion that the island become a national park. Eventually, as sole heiress, Anna Warner, sold Constitution Island to a friend, Margaret Sage, stipulating that Sage “offer the island to the government for the use of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point,” as Sage in 1908 informed President Theodore Roosevelt (who accepted the gift). In her agreement with Sage, Anna Warner specified that “nothing herein contained shall be deemed or construed to prevent the dedication or conveyance of the [Constitution Island] premises, or any part thereof, for the purpose of a state or national park ...”

West Point and visitors

While obviously leery of making the island a national park now, West Point sounds amenable to ensuring a level of public access.

“In the future, the Academy would envision the construction of an education center on the island which would benefit

cadets, soldiers and the American public,” Reel told *Philipstown.info/The Paper*. “Such a center would allow the teaching of the Warner family legacy by the Constitution Island Association, and others, to official and authorized groups. Integral to this effort is the refurbishment of the Warner House. The command at West Point has stated they ‘will work with our Association of Graduates and other private organizations, to obtain funds for this purpose.’ This allows for private individuals to participate in funding the preservation and restoration of this treasured site.”

Reel observed the island “is the site of the earliest Revolutionary War fortifications in the Hudson Valley and is open to the public April through October,” by advance arrangement with West Point. He cited heightened security as a concern and also mentioned that “controlled access is paramount for the long-term preservation of this natural and historic resource.”

In the Revolution, the island – named before the U.S. Constitution existed – was first occupied by the Americans, who abandoned it when threatened by a superior force. The British marched in but only stayed about three weeks before likewise departing, allowing the Continental Army to reclaim the island as a base for the massive chain they stretched across the river to deter British warships.

Association goals

From an Association perspective, Osborn said an immediate goal is “to rekindle a constructive relationship with the U.S. Army garrison at West Point and to work with them to get the repair-renovation of the Warner House underway as soon as possible, with hopes that the



Col. Dane Rideout, second from left, on Dec. 5 met with the Constitution Island Association delegation: from left, Betsey Blakeslee, liaison; Frederick Osborn, chairman; Vincent Tamagna, treasurer, and Jim Johnson, liaison. Photo courtesy of West Point

public may once again enjoy the facility in time for the [Association’s] centennial in 2016.”

He said that in meeting with Rideout, “the group pledged to work on a new memorandum of understanding between the U.S. Army garrison, West Point, and the Constitution Island Association, with the possibility of coming to agreement by early January 2014 when we plan a meeting with the superintendent,” the highest-ranking official, Lt. Gen. Robert Caslen.

The new chairman indicated plans for the Main Street center are temporarily shelved, until the group decides how to proceed. Accordingly, he said, the Association has contacted the state funding agency, Empire State Development Corp. (ESDC), “and requested a hold on the grant.”

He described as a priority determining “which location of an education or visitor’s center — on the island or in the village — best serves the community and the historic-site visitors and tourists who will be our customers.”

Thus, he stated, the Association “would like to use the ESDC grant toward the con-

struction of an education center on the island or a visitors’ center in the village, pending our determination, working with West Point and the village, of the most appropriate location for such a facility.”

On the island itself, going forward, “we hope to produce events similar to those that we held in the past: re-enactments, garden days, family days, our seafood dinner extravaganza, etcetera,” Osborn added. “We will work out schedules, access, and details with the U.S. Army garrison at West Point.”

No ousters

Both the Army and the Association deny that West Point forced the departure of Pugh and de Koster in return for restoration of island access and good relations.

“No, there was nothing like that,” Reel said. “It was entirely the Association’s decision.” Osborn said that for some time Pugh and de Koster had been contemplating retirement, Pugh after some 11 years of service and de Koster after 17 years as executive director. Pugh emphasized Dec. 14 that her retirement “was absolutely in the works” for months. “That’s a fact.”

State Awards \$100,000 Grant to Philipstown for Fjord Trail (from page 1)

funds for that also. So we can go ahead and start an actual part of the project. It’s exciting to think that in the spring we could actually see some physical construction take place.”

“Stay tuned. Great things are happening!” one trail effort leader advised fellow supporters in a note Dec. 13.

In an email Tuesday (Dec. 17), Shea elaborated on follow-up activity. He said that the trail steering committee had just met, joined by the newly-appointed planning firm RBA Group, of New York City (hired through a separate funding channel in which private voluntary donations played a key role). The \$861,000 is for construction-related implementation work and “we are in the process of figuring out how to best use this money,” the supervisor explained. “We have other funding sources and are currently pursuing them” as well. For moving forward, Shea said, two basic options exist, “one for the southern portion of the trail at Little Stony Point and the parking area there” and the other “for work at the Breakneck Ridge train stop. Depending on how successful we are in raising additional funds will determine which option we pursue – the Breakneck option being the one that will require more funds.” At the same time, he added, “we will be working on another application for the next [funding] round. We are excited to be moving ahead with the project and look forward to good progress in the coming year.”

Little Stony Point and Breakneck both offer access to the mountains, so improvements at either location would assist users of both the Fjord Trail, when built, and the existing hillside paths. The brief mention of the grant in the state’s list of all winners specifically referred to “facilitating safe access between the Breakneck train stop and Breakneck Ridge, the top-rated day hike in North America.” Metro-North’s Hudson Line



Route 9D at Breakneck Ridge Photo by L.S. Armstrong

trains stop at a Breakneck Ridge mini-station on a limited basis.

More grants for the mid-Hudson area

Other projects in the mid-Hudson area also benefitted from the Regional Eco-

nomic Development Council Awards. One, Clear Solution Labs LLC, won \$1 million to establish a manufacturing business in Putnam County to create health and beauty products and over-the-counter goods as well as pressed

powders and high alcohol processed items, according to the state listing of recipients. The list does not provide an exact location for the intended factory and an online search only turns up a company with a similar name, Clear Solutions Inc., in New York City.

Putnam County shares in several successful multi-county grant applications, including one that got \$1 million for a 3-D printing project, based at SUNY New Paltz, to “establish the region as a national center for additive manufacturing — 3-D printing — technology, design, research, and manufacturing.”

The Hudson River Sloop *Clearwater* will receive \$497,303 for repair and restoration of planks, centerboard, and related components of the boat; the Dia Arts Foundation is getting \$37,000 for arts education activities at Dia Beacon. Peekskill was awarded \$175,000 for design-stage efforts on a project involving an old pier on the Hudson.

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Putting the Sol in Solstice

Sky Baby Studio to celebrate return of longer days

By Michael Turton

Those who seriously dread the short supply of daylight in late fall will soon have cause to celebrate. The darkest days will be a thing of the past with the arrival of the winter solstice on Saturday, Dec. 21 — and Sky Baby Studio in



Eliza Starbuck, left, and Malia Marzollo have their costumes ready for the Solstice Ball.

Photo courtesy of Sky Baby Studio

Cold Spring plans to celebrate the return of light when it hosts a Solstice Ball that evening at 8. Organizers have billed it, “A Cosmic Celebration and Dance Party.”

The ball is the brainchild of Malia Marzollo, founder of Sky Baby and Eliza Starbuck, founder of The Transformative Arts.

“It’s about light — and community,” Marzollo said. “The community has been through a lot this year.” While winter is a time when people tend to “retreat,” she said that when a community comes together, “It can be nourishing.” Starbuck said that in celebrating the solstice, “It can set up the calendar for the whole year — if you can get past the darkest days.”

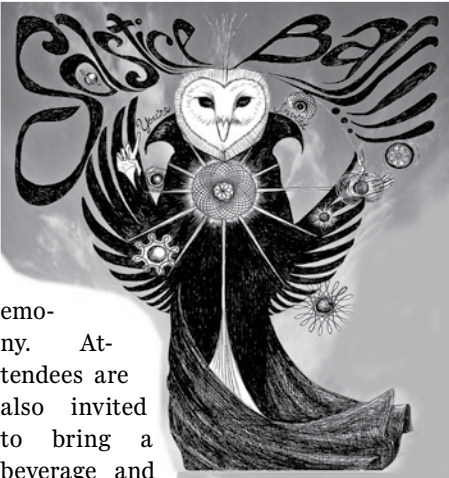
Something for everyone

The evening will include a ceremony to mark the solstice, drawing upon many different traditions. “It’s important to have a ceremonial element,” Marzollo said. “It will be all inclusive — with something for everyone.”

The “something for everyone” will incorporate music created by local artist Leroy Hankins. “He is putting together some very eclectic, transformative music,” Starbuck said.

Both Marzollo and Starbuck encourage people to come in costume. “You’re showing your community your true spirit, in all your glory,” Starbuck said. “A costume that fully embraces your power.” Marzollo commented that she hopes Superman shows up — and that wizards and other powerful beings are also welcome.

Costumes should probably include dancing shoes, as the floor will open for dancing right after the cer-



emony. Attendees are also invited to bring a beverage and a favorite finger food to share. Organizers would appreciate a \$20 donation to support this and future community events at Sky Baby, located on the third floor at 75 Main St.

About the solstice

The term solstice comes from the Latin

words “sol” meaning sun and “sistere” meaning to stand still. At the winter solstice the sun’s path briefly comes to a stop as it reverses direction from south to north. At precisely 12:11 p.m. on Dec. 21, the sun will reach its southernmost position directly above the Tropic of Capricorn in the southern hemisphere, marking the beginning of winter. From that point on, the sun’s path will begin to inch its way northward, adding slightly more daylight to each day. While not noticeable day to day, the cumulative effect is soon evident. On Saturday the sun will set locally at 4:29 p.m. One month later, on Jan. 21, sunset will be at 4:58 p.m. In the new year, June 21, 2014, will mark the summer solstice — the first day of summer and the day of the year when the sun provides its most shining light. On that day the sun will set at 8:31 p.m. — more than four hours later than the winter solstice.

A Familiar Face at Christmastime

‘I never tire of hearing the bell’

By Michael Turton

Local residents may not all know Christine Locaparra by name but few would fail to recognize her — especially at Christmastime. Locaparra, who lives in Garrison, is the person behind the bell, the always-cheery woman who graciously accepts donations on behalf of The Salvation Army at her post in front of the entrance to Foodtown — in good weather and in bad.

“This is my seventh year,” Locaparra told *The Paper*. Although she receives a minimal wage for her work, money isn’t her prime motivation. Asked why she takes on the task each year, she paused for some time before answering very simply. “I do it ... because it’s a joy to do it. I just enjoy it.” And enjoy it she does — from just before Thanksgiving through Christmas Eve. During that stretch she works every day but Sunday from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. — but not alone. “My son Rocco helps out. We share shifts,” she said.

Weather is a factor Locaparra can’t ignore, least of all during the recent cold snap. “During our training we were given instructions on how to dress. We come prepared,” she said.

If privacy regarding how much someone chooses to drop into the collection bucket is a concern, residents can rest easy with Locaparra. “I honestly don’t know how much people give. I don’t pay any attention. I’m just grateful they

give,” she said. “People are very nice.” Even though she hears its distinctive tone for six days a week throughout the entire Christmas season, Locaparra says that the ringing of the bell doesn’t get on her nerves. “I never tire of hearing the bell,” she said, quickly adding a personal thank you to Bert Laux of Garrison who built her wood-mounted bells. “They chime *Jingle Bells*,” she said.



Christine Locaparra: “It’s a joy!” Photo by M. Turton

Locaparra is also known for singing along with the chimes. Her favorite tunes? “My favorite spiritual song is *The Messiah*,” she said. In stark contrast she lists *Jingle Bell Rock* as her favorite secular Christmas song. Salvation Army spokesperson Maj. Doris Gonzalez said that funds collected in Cold Spring are used to help people in need in southern Dutchess and Putnam Counties. “That includes the working poor, the homeless and others going through hardship,” she said. “For a small community, Cold Spring contributes very generously.” Locaparra will celebrate Christmas at home with her husband Richard, her five children and one grandson.

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The Calendar



Eric Starr

Image courtesy of the artist

Third Generation Musician Eric Starr Releases New CD

Percussionist favors wide harmonic palette

By Alison Rooney

After a brief flirtation with playwriting, Eric Starr reverted to the destiny of his DNA, returning where the arrow of genetics pointed: to life as a professional musician. Cold Spring’s Starr, a percussionist, comes from a long lineage of musicians. His grandfather was a trumpeter, while his father, who toured with the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, played — and still plays — percussion, though now semi-retired. Starr’s brother Nelson is yet another musician.

Home movie footage from his early childhood captured a toddler playing drums with spoons, cereal mush flying all over the place. Starr’s dad let him play with his drum set by the time he was 5 and “is to blame,” says Starr, “because I decided then that this is what I wanted to do. Initially it was drums and eventually I branched out, studying classical percussion, then taking piano lessons.” It all turned into a scenario where he was “taking lessons from several teachers at once, practicing all day, hours and hours, and I came to feel an internal drive to do this, so I went to college for music.” A working life as a musician followed: playing gigs, composing and teaching. Starr recently released *Such Is Life*, his second CD.

A brief sojourn into the realm of playwriting came after responding to the works of Eugene O’Neill, but Starr returned to his natural habitat, noting: “Composing a play has its similarities to composing music in the creative process. They use the same sources. Arthur Miller said ‘the very impulse to write springs from an inner chaos crying for order.’ Something in us, somewhat inscrutable, is an impetus to take that essence and turn it into an order that communicates an artistic idea. The dialogue has to sound

completely spontaneous and yet you as the author may be thinking about it for years, finding a way to make the rhythm just right. It’s the same with musicians: not laboring. With improv it feels similar to the back and forth of the dialogue. There’s often a call and response analogous to dialogue. I made a very conscious decision. I thought I was a good playwright, but I’m a better composer and musician.”

By his 20s, Starr turned away from the “pretty heavy rock” in the band he had been in with his brother, and toward jazz. “Musically speaking,” Starr said, “it was not an option for me to write simple harmonies; I needed to use a wider harmonic palette; this pointed to jazz and contemporary classical works — modern versions of Debussy and Ravel.”

From Buffalo, where he was born and lived for 28 years, Starr moved to New York City to pursue jazz. He worked with a lot of people, “cutting teeth, throwing my drums in a cab for a job, living in a small apartment.” He came to Cold Spring because of jazz. His uncle, a Dixieland pianist, couldn’t make a gig at the Depot Restaurant and asked Starr to sub for him. Starr looked around during a break, saw the mountains and thought what a lovely place it was.

“My wife and I kept thinking of Cold Spring; we fell in love with it: the nature, the mountains, the river,” he said. “We like a walking culture, the little shops.” They (Starr’s wife Katherine is an occupational therapist, working in the Bronx) moved here in 2009.

After relocating Starr gradually came to know many musicians in town and the region. “Al Hemberger and Art and Stacy Labriola were among the first people I met musically speaking; they’ve been really great supporters in a number of ways. These kinds of connections have meant a lot to me. New York City is so much more

anonymous, even if you’re doing well.”

Surviving as a musician requires multiple streams of revenue. Since the birth of his two children (one attends Haldane, the other is a preschooler), Starr has limited his touring, and earns his living from studio work, playing local gigs (he plays frequently with the band Painted Betty), giving private lessons locally and in New York City, and through composing music on commission. He has had “Meet the Composer” funding, received a Utah Arts Grant and had NEA funding through theater companies. He has also authored a series of books, in *The Everything* series, including *The Everything Rock Drums Book*.

Starr has (Continued on page 11)

Meet Handel’s Messiah Musicians

A contingent of renowned musicians, most early instrument specialists, will join together to play at the two sold-out performances of Handel’s *Messiah* this Sunday, Dec. 22, at St. Mary’s Church in Cold Spring. A table will be set up at the entrance to St. Mary’s Parish Hall for any ticket returns and stand-by purchases for both the 2 and 5 p.m. performances. Biographies of a number of the musicians follow:

John Feeney is principal double bass of Orchestra of St. Luke’s, and the period instrument groups American Classical Orchestra, Sinfonia New York, and Opera Lafayette in Washington, D.C. A chamber musician and soloist of international recognition, he was first prize winner of the Concert Artists Guild and Zimmerman-Mingus International Competitions and a medalist-prizewinner in the Geneva and (Continued on page 14)



Double bass player John Feeney

Image courtesy of the artist

First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown To Present Christmas Eve Jazz Nativity with Alexis Cole



Gwen Laster on violin, Tom McCoy, First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown’s house pianist/arranger/band leader, Lew Scott on bass, and Mike LaRocco on drums for a holiday celebration melding jazz and worship.

The Jazz Nativity service is free and open to all. For more information, contact the First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown at 845-265-3220 or visit presbychurchcoldspring.org.

The First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown will present a Jazz Nativity at 10:30 p.m. on, Tuesday, Dec. 24, featuring vocalist Alexis Cole and the Jazz Vespers Band.

Alexis Cole is the vocalist for West Point’s Jazz Knights. Her voice has been compared to classic jazz singers such as Sarah Vaughan and Anita O’Day. She is the recipient of a Swing Journal Gold Disk award and has won the New York Jazzmobile and Montreux Jazz Festival vocal competitions.

Cole will be joined by the Jazz Vespers band with Rob Scheps on sax and flute,

Goddess Festival
Noon - 7 p.m. Beacon Yoga Center
464 Main St., Beacon
347-489-8406 | beaonyogacenter.com

Free Computer Help
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Friday.

Sound Healing Gong Bath Meditation
7:30 p.m. Beacon Yoga Center
464 Main St., Beacon
347-489-8406 | beaonyogacenter.com

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

Kids & Community

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

Holiday Fair
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Putnam Valley Grange
See details under Saturday.
Rescheduled from Dec. 15

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

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

Meet the Animals
2:30 p.m. Wildlife Education Center
See details under Saturday.

The Nutcracker for Kids
2:30 & 5:30 p.m. Putnam Valley H.S.
146 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley
914-526-4486 | danceforjoy.net

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

Dream Choir & People's Choir
Winter Concert & Sing-along
3 p.m. First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
meetup.com/The-Dream-Choir-of-Hudson-Valley

Night of 10,000 Lights
5 - 9 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Saturday.
Rescheduled from Dec. 14

Art & Design

Drop-In Art Sessions
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Drawing and Painting from Life (Long Pose)
1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Printmaking Club
1:30 - 4:30 p.m. Basic Etching
Garrison Art Center | 23 Garrison's Landing,
Garrison | 845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Free Admission for Beacon Residents
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Dia:Beacon
See details under Saturday.

Group Show: Together for the Holidays
11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Art Works! Gallery
See details under Saturday.

Theater & Film

It's a Wonderful Life (1946)
Noon. Jacob Burns Film Center
See details under Saturday.

No Strings Marionette Company
1 p.m. *The Three Little Pigs*
4 p.m. *Scrooge - A Christmas Carol*
Howland Cultural Center | 477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Westchester Ballet Company: The Nutcracker
2:30 p.m. Westchester County Center
See details under Saturday.

Music

SOLD OUT Handel's Messiah
2 & 5 p.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-2539 | stmaryscoldspring.org

Andy Revkin: A Very Fine Line (CD Release)
6 - 8 p.m. Dogwood
47 E. Main St., Beacon | 845-202-7500
facebook.com/veryfinelinemusic

Drew and Selena Bordeaux
6 - 8 p.m. 12 Grapes
See details under Friday.

Mountain Quickstep
7:30 p.m. Towne Crier Caf  
See details under Friday.

Meetings & Lectures

Edgar Cayce Study Group
4 p.m. Beacon Yoga Center | 464 Main St.,
Beacon | 347-489-8406 | beaonyogacenter.com

Religious Services

See philipstown.info/churches for Sunday listings

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

Kids & Community

Bridge Club
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Literacy Connections Class
9:30 a.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 x103 | beaconlibrary.org

Wild World of Animals
10 a.m. Mid-Hudson Children's Museum
See details under Saturday.

Indoor Tot Lot
Noon - 2 p.m. Indoor Tot Lot
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Health & Fitness

Free Beginning Movement Class
11 a.m. Living Yoga Studios
3182 Route 9, Cold Spring
845-809-5900 | livingyogastudios.com

Basketball at Philipstown Rec
6:15 p.m. Youth Skills/Drills (grades 3-8)
7:30 p.m. Men's Pick-up
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Art & Design

Drop-In Drawing & Painting from Life (Short Pose)
9:30 a.m. Garrison Art Center | Details under Sunday

Theater & Film
It's a Wonderful Life (1946)
Noon. Jacob Burns Film Center
See details under Saturday. (To page 10)



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Saint Mary's in-the-Highlands, 1 Chestnut Street, Cold Spring, NY

Tickets: www.brownpapertickets.com
For more information: 845.440.8290

All costs for these performances have been donated in the spirit of the season. All tickets and contributions will be 100% tax deductible.

The Calendar *(from page 9)*
Mariinsky Theatre: *The Nutcracker* (Film)
7 p.m. Downing Film Center
19 Front St., Newburgh
845-561-3686 | downingfilmcenter.com

Music

Acoustic Music Jam
7 p.m. Arts on the Lake
640 Route 52, Kent Lakes
845-228-2685 | hvbluegrass.org

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

Open Mic Night
7 p.m. Towne Crier Café
See details under Friday.

Kali. Z. Fasteau/L. Mixashawn Rozie (Jazz)
8 p.m. The New Quinn's | 330 Main St., Beacon
845-831-8065 | quinnbeacon.com

Meetings & Lectures

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Local libraries closed

Kids & Community

Senior Day Center
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mother Lurana House
166 Old West Point Road East, Garrison
845-424-3184 | graymoorcenter.org

Christmas Eve Services

St. Mary's Episcopal
3:30 p.m. Family Mass and Pageant
10:30 p.m. Carols | 11 p.m. Festival Mass
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-2539 | stmaryscoldspring.org

Our Lady of Loretto
4 & 6 & 10 p.m. 24 Fair St., Cold Spring
845-265-3718 | ourladyoflorettocs.com

South Highlands Methodist
5 p.m. 19 Snake Hill Road, Garrison | 845-265-3365

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

United Methodist Church
7 p.m. 216 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-3365

First Presbyterian of Philipstown
7:30 p.m. Candlelight Service
10:30 p.m. Jazz Service
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

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

St. Joseph's Chapel
8 p.m. 74 Upper Station Road, Garrison
845-265-3718 | ourladyoflorettocs.com

Graymoor
9:30 p.m. 1350 Route 9, Garrison
800-338-2620 | graymoorcenter.org

Theater & Film

***It's a Wonderful Life* (1946)**
Noon. Jacob Burns Film Center
See details under Saturday.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas

Kids & Community

Christmas Day Hike
10 a.m. Candlewood Hill
99 Sunken Mine Road, Putnam Valley
meetup.com/Hike-Putnam-and-Beyond

Christmas Day Services

Our Lady of Loretto
9 & 10:30 a.m. | See details under Tuesday.

St. Philip's
10 a.m. | See details under Tuesday.

St. Mary's
10:30 a.m. | See details under Tuesday.

Theater & Film

Mariinsky Theatre: *The Nutcracker* in 3D
Noon. Jacob Burns Film Center
See details under Saturday.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

Butterfield & Desmond-Fish libraries closed

Kids & Community

Brain Games for Adults
10 a.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Monday.

Senior Day Center
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mother Lurana House
See details under Tuesday.

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

Winter Welcome Day
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Washington's Headquarters
84 Liberty St., Newburgh
845-562-1195 | nysparks.com

Meat & Egg Store Open
3 - 6 p.m. Glynwood Farm (Dairy)
362 Glynwood Road, Cold Spring
845-265-3338 | glynwood.org

Health & Fitness

Free Beginning Movement Class
5:30 p.m. Living Yoga Studio
See details under Monday.

Women's Prenatal/Postpartum Discussion Group
7 p.m. Hudson Valley Hospital Center
1980 Crompond Road, Cortlandt Manor
914-736-7700 | northeastdoulas.com

Adult Co-Ed Volleyball
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center
See details under Monday.

Theater & Film

***It's a Wonderful Life* (1946)**
Noon. Jacob Burns Film Center
See details under Saturday.

Music

Piano Bar Night
7 - 11 p.m. Bear Mountain Inn
55 Hessian Drive, Highland Falls
845-786-2731 | visitbearmountain.com

KJ Denhert
7:30 p.m. 12 Grapes
See details under Friday.

Karaoke Night
9:30 p.m. Max's on Main
See details under Friday.

Meetings & Lectures

Village Zendo Year-End Meditation Retreat (Opens)
3 p.m. Garrison Institute
14 Mary's Way, Garrison
845-424-4800 | garrisoninstitute.org

FRIDAY, DEC. 27

Kids & Community

Open House
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Knox's Headquarters
See details under Thursday.

Winter Welcome Day
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Washington's Headquarters
See details under Thursday.

(To next page)



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Holiday Celebration Photofest

*Contribute your best shots
of holiday activities and scenes*

The Paper will collect high-resolution, color
photos from local photographers of local
holiday celebrations, preferably pictures
taken this year. The best of the photos (in
our opinion) will be featured in The Paper on
January 3. Limit: two photos per person.

Please retitle the image with your name and
photo location, for example:
JohnDoe-ColdSpringDock.jpg.

Send photos to photofest@philipstown.info.



**Philipstown Women's
Clothing Exchange**

Sunday, Jan. 5, 2 - 4 p.m.
69 Main Street, Cold Spring

Items may be dropped off between 1 & 2 p.m.
Volunteers are welcome at 1 p.m. to help
set up and organize.

Bring clothing, shoes and accessories you
no longer use ~ clean and without damage.
Take home new items at no cost!

The Calendar (from page 10)

Children's Holiday Tea
Noon. Mount Gulian Historic Site
145 Sterling St., Beacon
845-831-8172 | mountgulian.org

Theater & Film

It's a Wonderful Life (1946)
Noon. Jacob Burns Film Center
See details under Saturday.

Going My Way (1944)
Noon. Downing Film Center
See details under Monday.

ONGOING

Art & Design

Visit philipstown.info/galleries

Religious Services

Visit philipstown.info/services

Meetings & Lectures

Alcoholics Anonymous

Visit philipstown.info/aa

Third Generation Musician Eric Starr Releases CD (from page 7)

also found the time to work on material for his new CD, which is all self-penned. Press notes describe the new material as “Culling elements of jazz, classical, and bossa nova The idea was to record a jazz quartet live in the studio, then add orchestral arrangements later on. Usually musicians are responding to previously composed orchestrations. In this case, the orchestra answers the players ... This recording approach, while unorthodox, proved a perfect fit for the new material, which is a combination of carefully crafted melodies and spontaneous improvisation.”

Starr has also linked up with both Garrison School and Haldane. At Garrison he runs the jazz ensemble, partnering with Karen Bresnan. He goes in one day a week, working with students in the middle school grades. It's not always easy. “Jazz is difficult for students — it's not a part of their world,”

he said. “Rhythmically, the syncopation can be difficult. The concept of swing is tough for a kid — it's amorphous. To play you have to have a very strong concept of it, yet it is hard to define. I don't think jazz is dead, but it's not really a part of the culture anymore except in New Orleans. Once upon a time it was the music of teenagers, the swing era in the '40s. Things change but I try not to think of it as a museum piece. It's still a living music, but you have to really seek it out.”

Starr also worked last spring on a Haldane School Foundation-funded coaching project with the jazz band led by Deb Contini, teaching improv and jazz phrasing, playing in an idiomatic style. The fruits of this labor were seen at the spring concert, and Starr hopes to be able to repeat it later this school year.

Starr says he feels blessed to make his home in Cold Spring. “When we moved here, it was kind of crazy. I had



Eric Starr Image courtesy of the artist

no clients here, a 7-week-old baby, no babysitter, nothing. But it all worked out so well, and I think we're lifers.”

Visit ericstarrgroup.com/. *Such is Life* may be sampled and/or purchased at cdbaby.com/cd/suchislife.

Beyond the Dewey Decimal System

Libraries provide seniors with more than books

By Alison Rooney

Staff at Butterfield Library recently used social media to reach out to the public, asking them to inform local seniors who might not be aware, of the many library services available to them. A personalized service includes home delivery of books to residents who are unable to venture to the library. This service is open to all Philipstown residents who hold either a Butterfield or

Desmond-Fish library card. All it takes is a phone call or an email message. Library staff members offer selections, while deliveries are made by volunteers from the community. There is no charge for delivery service.

Other amenities of possible interest to seniors are available at both libraries. According to Butterfield Director of Programming Maureen McGrath, “we have a whole variety of ways you can access books if you can't see well enough to read. We've got audio books, books on CDs, downloadable books and access to websites which feature ‘talking books’ on-



Desmond-Fish Library and Butterfield Library offer a range of amenities from database access to e-reader loans.

Photo by Mary Ann Ebner

line.” Anyone can come in to learn; simply call ahead with the request, and a library staff member will set up an appointment

time. In addition the library's e-readers are available for loan. In the future it may be possible to borrow a laptop computer as well. Both libraries also offer the more traditional form of large print books, found in special sections.

As libraries offer more than “just books” to all their patrons, there are a number of activities targeted to or inclusive of seniors at both libraries. At Butterfield Tai Chi/Qi Gong classes have just begun. These once-a-week sessions are conducted by Barbara Perkins, and will be held on Dec. 19, Jan. 9, 16, 23 and 31 ,and offer “improved balance and mental focus” in the form of gentle, flowing balance exercises.

For those (Continued on page 14)

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Media Professional Kevin Fortuna Appointed to Chapel Restoration Advisory Board

The Chapel Restoration board has appointed Kevin Fortuna to its advisory board. Fortuna is co-founder and original CEO of Lot18. A media and start-up veteran with deal-making and C-level management experience at both Fortune 500 and smaller companies, he is the former CEO of Quigo, an advertising technology company that was sold to AOL Time Warner in 2007. He was also founder and managing partner of Dedalus Capital, a boutique M&A consultancy and venture firm, and before that was a key operating and business development executive at two IPO-track Internet companies: Juno Online Services and NBC Internet (formerly CNET/Snap.com).

“Kevin will bring absolutely invaluable strategic thinking and direction to our organization, and we are very grateful for his interest,” said Michael J. Armstrong, board president.

A graduate summa cum laude from Georgetown University and a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Fortuna has served or currently serves on the boards of directors of Jumptap, Dedalus Enterprises, Geist Media, Fameball, Concern Worldwide and Moose Riverkeeper, and the advisory boards of Outbrain, Taboola, ShareThis, HopStop and Snooth. He lives with his family in Cold Spring.

The Chapel Restoration is a Greek Revival landmark on the banks of the Hudson River in Cold Spring. A prized venue for weddings and other special events, it also hosts the Sunday Music Series and Sunset Reading Series and offers various programs for children. Cared for and administered by an all-volunteer board, the chapel was built in 1833 and has no religious affiliation.

Philipstown Women’s Free Clothing Exchange Set for Jan. 5



Photo by Kate Vikstrom

A free clothing exchange will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 5, at 69 Main St., Cold Spring (*Philipstown.info/The Paper offices*). Women of Philipstown are invited to bring their gently used clothing, shoes, and accessories, enjoy a glass of wine and some chocolate, and go home with some “new,” pre-worn items.

The first such event was held in May 2013, resulting in much fun and a very successful recycling of excellent clothing.

Items may be dropped off between 1 and 2 p.m. on Sunday. Volunteers are welcome at 1 p.m. to help set up and organize. The exchange will begin at 2 p.m.

Any remaining items may be left for donation to charity.

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

Depot Theatre Offers Winter Youth Classes

The Philipstown Depot Youth Theatre will offer classes this winter. Each class ends with performances at the Depot Theatre.

For grades one through three and four through seven, Living Theatre, taught by Diana Hird, will explore all aspects of the stage. Hird is an inspirational teacher, and will infuse the joy of creating a magical theatrical experience. She is an award winning playwright, director and actress, having won multiple awards at the Aery Festival including Best Play and Best Director. Hird recently wrote and co-directed *Treasure Island*.

For grades four through seven, The Depot is preparing a workshop production of Aristophanes’ *The Birds* directed by Christine Brooks Bokhour. This piece will utilize improvisation and movement. Brooks Bokhour is infusing contemporary elements into the piece (Angry Birds, today’s pop hits, etc.). She is a Broadway veteran (*Chicago*, *Cats*, among others), has directed and choreographed *Once Upon A Mattress* and *Musical Mystery Tour*, and promises to create spectacular theatre for Depot kids. Call the Philipstown Rec Center at 845-424-4618 to register.

Living Theatre

Performance will be at 2 p.m. March 15. Directed by Hird. Wednesdays starting Jan. 8 (9 weeks, no class Feb. 19); grades one through three, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Fee: \$165 resident / \$180 non-resident. Grades four through seven, 4:30 to 6 p.m. Fee: \$230 resident/\$245 non-resident.

The Birds by Aristophanes for grades four through seven

This workshop production will tell the comedic tale of a people’s journey to escape their impoverished surroundings. Additional rehearsal will be Thursday, March 27 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. On Friday March 28, there will be class from 3:30 to 5 p.m. (The theatre will provide dinner before that evening’s performance.)

Performances will be March 28 at 7 p.m., March 29 at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., and March 30 at 2 p.m. Directed by Brooks Bokhour. Fridays starting Jan. 10 (12 weeks); 3:30 to 5 p.m. Fee: \$345 resident/\$360 non-resident.

STAR Renewals for Philipstown Residents Due Dec. 31

School Tax Relief Exemption (STAR) renewals for Philipstown residents are due by Dec. 31. Resident homeowners who currently receive the basic STAR exemption must register with the New York State Tax Department in order to receive the exemption in 2014 and subsequent years. For registration information, call 518-457-2036 or visit tax.ny.gov. Those who fail to register will lose the School Tax Relief Exemption.

Knights of Columbus Invite Girls and Boys to Youth Free Throw Competition

Loretto Council, No. 536 is sponsoring the local level of the 2014 Knights of Columbus Free Throw



Photo by Mary Ann Ebner

Championship on Saturday, Jan. 11 (snow date is Saturday, Jan. 18). The event will be held at 9:45 a.m. at the Capuchin Youth and Family Ministries Gym, 781 Route 9D, Garrison. Registration will start at 9:15 a.m.

All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to compete in their respective age division. Age eligibility is determined by the age of the contestant as of Jan. 1, 2014. There is no cost to participate. Proof of age (birth certificate or other proof of age) is required and written parental consent will be required on the entry form.

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship is sponsored annually, with winners progressing through local, district, regional, and state competitions. The K of C international headquarters announces international champions based on scores from the state-level competitions. Last year more than 120,000 sharpshooters participated in more than 3,600 local competitions.

The Knights of Columbus is an international Catholic family fraternal service organization with more than 1.8 million members in nearly 14,500 councils. Last year, Knights donated more than 70 million volunteer hours and \$162 million to charitable and benevolent causes, sponsoring projects to benefit their church, councils, communities, families and youth.

For entry forms or additional information, contact Dan Dillon at 845-265-3802 or Youth Director Bob Flaherty at 845-265-3191.

Qi Gong/Tai Chi Classes at Butterfield Library Postponed

Qi Gong/Tai Chi class held at Butterfield Library will not meet on Thursday, Dec. 26, or Thursday, Jan. 2, as the library will be closed. Classes will resume from 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 9.

Butterfield Library is located at 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring. Call 845-265-3040 or visit butterfieldlibrary.org.

Boscobel Extends Sparkle Event through Dec. 22

Due to winter storm conditions, Boscobel’s Dec. 14 *Sparkle, Nights of 10,000 Lights* event has been rescheduled to Sunday, Dec. 22, making the grand finale of this new holiday tradition

a three-day-long event. Sparkle’s last weekend for 2013 will take place from 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, December 20, 21 and 22. Although Twilight Tour tickets are sold out, Grounds Only tickets — with lights and attractions included — are still available. Visit Boscobel.org.

Towne Crier Café Rings in 2014 with Musical Feast

The Towne Crier Café rings in the New Year Dec. 31, with two Towne Crier powerhouse favorites: the Debbie Davies Blues Band and Myles Mancuso Band. Davies has been energizing crowds at the TCC for many years (including many memorable New Year’s Eves). Mancuso, a blues prodigy who’s been playing the TCC stage since he was 10, is making a big name for himself throughout the Northeast, and has attracted a huge following in Beacon.



Debbie Davies, left, and Myles Mancuso Photos courtesy of TCC

Executive chef James Kane and renowned pastry chef Mary Ciganer will create a memorable New Year’s Eve meal: a multi-course buffet, including a variety of appetizers and entrees, capped off by dessert: sumptuous chocolate truffles, petit fours and fresh fruit, and a complimentary champagne toast at midnight. Enjoy unlimited dinner from 7 to 9:30 p.m. followed by the show. Cost is \$100 per person (+\$3 processing). Members: \$90, no processing fee. Call 845-855-1300 for reservations. For more information visit townecrier.com.

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Garrison School Hires Interim Superintendent

By Pamela Doan

The Garrison Union Free School Board of Education appointed an interim superintendent at their meeting on Dec. 18. The appointment comes as the retirement date of current Superintendent Gloria Colucci fast approaches. Originally scheduled to leave on Dec. 31, Colucci will remain in place until the interim superintendent, Dr. Brian Monahan, is available on Jan. 21. Following a long career as a teacher and administrator, Monahan was most recently the interim superintendent of the Hendrick Hudson School District last year. Previously, he was the superintendent of the North Rockland Central School District for 14 years until he retired in 2009. He then taught at Pace University for three years and was the coordinator of the school's graduate programs in Educational Technology and Educational Leadership.

Monahan will bridge the transition period until the board has hired a permanent replacement for Colucci. Board President Raymond O'Rourke gave a positive and confident update on the progress of the search. The board is currently considering seven candidates and will conduct interviews Jan. 8-11. O'Rourke said, "Each of the seven are people we want to see and based on the paperwork, any one of them could fit well here."

The board will recommend two or three finalists to be interviewed by the advisory committee made up of teachers, parents and community members. The planned schedule has the advisory committee meeting with the finalists on Jan. 24-25, and then the board will consider their recommendation and make an offer shortly thereafter. The board will retain the new superintendent as soon as the person is available.



New interim superintendent, Dr. Brian Monahan Photo by P. Doan

NY Alert

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

Haldane High School First Quarter Honor Roll

Grade 12 Principal's List

Kieran Austin, Mary Callaghan, Noah Campbell, Steven Casement, Luke Cleary, Rachel Conklin, Maya Curto, Kenneth Doxey, Matthew Drotar, Danielle Ferris, Hannah Frith, David Hamel, Tess Hansler, Samantha Heanue, John Hughes, Emma Jacoby, Isabel Jimenez-Wisler, Alec Lane, Gerianne Martin, Michelle McEwen, Brigit O'Malley, Nicole Pidala, Shauna Ricketts, Caroline Schweikhart, Sarah Warren.

Grade 12 High Honor Roll

Russell Cox, Alison Duncan, Aidan Gallagher, Collin Harrington, Jessica Harrison, Dillon Kenny, Samantha Lisikatos, Jackson Lisotta, Jonathan Maldonado, Trevor Mastrantone, John McCann, Lana Ness, Rocky Shiga, Clayton Smith, Anthony Valencia, Sabrina Vuksta.

Grade 12 Honor Roll

Aaron Culotta, Nicholas D'Antoni, Brianna DiFrancesco, Gareth Gore, Giana Grandetti, Katherine Lahey, Jay Marchese, George Mechalakos, Tyler Mell, Ryan Moran, William Moss, Kelin Petkus, John Rotando, Brandon Rucker, Richard Vallejos.

Grade 11 Principal's List

Henry Dul, Jordan Erickson, Jayme Fox, Gianna Galazzo, Cameron Henderson, Tucker Hine, Patricia Iniguez, Ryan McCollum, Wylie McDonald, Julia Olsen, Emmanuelle Palikuca, Zoe Provan, Samantha Ricketts, Vanessa Uribe, Kelly Vahos, Marcus Zimmermann.

Grade 11 High Honor Roll

Matthew Balducci, Maxamilian Beachak, Melissa Biavati, Charlotte Cleary, Jonathan Clemente, Jacob Cox, Aidan Draper, Catherine Drotar, Samantha-Leigh Ford, Tanner Froats. Clifford Geller, Sara Jacoby, Joseph Kanlong, Lola Nicholas, Vivian Panayotou, Lian Petrie, Soibhan Quigley, John Swartzwelder, Trevor VanBrunt.

Grade 11 Honor Roll

Parivash Ahmed, Zachary Bischoff, Olivia Brown, Peter Close, Veronica Dandreaano, Tyler Giachinta, Ramsey Heitmann, Peter Hoffmann, Jakob Howell, Zhao Jun Meng, Alexandra Monteleone, Fiona Mueller, Cooper Nugent, Paige O'Toole, Kaitlyn Phillips, Kaley Pina, Evan Provan.

Grade 10 Principal's List

Lucy Austin, Weronika Bajsicka, Carly Brief, Allisen Casey, Nicholas Chiera, Isabella Convertino, Marissa DiPalo, Jerome Famularo, Theodore Henderson, Tobey Kane-Seitz, Elena LaBreche, Marina Martin, Wylie Thornquist, Melissa Tringali, Adele Westerhuis, Corydon Zouzias.

Grade 10 High Honor Roll

Tucker Beachak, Anna Birn, Daniel Cerqueira, Maisy Curto, David DeCaro, Nicole Etta, Andrew Gannon, Daniel Heitmann, Stephen Junjulas, Sara Labriola, Jillian Maldonado, Allison Marino, Bailey McCollum, Dante Nastasi, John Parr, Evan Poholchuk, Jack Revkin, Leandra Rice, Eric Rizzi, Aubrey Stowell, Clara Thompson, Sophia Traina, Rebecca Yodice, Jason Zielinski.

Grade 10 Honor Roll

Alexandra Ashburn, Michael Bentkowski, Jessica Ceravole, Peter Duffy, Alexandria Gariepy, Benedicta Geithner, Macdara Heanue, Raymond Morton, William Mrozik, Sara Procario, David Rotando, Nolan Shea.

Grade 9 Principal's List

Amelia Allison, Josephine Altucher, Alexandra Cinquanta, Mary-Margaret Dwyer, Amanda Erickson, Teresa Figueiras, Brian Haines, Jocelyn Lane, Hannah Langer, Alessandra LaRocco, Harper Levy, Marissa Lisikatos, Ruby McEwen, Kyra Moskowicz, Elizabeth Osborn, Catherine Parr, Andrew Platt, Jeremy Roffman, Corina Schmidt, Grace Seward, Cassandra Traina, Hali Traina, Brooke Vahos.

Grade 9 High Honor Roll

Morrigan Brady, Dylan Byrne, John Eng-Wong, John Farrell, Alice Flanagan, Mattias Gariepy, Rebecca Gore, Michael Harmancin, Will Heintzman, Morgan Hotaling, Michaela Khadabux, Isabelle Laifer, Erin Ledwith, Madison Lee, Liam Macnamara, Christopher Pidala, Evan Schweikhart, Nikki Shiga, Nicolas Sterling.

Grade 9 Honor Roll

Aidan Campbell, Sophia Carnabuci, Blaine Fitzgerald, Justin Maldonado, Andrew Mikalsen, Samantha Phillips, Cole Sussmeier, Edward Trimble.

Haldane Middle School First Quarter Honor Roll

Principal's List

Grade 8

Sophia Azznara, Amelia Hall, Nicole Mitchell, Miranda Musso, Chloe Schwartz, Olivia Sterling, Dylan Waller, Kyle Zimmermann.

Grade 7

Theodore Bates, Riley Bissinger, Catherine Dwyer, Morgan Etta, Angela Fee, Catriona Fee, Meghan Ferri, Ashley Haines, Maura Kane-Seitz, Stefan Linson, Emily McDermott, Matthew Mikalsen, Olivia Olsen, Parker Parrella, Justin Roffman, Michael Scicluna, Adam Silhavy.

High Honor Roll

Grade 8

Emily Azznara, Gabriele Baumann, Allison Chiera, Aidan Cimino, Mario Cofini, Alyssa Covelli, Nicholas Farrell, Makenzie Patinella, Jonas Petkus, Tara Pidala, Claire Reid, Brett Schwartz, Anthony Sinchi, Brandon Twoguns, Heather Winne.

Grade 7

Evelyn Ashburn, Adam Bernstein, Grace Campanile, Grace Claffey, Aidan Coletta, Roisin Daly, Mairead Fee, Ethan Gunther, Kathleen Langer, Dominic Maglio, Ronan Marrinan, Kenny McElroy, Honor O'Malley, Ellis Osterfeld, Reva Sandlund, Devin Siegel, Amy Sinchi, Genna Sposet, Kyle Sussmeier, Lucy van der Merwe.

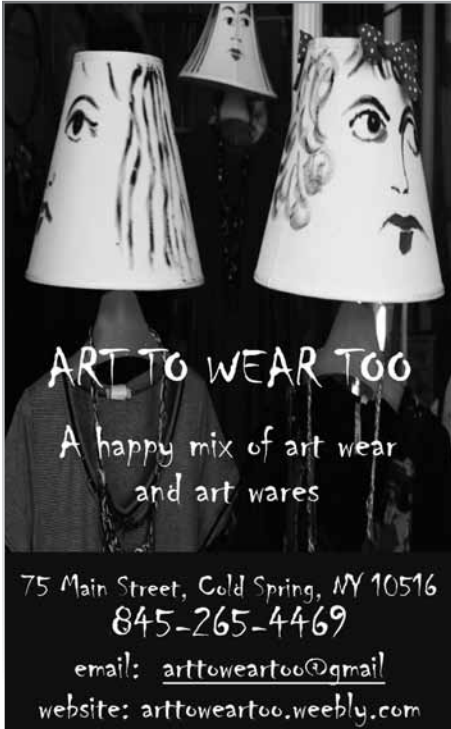
Honor Roll

Grade 8

Selena Ayala, Kevin Barry, Jessica Casey, Michael Champlin, Luke DiFucci, Joseph DiGregorio, Nicholas DiPalo, Abigail Duncan, Victor Fina, Kara Giachinta, Liam Irwin, George Leiter, William Martin, Isabelle Mattera, Mae McGrath, Valerie Scanga, Nicole Shubert, Aidan Siegel, Michael Tacuri, Mackenzie Tokarz, Andre van Dommele, Julian van Dommele, Jared Wigdor, Victoria Wyka.

Grade 7

Dawer Ahmed, Philip Cairns, Jamie Calimano, Randall Chiera, Samuel Curto, Aiden Dobosz, Willa Fitzgerald, Samuel Giachinta, Sandra Harrison, Kyle Kissinger, Harry Leiter, Joshua Lisikatos, Zoe Lyons-Davis, Justin Markey, Maja Maxwell, William Speziale, Tatianna Vidakovich, William Westerhuis, Freya Wood-Gallagher.



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Meet Handel's *Messiah* Musicians (from page 7)

Isle of Man Competitions. In 2010 he gave the world premiere performance of Dragonetti's *Concerto in D* with the American Classical Orchestra.

In 2007 Feeney played the world premiere of Paquito D'Rivera's *Conversations With Cachao*, a concerto for clarinet, sax, and double bass at the Caramoor International Music Festival. Subsequent performances have been with the Orquesta Sinfonica Nacional in Mexico City and Monterrey, Mexico. In 2009 he founded the DNA Quintet and began recording and publishing the premieres of the chamber music of Domenico Dragonetti. His urtext editions of the never-before-published music of Domenico Dragonetti is available online at MusicaNeo.

Amy Goldin is a core member of Antioch Chamber Ensemble, a 12-voice chamber choir with which she has performed in numerous festivals here and abroad, including Piccolo Spoleto in Charleston, S.C.; the Musique en Morvan Festival and the Festival des Choeurs Laureats in France; Nautilus Music Festival in Nova Scotia, and the highly prestigious Tolosa International Choral Competition in Spain, in which they were awarded first place honors. Goldin has performed extensively as soloist and with numerous ensembles throughout the greater metropolitan area, including Kairos: A Consort of Singers, Aeode Consort, Juneau Vocal Alliance, Prana,

Cantori New York, Danbury Concert Choir, and the Newburgh Symphonic Chorale. She lives in Woodstock, N.Y., with her husband and two children.

Christine Gummere has been playing baroque and classical cello since 1985, when she was invited by harpsichordist James Richman to be principal cellist for Concert Royal. During her tenure with the group she had the great good fortune to work closely with Richman and Catherine Turocy, artistic director of the New York Baroque Dance Company, both of whom deeply influenced her understanding of baroque and classical style. Other groups she has enjoyed performing with include Concordia, a chamber symphony led by Marin Alsop; String Fever, a string swing band; and the Riverside Symphony, an orchestra specializing in 20th-century music, where she was principal cellist for 19 years. In 2007, after 30 years as a New York freelancer, Gummere, with Gene Murrow, co-founded Sinfonia New York, a period instrument ensemble.

Christine Howlett is an associate professor of music and director of choral activities at Vassar College where she conducts the Vassar College Choir and Women's Chorus, and teaches music theory and voice. She is the artistic director of Cappella Festiva and the music director for the Danbury Concert Chorus. Her choruses have sung at

Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall, and have toured overseas in England, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Turkey. She is active as a soloist and recently released the recording *Love Raise Your Voice* on MSR Classics with Holly Chatham, piano, and Patrick Wood, violin.

Karen Marie Marmer studied violin at the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College and the Yale School of Music. Her baroque violin studies were with Jaap Schroeder, at Yale and Lucy van Dael at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague.

She has been a principal player with the *New York Collegium*, American Classical Orchestra, New York's Grande Band and with the Barockorchester Stuttgart, of which she served as co-concertmaster from 1991-96. More recently she was guest concertmaster with *Bach Vespers at Holy Trinity* in a performance of Bach's *St. John Passion*.

As co-founder/co-director of the internationally acclaimed ensemble, REBEL, Marmer has concertized extensively in Europe and North America, and has recorded for most major European radio stations as well as National Public Radio and has been

heard at early music festivals in Boston, Berkeley, Utrecht, Bruges, Halle, Regensburg, Stuttgart, Berlin, Vienna and Ambronay, as well as at Caramoor and the Chautauqua Institution. Her recording credits include Vox Classics, PGM, Chesky, Buckyball Records, Koch International, ATMA Classique, Hänssler Classics, Deutsche Harmonia Mundi, Dorian Recordings, Bridge Records, Sono Luminus and Naxos.

Benjamin Wolff, cellist, is associate professor of music at Hofstra University and a member of the Hofstra String Quartet. He also performs regularly with period instrument ensembles such as Early Music New York, Concert Royal, American Virtuosi, and Baroque Orchestra of Maine. In addition to his work as teacher and performer, he is director of the ensemble *Listening To History* which brings the past to life through performances that celebrate the connections between different spheres of human achievement and knowledge. His innovative programs Galileo's Muse and City of Joy have been presented at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Wellesley College, Williams College, the CUNY Graduate Center; and Rice, Harvard, Yale, Hofstra, and Georgetown Universities.

Beyond the Dewey Decimal System (from page 11)

needing assistance navigating the Affordable Care Act, help, in the form of Lourdes Seip, who is under the auspices of the Putnam Community Action Program, is on hand. Residents may phone her at 845-278-8021, ext. 23, to set up a library appointment. Tax help programs for early next year are also being coordinated.

At Butterfield the Highland Garden Club meets every third Tuesday of the month and welcomes new members; and the Butterfield Book Group, which has members of all ages, meets one Monday evening each month (there isn't a set pattern), and the library orders a copy of the chosen book for each member. Contact Jane D'Emic at the library for more details. Silent films are screened once a month as well, and there are always on-

going art exhibits and occasional readings and theatrical events. Butterfield also has access to Ancestry.com available to any Philipstown resident, and maintains access to other databases with historic newspaper records.



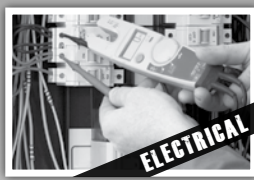

At Desmond-Fish, seniors partake of amenities open to all, including the audio book collection, the loan of e-readers (which, as Desmond-Fish Cybrarian Pam McCluskey points out, have the ability to turn every book into a large print edition because users can set whatever font they prefer), and computer instruction. They also recently received a sizeable donation from the estate of Rachel Berry to be used toward the large print collection. Designated computer advice sessions take place on Fridays and Sundays from 2 to 3 p.m. and basic help is available beyond those hours. There is currently no book delivery service offered by Desmond-Fish. There is a knitting circle, and a number of (non-library sponsored) book groups.

Desmond-Fish's Interim Director, Jen McCreery says that the library "tries to cater our collection to varying needs in the community, which means people of all ages. After all, you want to be a reader your whole life."

Both libraries serve as hubs during times of power outages, offering first and foremost a warm place to spend time indoors, and also Wi-Fi, and a supply of coffee for all who wish it.

If you haven't carved out time to apply for a library card, it's a simple online process. Phone the library and an application will be mailed to you, or stop by with appropriate information showing your residence. Visit desmondfishlibrary.org and butterfieldlibrary.org.

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Roots and Shoots

Christmas Bird Count Set for Dec. 28 in Putnam County

By Pamela Doan

For more than one hundred years, the National Audubon Society has organized volunteers in the U.S., Canada, and Latin America to record sightings of birds between Dec. 14 and Jan. 5. Birdwatchers count all the birds they can find in local “circles” that are about 15 miles in radius to create a snapshot of how birds are faring. Ornithologists and conservation biologists use the data in research. This time of year is significant because it shows trends in migration and winter habitat.

The Putnam County bird count includes parts of Philipstown and will take place on Saturday, Dec. 28. Charlie Roberto is the local contact and will be compiling the results. This will be his 30th year doing the count and the 59th year that a count has been done in Putnam County. Roberto said, “The first year I did it, I walked 18 miles in the snow with Ralph O’Dell, one of the first organizers of the count. Ralph still participates and I bet he could still walk 18 miles in the snow, but I couldn’t.” The volunteers are invited to a potluck dinner at O’Dell’s house in Putnam Valley at the end of the count to share stories and results.

The Christmas Bird Count is open to all levels of birdwatchers and citizen scientists. Volunteers with less knowledge and experience will be paired with a more experienced partner for a great learning experience. Volunteers can walk through areas or not do any walking at all and observe from cars or their backyard feeders if they live in the count area. Volunteers can determine their level of involvement and activity and everyone will be given instructions about how to record their



Volunteers in the count area can record sightings at their backyard feeders, too.

Photo by P. Doan

observations. Roberto said, “We record all the birds we see. Some people will be up at 4 a.m. to observe owls, others will just go out for a couple of hours in the afternoon, and then we’ve got some volunteers who will be out all day and do several areas.”

Technology has made the count easier in some ways. It used to be that if a team couldn’t identify a certain bird, they’d call for someone else to come see it. Now, when nearly everyone has a smartphone, birds can be photographed or even videotaped for identification purposes. Roberto said it can get competitive and as a team leader, he’s been called a drill sergeant.

“People enjoy trying to have the most sightings and part of the thrill of it is the possibility that you might encounter a bird that hasn’t been seen here before.”

Roberto, who grew up on a small farm near Mahopac, balances his work in the fire department with his passion for protecting the natural world. He encourages people to volunteer because “if people don’t learn about it, they aren’t motivated to save it.” He also serves on the board of the Teatown Lake Reservation and teaches programs about the environment as well as birds.

In the many years of his involvement, Roberto noted that the Christmas Bird Count has shown historic changes in the habits of birds in our area. Migration patterns have changed with some birds, like the evening grosbeak, no longer coming south from Canada after it was seen here for 40 years then just disappeared. Other birds have extended their winter habitats further north. Roberto

said, “We would never see mockingbirds, tufted titmouse or cardinals. Then with winter warming trends and more food choices like ornamental bushes with berries, those birds became regulars.”

Winter temperatures rose between 3.6 and 5.4 degrees in our area between 1970-2002 according to data from the University of New Hampshire and we’ve had significantly fewer days of snow cover. Climate changes worldwide have impacted the habitats of birds and everything about their lives, including breeding and migration and lead to significant species loss. In Putnam County, Roberto remembers when he did his first count here and the area was mostly farmland. Now it’s more suburbs and woodlots. Even in Fahnestock State Park, which is part of the area surveyed, the trees and plants have changed dramatically. Invasive species have altered the landscape, and pests — like the woolly adelgid that has devastated hemlock trees — have impacted the diversity.

Locally, the efforts of campaigns like the Christmas Bird Count has led to positive changes, too. Roberto said, “This can make a difference. The bald eagles are a great example. Their numbers have really increased because we could draw attention to how they were threatened.”

To get involved in the Christmas Bird Count in Putnam County or to find counts in other nearby areas, check out the website and contact Charlie Roberto and other organizers there.

- netapp.audubon.org/CBC/public/Default.aspx (contact information for Charlie Roberto)
- birds.audubon.org/113th-christmas-bird-count-0 (summary of 2012-2013 count)




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