Merry Christmas from our family to yours. For a list of Christmas services see page 7.

They Vary from Family to Family

Christmas past often adds to Christmas present

By Michael Turton

O

all the holidays, Christmas takes the prize when it comes to the number and variety of traditions associated with it. There's the music, and shopping, and the tree, and Santa Claus, and midnight Mass, and giving and receiving gifts, and the big meal with family and friends. At first glance it may seem like a template, a cookie-cutter holiday. But when you ask around, you quickly learn that almost every family adds its own customs or adapts traditions that are especially near and dear to them. Christmas, it seems, is a very personal holiday.

Matt Mitchell is a good example of how Christmas traditions begin early each year for some families. "We get out the tree the day after Thanksgiving every year," Mitchell said. "We always go up to Red Hook and cut our own." For the Mitchells, Christmas gifts are always opened on the evening of Christmas Eve. "One of my uncles always played Santa Claus when I was young — but eventually we figured it out!" he said.

For many, Christmas present is forever linked to Christmas past. Lenora Burton grew up in Wales, and her memories of Christmas there as a young girl define what for many may be the true spirit of Christmas. "I loved Christmas. My father used to collect gifts, through the Masons, I think it was," Burton said. Each Christmas morning, while his wife stayed home to prepare the festive dinner, he'd take his four daughters to Royal Owen Hospital in Newport, where together they would distribute gifts to patients. "And we'd spend time with them. I loved that so much," Burton recalls. After the hospital, they would return home and open just one gift before listening to the Queen's annual 3 p.m. radio address on the BBC. Then it was dinner and time to exchange gifts. Burton's sons are adults now, but she still makes them wait until afternoon to open their presents.

Makaria Gallagher treasures a tradition that dates back to her grandmother in the 1940s. Towards the end of World War II, Paula Tichy used to send "care packages" to a woman in Czechoslovakia. "The woman wanted to thank my grandmother for the packages, and the only thing she could think of was to make her an entire crèche out of clay," Gallagher said. The clay figures were not fired, and now, almost 70 years later, they are showing some wear, but Gallagher still displays the crèche every Christmas. "When the woman shipped it to my grandmother, she wrapped each clay figure in a sock. We still have the socks!" Gallagher said.

For some, Christmas means travel. Magali Charron will spend 15 hours on the road on Christmas Eve in order to be part of her family's traditional holiday celebration in Sackville, New Brunswick. "We'll go to midnight Mass to hear the celebration in Sackville, New Brunswick. We get our tree on the evening of Christmas Eve. "One of my uncles always played Santa Claus when I was young — but eventually we figured it out!" he said.

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For some, Christmas means travel. Magali Charron will spend 15 hours on the road on Christmas Eve in order to be part of her family's traditional holiday celebration in Sackville, New Brunswick. "We'll go to midnight Mass to hear the choir, then have a light seafood meal that night, and we'll open just one present," Charron said. Christmas Day will involve "the whole family," including aunts, uncles, cousins and their spouses. A turkey dinner with all the trimmings will be enhanced with oranges, walnuts, lychee fruits and tourtière, the traditional French-Canadian meat pie.

Mayor Accused of Improper Conduct

Village Board also hears heated criticism of Butterfield plan

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Cold Spring Village Board abruptly adjourned into executive session Tuesday night (Dec. 18) to address allegations by a resident that Mayor Seth Gallagher had become so enraged at a meeting of the village's Historic District Review Board that its members filed a police report.

Gallagher disputed the claim, made by one of his former supporters, Stephanie Hawkins, who also accused him of other forms of improper conduct toward the HDRB during its consideration of the proposed Butterfield Redevelopment project. The mayor has sparring publicly with HDRB members over interpretation of the Cold Spring Village Code in regard to demolition and related issues of historic preservation pertinent to Butterfield. Chaired by the mayor, the Village Board serves as the lead local government agency overseeing the project, but the HDRB and Village Planning Board also play serious roles.

The Village Board voted unanimously — even Gallagher dissented — to enter into executive session.

Tensions flared during the public-comment period, at the end of an already long meeting, when Hawkins accused the mayor of "highly inappropriate" behavior toward the HDRB, on which she does not serve.

The mayor had already read out the rules for public comment, which ban personal and defamatory attacks, and at one point, as Hawkins continued with her critique, he threatened to call the police and have Hawkins escorted out. Instead, he called a couple of recesses.

Sheriff Brings Educators and Police Together in Newtown Aftermath

New pledges of enhanced vigilance amidst budget restraints

By Kevin E. Foley

A mid mourning over the Newtown, Conn., killings and renewed discussion on guns, violence and mental health issues, Putnam County Sheriff Donald B. Smith convened a meeting last Tuesday, Dec. 18, amongst law enforcement agencies, educators and mental health officials to underscore local concerns and efforts to address the implications of the tragedy that has gripped the national consciousness.

The meeting, which took place in a basement conference room in the county police building next to the sheriff’s headquarters in Carmel, involved a discussion of the current state of security at county schools, what might be done to enhance it, as well as what programs exist

Hospita

Demolition

Approved

Historic District Review Board votes 4-1

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Cold Spring Historic District Redevelopment Board voted 4 to 1 on Wednesday night (Dec. 19) to allow demolition of the former Butterfield Hospital building. As conditions for its approval, it demanded a professional architectural and historical photographic survey of the structure before demolition and retention and re-use of an interior memorial architect from the hospital.

In a resolution it continued to cobble together as it deliberated, the board based its decision on a lack of sufficient historic architectural merit to warrant saving the hospital — a conglomeration of 1925, 1941 and 1963 pieces, with the latter obliterating much of the original ‘20s construction. Because HDRB members often had seemed opposed to demolition of the building, describing its links to significant figures from the past and architectural relevance, the vote came as a bit of a surprise.

Paul Guiliano of Butterfield Realty LLC, the property’s owner, publicly thanked the board after the vote, commending its hard work.

The action capped several months of uncertainty about Guiliano’s request to remove the hospital, a key element of his plans to create a...
The Dirt on Christmas

By Celia Barbour

So it’s seven nights before Christmas, and there you are, not even halfway through your holiday-to-do list and already twitching from some sort of sin- sel overdose, with your personal blood- cholesterol level verging on an all-time high when — too bad — your daughter comes home and tells you there’s a party in her classroom tomorrow, and she’s vol- unteered you to make something — 23 somethings, to be exact.

You aren’t entirely in control of the expression that seizes hold of your face at the thought of this, but she can read it clearly, because she quickly adds, “It’s okay if you don’t, Mommy. Really.”

She pauses then, reconsidering. “Or, maybe,” she says, cocking her head, “you can just make something small? It doesn’t have to be hard, like cookies. Just small.”

And using her sweet little fingers, she demonstrates just how small they can be, these things that you suddenly knew beyond a shadow of a doubt you will make, even if it means waking up at 5 in the morning after staying up un- til 3:30 to finish the work that you were unable to complete during the day be- cause you were Christmas shopping. For her. Because her bright, hopeful face is where we were when my son George turned up to the door in time to get to the bus stop. Which also meant they baked up quickly, so that it upped the ratio of crust to interior. It turned out to be a genius move, because I like what it does to flavor and texture — adding substance, body, and a little nut- tiness. (If you want a healthy breakfast, serve your dirt bombs with soft-boiled eggs and fruit salad. Or, actually, just don’t serve dirt bombs at all.)

I made them in mini-muffin tins, which turned out to be a genius move, because it upped the ratio of crust to interior. It also meant they baked up quickly, so that all 23 were ready to be carried out the door in time to get to the bus stop. Which was where we were when my son George reminded me that his class was having a Revolutionary-War-themed holiday party in two days, and that he had volunteered me to make chicken pot pies, and, um … . I smiled. “We’ll have fun making them,” I said, as I hugged him goodbye.

Dirt bombs

If you want to make regular-muffin-tin-size bombs, increase the oven temperature to 400 degrees and the baking time to 25 minutes, and reduce the coating to 1½ sticks butter and ½ cup sugar.

1 ½ sticks (¾ cup) unsalted butter
2 large eggs
1 cup sugar
1 cup whole-wheat flour
1 cup sour cream
1 tablespoon baking powder
½ teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon sour cream
1 tablespoon sugar
½ teaspoon nutmeg
1 ½ sticks (1¼ cup) unsalted butter
For the coating:
2 sticks (2 cups) butter, melted
1 ½ cups sugar
3 teaspoons cinnamon
1 cup sugar
1 large egg
1 cup sour cream
1 ½ cups sugar
1 cup sour cream
1 ½ cups sugar

1. Heat the oven to 375 degrees with a rack centered. Butter a nonstick mini-muffin tin, or coat it lightly with nonstick cooking spray.
2. Make the batter: Sift together the flours, baking powder, baking soda, salt, nutmeg and cardamom in a large mixing bowl. With an electric mixer, cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Mix in the eggs one at a time, blending thoroughly after each.
3. Mixing by hand, add the dry ingredients to the butter mixture alternately with the sour cream, incorporating thoroughly after each addition. The batter will be thick. Don’t overmix, or the muffins will be tough.
4. Using a soupspoon, fill each cup of the muffin tin almost full with batter. Don’t worry if they look a bit lumpy. Bake for about 12-15 minutes, or until the tops are golden brown and an inserted toothpick comes out clean. Allow to cool about 5 minutes.
5. Combine the sugar and cinnamon in a bowl. Dip each muffin into the melted butter, rolling it around to coat thoroughly. (It’s easiest to use your hands for this.) Transfer the muffin to the cinnamon sugar, and roll around until completely covered. Serve warm.

Sour cream mini dirt bombs

So I experimented, replacing the milk in the batter with sour cream and substi- tuting one cup of whole-wheat flour for white. I often use a mixture of white and whole wheat flours in baked goods these days, not for health reasons, but because I like what it does to flavor and texture — adding substance, body, and a little nut- tiness. (If you want a healthy breakfast, serve your dirt bombs with soft-boiled eggs and fruit salad. Or, actually, just don’t serve dirt bombs at all.)

White. I often use a mixture of white and whole wheat flours in baked goods these days, not for health reasons, but because I like what it does to flavor and texture — adding substance, body, and a little nut- tiness. (If you want a healthy breakfast, serve your dirt bombs with soft-boiled eggs and fruit salad. Or, actually, just don’t serve dirt bombs at all.)
Sheriff Brings Educators and Police Together in Newtown Aftermath (from page 1)

for mental health interventions either at schools or in the general population.

Attending the meeting from law-enforcement community were several members of the sheriff’s key staff and representatives of the state and local police departments from around the county, including from Cold Spring. Other county officials included the heads of the Bureau of Emergency Services and the Mental Health Department.

The educators present included the superintendents of the county’s school districts, including Dr. Mark Villanti from Haldane and Gloria Colucci from Garrison.

Cold Spring Trustee Ralph Falloon, who also works in emergency planning for the county, attended as well. “Everybody is very diligent about approaching this. It was a very eye-opening experience,” given the subject, “but things are moving forward,” and the public should feel secure about efforts underway “for the safety of our kids at our schools,” he said later.

The substantive part of the meeting was closed to the public and the media. The sheriff took pains to say in a printed statement and in his remarks to the media that the closed meeting fell under an exception to the state’s Open Meetings Law, as it involved discussion of specific security issues at the county’s schools.

At the outset of his public remarks, Smith said his office had a specially trained emergency-response team that coordinated with other police agencies and that, ironically, he was working on that subject when he first heard word about the Newtown shooting incident. He then underlined an oft-stated observation that Putnam County has one of the lowest crime rates in New York state. He said further that the quality and safety of county schools was a prime reason for families to move to Putnam.

But he then starkly turned those attributes around by favorably comparing the ideal depiction of Putnam County to Newtownd.
Save the children

Dear Editor:

When I was a very young man, ancient cities fascinated me. Perhaps the most mysterious lost city of all time is the vast, dusty ruins of Mohenjo-daro in what is now Pakistan. I decided, as young men will, to hitchhike there from Rome. The route took me across Afghanistan and through the Kabul Gorge and the Khyber Pass. Much of this border, even then – this was the early 1970s – was lawless. Everyone was armed to the teeth – even children carried weapons, ancient guns taller than themselves. The passage through that border area took about five harrowing hours and taught me an indelible lesson: Guns and civilization don’t mix.

Many in this country argue that the way to prevent the slaughter of innocent children is to arm the school principals, arm the teachers, and arm the older children. They are, in my humble opinion, simply missing the point: the vast majority of people in this country don’t want to live that way. We don’t want to visit places bristling with guns, and we don’t want to make our homes and schools places that are bristling with guns. A society that relies on firearms for safety is an uncivil society.

Propaganda from the National Rifle Association has been effective in persuading people that somehow we would be safer if we were all armed. But think: If even madmen can buy guns at gun shows without background checks, if assault weapons are easily obtained by disturbed teenagers and the mentally ill, if in the confusion of an incident the wrong person is likely to be shot, where is the safety?

We are the custodians of our civilization. The deepest law of our being, perhaps hardened into our very genes, is to protect the children, to keep the peace. We have failed.

I never did reach Mohenjo-daro. But that doesn’t matter, since I did not have to be there to learn its most important lesson: Civilizations, too, can fail.

Michael Armstrong
Cold Spring
Blues For Christmas
Helping people get through the holidays

By Pete Smith

The late bluesman John Lee Hooker once sang about his longing in “Blues For Christmas” – “I ain't got a dime. I'm sittin' here wasted with my head hang down. Sassy Claus, send me my baby back.” Hooker’s triple burden of poverty, intoxication and a lost love makes the more sanitized Elvis Presley song “Blue Christmas” seem, in contrast, like an ad jingle for Aqua Velva. Hooker’s despair might have been relatable to a larger segment of the populace than he realized. “The holidays are stressful, said Diane Russo, Moser was already looking for- ward to some of her favorite holiday ritu- als. “Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are only a part of the holiday. Decorating the tree is a part of it. Doing the Santa Run, that’s a big part of it,” she said referring to the Sunday, Dec. 16, toy giveaway event put on by the Cold Spring Fire Company. Lynn Miller, who owns and operates Go-Go Pops on Main Street, has the loss of a parent in common with Moser. ‘I’ll be the first Christmas without my brother and I try not to let this bubble up too much. In all honesty it does make this Christmas a bit more difficult, and it’s fraught with a little bit more emotion. My mom had a lot of making Christmas magic,” she said. “She was always a parent who made her envi- ronment more beautiful. At Christmas, it was especially so.” But Miller’s grief is interspersed with a more garden-variety form of stress brought on by the added work in her shop at this time of year. “Yes, the added work detracts, she said, “but she’s always there. I put a gift basket to- gether and I remember her.”

Maeve Eng-Wong is a therapist in pri- vate practice at Cold Spring Healing Arts on Marion Avenue. She’s not a bit surprised that many bereaved parents of a certain age are experiencing parental loss in mass. She spoke of the lack of “natural forums” for processing such issues, like church ser- vices and support groups, which not every- one takes advantage of. As an alternative, informal conversations tend to develop between people who have similar experiences or questions, especially during the holidays. “It’s that sense of, who am I now? Is Christ- mas or Hanukkah meaningful to me? And how do I honor that person who is gone? When we lose a parent, it asks us to think of our own lives and our own mortality. It’s a very sad and tearful time.”

Beyond the kind of grief resulting from the loss of a loved one, therapists cite the day-to-day stress brought on by both the hectic pace and the added expense of the holiday season. “Part of my practice is to teach people mindfulness,” said Eng- Wong, who went on to describe a holiday gathering that she and her family had recently participated in. For this event, the gift giving was made up of things found, made or performed, without anything be- ing bought. “And funny enough, the children spent tons of time thinking about it, then go- ing into their stuff to try to come up with something to make it happen. It’s unbelievable. What is striking about this is how hungry the children were for it. We are often away from our traditions. Those of us who were raised Catholic or Jewish don’t necessarily participate in those ways anymore, which were very formulated and structured. And we are finding new ways to express ourselves, spiritually. This event truly influenced my thinking.”

Whether the issue is simply stress or true suffering during the holidays, lo- cal Presbyterian churches have heard the calling. The First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown in Cold Spring has invited the community to a “Longest Night” service on the winter solstice, the longest night of the year. The service acknowledges that, for many people, Christmas is a time of loneliness, sorrow, alienation and sadness. Following the devastation of Hurricane Sandy and the recent tragedy in Newtown, Conn., this service offers a way for people to claim those feelings and still feel sur- rounded by compassion. The church, led by Pastor Leslie Mott, will hold the Longest Night Service at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 21, at 30 Academy St. in Cold Spring. For more information, call the church office at 845-265-3220 or email lprebysterian@gmail.com. For the past three years, Pastor Ben Larson-Wolbrink of the First Presbyterian Church of Beacon has held a “Blue Christ- mas” service, with attendance slowly but steadily increasing each year. This year’s service (held on Dec. 8) attracted approxi- mately 25 attendees.

“The first year, it just felt like we hit on something really important. From a pas- tor’s perspective, as I greet people coming and going, I can see how much they’re car- rying with them,” said Larson-Wolbrink. “And I’ve started to see some people com- ing each year that I never see elsewhere. They look for this service and come. So I feel good that we can offer that for them.”

Besides featuring some of the normal el- ements of a Sunday service, Blue Christmas is marked by a candle-lighting ritual, in which the congregation participates. “People are invited to come forward to light a candle and invite Christ’s light into what- ever darkness they’re struggling with.” For the candle lighting, Larson-Wolbrink has made an effort to put those who might not be plugged into church language and ritual at ease. “For the music, we did a couple of really early U2 songs,” he said.

The loss of a loved one ended up being a prevailing element in the First Presbyte- rian’s Blue Christmas service. “When I was chowing on this idea, there were a couple of sudden unexpected deaths in our con- gregation, and so I had those people spe- cifically in mind,” said Larson-Wolbrink. He also knew of a number of attendees who had suffered recent losses in their families. “With grief, the pastor instinct is to just be with them privately and in a personal way. But I was really eager to pro- vide a sort of ritual opportunity to address it. At this service, the people who I recog- nized were arriving in tears and leaving in tears,” he said.

One of those U2 songs played during the Blue Christmas candle-lighting ritual was a track called “Bad.” A verse in that song reads: “This desperation, dislocation, separa- tion, condemnation, revelation, in temp- tation, isolation, desolation … let it go.” If those lyrics had their intended effect, the tears witnessed by Larson-Wolbrink at the end of the service might have been born from letting their burdens go.

The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary-in-the-Highlands
WHERE EVERYONE IS WELCOME!
Christmas Eve
Family Mass 3:30 pm with Children’s Christmas Pageant
CAROLS 10:30 pm
FESTIVAL MASS 11 pm with Saint Mary’s Choir Champagne Reception after Mass
Christmas Day
Wax with CAROLS 10:30 am
David Lilburne is a native of Australia. He won’t be traveling down under for the holiday, but he always inserts a bit of Aussie flair into his family’s Christmas. “In Australia, we always had big presents, and you had to follow a string to find them,” he said. The Lilburnes have carried on that tradition by having at least one big present each year. A red ribbon that stills inside their house for their kids, now grown-ups, to a present tucked somewhere away outdoors. “Once, it was a trampoline; once, it was Johnny’s first car,” Lilburne said. The car was hidden on his neighbor’s property. In some years, the ribbon has led to a gift that was a joke. “The kids used to love it,” he said.

For Alanna (Maguire) Hamel, the tradition she loves best is “the pickle thing.” Her husband Bob carries on a German tradition that goes back several generations in his family. “An ornament that looks like a pickle is hidden somewhere in the Christmas tree, and the kid who finds it gets an extra gift,” Hamel said. Bob Hamel’s Christmas ornament pickle is 31 years old. “Elf on a shelf!” responded Karen Cannova. “No, Zachary doesn’t know where it is. He’s not ever allowed to touch the elf.” Cannova paid close attention to one hard-and-fast rule of the Butterfield project to proceed because the current zoning must be changed for the project to proceed. The zoning must be changed for the project to proceed because the current zoning does not take stops, such as rezoning the site, “what it does guarantee is that you can’t have it.” He described the redevelopment plan as “something we’ve worked really hard on and been very community involved in. We’ve had a lot of discussions. It’s part of the Comprehensive Plan,” approved earlier this year, which endorses mixed-use, tax-positive development at Butterfield. “We did request public participation, and things were changed because of that. The process hasn’t stopped,” he said.

For Dar Williams, a Cold Spring resident, “on what we need to do about this.” Gallagher linked the verbal blasts to dislike of the Butterfield project and to political maneuvering. “This is obviously another tactical attack because they don’t like that people support the project” at Butterfield, he said.

In the project’s property-owner, Paul Guillaum, seeks to remove the decaying old structure to allow construction of a new complex, including an intergovernmental municipal building and senior community center, post office, retirement-age residential condominiums, commercial space, and three single-family homes.

Other Butterfield arguments

The project also invited other heated commentary at Tuesday’s session, the Village Board’s formal meeting month, which was tranquil until Butterfield came to the table. The Village Board briefly suspended its discussion of changes to the B4 zoning that covers the site and set a public hearing for Jan. 29 to elicite citizen input on the latest rezoning draft. A hearing on a previous draft on Nov. 27 generated strong public support for the redevelopment project. The zoning must be changed for the project to proceed because the current law does not permit a post office or any governmental offices above the village level, nor does it authorize mixed-use structures or commercial units. The present zoning does allow single-family residences, health-related structures, and - by special permit only - senior citizen’s retirement housing.

Village resident James Geppner said, “We should ask, ‘What is the greatest need of this community?’ and Gallagher predicted the redevelopment “is going to erode the tax base. Cold Spring residents need to know their taxes are going to go up.”

Gallagher offered a contrasting view. “The good thing about this plan is that it is really tax positive,” unlike projects that focus on family housing and burden taxpayers and the school system with costs of education and other services, he said. He also described the county’s interest in providing services at Butterfield as another boon, though he pointed to differing views among members of the Putnam County Legislature as to county support for the idea. County Executive MaryEllen Odell has backed the Butterfield project. “This is something the town and village have been waiting decades for - a commitment from the county. Does this guarantee it? No,” the mayor said. However, if the village does not take steps, such as rezoning the site, “what it does guarantee is that you can’t have it.” He described the redevelopment plan as “something we’ve worked really hard on and been very community involved in. We’ve had a lot of discussions. It’s part of the Comprehensive Plan,” approved earlier this year, which endorses mixed-use, tax-positive development at Butterfield. “We did request public participation, and things were changed because of that. The process hasn’t stopped,” he said.

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In the project’s property-owner, Paul Guillaum, seeks to remove the decaying old structure to allow construction of a new complex, including an intergovernmental municipal building and senior community center, post office, retirement-age residential condominiums, commercial space, and three single-family homes.

Other Butterfield arguments

The project also invited other heated commentary at Tuesday’s session, the Village Board’s formal meeting month, which was tranquil until Butterfield came to the table. The Village Board briefly suspended its discussion of changes to the B4 zoning that covers the site and set a public hearing for Jan. 29 to elicite citizen input on the latest rezoning draft. A hearing on a previous draft on Nov. 27 generated strong public support for the redevelopment project. The zoning must be changed for the project to proceed because the current law does not permit a post office or any governmental offices above the village level, nor does it authorize mixed-use structures or commercial units. The present zoning does allow single-family residences, health-related structures, and - by special permit only - senior citizen’s retirement housing.

Village resident James Geppner said, “We should ask, ‘What is the greatest need of this community?’ and Gallagher predicted the redevelopment “is going to erode the tax base. Cold Spring residents need to know their taxes are going to go up.”

Gallagher offered a contrasting view. “The good thing about this plan is that it is really tax positive,” unlike projects that focus on family housing and burden taxpayers and the school system with costs of education and other services, he said. He also described the county’s interest in providing services at Butterfield as another boon, though he pointed to differing views among members of the Putnam County Legislature as to county support for the idea. County Executive MaryEllen Odell has backed the Butterfield project. “This is something the town and village have been waiting decades for - a commitment from the county. Does this guarantee it? No,” the mayor said. However, if the village does not take stops, such as rezoning the site, “what it does guarantee is that you can’t have it.” He described the redevelopment plan as “something we’ve worked really hard on and been very community involved in. We’ve had a lot of discussions. It’s part of the Comprehensive Plan,” approved earlier this year, which endorses mixed-use, tax-positive development at Butterfield. “We did request public participation, and things were changed because of that. The process hasn’t stopped,” he said.
By Alison Rooney

Last Friday, Dec. 14, Parrott Street's Linda LeMon once again — as she has done for years — welcomed each and every Haldane kindergartner to her very own special “nut house.” Nutcracker house, that is. LeMon's incredible collection of over 300 decorative nutcrackers fills an entire room of her house, and fills the kindergartners' eyes with wonder as they open into saucers at the magical sight of them all.

In what has become a Haldane holiday tradition, each class walks over to LeMon's home, where they are greeted by a pair of welcoming nutcracker figures outside the house. Two large nutcracker figures greet the children outside of the house. Photo by A. Rooney

For LeMon, the visits are “part of the anticipation, the excitement — it’s all very magical.”

For LeMon, the visits are “part of the holiday now. The questions they ask, the anticipation, the excitement — it’s all very magical.”

LeMon's nutcrackers come in every theme imaginable — and then some. The collection includes a Scrooge nutcracker, a pilgrim, a bagpiper, a firefighter, a Frankenstein, and way too many eteteras to even give a brief listing of here. LeMon began her collection when her older son Collin (now 22) was one himself. Originally she visited classes, but no more. Some of the children are familiar to LeMon: she brought some of her collection to the kindergarten the following October, when one child on this visit told LeMon, “Thank you for helping my mommy.”

Most of the children return to Parrott Street as very grown-up first-graders the following October, when one child on this visit told LeMon, “Thank you for helping my mommy.”

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I was gratified to see that last week’s edition of The Paper carried a story and picture of the nice lady from the Salvation Army who rings her bell at Christmas time while collecting donations outside Foodtown. Whatever the weather she or her sons are there because they believe in the work the Salvation Army does and she always gives me a warm smile. Unlike so many national charitable groups, I hear, her organization has no highly-paid bosses but the nearly 100 percent of the public’s contributions are used to help the needy.

My many readers know how much I dislike writing about myself but I must record that the sight of her bundled up against the cold reminds me of the fearlessness of my Labrador retriever ancestors in Newfoundland. However bad the weather, they used to plunge into the turbulent and icy Atlantic waters to carry ropes from fishing boats to shore to help in their docking. I of course am well-known for bravely swimming in the Hudson although I must admit I am less enthusiastic in the winter. Oddly enough, in spite of my love of water I dislike going out in the rain.

That brings me to something else — my roots in Canada. Some people wonder if I’m being pretentious when I occasionally employ French words or phrases. Main, non. It’s a small tribute to the vibrant French minority over the border. They are an important part of a country that I admire for its quiet modesty, for its reluctance to start wars it can’t finish, for its concern for the health and welfare of its citizens, including strict gun laws. I’m surprised that we don’t pay more attention to such a close and model neighbor. The only times I hear a Dance Party at the Longest-Night Service at First Presbyterian

**Looking for things to do in and around Philipstown? Grab The Calendar and go. For more details and ongoing events, visit philipstown.info. Send event listings to calendar@philipstown.info. See you around town!**

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**The Calendar**

**ONGOING**

- **Reflections Renewed: Hudson River Images Revisited**
  **Wednesday through Monday through Dec. 31**
  **9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.**
  **Boscobel**
  1601 Route 9D, Garrison
  845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

- **Blow Your Own Ornament**
  **Daily through Jan. 1**
  **10 a.m. - 6 p.m.** (11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday)
  **Hudson Beach Glass, 162 Main St., Beacon**
  845-440-0068 | hudsonbeachglass.com

- **Student/Faculty Exhibition**
  **Gewe Garfinkle’s Paintings, Pastels, Drawings**
  **Tuesday through Sunday through Jan. 6**
  **10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**
  **Garrison Art Center**
  23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
  845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

- **Holiday House Tours**
  **Wednesday through Monday through Dec. 31**
  **10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**
  **Boscobel**
  1601 Route 9D, Garrison
  845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

- **Summer Afternoon Fashion and Leisure in the Hudson Highlands 1850-1950**
  **Wednesday through Sunday through Dec. 23**
  **11 a.m. - 5 p.m.**
  **Putnam History Museum**
  63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
  845-265-4010 | putnamhistorymuseum.org

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

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**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21**

**Kids & Community**

- **Indoor Tob Park**
  **9 - 11 a.m. & Noon - 2 p.m.**
  **Philpstown Recreation Center**
  107 Griswold Drive, Garrison
  845-424-4618 | philpstownrec.com

- **Wine Tasting**
  **4 - 7 p.m.**
  **Arts & Wine Shop**
  180 Main St., Beacon
  845-440-6923 | artsawineshop.com

- **Wine & Cheese**
  **5 - 8 p.m.**
  **Antipodean Books**
  20 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
  845-424-3967 | antipodean.com

- **Winter Solstice Celebration With the Greenwoman**
  **6 p.m.**
  **Creekside Park**
  **Herbert and Main, Beacon**

- **Broadway Revue (Youth Theatre)**
  **7 p.m.**
  **Philpstown Recreation Center**
  107 Griswold Drive, Garrison
  845-424-4618 | philpstownrec.com

- **Health, Sports & Outdoors**
  - **Haldane Hockey vs. John Jay**
    **3:30 p.m.**
    **Brewster Ice Arena**
  - **Winter Solstice Celebration With the Greenwoman**
    **6 p.m.**
    **Creekside Park**
  - **107 Chestnut St., Beacon**
  - **11 a.m.**
  - **10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**
  - **Hudson Valley Humane Society**
  - **504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring**

**For more info and reservations call 845-265-5582 | Howland Cultural Center**

- **Open Mic**
  **8 p.m.**
  **Herb & Main, Beacon**

- **Talking Machine**
  **9:30 p.m.**
  **Max & Main**

**Meetings & Lectures**

- **Free Computer Help**
  **2 p.m.**
  **Desmond-Fish Library**
  472 Route 403, Garrison
  845-424-3000 | desmondfishlibrary.org

- **NHFD District Workshop Meeting**
  **5:30 p.m.**
  **North Highlands Fire House**
  504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring | nhfd21.org

- **Beginner AA Meeting**
  **8 p.m.**
  **First Presbyterian Church**
  10 Academy St, Cold Spring
  845-265-5200 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

**Religious Services**

- **Longest-Night Service at First Presbyterian**
  **7 p.m.**
  **10 Academy St., Cold Spring**
  845-265-5200 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

- **Service at Beacon Hebrew Alliance**
  **7:30 p.m.**
  **321 Verplanck Ave., Beacon**
  847-831-2012 | beaconbethreuben.org

- **Service at Reform Temple of Putnam Valley**
  **8 p.m.**
  **362 Church, Putnam Valley**
  845-528-4774 | ny069urj.net

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**Celebrate New Year’s Eve with us!**

**Dinner at Cathryn’s Tuscan Grill**

- **At Cathryn’s**
  **246 Main St., Beacon**
  **7:30 p.m.**
  **Cathryn’s Tuscan Grill**
  **$75**

- **Dancing at The Living Room**
  **10 p.m. - 2 a.m.**
  **$25**

**For more info and reservations call 845-265-5582**
**Kids & Community**

**Cold Spring Farmers’ Market**
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Philipstown Community Center | 107 Gandy’s Dr, Garrison
cfarmmarket.org

**Food Pantry**
9 - 10 a.m. First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown | 10 Academy St, Cold Spring
coldspringfoodpantry.org

**Ornament Making (ages 3 and up)**
10:30 - Noon. Howland Public Library
313 Main St, Beacon
845-831-1134 | baconlibrary.org

**Kaleidoscope Workshop for Kids**
10:30 a.m. Southeast Museum
07 Main St, Brewster
203-797-2500 | southeastmuseum.org

**Beary Merry Holiday Party**
11 a.m. Trailside Zoo
Bear Mountain State Park
845-760-2701, Ext. 265 | trailsidezoo.org

**Holiday Craft Fair**
NOON - 6 P.M. ROSA’S EXERCISE DANCE STUDIO
261 Main St., Beacon
845-417-4738 | rosasexcercisedancestudio.com

**Meet the Animals**
2:30 P.M. WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTER
25 Boulevard, Cornwall-on-Hudson
845-534-7781 | howlandmuseum.org

**Wine Tasting**
3 - 6 P.M. ARTISAN WINE SHOP
See details under Friday.

**Health, Sports & Outdoors**

**Army Men’s Basketball vs. Rosemont College**
1 p.m. Christi Arena, West Point
845-938-2526 | goarmysports.com

**Art & Design**

**Free Admission Saturday**
9:30 a.m. - 4 P.M. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D, Garrison
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

**DiaBeacon Tour**
1 P.M. 3 BEEDMAN ST, BEACON
845-440-0100 | dia beacon.org
Free with admission.

**Blue Collar Blues: Celebrating the Struggle and Satisfaction of Labor**
1 - 5 P.M. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
50 Liberty St, Beacon
845-833-5322 | beaconpresbychurch.com

**Theater & Film**

**It’s a Wonderful Life (Film)**
NOON. JACK BURNS FILM CENTER
364 Manville Road, Pleasantville
914-747-5555 | burnsfilmcenter.org

**Auditions for God of Carnage**
2 - 4 P.M. THE BEACON THEATRE
445 Main St, Beacon
845-453-2979 | thebeacontheatre.org

**Danse Elite Performing Artists: The Nutcracker**
2 P.M. TARRYTOWN MUSIC MALL
13 Main St., Tarrytown
914-631-3990, Ext. 100 | tarrytownmusical.org

**Yes Virginia, The Musical**
2 P.M. & 6 P.M. PARAMOUNT CENTER FOR THE ARTS
1009 Brown St, Peekskill | Tickets: theparamountarts.org

**Where is Santa? Murder Mystery Dinner**
6:30 P.M. CUP AND SAUCER RESTAURANT
165 Main St., Beacon | 845-833-6287

**The Canterbury Poems: A Tournament of Prosody**
8 P.M. HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4888 | howlandculturalcenter.org

**Music**

**Tony Merando**
8 P.M. WHISTLING WILLIE’S | 184 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2012 | whistlingwillies.com

**Winter Jam With Jesse and Friends**
9:30 P.M. MAX’S ON MAIN
246 Main St., Beacon
845-836-6257 | maxsonmain.com

**Meetings & Lectures**

**Free Computer Help**
2 P.M. DESMOND-FISH LIBRARY
See details under Friday.

**Religious Services**

**Our Lady of Loreto**
4:30 P.M. RECONCILIATION
5:30 P.M. SUNDAY VIGIL
24 Fair St, Cold Spring
845-265-3718 | ourladyoflorettocs.com

**Santa Visits North Highlands With NHFD**
NOON - 3:30 P.M. See philipstown.info/?p=53515 for schedule.

**VLADAS VILDIUZNAS**

**Sculpture & Photography**
December 7 – 30

**GALLERY 66**
Cold Spring, NY
66 Main Street
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**VLADAS VILDIUZNAS,** one of Lithuania’s leading sculptors, is now on exhibition at Gallery 66. This extraordinary collection of sculptures and photographs is rarely seen in the US and a not to be missed. “Barbara”, pictured here and also in sculpture form as a limited edition maquette is available. The original stainless steel 12” sculpture currently graces the grounds of Boscobel for a limited engagement.

**Dancing Dialogue**
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Parent & Child Dance & Learn Classes
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Enhance your child’s mind/body/self through dance

Dancing Dialogue: A center for movement, music and dance-based arts supporting healing and self-expression. Enhance your child’s:

- natural curiosity and creativity
- self-awareness
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- love of learning and discovery
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For more information:
www.dancingdialogue.com
suzitortora@mac.com; 845-265-1085
8 Marion Ave Suite 1 Cold Spring, NY

**2013 WINTER SESSION : JANUARY - MARCH**

**ADULT CLASSES**

- BMF Community Choir
- Group Guitar Beginners
- Group Guitar Intermediate
- Rock Band Boot Camp
- Jazz Improvisation
- Harmonyca Workshop
- Ukulele
- London Calling Rock Band Boot Camp
- Chamber String Ensemble
- Detroit Soul MOTION BOOT CAMP
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**1-DAY WORKSHOPS**

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Religious Services
Our Lady of Loreto
7:30, 9, & 11:45 a.m.
3 p.m. Christmas Pageant
24 Fair St., Cold Spring
845-265-3718
ourladyofloretoscs.com

St. Mary’s Episcopal Church
8 & 10:30 A.M. 1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-2539
stmaryscoldspring.org

St. Philip’s Episcopal Church
8 A.M. Sermon and Communion
10:30 A.M. Lessons and Carols
1101 Route 90, Garrison
845-424-3571
jtophilipshighlands.org

Grace United Methodist
8:15 A.M. & 10 A.M.
337 Peepskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley
845-528-3788

St. Basil’s Academy Greek Orthodox Chapel
8:30 A.M. Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3500
saintbasilacademy.org

St. Luke’s Lutheran Church
9 A.M. 65 Ossawanna Lake Rd., Putnam Valley
845-528-8858
stlukesputnamvalley.org

Buddhist Meditation
9 A.M. Chiang Ten Monastery
2020 Route 301, Carmel
845-228-4288
baust.org

Service Directory

Hudson Valley Occupational Therapy for Kids, PLLC
70 Fair St., Cold Spring
845-295-1125

Stress Managed, LLC
254-265-3122
stressmanaged@prodigy.net

The Calendar

Meet the Animals
2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Wildlife Education Center
See details under Saturday.

Health, Sports & Outdoors
Free Yoga Class
9 A.M. Level 1 10:30 A.M. Level 2
Living Yoga, 3182 Route 9, Cold Spring
845-809-5900 livingsyahastudios.com

Haldane Hockey vs. Brewster
6:20 p.m. Brewster Ice Arena
845-809-5900
livingyogastudios.com
3182 route 9, Cold Spring
9 a.m. Level 1
Free Yoga Class
845-809-5347	x226
Patrick Cunningham

Religion
First Presbyterian Church
9 A.M. Adult Bible Study
10:30 A.M. Service with Carol
845-265-3220 presbychurchcoldspring.org

South Highland Methodist Church
9:30 A.M. 10 Snake Hill Rd., Garrison
845-265-3365

Quaker Friends Worship
10 A.M. Whittie House
845-424-3525 Call for directions.

St. Joseph’s Chapel
10:15 A.M. 74 Upper Stixton Road, Garrison
845-265-3718 curtsidyfarastrana.com

Church on the Hill
10:30 A.M. 245 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2022
coldspringchurchonthehill.org

Theater & Film
• Fox Virginia, The Musical
   Noon, Jacob Burns Film Center

• It’s a Wonderful Life (Film)
   1 - 5 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, Beacon
   See details under Saturday.

• Noel, Jacob Burns Film Center
   See details under Saturday.

• For Virginia, The Musical
   6 p.m. Paramount Center for the Arts
   See details under Saturday.

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Saunders History Contest 2012 Winners Named

Congratulations for embracing history

By Alison Rooney

Philipstown’s seventh-graders once again spent “a night at the museum” at the annual Jean Saunders History Contest reception at the Putnam History Museum on the evening of Dec. 12. In what is now its own piece of local history, the museum invites all Garrison and Haldane seventh-graders once a year to submit a research project relating to a specific aspect of local or regional history. The projects, which are submitted anonymously (names written on the back or otherwise obscured), are then judged by a team of six professionals, with prizes awarded for first, second and third place, and the work of all the students celebrated.

From this year’s 26 entries — the vast preponderance of which were from Garrison’s seventh-graders once a year to submit a research project relating to a specific aspect of local or regional history. The projects, which are submitted anonymously (names written on the back or otherwise obscured), are then judged by a team of six professionals, with prizes awarded for first, second and third place, and the work of all the students celebrated.

From this year’s 26 entries — the vast preponderance of which were from Garrison, where participation is mandatory — the students whose work was singled out as excelling were Elijah Deroche and George Weed (first place), who explored the background of the Sloop Clearwater; Eddie-Joe Barry (second place), who traced the history of Fort Clinton, and Kaelin Martin (third place), who investigated the physical nature and history of the Bird and Bottle Inn.

The museum’s recently appointed director of administration, John Duncan, who also handles education outreach, made visits to all seventh-grade classrooms to explain the parameters of the contest. He called the mission of the contest integral to that of the museum. “For me, personally, and for the museum, the most important aspect is that their participation contributes to a better understanding of local history.” He was quick to note that it is not just the students who are educated. “If they can teach us [museum staff] anything — that’s the goal. In fact, they’ve found perspectives on these longtime events, buildings — in our community.” He continued: “I’ve also learned from their writing styles, from those which detailed a lot of facts, down to those which were low-tech, with only a few computer-based resources,” a dynamic made easier with the contest’s minimum word count of 1,000 words exactly! “I’m just thrilled to see all these perspectives on these longtime events, buildings — in our community.”

The other judges were Christine Jo-Ann Kruk, who also handles education outreach, and the winning pair, Elijah and George, who won the contest as a whole.

Saunders History Contest 2012 winners Eddie-Joe Barry (2nd), George Weed and Elijah Deroche (1st), and Kaelin Martin (3rd) show off their projects back at Garrison School.

Photo courtesy of Garrison School

Handing out certificates and year-long updates and latest information.

Saunders History Contest 2012 winners Eddie-Joe Barry (2nd), George Weed and Elijah Deroche (1st), and Kaelin Martin (3rd) show off their projects back at Garrison School.

Photo courtesy of Garrison School

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Photo courtesy of Garrison School

Mindy Krazmien, also a Haldane parent of two elementary-aged students, opened the ceremonial aspects of the evening, which took place after participants and their families had time to browse through all of the projects, displayed throughout the museum. Krazmien told the audience, “So many of your projects excelled in many areas, and our entire staff looked through all of your work. Everything you do contributes to our research here.”

Representing the judges, Kruk told the students: “It was an honor to go through all 26 projects and see your stories, research and artwork; from Benedict Arnold’s flight to the chain across the Hudson, there were a myriad of things I learned. You used your new expertise to put together really inspired projects. You’ve already won because you’ll always remember doing this project; your project will stay with you. Congratulate yourselves for embracing our community’s history.”

The other judges were Christine Johansen, Seamus Carroll, Katie Fuller, Matthew Schultz and Robbi Smith.

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Photo courtesy of Garrison School
Beacon Celebrates Winter Solstice on Friday, Dec. 21
Event held at The Roundhouse’s Creekside Park starting at 6 p.m.

The Third Annual Winter Solstice Celebration led by the Greenwoman (a.k.a. Linda Law) is to be held on Friday, Dec. 21, with a rain date of Saturday, Dec. 22. It will begin at 6 p.m. and will be at Creekside Park, on Main Street at Herbert Street.

Linda Law is an artist, herbalist and performance artist whose work is about making connection with nature. In her alter ego as the Greenwoman, she de-marks the potential for a big change in returning the park to its previous pristine condition.

This year the celebration will acknowledge the end of the Mayan Calendar on Dec. 21, 2012, an auspicious date that this year the celebration will acknowledge. The group will then process along Herbert Street to Beacon Yoga Center, 464 Main St., between 4 and 5:45 p.m., before the ceremony begins. Donations are requested for the Beacon Yoga Center, who is allowing the use of their space. This is a free event sponsored by BeaconArts for the third time, and it is appropriate for children and free spirits of all ages. More information on this event and all of Beacon’s holiday events, go to www.beaconarts.org.

Boscobel Gift Shop
Celebration led by the Greenwoman
Cleanse safe to be held Dec. 27-31

“Out with the old and in with the new,” said Boscobel’s gift-shop manager, Renate Smoller. “We need to make room for the 2013 season, so this will be a big blowout sale of all remaining in-house merchandise at great prices, while supplies last.”

The sale will include bargain tables of merchandise ranging from 25 to 75 percent off. During the sale, the shop at Boscobel is offering a variety of incentives to stop by: free ground admission ($10 value) — the Boscobel estate, with its views of the Hudson River, will be open at no charge to all paying customers in attendance.

The clearance sale includes jewelry, home décor, books, apparel, toys, fine soaps, linen, glassware, dinnerware, holiday décor and more. Sale hours — while supplies last — are 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27 through Monday, Dec. 31.

Boscobel is located on scenic Route 9D in Garrison, just one mile south of Cold Spring and directly across the river from West Point. In December, hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (last tour at 3 p.m.). The House Museum and gift shop at Boscobel are open every day except Tuesdays, Thanksgiving and Christmas. For more information, visit Boscobel.org or call 845-265-3838.

Putnam Health Dept.
Flu Clinic for Jan. 9

The influenza season is off to an early start. Already 51 counties, plus all five boroughs of New York City, have reported flu activity. Total reported cases in the state more than doubled in a one-week period, and a few local physician offices in Putnam have run out of the vaccine.

The Putnam County Department of Health is hosting its final public flu vac-cination clinic next month on Wednesdays, Jan. 9, from 3 to 7 p.m., at the health department’s main office at 1 Livery Road in Brewster. A snow date has been set for the following Wednesday, Jan. 16, at the same time and location. Call the flu hot line at 845-808-1390, or visit the PCDH’s Facebook page (facebook.com/ putnamhealth) for notification of a postponement.

“While getting immunized early is preferable,” said Dr. Allen Reals, Putnam County’s commissioner of health. “If you have not yet received your shot, it is still important to do so since the flu season can run another four months.” Beals and County Executive MaryEllen Odell received their flu shots at the PCDH’s clinic on Sept. 11, when the health department kicked off its immunization schedule. Since then more than 3,500 residents have been immunized by the health department at public and school-based clinics.

The Jan. 9 clinic is open to individuals age 3 and older who live or work in New York state. The fee for the flu vaccine is $10, which covers the cost of the vac-cine. Those 60 years and older, or with a Medicare card, can receive the vaccine free of charge.

Appointments are not necessary, but online registration is strongly en-couraged. To register, participants can visit putnamflu.com or the county website at putnamcountyny.com. Registrants can choose from four time slots: 3 - 4 p.m., 4 - 5 p.m., 5 - 6 p.m., or 6 - 7 p.m.

River University Offers Hudson River Experience

The historic Hudson River is a living classroom for a venture called “River University,” an accelerated, interdisciplinary pro-gram in ecology, engineering and policy offered by Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries, a subsidiary of Clarkson University. Sailing onboard the shop Clearwater, made famous by folk singer Pete Seeger, is a unique aspect of the program for a select group of undergraduate River University students this summer.

River University, called “life-chang-ing” by graduates of the inaugural pro-gram, is for any undergraduate with an interest in the environment. Under-graduates from Bard, Bryn Mawr and Oberlin colleges, RPI and Stony Brook universities, among others, participated in the program in 2012. “If all people in future generations were given the same knowledge that we have been given, I think that could have a serious impact on improving water quality,” said Kyla, a 2012 River University attendee. Kyla’s fellow classmate Paul added, “My world’s changed, absolutely.”

River University 2013 runs June 10 through June 28. Enrollment begins Dec. 17 for a class of only 20 students.

Classes will be held at Beacon Insti-tute’s facilities on the banks of the Hud-sen River in Beacon and taught by Clark-son faculty. A three-day sail aboard the sloop Clearwater will allow students to put into practice what they’ve learned in the classroom. To complete the River University program will earn six credits, an excellent option to lighten course load during the academic year, or as a fifth undergraduate year.

River University will examine envi-ronmental issues and explore possible solutions, with both a theoretical and real-world view by offering two interdisciplinary courses, each worth three credits Elected by Clarkson University: Life of an American River, Ecology, Policy and Our Water Future: Sustainable Water Resource Management. Visit RiverUniversity.com for more
Knights of Columbus Announce Free Throw Competition Jan. 12

Loretto Council, No. 536, is sponsoring the local level of the 2013 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship on Saturday, Jan. 12 (snow date: Saturday, Jan. 19) 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 10 to 14 are invited to compete in their respective age group. Age eligibility is determined by the age of the contestant as of Jan. 1, 2013. There is no cost to participate, and proof of age (birth certificate or other proof of age) will be required.

For more information, contact Naomi of ARCS at 845-471-0707, Ext. 12.

PFCS is a private nonprofit agency providing affordable mental health, chemical-dependency treatment and prevention, and family support services from birth through later life. PFCS promotes opportunities to grow, heal and recover through a comprehensive range of services including counseling, case management, family advocacy, parenting education, community outreach, psychiatric rehabilitation, and medication management. For more information, visit PFCSinc.org or Facebook.com/PFCSinc.

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

Free HIV Testing at PFCS

On Friday, Dec. 21, Putnam Family and Community Services, Inc. (PFCS) will host a safe-sex workshop and free testing for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

Project ALERT, a program of ARCS, will provide the "Condom Concepts" workshop and testing for HIV, gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, and hepatitis C at the main office of PFCS at 1808 Route 6 in Carmel. The workshop will be held from 10-11 a.m., and testing will take place from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. on a walk-in basis. All offerings are free of charge, and the public is welcome to attend the workshop, testing, or both.

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ARCS is the service component of Hudson Valley Community Services, Inc. ARCS' mission is to promote prevention and wellness for all people, to encourage life-affirming decisions maximizing their quality of life, and to coordinate care for those living with complex health conditions. The agency serves over 3,000 community members annually through locations in Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties. Visit arcs.org for more information.

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 over 3,000 local competitions.

The Knights of Columbus is an international Catholic family fraternal service organization with over 1.8 million members in nearly 14,000 councils. Last year, Knights donated over 70 million volunteer hours and $154 million to charitable and benevolent causes, sponsoring projects to benefit their church, councils, communities, families and youth.

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Trio Are Haldane’s First Varsity Hockey Players

By Eric Koval

This winter sports season features a first for the Haldane athletics program: Three students are representing Haldane by playing varsity hockey. Previously JFK High School and Putnam Valley High School had been combined as a hockey program, and this arrangement had existed for several years. This year, however, they realized their numbers were looking thin and would have to add a third school to the mix to keep the program going.

The three members are also quick to encourage potential players who may not be willing to make the commitment. Owen, Jacob and Anthony were all beaming when they were talking about how much fun this season has been for them. The three also point out there's no harm in trying to play. "Even if you just go to the first couple of practices just because you want to see how it is," said Anthony. "The coaches are really understanding to just how big a commitment it is," added Owen.

Mancuso returns as captain for 2012-13 season

Alex Mancuso of Garrison returns as team captain of the Junior Black Knights PeeWees hockey team for the 2012-13 season. A seventh grader at Garrison Middle School, Mancuso tallied four goals Dec. 15 to help the JBK PeeWees top Pawling 10-2 at West Point's Tate Rink.

"Alex is a strong quiet leader, leading by hard work and example," JBK coach John Barnard of Valley Cottage said. "He goes out and gives 100 percent all of the time."

Owen, Jacob and Anthony were all beaming when they were talking about how much fun this season has been for them. They both said they will play hockey and will be entering Haldane next fall. They both said they will talk to these players and try to recruit them to the team.

The three members are representing Haldane by playing varsity hockey. Previously JFK High School and Putnam Valley High School had been combined as a hockey program, and this arrangement had existed for several years. This year, however, they realized their numbers were looking thin and would have to add a third school to the mix to keep the program going.

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Owen Thomas, Jacob Cox, and Anthony Percacciolo answered the call, not only keeping the JFK/Putnam Valley team alive but starting a new tradition in the process. Owen Thomas is a senior and the oldest of the three, he plays forward and wears number 61. Jacob Cox is a sophomore who plays defense for the team and wears number 33. The three students realize that this is a unique opportunity and could end up being a watershed moment in the school’s athletic history. "It’s the first Haldane hockey team, so it’s really nice to be a part of that," said Jacob. The opportunity has not come without a unique commitment though. The team practices once a week in Brewster, which is about a 30-minute drive for the boys. Owen, being the only one old enough to take the bus, drives his teammates to and from practice every Tuesday. "We leave at about 7:45, and we usually don’t get home until around 11:30," explained Owen. "And it makes for some long Wednesdays," added Jacob.

The travel costs these boys pay are entirely out of pocket, and the team receives no funding from any of the schools. This forces each player on the team to pay for everything they need. Ice time is notoriously limited for local hockey programs due to a lack of facilities, which forces the team to only practice once a week. Owen pointed out that occasionally the team will practice twice a week, but the usual routine is every Tuesday night.

Even though the team doesn’t have a lot of time to practice, the JFK/Putnam Valley/Haldane conglomerate has seen success, posting a 5-1-1 record on the season. The players described their team as a tough team with a strong defense and an emphasis on checking. Currently the team needs one more win to make the playoffs in their first year of playing together. "For the first year of playing together as a team, that would be a nice accomplishment," said Jacob.

The team’s chemistry has formed quickly, which can be the difference between a win and a loss in a close game. Owen mentioned, despite not having played with his teammates until this year, he feels comfortable with them now. Anthony added, “When I do make a mistake (on defense), they pick up on it, and it lets me regroup.”

Looking forward, the Haldane portion of the team will definitely change next year. Owen will be on to college (and hasn’t decided if he wants to pursue playing hockey or football). The remaining two of the founding three will look to expand the program within Haldane. Both Anthony and Jacob know younger players currently in eighth grade who play hockey and will be entering Haldane next fall. They both said they will talk to these players and try to recruit them to the team.

The three members are also quick to encourage potential players who may not be willing to make the commitment. Owen, Jacob and Anthony were all beaming when they were talking about how much fun this season has been for them. The three also point out there’s no harm in trying to play. “Even if you just go to the first couple of practices just because you want to see how it is,” said Anthony. “The coaches are really understanding to just how big a commitment it is,” added Owen.

Owen Thomas and Anthony Percacciolo make up the Haldane contingent of a varsity hockey team from JFK and Putnam Valley High Schools.
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