



FRIDAY, DEC. 21, 2012

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Above, Mary and Joseph, played by Grace and John Vogel, in St. Philip's living nativity at Saunders Farm (Photo by Jeanne Tao) and right, the living nativity at The Church on the Hill in Cold Spring (Photo by Maggie Benmour) Left, Santa holds a baby at Cold Spring Fire Company's Breakfast with Santa. (Photo by Jeanne Tao) All three events took place on Sunday, Dec. 16.

Sheriff Brings Educators and Police Together in Newtown Aftermath

New pledges of enhanced vigilance amidst budget restraints

By Kevin E. Foley

Amid mourning over the Newtown, Conn., killings and renewed discourse 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 prison 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 (Continued on page 3)



Sheriff Smith makes a point at conference; Haldane Superintendent Mark Villanti sits behind him. Photo by K.E. Foley

Yuletide Traditions: From Tourtières to Sushi, They Vary from Family to Family

Christmas past often adds to Christmas present

By Michael Turton

Of 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 our 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. Leonora 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. Every Christmas morning, while his wife stayed home to prepare the festive dinner, he'd take his four daughters to Royal Gwent 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. Af-

ter 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 Charrom will spend 13 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," Charrom 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. (Continued on page 6)

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 sparred publicly with HDRB members over interpretation of the Cold Spring Village Code in regard to demolition and related issues of historic preservation pertinent to Butter-

field. 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 — not 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 recital, he threatened to call the police and have Hawkins escorted out. Instead, he called a couple of recesses. (Continued on page 6)

Hospital Demolition Approved

Historic District Review Board votes 4-1

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Cold Spring Historic District Review 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 arch 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 Guillaro 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 Guillaro's request to remove the hospital, a key element of his plans to create a (Continued on page 3)

Mouths to Feed

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 tinsel 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 volunteered 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 really easy. And *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 until 1:30 to finish the work that you were unable to complete during the day because you were Christmas shopping. For her. Because her bright, hopeful face and her concern for you and even her clumsy third-grade negotiating tactics all make your heart swell like a loaf of rising bread. And because in the end you know that making her happy sustains you more thoroughly than a couple extra hours' sleep.

That's how it was in my house this past week, anyway. Still and all, I considered

myself lucky, even when the alarm went off and the world outside my window was dark as a lump of coal. As it so happened, for the past few days, I'd been trying to come up with good recipe ideas for Christmas breakfast, a meal that's always been a puzzle for me.

Christmas breakfast should be special. But it can't take forever to cook, because who wants to be stuck in the kitchen when everyone else is gathered around the tree? And forget waking up early, since there is *no way* an adult anywhere in the Christmas-celebrating world will be the first one to rise in a house also inhabited by children.

I'd hoped to offer up something healthful. Breakfast pizza with eggs and ham had crossed my mind, as had eggs and feta baked in red pepper cups. And I always love a big citrus salad.

But desperate times call for, well, dirt bombs, which can multitask as classroom treats. You may have encountered dirt bombs around New England. They are specialties of Bantam Bread in Bantam, Conn., and of Cottage Street Bakery in Orleans, Mass. I've had them, and while the outside, which is rolled in melted butter and then cinnamon sugar, is sublime — slightly crispy, like the crust on a cinnamon donut — the inside always struck me as a pointlessly bland expanse of cakey matter.

So I experimented, replacing the milk in the batter with sour cream and substituting one cup of whole-wheat flour for white. I often use a mixture of white and



Dirt bombs

Photo by C. Barbour

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 nuttiness. (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.

Sour cream mini 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.

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

- Heat the oven to 375 degrees with a rack centered. Butter a nonstick mini-muffin tin, or coat it lightly with nonstick cooking spray.
- 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.
- 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.
- Using a soup spoon, 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.
- 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.

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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 the 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 Newtown. "Clearly, it could happen here."

Greater vigilance

The sheriff said that his deputies, in

coordination with local and state police, were emphasizing new school patrols and enhanced presence at school locations. The Cold Spring police have had a car stationed at the opening and closing of the Haldane school day, for example.

Going forward, elementary school security will now be a new focus for law enforcement and educators, according to Smith. "But after-school and recreational programs also need consideration," he added.

The sheriff pointed to his ongoing school resource officer program, which assigns officers to duty within participating high and middle schools as the centerpiece of the ongoing school security effort. He acknowledged that middle and high schools have traditionally been where police centered school efforts, to stem involvement with illicit drugs and alcohol, low-level crimes and other anti-social behavior.

"It is really much more than a security effort. Officers in a school interact with students, they work on anti-bullying, they gather intelligence and help solve problems," said Smith.

Once a federally funded initiative, the program now requires a school district to fund 50 percent of the cost of the officer. Haldane dropped participation in this program six years ago due to budgetary considerations. With those considerations ever more intense, the prospect of rejoining or funding some other version would appear remote.

Smith said he believed that the national government had to return to more robust financing of community policing programs. "I understand the economy is tough. But children are our precious resource," he said.

For the most part, the educators present said little during the public session. Their strained faces told of the conflict between concerns over security versus shrinking



Sheriff Donald B. Smith, center right, presiding at school security conference

Photo by K.E. Foley

budgets for instructional needs. Dr. Jane Sandbank, superintendent of the Brewster schools, seemed to speak for them all when she said that increased state aid was necessary to meet the demands of both security and teaching.

Haldane's Villanti had little to say afterwards. He chose not to mention the sheriff's meeting at the school board meeting Tues-

Demolition of Hospital Approved *(from page 1)*

complex with three single-family homes, multi-government municipal building and senior-community center, post office, condominiums for retirement-age buyers, and commercial "square" along Route 9D. The Butterfield parcel lies within the village's historic district, over which the HDRB exercises jurisdiction. The property's fate has been discussed at numerous, often tense forums, including a Dec. 18 meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board, where some residents objected to various aspects of Guillaro's plans or to village decision-making associated with the project.

HDRB board members Marie Early, Carolyn Bachan, Peter Downey, and Kathleen Foley constituted the HDRB majority supporting demolition; Chairman Al Zgolinski cast the sole "no" vote.

The board termed demolition "appropriate to the purposes for which the historic district was created. The condition of the structure and the history of changes during radical expansions eliminated the more significant architectural features of the building. There is, accord-

ingly, little left of the structure worthy of preservation." Furthermore, the board declared, "the condition of the building is largely beyond effective salvage" and its "removal does not do damage to the [historic] or nearby parcels."

Zgolinski said he voted against demolition because, given the mandate of Cold Spring's historic preservation law to protect the district's historic resources, "to me it is unambiguous that history matters in our historic district. I find the building is associated with personages who had a significant impact on the history of Cold Spring" and that portions were designed by notable architects.

"Most importantly, I find that the Butterfield Hospital, when it was operational, was a significant civic institution in the village." He also maintained "that the onus of proving that the building is *not* historic is on the applicant." In this case, which he called "the most arduous" of his tenure on the HDRB, "the applicant has not demonstrated that demolition is justified," he concluded.

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PUBLISHER

Gordon Stewart

MANAGING EDITOR

Kevin E. Foley

ARTS/FEATURE EDITOR

Alison Rooney

SENIOR CORRESPONDENTS

Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Michael Turton

LAYOUT EDITOR

Kate Vikstrom

CALENDAR EDITOR

Charlotte Snow Rowe

calendar@philipstown.info

COPY EDITOR

Jeanne Tao

REPORTERS

Mary Ann Ebner

Christine Simek

Pete Smith

PHOTOGRAPHER

Maggie Benmour

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Michele Rubin

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LETTERS

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 hardwired 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

Nelsonville Board Demands Crosswalks on Main Street

Mayor: *'They're going to do it, or we're going to get some paint'*

By Jeanne Tao

Nelsonville Mayor Tom Corless spoke frankly about safety in the village at the Board of Trustees meeting on Monday, Dec. 17, announcing a resolution to create more crosswalks on Main Street/Route 301 and commenting on Putnam County Sheriff Donald Smith's invitation to a Dec. 18 meeting on public security following the Dec. 14 school shooting in Newtown, Conn.

The crosswalk resolution calls for the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) to install crosswalks on Route 301 at Fishkill Road, Billy's Way, and Peekskill Road, citing the board's concerns for the safety of pedestrians, especially of children, who wish to cross the street. Currently, there is only one crosswalk in the village at Pearl Street, which is a mile away from where Route 301 becomes Nelsonville's Main Street.

"We hope it slows them [cars] down and we're able to get from side to side without running," Corless said. "We've been trying to do this for years. The DOT will not cooperate. We'll see where we get. Or we're going to go buy some paint."

He explained that their requests have been denied by the state's DOT in the past because the locations did not meet state specifications for whatever reason, such as the absence of curb cutouts for handicap access or the fact that a sidewalk did not lead to a particular site. Corless gave examples, however, of several sidewalks in Garrison and Cold Spring that lead nowhere but still have crosswalks.

The mayor added that the state, in re-doing Route 301, had increased the speed limit from 30 to 40 mph within village

A black and white photograph showing three people seated at a long wooden table in a meeting room. On the left, a man (Mayor Tom Corless) is looking down at a document. In the center, another man (Trustee William Duncan) is looking towards the camera. On the right, a woman (Village Clerk Pauline Minners) is looking down at a document. The background wall is covered with several framed photographs.

Mayor Tom Corless, Trustee William Duncan and Village Clerk Pauline Minners at the Dec. 17 meeting

Photo by J. Tao

"We're walking down Main Street on Memorial Day, and the place looks like a disaster, and then we start growing weeds out of the curb lines. It's disgusting."

limits and also removed a guardrail along that area (near where Healey Road branches off) and did not replace it.

To add to those problems, Corless said that the county puts salt down on the road in the winter, but nobody comes back in the spring to clean up the muck that is leftover. "We're walking down Main Street on Memorial Day, and the place looks like a disaster, and then we start growing weeds out of the curb lines. It's disgusting," Corless continued.

"They both ought to be ashamed of themselves," he said of the state and county transportation departments. "I'm done with them."

Newtown tragedy response

On mentioning the sheriff's invitation to the Dec. 18 security meeting in Carmel, Corless stated that it is time for something to be done in response to the Newtown massacre, expressing frustration that these shootings have not been addressed like other security issues. "I heard somebody say over the weekend something about, we have one guy get on a plane with an explosive in his shoe, and everybody's got to take their shoes off, [but] we just keep doing this stuff over and over again. We have sex-offenders lists, probation, parole, watch lists — we have everything else, but we fail to address these social issues, constantly."

Upon being questioned about whether it is a mental health issue, Corless, who is also an investigator and deputy in the sheriff's department, said he thinks there's "a touch of both" mental health and gun control issues concerned in the matter. He called in particular for a way to better address mental health.

"I know on a regular basis that the police pick up people with mental health issues, because they are a danger to themselves or others, and somehow they get to the hospital and they're cured. And we pass them going the other way. There needs to be some oversight on what needs to transpire when stuff like that happens," Corless said. "I don't want to chastise these people with mental health issues, and I don't think they should be on a watch list or anything like that. We're able to keep track of all these other things, but somehow we fail to move forward with this."

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ThePaper

Blues For Christmas

Helping people get through the holidays

By Pete Smith

The late bluesman John Lee Hooker once sang about his despair in “Blues for Christmas” — “I ain’t got a dime. I’m sittin’ here wasted with my head hung down. Santy Claus, send my baby back.” Hooker’s triple burden of poverty, intoxication and a lost love makes the



Maeve Eng-Wong Photo by P. Smith

more sanitized Elvis Presley song “Blue Christmas” seem, in contrast, like an ad jingle for Aqua Velva.

Hooker’s despair might have been relat-able to a larger segment of the populace than he realized. “The holidays are stress-ful for everyone. And if you’re anxious or depressed and don’t have a holiday plan, it adds to the symptoms,” warned Putnam Family and Community Services Director Diane Russo.

With those cautionary words about the emotional hazards of the holidays, Russo is simply confirming what every mental health professional knows all too well. She acknowledged the risk of low-level stress, which often goes undetected in individ-u-als who aren’t in treatment. “Holidays bring up a lot of emotions. A lot of us have pleasant memories of the holidays, but some of us don’t. And if you drink or take drugs, it will only exacerbate those feel-ings,” she said.

To avoid being left alone with thoughts and feelings, Russo stressed the value of having a plan with others. “If people aren’t in treatment and without a plan, they get in trouble. What I say is, have a plan.” Knowing the potential for a spike in calls to the Putnam County crisis hotline this month, Russo offered reassurance that someone would be available to address the needs of anyone reaching out, seven days a week. “We always have a therapist on call,” she said. The county hotline number is 845-225-1222.

Confirming the complexity of feelings during the holidays, even for those of us not identified as being in distress, was Cold Spring resident Lillian Moser. “I’m having a lot of difficulty this Christmas since this is the first season without my father,” she

said, underscoring the emotions involved with losing a parent in the past year. “It’s taken me a little bit more to get into the swing of things,” she said. But, as if having an instinct for the kind of constructive planning suggested by 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. “It’ll be the first Christmas without my mother. 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 pain because my mom had a way of making Christmas magic,” she said. “She was always a person 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 generational peers of a certain age are experiencing parental loss en masse. 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 are exploring similar 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 re-cently participated in. For this event, the gift giving was made up of things found, made or performed, without anything be-ing bought. “Amazingly, the children spent tons of time thinking about it, then go-ing into their stuff to try to come up with something to make or to perform. It was 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 10 Academy St. in Cold Spring. For more information, call the church office at 845-265-3220 or email lpresbyterian@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. “Peo-ple 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



Pastor Ben Larson-Wolbrink Photo by P. Smith

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 Presbye-rian’s Blue Christmas service. “When I was chewing on this idea, there were a couple of sudden unexpected deaths in our con-gregation, and so I had those people spec-ifically 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, sepa-ration, condemnation, revelation, in tempt-ation, 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

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CHRISTMAS EVE

FAMILY MASS 3:30 PM
with Children's Christmas Pageant

CAROLS 10:30 PM

FESTIVAL MASS 11 PM
with the Saint Mary's Choir
Champagne Reception after Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

MASS WITH CAROLS
10:30 AM

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Yuletide Traditions: From Tourtières to Sushi, They Vary From Family to Family *(from page 1)*

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 flare 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 starts inside their home lead their kids, now grown-ups, to a present tucked away somewhere 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 111 years old.

"Elf on a shelf!" responded Karen Cannova, without hesitation, when asked about her favorite Christmas tradition. Each day during the month before Christmas, a small elf magically appears somewhere in her home, and it's her 7-year-old son Zachary's job to find it. "He gets up every day and looks for it," she said. The elf, which the Cannova's named Elf James, reports to Santa Claus on a daily basis as to whether Zachary has been naughty or nice that day. He then returns the next morning to a new hiding place and can turn up anywhere, from in the bathroom to hanging from the chandelier. Favorable reports to the North Pole aren't the young boy's only in-

centive. "Every time he finds Elf James, I give him a one-dollar coin," Cannova said. While Zachary has been very successful at finding Elf James, he has also paid close attention to one hard-and-fast rule that is part of the tradition — he is not ever allowed to touch the elf.

People who work on Christmas Eve face an added seasonal challenge and sometimes have to adapt traditions accordingly. Mike Vierra is employed in the restaurant business and often doesn't finish work until 11 p.m. on Christmas Eve. "I'm Italian, and we used to have the seven fishes," he said. "But we don't have a big family now — plus I've worked every Christmas Eve for the past 10 years." Vierra said he and his mom have developed a new tradition over the years. "It's evolved to an extreme — it's now sushi, sashimi and potato pancakes." Their

late-night dinner is always followed by a trip to the movies on Christmas Day.

For families like Mitchells, the Christmas season begins with finding the tree, but for others, it doesn't really officially end until the tree is disposed of — sometimes not for months after the holiday. Lisa Diebboll and her family say goodbye to their beloved seasonal conifer with an annual burning of the Christmas tree. It can take place anytime from around Easter to mid-summer. "We've been doing it for at least 15 years," Diebboll said. "Family members join us, sometimes friends join in, too. It's great!" Diebboll said that a sandbar in a creek on their property provides the perfect setting for the annual ceremony.

What's your family's favorite, oldest or most creative Christmas tradition?

Mayor Accused of Improper Conduct *(from page 1)*

Hawkins accused the mayor of alleged "manipulation and misinterpretation of information over the year to persuade the public to be supportive of this project" at Butterfield. Among other purported acts she listed "three occasions on which the



Stephanie Hawkins presents her accusations against the mayor.

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

mayor verbally accosted the HDRB in an effort to coerce them into drawing certain conclusions related to the applicant and to interfere in the HDRB's process. At the third of these visits the mayor's behavior was so erratic and aggressive some members of the HDRB feared for their safety and went to the police to file an incident report," Hawkins asserted.

"That's hearsay," Gallagher responded.

"It's an accurate statement," interjected Trustee Matt Francisco, another former Gallagher ally-turned-caustic critic. (Gallagher backed Francisco's bid for office in village elections last spring.)

"It's not an accurate statement. We can't tell it's an accurate statement" about the filing of a police report, Gallagher replied. "I don't believe one has been filed."

Hawkins went on, asserting that "our mayor has engaged in conduct that rais-

es suspicions, and I am calling on the Village Board to convene a board of ethics to investigate the conduct of the man."

After Hawkins' complaints, Francisco urged the board to enter into a closed-door session "to seek advice from counsel" — Village Attorney Stephen Gaba, who was present — "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 some kind of a political attack because they don't like it that people support the project" at Butterfield, he said.

The hospital property's owner, Paul Guillaro, 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 incited other heated commentary at Tuesday's session, the Village Board's formal monthly meeting, which was tranquil until Butterfield came up. The Village Board briefly continued its discussion of changes to the B4 zoning that covers the site and set a public hearing for Jan. 29 to elicit 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/retirement housing.


Village resident James Geppner said, "We should ask, 'What is the greatest public good to come of this project?'" He claimed that "there's been a preordained conclusion about the use, and that conclusion has never been allowed to be disputed." He also said that if the goal is to get a senior center, "let's give the seniors a center" as a separate endeavor not dependent on the Butterfield project. Any intention by the property owner to provide a senior center, Geppner said, "seems to be completely fallacious." Geppner likewise urged the Village Board to not change the zoning or make other moves until completion of a thorough financial-impact analysis, undertaken by an independent expert. Lack of such a detailed analysis "is an enormous failing," and "the Village Board has been arriving at conclusions with insufficient knowledge," he said. Geppner 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 to get community input on. 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.

Philipstown Town Councilman Dave Merandy told the Village Board that on the Town Board, "what we had committed to was a conceptual idea of this plan, which I was against. But there's no commitment from the town [government] for this project or a commitment that we are 'in' regardless of what the financial amounts are. We don't know what the costs are going to be," he said. Meanwhile, he reminded everyone, the town government is also exploring the possibility of locating a government site behind Town Hall at the American Legion property, "which will accommodate our seniors much better."

Dar Williams, a Cold Spring resident, spoke of the possibilities at the Butterfield site for intergovernmental coordination. "One of my reasons for supporting it and stepping back from some of the controversies [was] I saw a direction toward a consolidation of services," she said. "I thought that was part of the deal. I saw the senior center as perhaps integrated with municipal services and county services. I saw we needed this post office; we needed more consolidated services, and I saw that it is bipartisan; I saw it's efficient" to have such a facility at Butterfield. "We deserve this as a town. There's a lot I saw as a good, positive step for our town."



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The Calendar



Time for a class photo with giant nutcracker man

Photo by A. Rooney

A Wonderland of Nutcrackers Awaits Haldane’s Kindergartners

Cold Spring’s Linda LeMon shows them a little holiday magic each December

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 week tradition, each class walks over to LeMon’s home, where they are greeted by a pair of welcoming nutcrackers positioned out front and a blow-up hale-and-hearty nutcracker seemingly saying, “Hello, come on in.” LeMon, who in her non-nutcracker life

is a childbirth educator and lactation consultant at Hudson Valley Hospital, came to Cold Spring originally as a nurse, working for Butterfield Hospital.

She has been welcoming kindergartners since her son Collin (now 22) was one himself. Originally she brought some of her collection to the classrooms, but it turned into a mini-field trip soon after. Back in the pre-allergy awareness days, she served peanut-butter cookies and nuts to the visiting classes, but no more. Some of the children are familiar to LeMon: she helped their moms in the hospital during childbirth or afterwards with breastfeeding. Sometimes a note from a mom saying hi accompanies a child. One child on this visit told LeMon, “Thank you for helping my mommy.”

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 etceteras to even give a brief listing of here. LeMon began her collection when her older son, B.J. (who is married to fourth-grade teacher Silvia LeMon) went to see a production of *The Nutcracker* with his kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Rasa. Loving the story, they bought a book and, for that Christmas, their first nutcracker. A visit to a Pennsylvania store that featured the designs of German nutcracker-maker Christian Steinbach sealed the deal on the one becoming many.

After the oohs and aahs settled down, the children sat in the nutcracker room and listened as LeMon regaled them with the stories behind many of the figures and took questions — one of which was if there was a Hanukkah nutcracker (along with a request for a dinosaur one).

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

Most of the children return to Parrott Street as very grown-up first-graders the following October, when LeMon’s house takes on a very different aspect: the festive nutcracker greeters are long gone, replaced by a scary collection of ghouls and the other terrifying but tantalizing creatures of Halloween.

But come December, like clockwork, the nutcrackers come back to life, giving each of the children a very special Cold Spring December memory.



Two large nutcracker figures greet the children outside of the house. Photo by A. Rooney

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

St. Mary-in-the-Highlands

1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-2539 | stmaryscoldspring.org

- **Christmas Eve, Dec. 24**
3:30 p.m. Family Mass & Christmas pageant
10:30 p.m. Carols
11 p.m. Festival Mass with choir
Champagne reception after Mass
- **Christmas Day, Dec. 25**
10:30 a.m. Mass with carols

St. Philip’s Church in the Highlands

1101 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org

- **Christmas Eve, Dec. 24**
5 p.m. Family Mass
11 p.m. Midnight service
- **Christmas Day, Dec. 25**
10 a.m. Christmas service

Our Lady of Loretto Catholic Parish

24 Fair St., Cold Spring
845-265-3718 | ourladyoflorettocs.com

- **Christmas Eve, Dec. 24**
4 p.m. Mass with children’s choir
6 & 8 p.m. Christmas vigil Mass
7 p.m. Eucharistic adoration
10 p.m. Midnight Mass
- **Christmas Day, Dec. 25**
9 & 10:30 a.m. Christmas Mass

St. Joseph’s Chapel

74 Upper Station Road, Garrison
845-265-3718 | ourladyoflorettocs.com

- **Christmas Eve, Dec. 24**
8 p.m. Christmas Eve service

Graymoor

1350 Route 9, Garrison
845-424-3671 | atonementfriars.org

- **Christmas Eve, Dec. 24**
9:15 p.m. Chorale prelude
10 p.m. Mass

First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown

10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

- **Christmas Eve, Dec. 24**
7:30 p.m. Family service
10:30 p.m. Jazz nativity service

Beacon Presbyterian Church

50 Liberty St., Beacon | beaconpresbychurch.com

- **Christmas Eve, Dec. 24**
7:30 p.m. Candlelight service

United Methodist Church

216 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-3365

- **Christmas Eve, Dec. 24**
7 p.m. Christmas Eve service

South Highland Methodist Church

19 Snake Hill Road, Garrison | 845-265-3365

- **Christmas Eve, Dec. 24**
5 p.m. Christmas Eve service

Grace United Methodist

337 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley
845-526-3788

- **Christmas Eve, Dec. 24**
5:30 p.m. Family candlelight service
11 p.m. Communion candlelight service

Church on the Hill

245 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2022 | coldspringchurchonthehill.org

- **Christmas Eve, Dec. 24**
7 p.m. Candlelight service

St. Luke’s Lutheran Church

65 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley
845-528-8858 | stlukesputnamvalley.org

- **Christmas Eve, Dec. 24**
7 & 9 p.m. Christmas Eve service

SITTING on
the BENCH
❖ by Tara ❖



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 son 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 so that 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. Mais, 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 Canada mentioned it is accompanied by some joke about Canadians’ unassuming culture which is supposed to be so boring. As an extremely polite Lab who only growls when young pups become too exuberant, I take it as a compliment.

At the Country Goose compliments from customers are the norm. They like the boss’s big smile as she makes everyone feel at home. And, just in time for the holidays, she has stocked the kitchenware department with some really neat items for baking, basting, whisking, measuring and pounding. Bon appétit.



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The Calendar

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!

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
Gene Garfinkle: 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.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

Kids & Community

Indoor Tot Park
9 - 11 A.M. & NOON - 2 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com
\$1 per session. Check for schedule changes.

Wine Tasting
4 - 7 P.M. ARTISAN WINE SHOP
180 Main St., Beacon
845-440-6923 | artisanwineshop.com

Wine & Cheese
5 - 8 P.M. ANTIPODEAN BOOKS
29 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3867 | antipodean.com

Winter Solstice Celebration With the Greenwoman
6 P.M. CREEKSIDE PARK | Herbert and Main, Beacon

Broadway Revue (Youth Theatre)
7 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Health, Sports & Outdoors

Haldane Hockey vs. John Jay
3:30 P.M. BREWSTER ICE ARENA
63 Fields Lane, Brewster
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Haldane Girls' Basketball vs. Beacon
7 P.M. HALDANE HIGH SCHOOL
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Theater & Film

Gremlins
10 P.M. JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER
364 Marville Road, Pleasantville
914-747-5555 | burnsfilmcenter.org

Music

Open Mic
7:30 P.M. HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

The Compact
8 P.M. WHISTLING WILLIE'S
184 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2012 | whistlingwillies.com

Talking Machine
9:30 P.M. MAX'S ON MAIN | 246 Main St., Beacon
845-838-6297 | maxsonmain.com

Meetings & Lectures

Free Computer Help
2 P.M. DESMOND-FISH LIBRARY
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | 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
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

Religious Services

Longest-Night Service at First Presbyterian
7 P.M. 10 ACADEMY ST., COLD SPRING
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

Service at Beacon Hebrew Alliance
7:30 P.M. 331 VERPLANCK AVE., BEACON
847-831-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Service at Reform Temple of Putnam Valley
8 P.M. 362 CHURCH, PUTNAM VALLEY
845-528-4774 | ny069.urj.net

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THE LIVING ROOM
10pm - 1am — \$25

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

Kids & Community

Cold Spring Farmers’ Market
8:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN COMMUNITY CENTER | 107 Glenclyffe Dr, Garrison
csfarmmarket.org

Food Pantry
9 - 10 A.M. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILIPSTOWN | 10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

Ornament Making (ages 3 and up)
10:30 - NOON. HOWLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Kaleidoscope Workshop for Kids
10:30 A.M. SOUTHEAST MUSEUM
67 Main St., Brewster
845-279-7500 | southeastmuseum.org

Beary Merry Holiday Party
11 A.M. TRAILSIDE ZOO
Bear Mountain State Park
845-706-2701, Ext. 265 | trailsidezoo.org

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

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

Dia:Beacon Tour
1 P.M. 3 BEEKMAN ST., BEACON
845-440-0100 | diabeacon.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
845-831-5322 | beaconpresbychurch.com

Theater & Film

It’s a Wonderful Life (Film)
NOON. JACOB 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
845-453-2978 | thebeacontheatre.org

Danse Elite Performing Artists: The Nutcracker
2 P.M. TARRYTOWN MUSIC HALL
13 Main St., Tarrytown
914-631-3390, Ext. 100 | tarrytownmusichall.org

Yes Virginia, The Musical
2 P.M. & 6 P.M. PARAMOUNT CENTER FOR THE ARTS
1008 Brown St., Peekskill | Tickets: risingstarspac.net

Where is Santa? Murder Mystery Dinner
6 P.M. CUP AND SAUCER RESTAURANT
165 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-6287

The Canterbury Poems: A Tournament of Prosody | 8 P.M. HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | 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
845-838-6297 | maxsonmain.com

Meetings & Lectures
Free Computer Help
2 P.M. DESMOND-FISH LIBRARY
See details under Friday.

Religious Services

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

Kids & Community

Farmer’s Market
11 A.M. - 3 P.M. SCENIC HUDSON’S RIVER CENTER
Long Dock Drive, Beacon
845-234-9325 | thebeaconfarmersmarket.com

Holiday Craft Fair
NOON - 6 P.M. ROSA’S EXERCISE DANCE STUDIO
See details under Saturday.

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

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Vladas Vildziunas, one of Lithuania’s leading sculptors is now on exhibition at Gallery 66. This extraordinary collection of sculptures and photographs, rarely seen in the US is not to be missed. “Barbora”, 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.

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The Calendar

(from page 9)

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 | livingyogastudios.com

Haldane Hockey vs. Brewster
6:20 P.M. BREWSTER ICE ARENA
63 Fields Lane, Brewster
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Art & Design

Blue Collar Blues: Celebrating the Struggle and Satisfaction of Labor
1 - 5 P.M. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BEACON
See details under Saturday.

Theater & Film

It's a Wonderful Life (Film)
NOON. JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER
See details under Saturday.

Yes Virginia, The Musical
6 P.M. PARAMOUNT CENTER FOR THE ARTS
See details under Saturday.

Religious Services

Our Lady of Loretto
7:30, 9, & 11:45 A.M. MASS
3 P.M. CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
24 Fair St., Cold Spring
845-265-3718 | ourladyoflorettocs.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 9D, Garrison
845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org

Grace United Methodist
8:15 A.M. & 10 A.M.
337 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley
845-526-3788

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 OSCAWANA LAKE RD., PUTNAM VALLEY
845-528-8858 | stlukesputnamvalley.org

Buddhist Meditation
9 A.M. CHUANG YEN MONASTERY
2020 Route 301, Carmel | 845-228-4288 | baus.org

First Presbyterian Church
9 A.M. ADULT BIBLE STUDY
10:30 A.M. SERVICE WITH CAROLS
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

South Highland Methodist Church
9:30 A.M. 19 SNAKE HILL ROAD, GARRISON
845-265-3365

Quaker Friends Worship
10 A.M. WHYATT HOME
845-424-3525 | Call for directions.

St. Joseph's Chapel
10:15 A.M. 74 UPPER STATION ROAD, GARRISON
845-265-3718 | ourladyoflorettocs.com

Church on the Hill
10:30 A.M. 245 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING
845-265-2022 | coldspringchurchonthehill.org

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The Calendar *(from page 10)*

United Methodist Church
11 A.M. 216 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING | 845-265-3365

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

Theater & Film

It's a Wonderful Life (Film) | NOON. JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER | Details under Saturday

Religious Services

See p. 7 for Christmas Services.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day

Theater & Film

The Muppet Movie
NOON. JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER
364 Manville Road, Pleasantville
914-747-5555 | burnsfilmcenter.org

Religious Services

See p. 7 for Christmas Services.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

Kids & Community

School Mini-Break Camp for Grades K-3
9:30 A.M. WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTER
25 Boulevard, Cornwall | 845-534-7781
hhnaturemuseum.org

Mah Jongg Open Play
10 A.M. - 1 P.M. VFW HALL
34 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Theater & Film

The Muppet Movie
NOON. JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER
See details under Tuesday.

Music

Open Mic Night
8 P.M. WHISTLING WILLIE'S | 184 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-2012 | whistlingwillies.com

Meetings & Lectures

Men's Group
6:30 P.M. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILIPSTOWN | 10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

Beacon Republican Committee
7 P.M. HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Life Support Group
7:30 P.M. ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1101 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org

Religious Services

Contemplative Prayer
7 A.M. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILIPSTOWN
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

Morning Minyan
8:30 A.M. BEACON HEBREW ALLIANCE
331 Verplanck Ave., Beacon
847-831-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Bible Study

7 P.M. CHURCH ON THE HILL
245 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2022 | coldspringchurchonthehill.org

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

Kids & Community

School Mini-Break Camp for Grades K-3
9:30 A.M. WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTER
See details under Wednesday

Boscobel Gift Shop Winter Sale
10 A.M. - 4 P.M. BOSCOBEL
1601 Route 9D, Garrison
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Children's Holiday Tea
NOON - 2 P.M. MOUNT GULIAN HISTORIC SITE
145 Sterling St., Beacon
845-831-8172 | mountgulian.org

Peekskill Trolley Holiday Light Tour
7 P.M. BEAN RUNNER CAFÉ
201 S. Division, Peekskill
914-739-5408 | peekskilltrolleycompany.com

Meetings & Lectures

Philipstown Board Workshop
7:30 P.M. TOWN HALL | 238 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

Health, Sports & Outdoors

Knitting Circle
6:30 P.M. SUPPORT CONNECTION
40 Triangle Center Suite 100, Yorktown Heights
800-532-4290 | supportconnection.org

Prenatal and Early Postpartum Discussion Group
7 P.M. DEMPSEY HOUSE
1992 Crompond Road, Cortlandt Manor
914-736-7700 | hvhc.org/events

Army Hockey vs. Russian Junior All-Stars
7 P.M. TATE RINK, WEST POINT
845-938-2526 | goarmysports.com

Adult Co-Ed Volleyball
7:30 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com
Cost: \$3 per night. Philipstown residents only.

Theater & Film

The Muppet Movie
NOON. JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER
See details under Tuesday.

Religious Services

Hill Top Visionaries (Young Adults)
6:30 p.m. Church on the Hill
245 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2022 | coldspringchurchonthehill.org

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

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, 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 past 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 sources we haven't seen." Duncan was surprised at some of the "new and unique topics — there are a few we haven't seen before," he said, naming "Murders in Philipstown" and "Philipstown Little

League — A History" (and no, those two projects aren't linked) as examples.

Storyteller Jonathan Kruk was a first-time judge, although he had attended the exhibit of the work previously. Kruk's stories are crafted using a great deal of historical research, so he understood the process involved in unearthing and compiling factual information.

He and the other five judges were given a point system, which Kruk found "helpful in codifying the projects in everything from accuracy to neatness." All six judges worked independently and their scores were averaged to determine the winners.

Kruk enjoyed "seeing the students' perspectives on these longtime events, buildings ... in our community." He continued: "I also loved their varying writing styles, from those which detailed a lot of research to one which noted [in keeping with the contest's minimum] 'there are 1,000 words exactly!' I'm just thrilled to see the students delving into their community and finding such gems significant not only here but around the world."

Somewhat surprisingly (and in contrast to years past), most of the projects were low-tech, with only a few computer-based. Most were in the form of research essays, illustrated with photos and sometimes accompanied by models of the topic under discussion.

The discrepancy between Garrison's mandatory participation and Haldane's making it optional (though the students do receive extra credit) continues and will not immediately be resolved, according to Haldane Elementary/Middle School Principal Brent Harrington, who attended. Partially this is due to a transition in teachers from longtime seventh-grade social-studies teacher Mrs. Bocker to her successor, Mr. McConville, who was also there, along with his counterpart at the Garrison School, Mrs. Foppiano.

Harrington said that what was most important, at this juncture, was the continuing partnership between Haldane and the museum, "which is giving our students increased access to the archives and resources," a dynamic made easier by the fact that the museum's director,



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

Mindy Krazmien, is also a Haldane parent of two elementary-aged students.

Krazmien 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.

Handing out certificates and year-long student memberships to the museum, Duncan noted that the four criteria used in judging were research and analysis; quality of presentation; accuracy; and originality. He added, "I can happily say that every project had at least one source we have not seen before." Duncan found something praiseworthy to say about each entry.

Philipstown.info/The Paper had asked the winning pair, Elijah and George, earlier in the evening (and not even the judges knew the results ahead of time) about their project and received a very animated response: "We drove to Saugerties before the Clearwater was taken out of the water for the season. We also went to Beacon to meet the Clearwater's director of education, Dave Conover; we really learned a lot. He told us that Clearwater is like a time machine because it brings people back onto a Hudson River sloop — which means it has one mast — but it also brings them forward to think of what we can do in the future" — an apt description of the Saunders History Contest as a whole.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

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.



Beacon's 2011 winter solstice celebration Photo by Linda Hubbard

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 designs events and creates art that is designed to open people to the magic that abounds in the natural world.

This year the celebration will acknowledge the end of the Mayan Calendar on Dec. 21, 2012, an auspicious date that marks the potential for a big change in the world. A ceremony will be held to call back the light at the end of the longest night of the year and to state the intent to make personal change to aid in the healing of this planet. In the face

of global climate changes, each person should make changes to help facilitate a shift that will return this planet into balance. The ceremony is designed to provide opportunities to set intention to make changes for the greater good of the planet.

The event will begin with a traditional fire ceremony within a circle, opened by Evan Pritchard, a descendant of the Micmac people (part of the Algonquin nations) and founder of the Center for Algonquin Culture. Dominico Petrillo will be the local fire keeper/artist. The opening will be followed by musical performances by Norman Lowrey, composer, mask maker and professor of music at Drew University, who will use his shamanic singing masks.

A participatory drum circle is also planned, so participants are encouraged to bring drums and rattles that will be a part of the festivities to call in the energy of the returning sun. Various other local artists and performers and a couple of surprise guests will join the celebration to add their magic to the proceedings until the circle is brought to a close with a ceremony to extinguish the fire, calling on all present to participate in returning the park to its previous pristine condition.

The group will then process along Main Street to Beacon Yoga Center, 464 Main St., where a storytelling circle and a potluck event will take place. Potluck donations can be brought to Beacon Yoga Center 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. For more information on this event and all of Beacon's holiday events, go to www.beaconarts.org.

Boscobel Gift Shop Announces After-Christmas Sale

Clearance sale 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 grounds admission (\$10 value) — the Boscobel estate, with its views of the Hudson River, will be open at no charge to all paying customers in

cination clinic next month on Wednesday, Jan. 9, from 3 to 7 p.m., at the health department's main office at 1 Geneva 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 PCDOH's Facebook page (facebook.com/putnamhealth) for notification of a postponement.

“While getting immunized early is preferable,” said Dr. Allen Beals, 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 back 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 vaccine. Those 60 years and older, or with a Medicare card, can receive the vaccine free of charge.

Appointments are not necessary, but online pre-registration is strongly encouraged. 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 interdisciplinary program in ecology, engineering and policy offered by Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries, a subsidiary of Clarkson University. Sailing onboard the sloop Clearwater, made famous by folksinger Pete Seeger, is a unique aspect of the program for a select group of undergraduate River University students this summer.

River University, called “life-changing” by graduates of the inaugural program, is for any undergraduate with an interest in the environment. Undergraduates 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 Institute's facilities on the banks of the Hudson River in Beacon and taught by Clarkson faculty. A three-day sail aboard the sloop Clearwater will allow students to put into practice what they've learned in the classroom. Those who complete the River University program will earn six credits, an excellent option to lighten course load during the academic year, or avoid a fifth undergraduate year.

River University will examine environmental issues and explore possible solutions, with both a theoretical and real-world view by offering two interdisciplinary courses, each worth three credits transcribed by Clarkson University: *Life of an American River: Ecology, Policy and Place* and *Our Water Future: Sustainable Water Resource Management*.

Visit RiverUniversity.com for more



A sampling of merchandise inside the gift shop at Boscobel Photo courtesy of Boscobel

the gift shop during sale hours; a free box of color notecards (\$6.95 value) with any purchase of \$50 or more; and a free raffle — leave your email address to be entered to win one adult ticket to Boscobel's 2013 Big Band Event (\$16 value).

The clearance sale includes jewelry, home décor, books, apparel, toys, fine soaps, linen, glassware, dinnerware, holiday decor 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 845-265-3638.

Putnam Health Dept. Announces ‘Last Chance’ 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-

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Students of River University 2012 on the sloop Clearwater Photo courtesy of Beacon Institute

information about the curriculum and faculty, tuition costs, housing and commuter options, frequently asked questions, the application form and important deadlines.

Enrollment in this one-of-a-kind program begins Dec. 17 and is limited to 20 participants, so early application is encouraged. The rolling admissions process will occur through the application deadline of March 15, 2013.

More details are available on our website, philipstown.info.

For more information about the Beacon Institute, visit bire.org. To learn more about Clarkson University, visit clarkson.edu. To see information about Clearwater, go to clearwater.org.

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 hepati-

tis 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.

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.

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.

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 division. 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.

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 3,600 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.

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

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



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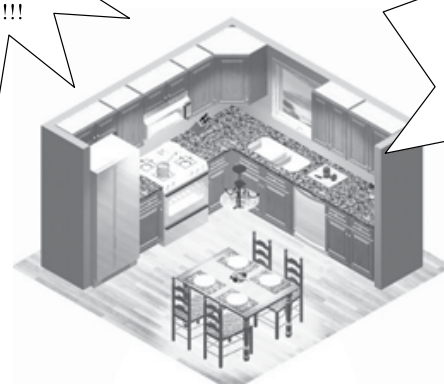


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Sports

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.

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 goalie for the team and wears number 30 in honor of New Jersey Devils great Martin Brodeur. The youngest of the three is freshman Anthony Percacciolo, 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 task, 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 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



Haldane High School students Jacob Cox, left, Owen Thomas and Anthony Percacciolo make up the Haldane contingent of a varsity hockey team from JFK and Putnam Valley High Schools.

Photo by E. Koval



Mancuso returns as captain for 2012-13 season

Alex Mancuso of Garrison returns as team captain of the Junior Black Knights PeeWee ice 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.”

Photo by M.A. Ebner

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 and 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 of a commitment it is,” added Owen.



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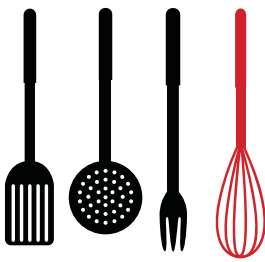
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