Legislators Agree on Senior Center

Differ on related issues

By Liz Schevetchuk Armstrong

Members of the Putnam County Legislature last Monday (Dec. 15) agreed on the need for a county senior citizens center in Cold Spring, but scrapped over related issues, such as the fate of the sheriff's Nelsonville substation and the adequacy of internal communication on county plans at the Butterfield redevelopment.

Butterfield came up two hours into a meeting in Carmel of the legislature's Physical Services Committee, after Legislator Roger Gross had sent a memo objection to reviews by Legislature Chairman Carl Albano of floor plans for county space at Butterfield. Airig of Gross' concerns only aroused further unease over Legislature Chairman Carl Albano's interaction with Butterfield developer Paul Guarino. Scuccimarra, Albano and Legislator Ginny Nacerino make up the Physical Services Committee, whose meetings routinely draw other legislators as well.

Albano began the debate by saying that county plans remain unsettled regarding Butterfield, where Odell proposes to not only put a senior center but offices, or auxiliary offices, of some county departments. "Basically we've got to get a lot of information" in coming days and "to try to figure out what to do," Albano said. "We know what monies we have available already" but must "try to hammer down all the numbers and stuff. We're looking at around 6,000 square feet and the more information we get the more we can bring to the discussion in the legislature.

Questions about DMV and more

Gross said that after he sent last memo raising questions, to his relief he learned that the Odell-Scuccimarra look at floor plans involved only a senior center and auxiliary quarters for the Putnam County Sheriff's Department, "where we're all on board," not space for general county offices, or auxiliary offices, of some county departments. "We've got to get a lot of information" in coming days and "to try to figure out what to do," Albano said. "We know what monies we have available already" but must "try to hammer down all the numbers and stuff. We're looking at around 6,000 square feet and the more information we get the more we can bring to the discussion in the legislature.

By Alison Rooney

Array of Support Services Offered by Hudson Valley Hospital

Programs designed for life's spectrum open to whole community

I npatient, outpatient, critical care, rehabilitation, the vocabulary of hospitals can be tricky to navigate. So can what that vocabulary pertains to, whether it be a joyous event such as the birth of a newborn, or the opposite, a diagnosis of an unfamiliar, frightening disease.

Regardless of the topic, there is usually a comfort in traveling these roads with others on them too, and that's the terrain of support groups and workshops, an increasing sideline of hospitals across the country, including Cortlandt Manor's Hudson Valley Hospital Center (HVHC, to be renamed New York-Presbyterian/ Hudson Valley Hospital, effective Jan. 1).

Each month, the HVHC's calendar listings detail numerous classes, groups and workshops, some on a series basis, a few in a one-day session format, and many free of charge. A quick look at the current calendar yielded details on one-session programs on a diverse range of topics including colorectal health, Alzheimer's disease, and living with celiac disease, to name a few.

"We try to be responsive to people in the community in establishing and running these groups ... it's part of our mission to serve the community," noted Victoria Hoffman, HVHC's director of marketing. She added. "There is an ebb and flow, depending on demand, and the availability of qualified instructors ... We also work with other, established groups, like Gilda's Club and Support Connection (whose services were described fully in a Philipstown.info story Aug. 28, 2013), trying to bring them together with us to best support the community, each doing what's best for them to do. We're glad to have them." If the hospital isn't offering a particular support group, it finds and refers those who contact them to pertinent nearby groups. HVHC's groups are publicized on their website, through advertising and through their Healthy Living magazine sent out to an extensive mailing list in nearby communities, including Philipstown.

Healthy living

Under the banner of health and wellness, the HVHC offers monthly early evening seminars related to making comprehensive changes in eating and lifestyle habits, working toward goals of weight loss and better nutrition. An afternoon monthly group is targeted specifically at diabetes support. There is a free diabetes support group that meets the first Tuesday of every month — the next session is Jan. 6. The hospital also offers community CPR training classes every other month, on Saturdays.

By Alison Rooney

A cholesterol check, at last year's Senior Health Fair.

Photo courtesy of Hudson Valley Hospital Center

2014 Messiah Draws 500 to Benefit St. Mary's and Food Pantry

Gordon Stewart, Rachel Evans praised

O n Sunday (Dec. 21), admirers of classical music, Gordon Stewart's genius, St. Mary's Episcopal Parish — or all three — jammed the church for Handel's Messiah, which Stewart led in the same place in 2013 but which this year went on without him, 25 days after his death.

Featuring soloists Gabriela Mikova Johnson, soprano; Steven Brennfelek, tenor; Nicholas Tamagna, contralto; R. Fred Madden, bass; a 24-voice chorus; and a 21-member orchestra, as well as an empty maestro's podium denoting the loss of Stewart, the concerts packed the 1,200-seat church, which welcomed 500 people, for each of two performances.

Proceeds from the ticket sales go to St. Mary's, a historic but financially strapped congregation in the heart of Cold Spring, and the Philipstown Food Pantry.

A former White House speechwriter, business executive, volunteer firefighter, art connoisseur and founder of Philipstown.info and its weekly print edition, The Paper, Stewart also was an expert conductor and pianist.

In introducing the performances, the Rev. Shane Scott-Hamblen, St. Mary's rector, described the teamwork that made the 2013 performance possible. "Stewart, an artist, a classical and frustrated Viennese-trained musician had a big dream on his bucket list, and a poor but welcoming parish desperately needed funds," he said.

"Both would be able to have their dreams realized" through the productions. Stewart and Scott-Hamblen also became close friends as Stewart battled illness.

The priest noted that in the 2013 concerts, when Stewart took a seat while the soloists sang, it was in part a salute to them but also “because he knew he was dying of emphysema and he needed to catch his breath, but he didn't want the public to know. He knew at this concert last year that he was dying." St. Mary's subsequently installed a plaque in his honor, and Hughes and Stewart's memories of the performances "were so poignant to him and us," Scott-Hamblen added. "It was a rare thing to see Gordon cry. He knew he will always be remembered here."

Just as Scott-Hamblen praised Stewart, the latter's widow, Zanne Early Stewart, paid tribute to concertmaster Rachel Evans, a Garrison resident who worked with Stewart in creating the 2013 and 2014 performances and carried on alone in his absence. This year's concerts "would not have come to pass" without Evans, said Early Stewart in a statement read by Scott-Hamblen. Early Stewart explained (Continued on page 3)
Turnover the New Year

By Mary Ann Ebner

Food stations and tasting tables may have some sanity during peak celebration season, but nothing’s more personal than moving among a happy crowd to appreciate time with guests. If you’re hosting a gathering to usher in the New Year, consider passing delicate pastries and sharing conversation with those who have gathered to pause and enjoy each other’s company. Round up a smart serving tray (make it light-weight or you’ll be passing out before you pass the food) and dress it up with hors d’oeuvres.

If you don’t want to overdo it, forget elaborate selections and silverware. Some of us (that’s my hand in the air) are awkward with utensils to begin with. And who can manage when the task requires holding a petite plate, fork and knife, beverage and napkin, all while standing?

Appetizers enjoyed in a bite or two with one hand, or a fork if you must, help prevent clumsy encounters. For this year’s upcoming string of New Year soirées, I’m proposing the practical but elegant miniature turnover. Consider them distant cousins of empanadas, samosas, sambusiskis, even pierogies and potstickers. By any other name these amazing miniatures would taste as good. Toasted ravioli, easily the best small bite in Missouri, deserves a little love in this party-ready finger food category as well.

They’re all somewhat related and consist of a doughy cover or shell stuffed with vegetables, meat, cheese or a combination of fillings. Growing up, my first introduction to these tiny temptations was toasted ravioli, served with a marinara sauce. The best of these served in countless Italian restaurant dining rooms in St. Louis are crunchy and crispy yet not oily.

Amy Tan inspired a fascination with turnover-types when she introduced readers to jiaozi in The Joy Luck Club more than 20 years ago. Handmade Chinese dumplings started showing up on menus at restaurants from coast to coast. I couldn’t get enough ginger, soy sauce and boiled dumplings stuffed with pork but realized the best way to make them was with a group of friends creating a batch in assembly-line fashion. Soon enough, I went on a bit of a binge buying frozen samosas — triangle-shaped and loaded with spices — from Trader Joe’s. I sauced easily accessible when my family lived around the corner from TJ’s in central California. Later, I could drive 20 minutes or so to pick up a few boxes (packages of six) when I lived in Virginia. I still had a thing for these even when my commute stretched 50 miles to the nearest store. One of my neighbors, who worked in an area near TJ’s, picked up my wish-list items once a month and continued to purchase fresh ones until party time. When you’re ready to share them, remove frozen turnovers from the freezer and bake for 25 to 30 minutes. What’s even more convenient, they’re delicious when served steaming hot, but still a treat at room temperature.

Whether making turnovers in advance or just as you’re about to eat them, invite all hands to help with the assembly. Stuff turnovers with fillings from spinach and goat cheese to shredded meat or your favorite spicy vegetables and wrap up the year sharing a taste with family and friends.

Curried Turnovers

Makes two dozen

Pastry ingredients

1 ½ cups flour
1 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons flour
4 tablespoons cold water
4 tablespoons butter

Filling ingredients

1 cup fresh cilantro (finely chopped)
1 can (16 ounces) hominy (drained)
1 large shallot, chopped
1 medium potstickers
1 pound butternut squash, cubed
2 teaspoons kosher salt
2 teaspoons butter
1 tablespoon curry powder

1. For the pastry, combine the flour and salt in a mixing bowl. Cut in the butter, gradually until dough holds together. Do not handle dough too much or your turnovers will bounce off their plates. Refrigerate dough for 15 minutes.


3. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Gently roll out dough on lightly floured surface. Using a round cookie cutter, pastry cutter or even a glass, cut dough into 3-inch circles. Add a tablespoonful of the cooked filling on one half of each circle, turning over the dough in half and sealing each circle. If dough does not hold, seal with a dab of water or egg white. Place turnovers on baking sheet and bake for 15 minutes in preheated oven until lightly golden. Serve warm or at room temperature.
Legislators Agree on Senior Center
(from page 2)

This is critical; the cost and the amount of personnel and what kind of services the county brings to Butterfield. “I’m not opposed to the services” but want the legislators to work out the details,” Albano said. Albano emphasized that “the big thing is the senior center and the sheriff, to have a presence over there” in Philipstown. “That’s our priorities.”

Nacerino, the legislator’s deputy chairperson, also objected to steps taken by the legislators. He said that “we need to make sure they are well intended, but I think a lack of communication has existed. Unbeknownst to us, conversations were taking place.” We’re not hearing there’s no merit to that. We’re not hearing the sheriff’s position. “We’re just saying to the best of our knowledge, conversations were taking place” when in fact they were occurring, she said. We should be discussing this as a group.”

Apologizing for his handling of his work with Guillaro, Albano characterized it as an attempt at data gathering to aid legislative study. “My intention was to start getting more information so that we would have stuff to look at,” he said.

Unidentified tenants for Butterfield

Succimarra, Philipstown’s legislative representative, said her own work “was in no way meant to be not having everybody in the loop. It was just starting the ball rolling. We’re concentrating on the senior center right now.”

The derelict Butterfield Hospital has yet to be demolished and new construction has not begun. However, according to Succimarra “space is going” and Guillaro “has two floors leased already,” though the identity of any lessee remains unknown. Nonetheless, the occupant is not the U.S. Postal Service, she said. “The post office isn’t a ‘go yes’ at Butterfield. They’re still looking at other spaces.”

Individual and family support, either in person or by phone, is available through the hospital’s social work department. Other referrals can also be made. All of these, as well as a new lymphedema support group for men and women with any cancer diagnosis to share their emotions and experiences.

A group designated specifically for those with breast cancer, pertaining to all stages, from diagnosis to post-treatment, led by a peer counselor — a trained volunteer who is a breast cancer survivor — meets the third Monday of each month, as does a Look Good … Feel Better American Cancer Society-affiliated program offering professional wig fittings and makeup applications.

For caregivers, a Leave the Light On Foundation program, formed by a former HVHC employee who cared for an elderly parent, provides resources and opportunities for celebrating and pampering those taking care of loved ones with cancer, knowing that people cannot be effective caregivers if they’re constantly burned out. This meets on Saturday mornings, once a month.

Legislators Agree on Senior Center
(from page 1)

Michael McKee, PhD
Licensed Psychologist
Cognitive Behavioral Psychotherapy (CBT)

35B Garrison Landing
Garrison, N.Y. 10524
45 Poughpar Road
Scarsdale, N.Y. 10583

(914) 584-9352
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Beacon's Rabbi Spodek Celebrates Hanukkah at the White House

By Brian PJ Cronin

The holidays are a hectic time for everyone, but no matter how intense your last holiday gathering was, there's a good chance it probably didn't involve four separate security checkpoints.

Not so for Rabbi Brent Spodek of the Beacon Hebrew Alliance. Spodek and his wife Allison, a professor of chemistry at Vassar, were invited to celebrate Hanukkah at the White House last week on Wednesday, Dec. 27, as representatives of Beacon and the Mid-Hudson Valley. The invitation came shortly before Thanksgiving, even though Spodek still isn't entirely sure why they were selected for this honor.

After passing through the aforementioned quartet of checkpoints, Spodek presented one of the Secret Service agents with a gift for the president: a miniature replica of the giant menorah made out of bicycles that is currently installed at the park on the corner of Main Street and Route 9D in Beacon. The replica was created by Ed Benavente, the same sculptor who created the giant menorah itself as well as the bicycle Christmas tree that stands in the same park (see the Philipstown.info story from Dec. 21).

"The transformation of old bicycles into new art is a symbol of the transformations we are capable of, working together," the Spodeks wrote in a letter to the president that accompanied the gift. "We are deeply honored to represent our communities at the White House, and hope that when you see this menorah, you will think of the progress this little town has made and the progress of which this great nation is capable."

With the gift in good hands, the Spodeks followed the crowds into the East Wing of the White House for a kosher dinner. Spodek then proceeded into the Portrait Hall to hear the president speak, as a few hundred people all angling to be close to the podium. "Imagine standing in the White House and see the president of the United States stand with a rabbi and chant Hebrew prayers felt quite literally to be a glorious miracle," he wrote.

The Beacon Bicycle Menorah, built by Ed Benavente

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**The Face of Winter: Juried Exhibition of High School Art at Gallery 66**

First Friday opening reception Jan. 2, 6 to 9 p.m.

By Alison Rooney

Winter is a hopeful season if youth embodies hope. Celebrating the colder months and the promise of nascent artists, Gallery 66 NY is bringing both to its gallery with a January exhibit titled *The Face of Winter.*

The gallery extended an open call to all high school–age artists living in Philipstown, Newburgh, Beacon, Peekskill and Wappingers Falls, soliciting their work for a juried art exhibition, asking them to interpret “The Face of Winter,” connecting it somehow to their own lives, moments in time, favorite landscapes, etc., in either literal or abstract form.

Responses came from students at three regional schools: Haldane, Newburgh and Hopewell Junction’s John Jay. Of these, 20 were chosen for the exhibit. The gallery describes the entries as “a trove of rich and diverse pieces that will be a pleasure for the visitor to view, while providing a rare opportunity for our local young artists to exhibit their work in a major Hudson Valley gallery.” The young artists will be in attendance at an opening night reception, Jan. 2, from 6 to 9 p.m., and will discuss their art.

Also on display, in the gallery’s two other galleries, are donations of artwork and services from local professional artists as well as students, collected into a silent auction fundraiser for Haldane’s class of 2015 senior service trip to New Orleans. In a repeat of last year’s very successful inaugural trip, this year’s seniors will be traveling and working with Habitat for Humanity to rebuild homes. Services from the class of 2015 that can be bid on include babysitting, snow shoveling and makeovers, while donations include limited edition silkscreen prints commemorating this event, vintage art prints, rare photographs, paintings and ceramics. The collection, dubbed *Winter Mardi Gras,* will be on exhibit from Jan. 2. A Mardi Gras party and (Continued on page 8)

*Building Snowmen* multimedia work by Cameron Henderson

“Building Snowmen was actually inspired by a song of the same name by a Danish jazz trio (the Vestbo Trio), as well as the work of Czech animator and illustrator Jaromir Plachy. I wanted to make something whimsical that embodied a large number of materials and approaches, as well as the playful side of winter. It consists of watercolor, colored pencil, marker, ink, graphite and a number of papers combined through collage.”

*Below Zero* photograph by Talia Mistretta

“I really enjoy the crisp look of the water and the air that winter provides. In this image you can feel the crispness of the air by looking at it. I used my Nikon D5100 DSLR.”

*Norse Goddess of Winter* photograph by Jenna VandeMerwe

“The face of winter to me is cuddling up in your bed on a snow day, and the light that leaks in from your windows is pure and bright from its reflection on the snow, so I decided to portray that in a photo. I wanted the white sheets to seem endless, and for my model to look small and comforted. I used my Sony 3100 DSLR camera.”
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!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26
Butterfield and Desdon-Fish Libraries closed
Cold Spring Village offices closed
Putnam County offices closed
Garrison Art Center closed
No recycling pickup in Cold Spring

Music
Spores Plays Nyo
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café
379 Main St., Beacon
845-895-1300 | townecriery.com

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28
Kids & Community
Open House
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Knox’s Headquarters
See details under Saturday.
Beanie Farmers Market
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Scenic Hudson River Center
Long Dock Drive, Beacon
845-234-9235 | beaniefarmersmarket.us

Smokey & the Banditos
10 p.m. The Hudson Room
See details under Friday.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29
Kids & Community
Vacation Camp (ages 5–12)
8 a.m. – 5 p.m. All Sport Health & Fitness
See details under Monday.
Vacation Camp (ages 6–9)
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Wildlife Education Center
See details under Monday.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30
Kids & Community
Vacation Camp (ages 5–12)
8 a.m. – 5 p.m. All Sport Health & Fitness
See details under Monday.
Vacation Camp (ages 6–9)
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Wildlife Education Center
See details under Monday.

This listing has been compiled and edited by Jesse Erick, Tara Dougherty, and Kristina Kollers. For a complete list of events, visit www.philipstown.info.
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 1**

**Happy New Year**

**Kids & Community**

**First Day Hike**
9 a.m. Rockwood Hall State Park
Route 5, Sleepy Hollow
| salemriveraudubon.org |

**First Day Hike**
10 a.m. Walkway Over the Hudson
61 Parker Ave., Poughkeepsie
845-454-9649 | walkway.org

**Interfaith Prayer for World Peace**
10 a.m. ChuangYin Monastery (Kuan Yin Hall)
2020 Route 301, Carmel
845-225-1819
bau.s.org | Lunch served at noon.

**Music**

Lou Year’s Day (Lou Reed Tribute)
8 p.m. Quinn’s
330 Main St., Beacon
845-833-8065 | beaconmusicfactory.com

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**FRIDAY, JANUARY 2**

**First Friday in Cold Spring**

**Garrison Art Center closed**

**Kids & Community**

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

**Health & Fitness**

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

**Sports**

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

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**Meetings & Lectures**

**Swearing-In Ceremony**
5 p.m. Putnam County Historic Courthouse
44 Gennaia Ave., Carmel
845-208-7800 | putnamcountyny.com

**ONGOING**

**art & design**

Visit philipstown.info/galleries

**religious Services**

Visit philipstown.info/services

**meetings & Lectures**

**alcoholics anonymous**

Visit philipstown.info/aa

**Support Groups**

Visit philipstown.info/sg

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**NY Alert**

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

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**Croton Sunset by Maria Pia Marrella, on view at Riverview Restaurant (See details on page 9.)**

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**Hudson Beach Glass**

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**Art & Design**

**Group Show: The Face of Winter (Opening)**
6 - 9 p.m. Gallery 66 NY
66 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5838 | gallery66ny.com

**Music**

**The McKreels/Mandelin Madness**
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe

**Patrick Murphy McDowell**
9:30 p.m. 12 Grapes | See details under Dec. 26.

**Craig ‘Holiday’ Haynes**
10 p.m. The Hudson Room | Details under Dec. 26

**Charlie Sabin**
9:30 p.m. Max’s on Main | Details under Dec. 26

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**TOWNE CRIER CAFE**

**NEW YEAR’S EVE**

Annual Bash featuring
Chris O’Leary Band + Simi Stone
Plus multi-course buffet

23 Jay Main Street
Beacon, NY 12508

Friday, Dec. 26
8:30 p.m.
“Speero Plays Nyro”
Laura Nyro Tribute

The CHRISTINE SPERO GROUP

Saturday, Dec. 27
7:30 p.m.
WILLIE NILE

Sunday, Dec. 28
7:30 p.m.
The GARLAND JEFFREYS BAND

Wednesday, Dec. 31
8:30 p.m.
NEW YEAR’S CELEBRATION

Chris O’Leary Band + Simi Stone

Multi-Course Buffet

Friday, Dec. 31
8:00 p.m.
The MCKREELS

Also
Mandolin Madness

with Elyry Mitterhoff (Hot Tuna)

Saturday, Dec. 31
6:30 p.m.
RED MOLLY

Sunday, Jan. 1
1:30 p.m.
OPEN MIC INVITATIONALS

Open Mic Wed. nights 7pm

Tickets and info: townecrier.com | 845-855-1300

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Kitchen closes 9:30pm (Fri. & Sat. at 10:30pm)

Closed Mon. & Tue.
Living a healthy lifestyle is as unique to each of us as our fingerprints. Ayurveda, one of the world’s oldest holistic health-care systems, provides a time-tested model to help us learn our individual needs. Shakti Yoga, a method of approaching yoga based in Ayurvedic theory, enhances our experience. This workshop combines Ayurveda and Shakti Yoga to help achieve optimal health and well-being.

Linda Lalita Winnick explains the principles of Ayurveda to determine our unique health profile. We practice asana, pranayama, and other techniques to harmonize our doshas (biological humors). As an added bonus, we will have tastings of Ayurvedic dishes!

We learn to:

• Conduct basic pulse diagnosis to help determine our constitution type and current imbalances
• Develop a diet, lifestyle routine, and mental and spiritual practices for balance and well-being
• Identify what styles of yoga benefit our personal health goals

New and experienced yoga students are welcome. Helping professionals and yoga teachers gain information they can use in their own practice, as well as with clients.

Linda Lalita Winnick, MA, owner of Shakti Yoga Studios in Woodstock, Saugerties, and Kingston, has practiced multiple styles of yoga for 25 years. She also holds a master’s degree in Ayurvedic medicine and yogic philosophy.

Introduction to Ayurveda & Seasonal Detoxing for your Dosha and a Healthy New Year
Saturday, January 10, 2 - 4:30 p.m.
SkyBaby Studio
75 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY • (845) 265-4444
$35 until Jan. 3 | $45 after
www.skybabyyoga.com

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Peeksill Farmers’ Market Expands Winter Season
Winter Market Opening Day Jan. 10 at Field Library

The city of Peekskill announced that beginning Jan. 10, the Peeksill Farmers Market, sponsored by the Peeksill Business Improvement District (BID), will have an expanded winter season. “The summer and winter farmers markets are important Peeksill family events,” said Jason Angell, executive director of the BID. Peeksill Mayor Frank Catanizola said, “There has been a great deal of enthusiasm for the market to become a year-round Saturday event. Thanks to the efforts of Corinna Makris, program director, the Peeksill Farmers Market tripled in size this year, in both the number of vendors and shoppers. We’re very happy we found an indoor space that works.” Hot chocolate and cookies will be provided by Kathleen’s Tea Room on Winter Market Opening Day Saturday, Jan. 10. Vendors will include Eight Mile Creek Farm, Cooperstown Cheese, Edensuke, Arch River meats, along with some new specialty grocery items. Expert rotating artisans and handcraft vendors such as local clothing designer Joerica Shea. A complete list of vendors will be updated on the market website PeeksillFarmersMarket.com. The Peeksill Farmers Market winter season will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday from Jan. 10 through April 25, on the main floor at the Field Library, 4 Nelson Ave., Peeksill, near the corner of Main Street (Route 6).

Beacon
Kids’ Art Workshops at Howland Library
Continue ‘Roller Derby Print Making’ focus of Jan. 14 session

Children ages 4 and up are invited to register creative during the cold-weather months by participating in two winter “Art Workshops With Tina” presented by artist Tina Chan Sweenie at Howland Public Library on 313 Main St. in Beacon. Sweenie will help the children explore different arts and crafts mediums as they use their imaginations to create unique pieces of art. The workshops will take place on Wednesdays, Jan. 14 and Feb. 11, from 4 to 5 p.m. The library is currently taking registrations for the Jan. 14 “Roller Derby Print Making” workshop. It will be an afternoon filled with texture. Using everything but the kitchen sink, children will test out different methods to create patterns and color. Parents/guardians must register children for the January workshop by contacting Ginny Figlia, head of youth services, at youth@beaconlibrary.org or 845-831-1334, ext. 103. Adults must accompany younger children.

Beacon Film Festival to Accept Submissions
Films will be accepted from Jan. 1 to May 31

On Jan. 1, the Beacon Independent Film Festival (BIFF) will begin accepting films for consideration for the third annual festival. The open submission process will extend until May 31. The 2015 festival will be held at University Settlement Camp in Beacon Sept. 18-20. Films can be submitted via their film directly through the film festival’s website, beaconindependentfilmfest.org, or by going to filmfreeway.com and searching for the Beacon Independent Film Festival. BIFF accepts narrative and documentary feature films, short films and works in progress. Animated films can be submitted within those categories. All rules and regulations can be found on the organization’s website. Founded by Beacon resident Terry Nelson, the Beacon Independent Film Festival celebrates filmmaking and the act of watching films with others in your community. It is a grassroots event that strives to make good film accessible to everyone. Films screened either do not have a distributor or are only lightly distributed; all represent a diversity of voices and perspectives. Local, national and international filmmakers are featured and many of them participate in discussions with the audience after their movies are shown. Within its own community, the Beacon Independent Film Festival wants to create a strong festival program to further enhance Beacon’s current reputation as an art mecca.

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F
few literary clubs in the U.S. can boast of a 120-year history as rich and diverse as the one at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

The West Point Ladies’ Reading Club (LRC) was founded by Mrs. Lusk in 1894, a time when women were only referred to by their husbands’ titles and typically didn’t have access to a formal education like most men did. Despite the confines so ciety placed on them, 16 women from West Point came together to form one of the oldest continuous literary clubs in America.

With a strong desire to educate themselves and members would take theater trips to New York City. Current members enjoy visiting local historical sites, such as Sunnyside Manor and Mark Twain’s house.

“My love to think that this club has been handed down through the generations to the current group of West Point women, who are trying hard to keep the traditions alive, while still adding some modernity,” said LaNd Neary. Neary, who is in her second term as president of the club, looks forward to the annual birthday luncheon, a tradition where members meet to celebrate the anniversary of the club by listening to guest speakers and enjoying food and fellowship.

“I am always overwhelmed by the history of our group during this celebration,” she said.

Darlene Johnson, who has been a member for nine years and is currently in her eighth year as club secretary, looks forward to the annual “Love Feast” and said it’s a wonderful tribute to a woman who was an integral part of the club. Each May, the Love Feast is held on Constitution Island in honor of Anna Bartlett Warner, one of the founding members who lived on the island with her sister, Susan. Warner was the first honorary member to join the club; while not a military spouse, she was actively involved with West Point and taught Sunday school to the cadets. She was a big supporter of the Red Cross, instead going to the Red Cross. The LRC events were cancelled and the money donated much of their time and money in wartime with food shortages, gas rationing and disease preparedness. Annual events were cancelled and the money instead went to the Red Cross. The LRC was a big supporter of the Red Cross, donating much of their time and money whenever possible.

Victorian-era formalities and strict parliamentary procedures for club meetings gave way to less formal proceedings. Trudy Pojman, a member since 2006, noted that parliamentary procedure is exercised only when needed, and meetings are less structured and more focused on the social aspects.

“Socializing is always important … but there is less focus on the intellectual side than in the past. Our officers addressed this and we continue to seek a good balance between past tradition and current needs and realities,” she said.

Perhaps one of the biggest changes the club has undergone is the selection process for membership.

“In the beginning, you had to be handpicked by members, and the group remained very homogenous,” Johnson said. “Over time, many in the West Point community grew to view the club as very exclusive and secretive.”

The nomination process was very elaborate, and by the 1960s women on post viewed the selection process as a popularity contest. Women nominated had to have five members sponsor them, and voting was done by ballot. As of 1947, all the women’s husbands wore the rank of lieutenant colonel or above, with the exception of two majors. Maj. Gen. D.V. Bennett, superintendent of USMA in 1966, wrote to the club suggesting they open it to all who were interested. Shortly after, everyone was free to join.

“Life is simply less formal now, and within the Ladies’ Reading Club, military rank plays no role,” said Pojman.

Bonds

Two things time has not altered in any way are the friendship bonds formed and a continued appreciation for literature.

“I enjoy the entire package, really — learning about new books and ideas among women who represent a wide range of ages and experiences, along with wonderful friendships,” Pojman said.

“Being in the LRC has enriched my life in many ways,” added Neary. “It has led to many new friendships … and I am always reminded by these books pre sentations that you truly cannot judge a book by its cover … this club has encouraged me to break away from my usual type of book.”

Johnson echoed this sentiment. “The LRC has made me open to more books than I was before and has broad ened my horizons,” she said.

Neary and Pojman agree that it is always fascinating to see what books other members choose, and Pojman enjoys discovering the covering of ways a particular theme is understood and interpreted by members.

Neary added: “I may think I know someone, but then she will choose a book that I never would have expected her to. I love when new pieces of friends are revealed to me in such ways.”

These strong bonds of friendship, along with a deep respect for preserving the past and willingness to evolve, are what keep this group thriving and strong. The ever-changing group of diverse and intelligent women continues to build upon an already rich history, and likely will continue to do so for many more years to come.

(See photo on next page.)

West Point Literary Club Continues 120-Year Legacy

By Jennifer Phoneaxypouva

By a strong desire to educate themselves and members select a book of their choosing and take turns presenting their selection to the group. Once a year, members also participate in a group read, where everyone reads the same book and discusses it together. Field trips have always been an important part of the club; in the past, members would take theater trips to New York City.

“I love to think that this club has been handed down through the generations to the current group of West Point women, who are trying hard to keep the traditions alive, while still adding some modernity,” said LaNd Neary. Neary, who is in her second term as president of the club, looks forward to the annual birthday luncheon, a tradition where members meet to celebrate the anniversary of the club by listening to guest speakers and enjoying food and fellowship.

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Changes

Preserving traditions has always been an important part of the LRC, but like the changing world around them, the club has in many ways evolved, too.

Yearly dues have increased from $0.25 to $15. Advances in technology allowed greater freedom in research and writing, as well as the ability to preserve club history. Topics and themes varied greatly throughout the years, reflecting the changing times, advances in science and technology, and personal interests.

Some years were darkened by the shadow of war. During World War II, not a little was recorded and meetings became less frequent. Time was spent helping the war effort and adjusting to life during wartime with food shortages, gas rationing and disease preparedness. Annual events were cancelled and the money instead went to the Red Cross. The LRC was a big supporter of the Red Cross, donating much of their time and money whenever possible.

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(See photo on next page.)
Garrison Fourth-Graders Produce Their Own Newspaper

Issue available online as Garrison Gazette on school website

Fourth-grade students in Jennifer Kirkpatrick’s and Amy Kuchera’s classes at Garrison Union Free School this month produced their own print edition of The Paper/Philipsptom.info (renamed the Garrison Gazette online) filled with news about coyotes in Garrison, blazing trails at the School Forest, how yoga can help kids, a look back at Butterfield Hospital, interviews with Superintendent Laura Mitchell and many other reports.

“After attending several workshops at Haldane on project-based learning, I wanted to incorporate an exciting, inquiry-based project during our nonfiction unit,” explained Kirkpatrick, who teaches English and social studies. In particular, she was looking for a project that addressed reading, writing and speaking.

“Once students were given their assignment letters, they asked so many thoughtful questions,” she said. The Garrison Gazette is posted online at gufs.org.

The homepage of Central Hudson’s website provides easier navigation and instant access to features and services used most by customers.

Central Hudson Debuts Enhanced Website

New layout designed to be more user-friendly

A new look and improved navigation are two of the features now found on Central Hudson’s updated website.

“We’re pleased to debut improved features, as online resources have become one of the most important ways our customers communicate with us,” said Denise D. VanBuren, vice president of public relations.

The new website was designed with consumers in mind. “We’ve incorporated information gathered on how our customers use our site, for example the most visited pages, and used online survey feedback in developing the new layout,” said VanBuren.

Central Hudson’s website offers a wide range of self-service options and features, such as:

- Online bill payment and electronic billing enrollment;
- Signing up for text alerts;
- Viewing billing and energy use history;
- Providing information on opening and closing accounts;
- Obtaining rebates on energy efficiency upgrades;
- Reporting power conditions and streetlight outages;
- Educational materials for school children;
- Electric and natural gas safety information;
- Timely topics on electric vehicles, and much more.

Additional improvements are underway. “We are building off this new design to make further enhancements to our site, and we will strive to continue adding new features, services and options going forward,” said VanBuren.

To see the new site, visit CentralHudson.com.

Central Hudson’s website

The Spa at Bear Mountain

View our menu of services or book online:

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

Offers cannot be combined.

Mention this ad and receive 100 loyalty bonus points.

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

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

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

Buy 4 Manicures/Pedicures and get 5th one FREE.
Buy 5 Massages and get 6th one FREE.
Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and Angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love Incarnate, Love Divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

~ by Christina Georgina Rossetti

Source: The Poetical Works of Christina Georgina Rossetti, with a Memoir and Notes by William Michael Rossetti (1904)