Town Board, environmentalists discuss issues at stake

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The U.S. government refers to long lines of railroad cars carrying crude oil as “High-Hazard Flammable Trains.” Some environmentalists call them “bomb trains.”

And because the trains, as well as boats, carry vast quantities of the volatile fuel along the Hudson River and beyond, on Jan. 28 Gov. Andrew Cuomo ordered state agencies to confront the dangers. Last week, his administration reported progress on some initiatives, ongoing work on others and the need for similar responses by the federal government and oil industry.

Conservationists welcomed the state’s tentative good news, but echoed its pleas for a doubling-down of efforts by other players. The trains run along the Hudson River, typically on the river’s western side, past historic communities, numerous schools (including the U.S. Military Academy at West Point) and near sensitive environmental areas.

Philipstown fears

Supervisor Richard Shea Wednesday night (Dec. 16) proposed at a Town Board workshop that Philipstown take a stand. “A lot of communities have passed resolutions calling for a more thorough study of the track bed, a more thorough study of the whole process,” he said. “The volume of trains carrying this type of oil has increased dramatically. Suddenly there was just a lot more traffic coming down the other side of the river.”

He said it involves “the same type of oil, same situation” as in Canada, where a recent oil-train accident killed 47 people and devastated a village. Along the Hudson, “who would be responsible for responding to an emergency episode like that? Are they going to rely on volunteer emergency services?”

Shea also mentioned a photo shot by a resident this year of an apparently deteriorated trestle across the river and an apparent shrug-off by the pertinent train company. “(Philipstown.info) reported on such a condition. See “CSX Says Bridge Safe,” Aug. 1.) “It strikes me as a hazard and something that hasn’t been looked at,” he said. “We’re not asking for the world here. We’re just asking, ‘Has somebody taken a good review of this?’ What (Continued on page 3)

Town Board Considers Composting Village Leaves

Also accepts bid for VFW building

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Cold Spring needs a place to leave leaves. At least that’s the word from a master-gardening student whose research prompted a proposal for the village government to team up with the Town of Philipstown and use the latter’s old landfill for dumping and composting leaves collected from village yards and streets.

Philipstown’s Town Board learned of the idea in a presentation by village resident Richard Franco at its formal monthly meeting Thursday (Dec. 4). The town government operates the landfill (no longer used for trash disposal) as a recycling area, located off Lane Gate Road just outside Cold Spring and Nelsenville.

The board took no immediate action on Franco’s proposal. In other business, the supervisor and four councilors accepted the offer of $285,000 by Philipstown resident Kim Conner for the VFW building on Kemble Avenue, a town-owned property that the Town Board had tried for several months to sell. Conner, a member of the Philipstown Planning Board, said after the meeting that when no other buyer emerged, she decided to buy the building, where the Planning Board once met.

Leafy leftovers

For years, the Village of Cold Spring has unloaded leaves on an empty village-owned lot at the end of Benedict Road. However, Franco explained, “that place has pretty much reached its capacity, and they’re looking for an alternate spot.” Likewise, he said, the village is interested in composting its leaves and similar yard waste but no suitable land exists within village limits. “So,” he wondered, “is the landfill a potential location? He estimated that the village gathers about 500 cubic yards of leaves annually. “What we’re talking about is Cold Spring leaves because that’s where we’ve got the need. This would certainly help the village out. Next fall they’re going to start collecting (again). They don’t have any place to put it.”

Franco became aware of the situation when, in his gardening coursework, he looked at how local governments handle leaves and composting. He said Cold Spring Highway Foreman Ed Trimble and Philipstown Highway Superintendent...
Shake Up Brunch With Shakshouka

By Mary Ann Ebner

A free-verse poem that one of my sons composed at school a few years ago hangs over my desk. He described me as someone “who loves to cook and go to other countries and study them” and “likes a clean house, but has a mess for two boys and a destructive dog.” He shared his perspective candidly and I can’t dispute the details. I can make my way around the mess to find the kitchen most of the time, and appreciate the nourishment that comes from exploring the cuisine and cultures of other countries.

My favorite explorations are personal treks, but when I can’t take a journey from here to there, I rely on the Chronicles of friends, family and illuminating writers to help discover the next culinary treasure.

The December 2014 issue of Smithsonian, featuring a cover story of the boy Pharaoh Tutankhamun and the world of Egyptology, recently arrived in my inbox. The article revisits the mystery of the young pharaoh and his death more than 3,000 years ago. The Egyptian people and the country’s historical wonder won me over when I made a trek to Egypt with my husband over a decade ago, but returning to Egypt today poses challenges. Unrest and the security situation have made a profound impact on the tourism industry, an important economic driver for the country. Inflation has also had a significant impact on the tourism industry, an important economic driver for the country.

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about the CSX track bed? What about DOT [Department of Transportation] protocols?”

Councillor Mike Leonard remarked that a crude-oil rail accident “would have a direct impact on the Hudson River — di-
rect. It’s not like you’re inland and you’ve got time to contain it somehow.” Along with all the other massive problems, an accident would probably shut down not only trains on the west side of the river but river traffic as well, Leonard said.

Other board members made similar points and Shea promised to draft a pro-
posed local resolution soon.

From New York to North Dakota

New York state released its 58-page “status report,” “Transporting Crude Oil in New York State: A Review of Incident Response and Prevention Capacity,” Dec. 1. As the report notes, since 2008 a huge upsurge in production of crude oil, much of it from the Bakken shale forma-
tion in North Dakota and Montana, and Saskatchewan and Manitoba provinces in Canada, has led to a proliferation of crude-oil transport through New York state. According to the document, New York contains no refineries, but Albany serves as a transfer hub and crude-oil trains use up to 25 percent of rail lines in New York, conveying the oil to refineries elsewhere.

Dependence on the federal action this summer, New Yorkers perceive sluggish-
ness in Washington.

“Over the past six months, our admin-
istration has taken swift and decisive action to … better protect New Yorkers from the possibility of a crude oil disas-
ter,” Cuomo said in the release Tuesday (Dec. 9), the Empire State first responders on the Hudson River in Albany.

• Alongside the Federal Railroad Ad-

ministration, conducted seven “bitz” inspection sweeps of oil-tanked infrastructure, covering 6,064 rail cars and approximately 2,560 miles of track and detecting 740 track and rail equipment defects, including 12 hazardous materials defects that the

• Released “strategic and tactical guide for fire departments during the initial phases of a rail incident involving crude oil,” while observ-

ing “that any significant derailment involving a crude oil spill or fire will likely require a large-scale and multi-agency response from all levels of government.”

• Sought swift implementation of federal regulations mandating use of safer railroad tank cars for crude-oil transportation, and promoted other crude-oil train safety measures at the federal level.

• Encouraged the Coast Guard to review the response plans of tankers and tug boats involved in crude-oil shipping by water to ensure that those plans adequately account for potential dangers and worked with the Coast Guard in coordination efforts.

• Asked the American Petroleum Insti-
tute (API), a leading trade group in the nation, experienced derailments in

OGS: 

The environmental group also pro-
duced that the state change its oil spill fund approach to safety,” he concluded, “there

The environmental group also pro-
posed that the state change its oil spill fund program to increase fees on crude oil transported through the state and channel the additional money to spill prevention and preparedness. At pres-
ent, it said, cleaning an oil spill would cost 40 times more than the spill fund contains.

“IT IS CRUCIAL that the state dedicate addi-
tional resources to dramatically reduce the daily threat to communities and nat-
ural resources throughout the state and in the Hudson Valley,” said Ned Sullivan, Scenic Hudson president. “We’ve seen disasters with crude oil accidents across the nation, experienced derailments in the Hudson Valley and witnessed a ris-
ing … as well as tank-car design,” new-

braking capabilities” and “proper test-
ing … as a necessary, logical, safety step … one of the simplest ways to reduce the risks that our communities, first-responders and ecosystems are confronted with on a dai-
basis,” said Phillip Musegaas, River-
keeper’s Hudson River program director.

Specifically mentioned in the state report, the American Petroleum Insti-
tute did not respond to a request for comment. In a Sept. 30 press briefing, though, API President Jack Gerard dis-
cussed the issue.

“North America’s rail network moves hazardous materials without incident 99.998 percent of the time,” Gerard as-
serted. “The challenge for both industry and regulators is to address and elimi-
nate the remaining .002 percent.” He endorsed outreach to emergency re-
sponders “to help ensure they have the training and information they need” and cited API support for trains “enhanced braking capabilities” and “proper test-
ing … as well as tank-car design,” new-
car construction and safety-retrofitting.
However, he argued that moving too fast could disrupt fuel production and cost, in consumer impact, $22.8 to $45.2 bil-
lion over 10 years. “While tank cars are an important part of the comprehensive approach to safety,” he concluded, “there are limits to what tank car design can achieve. Getting to zero incidents will take an equal effort to prevent accidents and improve accident response.”

North Dakota’s tougher standards take effect April 1 and, according to its indus-
trial commission, affect “every barrel of Bakken crude” in the state. Lynn Helms, North Dakota’s director of Mineral Re-
sources, said his department would con-
duct frequent visits and tank car companies failing to comply with the rules could face penalties of up to $12,000 per day of violation.
Residents Can Learn About Government Health Care Options Dec. 13

Affordable Care Act help at Butterfield Library

As a free workshop this coming Saturday, Philipstown residents and others in the area who lack health care can learn about ways to obtain it through the federal and state governments’ Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”) system.

The training/information program, on “The Affordable Care Act and You and the Community Health Advocates Program” will occur at the Butterfield Library, 10 Morris Ave., in Cold Spring, on Dec. 13, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Organizers request that attendees register in advance by calling 845-605-4466.

Program representatives recently addressed a Philipstown Town Board meeting outlining the program to residents to take advantage of the no-cost advice at such information sessions and get health care coverage.

The 2014-15 open enrollment period under the Affordable Care Act began Nov. 15 and runs until Feb. 15. New York state provides the health care through its Marketplace Health Insurance initiative.

TOWN BOARD CONSIDERS COMPOSTING VILLAGE LEAVES (from page 1)

Roger Chirico had discussed the landfill as a leaf-disposal composting site and encountered sticking points, such as access to the site by Cold Spring personnel. He also said that composting probably wouldn’t generate revenue and thus the town government might incur a small overhead cost for its participation.

He said composting leaf and similar yard waste results in a 6-to-1 reduction in volume and that Beacon has been composting leaves for about 20 years. Beacon initially supplied the composted material, but it was in such demand at $10 a ton that trucks lined up to get it and caused traffic congestion. Now, he said, Beacon simply gives the composted material to residents.

Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea seemed surprised by Cold Spring’s apparent problem and the circuitous appeal to the town. “The village has not approached us at all about this if they have this pressing need,” he said.

From the audience Cold Spring Trustee Stephanie Hawkins confirmed that Trimbale and Chirico had been talking and said “it’s something we need to defer to highway (officials).” Hawkins also noted that she, Mayor Ralph Falloon and presumably the entire Village Board would support “any collaboration that works for both parties.”

“Ultimately, that would be a Town Board decision,” she said, “not something we rely upon by the highway department officials, Shea responded. And so far, he reiterated, “we haven’t heard anything directly from the village government.”

Turnning to the VFW sale, Shea announced that “we do have a bidders. That’s a good thing as well.” It means that the town’s Office for the Aging (or Senior Resources), for which Putnam County pays rent on the VFW, must move. A senior citizens outreach coordinator works out of the space now. Shea suggested that the town could find him temporary quarters at the Philipstown Recreation Center in Garrison, although long-term the coordinator “has to stay in the village.”

Town Planning Board Chairman Anthony Mebane, a former Nelsenville trustee, remarked that the Village of Nelsenville might have space in its Village Hall complex to accommodate the outreach effort — a suggestion that drew favorable reactions from Town Board members.

At a Town Board workshop Dec. 10, Shea explained that the building had not changed hands, since as of that date 24 days remained in the window of opportunity for someone to mount a challenge to the sale by seeking a “permissive referendum” on it. “It is not sold yet, but we anticipate the sale of the VFW,” he said.

After the Dec. 4 meeting, Conner said she has no firm plans for the VFW. “I have to figure out what I can do” in terms of zoning and other considerations, she said. She observed that, equipped with kitchen and bathroom facilities, the building might be adaptable as living space and said she doesn’t want to dispose of collected leaves, Cold Spring uses an empty lot at the end of Benedict Road. Photo by L.S. Armstrong

Letters to the Editor

Officials in anti-SAFE Act spectacle

Dear Editor,

The Dec. 5 front-page article covering the rally against the SAFE Act raises many questions, foremost of which is why our highest-level elected county officials would intimate that they will not enforce the New York law? Is it within their purview to pick and choose the laws that are acceptable to them for enforcement?

When did the offices of district attorney, sheriff and county clerk become so political? Is it appropriate for the top officials in law enforcement to be openly defying the law? What about the people who disagree with their stance; are they just wrong and are my opinion to be completely discounted?

As an avid sportsman and gun owner I know the huge responsibility that comes with gun ownership. As an elected official I know that I represent all the people in my town, not just the people who agree with my views. I am dismayed to see our top elected county officials participate in such spectacle.

Richard Shea
District attorney: Philipstown.info misquoted me

To the Editor:

On Wednesday, Dec. 3, I was proud to be one of several speakers at an information session on “The Affordable Care Act and You” that was sponsored by the Philipstown Supervisor’s Office.

I reiterated, “we haven’t heard anything” about the 2014-15 open enrollment period under the Affordable Care Act. New York state residents were in attendance, as well as several members of the press, and the event was filmed on multiple cameras. I was disheartened to see the event mischaracterized by Philipstown.info as a discussion of strategies for “thwarting” the SAFE Act. I was even more disappointed my remarks were misquoted, reporting that I signaled that enforcing the SAFE Act remains a low priority” for the district attorney’s office.

Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, I discussed at great length the Dec. 1, 2013, decision by U.S. District Court Chief Judge William Skretney, which upheld most provisions of the SAFE Act but ruled one provision — the seven-round magazine limit — was unconstitutional.

As I explained that night, Skretney ruled the seven-bullet limit was arbitrary and capricious with no real legal basis behind it. I agree.

Although Skretney’s Western District decision was not yet pending here in the Southern District, as district attorney I do have the legal authority to follow it, and that is what I have chosen to do. On July 18, 2014, I sent a letter to the Putnam County Fish and Game Association, which liaisons with the state’s Department of Environmental Conservation, to inform them about New York state’s gun laws. The letter was also sent to the Governor’s office.

I “signaled that enforcing the SAFE Act is part of that constitutional.” In fact, I’ve had to have alterations done to my own firearms to ensure compliance with the law.

Sincerely,

Adam Levy
Putnam County District Attorney
Cold and Darkness Fail to Deter Santa and Residents at Tree-Lighting

Bandstand event sponsored by Cold Spring Village government

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

At least 100 local residents of all ages, to say nothing of half a dozen (or more) dogs, turned out Sunday night (Dec. 7) at the Cold Spring bandstand on the Hudson Riverfront for the annual Christmas tree-lighting ceremony, organized by the village government.

The plummeting temperature (this is Cold Spring, after all) and darkness did not thwart the high spirits of the crowd, sipping warm drinks, listening to re-creation (at least here) of the soldiers stamping their feet against the chill as they awaited the lighting of the tree and Santa Claus. Shortly after the lights transformed the place from a dreary into something sparkling and almost magical against the glowing, the venerable St. Nick appeared. As usual — at least here — he eschewed the sleigh and reindeer and arrived in a shiny red truck, courtesy of Cold Spring Fire Company No. 1.

At the bandstand, Santa quickly claimed his “throne,” a carved wooden chair that looked like an antique, and greeted the children who lined up to talk to him one-on-one, perhaps sharing Christmas gift expectations. Their parents waited patiently below, snapping photos.

And with that, Cold Spring’s holiday season officially began.

The village mayor and trustees, donors and local organizations all played a role in making it possible.

According to Trustee Bruce Campbell, who serves as deputy mayor, “Philipstown Market (Vera and Dominic) donated the tree’s lights. Cold Spring-gun donated the candy canes, C&E Paint donated some of the hardware in decorating, Hudson House contributed with miscellaneous supplies, Dan Dillon was MC (master of ceremonies) for another year” and wreaths from Carolyn’s Flowers Shoppes were draped on the tree. The fire company provided Santa, while the hot chocolate, cookies and decorating were supplied by the village Recreation Commission and village government.

Nuisance Bear Shot with Pellets in Garrison

(from page 1)

to be the most dramatic by far.

After the bear’s earlier visits, Berger had tried to discourage it from returning by placing a board with protruding, 2-inch spikes directly below one of the bird feeders — hoping that the sharp nails would convince the bear to leave the feeder alone. But the bear was unfazed. It “didn’t bother him. He stood right on the spikes,” Berger said.

Things only got worse. The bear not only came very close to the house — it was leaning against one of the windows.

Warning shot not enough

“I figured I’d yell at it,” Berger said, and at first the strategy seemed working. Stepping outside, Berger hollered at the bear. It backed off by “about 7 or 8 feet.” But then it stopped. Armed with a shotgun, Berger managed to round a corner into the air, thinking that the loud noise would startle the animal, hastening its exit.

But the bear charged right into the air, thinking that the loud noise would startle the animal, hastening its exit.

Berger called the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department and a deputy was quickly dispatched to the house, though by then crisis had ended.

Birdshot scared the bear

“I have no interest in shooting anything. I support hunting but I’m not a hunter,” Berger said. “I didn’t want to kill him.” To that end, he had purchased birdshot, shotgun shells filled with light-weight pellets and commonly used for hunting small game such as rabbits and pheasants but not powerful enough to kill a bear. Since the incident, Berger has also purchased rubber bullets in case the bear decides to return.

Berger said he had purchased a shotgun because, “If you live in the woods, you have to have something.” On three occasions he used the weapon to shoot rabid raccoons, one of which had actually chased him.

A much darker incident had also contributed to Berger’s decision to arm himself. “After the John Marciniak killing, I figured I needed (a gun),” he said. Marciniak, owner of the Garrison Garage, was murdered outside his Route 9 business on New Year’s Eve, 2008.

Numbers may be increasing

In an email to The Paper, John Stowell, program coordinator at the Taconic Outdoor Education Center (TOEC), said that birdseed is a favorite food source for black bears, a species that he said is “skilled at manipulating feeders.” He ad-vised homeowners that if bear problems are in an area they decide to put out and after winter their heavy sleep period, birdseed, dog food, household garbage and other food sources should be secured and removed from the exterior of homes.

According to Stowell, bears in western Putnam County are transient while parts of the county may have a resident popu-lation. “This pattern may soon change as black bear populations are increasing and ranges are expanding in southeast New York.” He said that TOEC staff and other reliable sources have reported sev-eral sightings over the past two years.

“Most sightings are in the late spring — when year old bear are encour-aged to leave the family structure and seek their own way — often wandering through residential areas.” As a result, he suggested that homeowners remove all bird feeders from around the home by April 1.

Stowell also had some advice for hikers or local residents who might encounter a black bear. “Do not run. Stand tall, hold your ground and make as much noise as possible,” he said.

The American black bear is found throughout most of North America including Alaska, much of Canada and the mainland U.S., and as far south as north-ern Mexico. According to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, there are 6,000 to 8,000 black bears in the state. Adult males av-erage 300 pounds while females weigh in at about 170 pounds.

Further Delay in Assault Case

Graffiti vandals to perform community service

By Michael Turton

Resolution of charges against the operator of Whistling Willie’s American Grill continues to drag on. In Cold Spring Justice Court on Wednesday (Dec. 10), Judge Thomas Costello granted Putnam County Assistant District Attorney David Bishop’s request for an adjournment until Jan. 14, the latest in a series of procedural delays. Ray DiFrancesco is charged with two counts of assault and giving a false statement, class A misdemeanors, related to an incident in Cold Spring in the early morning hours of Jan. 1 of this year.

Two of the three youths involved in painting graffiti in several locations in Cold Spring last August also appeared in court on Wednesday. Two males, ages 16 and 17, will each pay one-third of the $700 in restitution as ordered by Costello. In addition, the 17-year-old will be required to perform 75 hours of community service. The 16-year-old, who defaced only one sign, will do 15 hours of community service. The defendants will propose the type service they will provide, to be approved by Bishop. Once the community service has been completed, the court will consider adjournment in contemplation of dismissal of the charges against the two. The third youth charged as a result of the graffiti spree will appear in court in January.

Costello addressed the two teens: “You’ve been given an opportunity — don’t botch it up. Say thank you to Mr. Bishop,” he added. The two turned to Bishop and thanked him.

A 17-year-old male will be required to perform 50 hours of community service after pleading guilty to charges of trespass at Mayor’s Park and at Haldane School last August. No damage or theft occurred as a result of the incident.

The youth will appear in court again in January, after completion of the community service, at which time the court will consider dismissal of the charges against him.
Marbled Meat Shop Launches
Another new grass-fed butcher business
By Alison Rooney

Hot on the heels of Beano’s new butcher shop, Barb’s Butchery, profiled on these pages just last month (Nov. 21), comes word of a second store, also designed to keep carnivores happy, this one in Philipstown. Marbled Meat Shop (MMS) has just opened, immediately south of the Cold Spring Coffee Pantry, both part of the complex in Vera’s Philipstown Market. MMS was formerly On the Fly Cycling Studio, which relocated in November just a bit further up Route 9.

The coincidences of the two new meateries don’t end there — both have women as their catalysts, and both turned to it following years as high school teachers — food for thought, perhaps. Lisa Hall is at the helm of MMS, along with her husband, Chris Pascarella. They are newly arrived, having lived in Philipstown since just last May. In Brooklyn, where they lived formerly, Hall and Pascarella worked in their professions — she, a graduate of the School of Visual Studies, where they lived formerly, Hall and Pascarella worked in their professions — teaching history at a public high school there; he, a graduate of the School of Visual Arts, a 3-D animator — and spent eight years as organizers of a meat share, a collective wherein orders were placed with a farm in Pine Plains, for; say, half a steer or a whole hog, and the butchered animal was delivered to them and split evenly among the members. The meat share also organized barbecues, recipe exchanges and other meat-related activities.

After giving birth to their son in June 2013, they both felt constrained by their careers, with a desire to provide the public with meat from farms with particular growing practices and both turned to it following years as high school teachers — food for thought, perhaps. Lisa Hall is at the helm of MMS, along with her husband, Chris Pascarella. They are newly arrived, having lived in Philipstown since just last May. In Brooklyn, where they lived formerly, Hall and Pascarella worked in their professions — she, teaching history at a public high school there; he, a graduate of the School of Visual Arts, a 3-D animator — and spent eight years as organizers of a meat share, a collective wherein orders were placed with a farm in Pine Plains, for; say, half a steer or a whole hog, and the butchered animal was delivered to them and split evenly among the members. The meat share also organized barbecues, recipe exchanges and other meat-related activities.

Cheese selections at Marbled Meat Shop

While Hall is in training, learning for people to choose from.

Above, Chris Pascarella, left, and Lisa Hall, proprietors of Marbled Meat Shop; at right, the shop’s location on Route 9; below, a view of the shop’s meat display

Approved farm, grass-fed with grain supplements, with no pesticides, antibiotics or growth hormones used. Each animal, which has been processed right there at the farm, “has never traveled, never been distressed,” said Hall. The cuts are flash frozen with all aspects handled locally to MMS, and “the quality of the meat is not compromised by it being flash frozen,” according to Hall.

In addition, MMS is ordering specific cuts of 100 percent grass-fed meat, on request, from Finger Lakes Farms, a cooperative located in the Finger Lakes region. Not just pork and beef, the range includes specialized items such as rabbit and goat. Generally, orders are sent in on Monday afternoons, and delivered to them a couple of days later, ready for pickup Wednesday through the weekend. Hall advised that currently it is best to email orders, saying, “We can get almost anything and can give prices before ordering.”

On their first weekend open, MMS did very well, only three steaks remained at closing Sunday.

In the spring, there will be much more fresh meat on offer, and special requests will be accommodated, down to very specific cuts including “a specific part of a specific muscle,” Hall said. There will also be a walk-in cooler outside the shop, for people to choose from.

On hand now, and growing as well, is a cheese case, filled with selections from Saxelby Cheesemongers of Red Hook, Brooklyn, which specializes in farmstead, American-made cheese. Along with the cheese are small-batch farm salumi products as well as condiments, including mustards, Mike’s hot honey, spice rubs and a hot sauce made in Ghent, New York. As with the meats, this line will expand over the next few months.

Hall said it’s “been really fun talking with like-minded local ‘makers.’” She and Pascarella, in turn, hope to engage with the community over time, with classes and other activities. Calling upon her background as a teacher, Hall would “love to do some educational programs in the future. I already miss teaching and one of my favorite things that I did as a teacher was taking my kids on a field trip to a butcher in Red Hook, part of knowing where things come from. That’s important to me, and I hope to work with local schools and others here who feel the same way.”

Marbled Meat Shop’s winter hours are Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. These hours will be expanded in the spring. They are located at 3091 Route 9. For more information, visit marbledmeatshop.com, view their Facebook page, email them at marbledmeatshop@gmail.com or phone 845-265-2830.
Art, Biology, Species Preservation
Intersect in Gallery Exhibit

Scientist/artist Brandon Ballengée to speak at Beacon Institute

By Alison Rooney

Life, growth and renewal are central themes in the work of artist Brandon Ballengée, who will speak at Beacon Institute’s annual luncheon this Saturday, Dec. 13, at 5 p.m.; a reception follows.

Ballingée grew up amid 20 acres of forest, ponds and streams in the Ohio countryside, drew from those surroundings an abiding interest in art, biology and nature herself. His “statement of intent” reads, in part: “My transdisciplinary practice has bridged primary scientific studies with ecological art and engaged environmental stewardship. Underlying my practice is a systemic methodology, which posits art practice as a means of realizing research science, and vice versa. Inherent to this working method is an impetus for ‘ecosystem activism’ implemented through participatory biological field investigations and laboratory programs that stress public involvement — my attempt at social sculpting. My artworks come from direct experiences with amphibians, birds, fish and insect species found in today’s preternatural ecosystems and those observed in post-natural laboratory settings. The art itself is made from diverse mediums … all of these try to re-examine the context of the art object from a static form (implying rationality and control) into a more organic structure reflecting the inherent chaos found within evolutionary processes, biological systems and nature herself.”

With a string of degrees in both fine arts and biological science, Ballengée recalled that he “always wanted to do both … I had a painting studio in my parents’ barn, growing up, and they also spent two days a week looking at data available to be out there and the rest of the year to use the data. There’s a lot of downtime doing amphibians in temperate climates.” Generally Ballengée spends a few days a week looking at data and two more on making the imagery.

The fieldwork fuels the art, and vice versa. Ballengée cites as an example work he did last spring, in the Netherlands, at the startling statistics on their decline, Ballengée noted that there is a “41 percent decline in populations” of certain species. “The thinking is that this decline happened relatively recently. I want to do whatever I can to make people aware of this — that’s the underlying goal.”

When Ballengée exhibits his work, he no longer puts, as he once did, lengthy descriptions of the background and data next to each piece. He has come to realize that people are... (Continued on page 15)
The Calendar

Looking for things to do 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 12

Kids & Community
Sparkle!
5 - 9 p.m. BoscoBelt | 1601 Route 90, Garrison
845-265-3638 | boscobelt.org
Kids’ Night Out (ages 5+)
6:30 - 9:30 p.m. All Sport Health & Fitness
17 Old Main St., Fishkill
845-896-5678 | allsportfishkill.org
Holiday Sing
7 p.m. Beacon Sloop Club
2 Red Fyord Drive, Beacon
914-907-4028 | beaconsloopclub.org
Warwick Valley Winery and Distillery Dinner
7:15 p.m. The Garrison
1055 Route 9, Garrison
845-424-3604, ext. 25 | thegarrison.com

Art & Design
Holiday Show (Opening)
5 - 9 p.m. Russel Cusick Gallery
46 Beekman St., Beacon
845-729-9262 | reflectionsontehudson.com

Film & Theater
All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914
7 p.m. St. Mary’s Church
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-202-7500 | dogwoodbar.com

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

Second Saturday in Beacon

Kids & Community
Breakfast with Santa
8:30 a.m. Bear Mountain Inn
55 Hessian Drive, Highland Falls
845-786-2731 | visitbeaconmain.com
Cold Spring Farmers’ Market
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. St. Mary’s Church
3 Chestnut St., Cold Spring | coldspringmarket.com
Downing Hill Hike (Easy)
10 a.m. Appalachian Market
1467 Route 9, Garrison
845-473-9892 | mihudsonvalley.org
Holiday Boutique
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. DesmonD-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-265-9152 | desmondfishlibrary.org
Holiday Feeling Project
10 a.m. Common Ground Farm
79 Farmroad Lane, Wappingers Falls
845-233-4424 | commongroundfarm.org
Holiday Project Workshop (First Session)
10 a.m. Grades K-3 | 12:30 p.m. Grades 4-6
Philpstown Recreation Center
107 Glyncliff Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | phipstownrecreation.com
Hudson Valley Toy Holiday Craft Fair
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-833-4408 | howlandculturalcenter.org
Miss Emily’s Family Hometown
10 a.m. Beacon Music Factory
620 Route 52, Beacon | 845-765-0472
beaconmusicfactory.com
Seed Wreaths
10 a.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Drive, Cornwall
845-634-9496 | outdoordiscoverycenter.org
Create Your Own Holiday Wreath
1 p.m. Fort Montgomery Historic Site
690 Route 9W, Fort Montgomery
845-244-2134 | nygorillas.com
Santa Visits Secret Garden
1 - 4 p.m. Kalmert at Carynly
72 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-4403
Holiday Open House
2 - 4 p.m. Monticello
564 Route 90, Garrison
845-424-3812 | russelwrightcenter.org
Holiday Tree Lighting
3 p.m. Kids’ craft | 4 p.m. Santa arrives
Main Street at Route 90, Beacon
beaconarts.org
Army vs. Navy Fundraiser
3 - 7 p.m. Doug’s Pub
54 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-9500
Living Nativity
3:30 p.m. Saunders Farm
Old Albany Post Road, Garrison
Christmas With the Ellisons
4 p.m. Knox’s Headquarters
289 Forge Hill Road, Vale’s Gate
845-561-5499 | nysportalkens.com
Roll Your Own Mezzusah Workshop
5 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance
331 Verplanck Avenue, Beacon
845-831-0122 | beaconhebrewalliance.org
Kids’ Night Out (ages 3-12)
5 - 8 p.m. Church on the Hill
245 Main St., Cold Spring
584 Route 9D | coldspringchurchonthhill.org

Sparkle!
5 - 9 p.m. BoscoBelt
See details under Friday.

4th Annual Santa’s Polo Crawl
6 p.m. - Midnight Downtown Peekskill
peekskillartssalliance.org

Holiday Cheers Celebration
6 - 11 p.m. Bearlake Beacon
215 Main St., Beacon
845-765-1890 | bearlakebeezz.com

Health & Fitness
Adequate Care Act and You (Talk)
10 a.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
800-453-4660 to register

The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf (Youth Players)
7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-4618 | phipstownrecreation.com
Cheaper by the Dozen
8 p.m. The Beacon Theatre | 445 Main St., Beacon
845-453-2978 | thebeacontheatre.org

Music
A John Denver Christmas Starring Ted Vigli
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
914-735-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com
Myles Mancuso Band
8 p.m. BearFunRover Cafe | 205 S. Division, Peekskill
914-737-1701 | beaufunrovercafe.com
Caravan of Thieves
8:30 p.m. Tomie Chier Cato
370 Main St., Beacon
845-855-1300 | townofcato.com
Live Music
9 p.m. Wristing Wilkie’s | 184 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2012 | wristingwilkes.com
Pink Ride
9 p.m. Quinn’s | 330 Main St., Beacon
845-833-8065 | quinnbeacon.com

T. Jay
9:30 p.m. Max’s on Main | 246 Main St., Beacon
845-838-6207 | maxsonmain.com

The Billy Joel Experience
10 p.m. The Hudson Room | 25 S. Division St., Peekskill
914-788-3663 | hudsonroom.com
The Spookfish/Dean Cercone/Brook Bread
10 p.m. Dogwood
47 E. Main St., Beacon
845-202-7500 | dogwoodbar.com

Lament of an Expat: How I discovered America and tried to mend it.
- Now in its 7th printing – Leonora Burton

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How I discovered America and tried to mend it.
- Now in its 7th printing – Leonora Burton

“If people are still reading literature this book might be acceptable as a stocking stuffer.”
- Mr. Ebenezer Scrooge

“The book has pictures, which is nice, but only a tiny one of me on the cover, which is not nice.”
- Columnist, Tara

“I couldn’t pick it up so I couldn’t put it down.”
- Scribbler, F. Scott Fitzgerald

“This is the sparkling, often bemused account of an expat’s plunge into American culture with its love of the gun, its rigid constitution, its singular laws and with the kindness, warmth, generosity and humanity of ordinary Americans.

Buy it at Antipodean Books, Country Touch or Country Goose.
Film & Theater
27 Santos With an Elf Called Kevin (Musical)
1 & 3:30 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Friday.
All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914
2 & 7 p.m. St. Mary’s Church
See details under Friday.

Hudson Lyric Opera: Amahl and the Night Visitors
4 p.m. Graymoor | 1350 Route 9, Garrison
900-329-6201 | graymoorcenter.org
The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf (Youth Performers)
4 & 7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Friday.

Comedy Night
7 p.m. Beale Street Barber Shop
907 South St., Peekskill
914-271-5891 | bealestreetbarbershop.com

Cheaper by the Dozen
8 p.m. The Beacon Theatre
See details under Friday.
The Santa Closet
8 p.m. Embarc
925 South St., Peekskill
347-453-3182 | embarkpeekskill.com

Music
Songwriting With Woody Guthrie (Workshop)
1 p.m. Beacon Music Factory
629 Route 52, Beacon
845-765-0472 | beaconmusicfactory.com
The Progressions
7:30 p.m. Silver Spoon Café
124 Main St., Cold Spring
845-205-2225 | silverspoons.com
Alexis Cole & Femme Fabulous
8 & 10 p.m. The Hudson Room
See details under Friday.

Four Bands
8 p.m. Dogwood | See details under Friday.

(To page 11)
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JOIN BEACONARTS TODAY
BEACONARTS.ORG

happy holidays!

CITY OF BEACON & BEACONARTS ANNUAL HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING 2ND SATURDAY DECEMBER 13 3:00 - 5:00PM (VISIT WEBSITE FOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS)

ILLUMINATION LIGHTING UP OUR COMMUNITY BHA & BEACONARTS MENORAH DECEMBER 16 - 23 / 5:30PM

This little book sings the praises of a party, whether brunch, lunch, cocktails, dinner or dessert because nothing makes us happier than being with friends and family. An amusing romp through the rules—traditional and new for the way we live now—with descriptions of memorable occasions, cartoons and laugh out loud quotes, it also appeals to armchair party-throwers. But do not be fooled. This is a practical guide to the basics and includes tips, short cuts, inspirations, rules of thumb on quantities and recipes.

Available at Amazon.com

Gallery Exhibit
Ghosts of the Gulf
Brandon Ballengée
Artist and biologist
Brandon Ballengée combines art and science to create strikingly vivid images of Gulf of Mexico marine species collected in the wake of the Deep Water Horizons disaster.
Saturday, December 13, 5-7 pm
Artist Talk & Reception, a Beacon Second Saturday
Gallery at 199 Main Street, Beacon, NY
Advance registration requested www.bire.org

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JOIN BEACONARTS TODAY
BEACONARTS.ORG
The Calendar
845-561-3686  |  downingfilmcenter.com
19 Front St., Newburgh
See details under Saturday.

8
Awake: The Life of Yogananda
4 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Friday.

4 p.m. St. Philip's Church  |  1101 Route 9D, Nelsonville Village
4 p.m. Butterfield Library
7 p.m. Village Hall  |  85 Main St., Cold Spring
4 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Friday.

Kids & Community
9:30 a.m. 12 Grapes | Details under Dec. 12

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16
Kids & Community
Sundance Film Festival
5:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
See details under Saturday.

Music
St. Philip’s Choir: Gloria! by John Rutter
4 p.m. St. Philip’s Church  |  1101 Route 9D, Garrison  |  845-424-3571  |  stphilipshighlands.org

Greg Westbroff’s Westchester Swing Band
5:30 - 6 p.m. 12 Grapes  |  Details under Saturday

Cheryl Wheeler  / Paularkin
7:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe
See details under Friday.

Stephen Clair and the Millionaires
8 p.m. Quinn’s  |  See details under Saturday.

Meetings & Lectures
BMA Book Club: No One is Here Except All of Us
11:30 a.m. Bank Square Coffeehouse
129 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4867  |  beaconbrewereacSpe.org

Friday, December 19
Kids & Community
Candlelight Tours
1 - 5 p.m. Mount Gulian Historic Site
See details under Sunday.

Gaming Club
3 - 5 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Wednesday.

Sparkle!
5 - 9 p.m. Beaco  |  See details under Dec. 12.

Holiday Party
7 - 10 p.m. Beacon Music Factory
See details under Saturday.

Health & Fitness
Navigating Healthcare Options
10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
333 Main St., Beacon  |  800-453-4668
mier-ny.org. Appointment required.

Holiday Potluck Party
7 - 8:30 p.m. Living Yoga Studios
3182 Route 9, Cold Spring
845-809-5900  |  livingyogastudios.com

Theater & Film
Musical Revue (Youth Players)
7 p.m. WTY Hall  |  34 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring
845-424-4618  |  philipstownrecreation.com

A Christmas Carol
8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Dec. 12.

Cheap by the Dozen
8 p.m. The Beacon Theatre | Details under Dec. 12

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/ng

Music
Scrooge: A Christmas Carol
4 p.m. Butterfield Library
See details under Saturday.

The Snow Maiden
Candlelight Tour of Newburgh
845-234-9325  |  beaconfarmersmarket.org
Long Dock Drive, Beacon
845-234-9325  |  newburghhistoricalsociety.com

Saturday, December 20
Kids & Community
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Music
A Christmas Carol
4 p.m. Butterfield Library
See details under Saturday.
Arista Susan English, Jaanika Peerna and Cassandra Saulter will host an open house at their Pine Street Studios, 11 Peekskill Road. Wine, edible art, art and conversation will be served from 5 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 14.

Saulter creates works with recycled plastic. She celebrates art with purpose and a mission to save the world, one bottle at a time. To see her work, visit casandrasaulterstudio.com.

Peerna is an artist of line and light. These days she is engaged in making freehand, straight-line drawings on mylar and uses them for making wall objects and room-size installations. At the open house she will reveal her new video installation as well as small drawings made with graphite and eraser. Visit jaanikapeerna.net for more information.

English’s current works are luminous horizontal sequences of assembled panels. Color, surface and the play of light are important aspects of the work. The surfaces are created by pouring multiple layers of tinted transparent polymer. See more at suzanneenglish.us.

### Community Briefs

**Pine Street Studios Open House Dec. 14**

**English, Peerna and Saulter’s workplace open to public**

ARTISTS Susan English, Jaanika Peerna and Cassandra Saulter will host an open house at their Pine Street Studios, 11 Peekskill Road. Wine, edible art, art and conversation will be served from 5 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 14.

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**First Presbyterian Jazz Nativity With Rene Bailey**

**First Presbyterian Church will present an early Christmas treat at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, when noted jazz vocalist Rene Bailey, who sang with Louis Armstrong among many others, will be joined by Tom McCoy and his hand-picked jazz instrumentalists for an early evening jazz nativity.**

Rev. Leslie Mott will act as inspirational host for the hour-plus evening. First Presbyterian is at 10 Academy St. The artists will be present at a wine and cheese reception to follow. Donations are welcomed as support for the musicians.

**NY Sheriffs’ Victim Hotline Notification System Improved**

**Crime victims can now receive text messages on offender status**

PUTNAM COUNTY SHERIFF Donald B. Smith announces the launch of an enhancement to the New York Sheriffs’ Victim Hotline, commonly known as the VINE program. The VINE program upgrade will enable crime victims to receive a text message notification in the event of any change in custody status of an offender incarcerated in a county correctional facility in New York state or a correctional facility in New York City.

VINE allows crime victims to learn the custody status of an offender, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, by telephone or online. This new notification option, “SMS Text Messaging Notification,” adds text messaging to the existing notification options. The additional outbound notification method will be in English and Spanish.

In 2014, almost 2.8 million crime victims searched the VINE Database, using either the toll-free telephone number (1-888-VINE-4-NY), the VINEMobile app, the Sheriff’s Mobile Patrol App (both available for iPhone and Android), or the website (VineLine.com). Also in 2014, over 100,000 crime victims received notification of a change in an offender’s status either by phone or email. It is anticipated that the addition of the text messaging option will result in even more crime victims receiving timely notification of vital offender information.

Anybody who would like more information about the VINE program may contact Captain Patrick O’Malley at the Putnam County Correctional Facility by calling 845-225-5255.

**Vassar’s Museum Acquires Japanese Scroll Painting**

**Painting of Horses by Soga Shohaku now on view**

THE FRANCES LEHMANN LOEB ART CENTER, VASSAR COLLEGE’S art museum, recently made a major acquisition: Pasturing Horses, an 18th-century scroll painting by Japanese artist Soga Shohaku.

The painting is a key addition to the Art Center’s collection. James Mundy, the Anne Hendrickx Bass director of the Art Center, said, “To increase the quality and exquisiteness found in this work is perhaps among the very best available.” Shohaku is one of the three key mid-Edo period painters in Kyoto known as “The Eencers.” The other two artists of this group, Hokusai and Norikazu, are already represented in the center’s collection. The acquisition of this painting is “a capstone for the center’s Japanese collection,” Mundy added.

The painting became known to scholars in 2003 and has been exhibited twice, first in the Shohaku retrospective exhibition in April 2003 at the Kyoto National Museum. It was later included in the December 2005 exhibition “Traditions Unbound, at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco. It is currently on view at the Art Center and will remain so through mid-December, providing a rare opportunity for the public to see this masterwork.

Karen Hwang-Gold, assistant professor of art at Vassar, noted: “Using this single painting, one can teach a volume about Chinese Song, Yuan and Ming landscape and narrative painting, as well as Japanese narrative and landscape traditions from 10th and 15th centuries, respectively. It is a tremendous gift to our students and the community.”

Admission to the Franss Lehamn Loeb Art Center is free and all galleries are wheelchair accessible. The Art Center is open to the public Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. For more information, call 845-437-5632 or visit flac.vassar.edu.

**Beacon**

**New eExhibits at Howland Library on 2nd Saturday**

**iPhone photography by Mary Ann Glass this month**

THE HOWLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY presents a digital exhibition, *My iPhone Journal, How I Spent My Summer Vacation*, by Hudson Valley photographer Mary Ann Glass. This special “exhibit” will be on view through the library windows on an electronic display from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the second Saturday of the month.

Glass is one of the co-owners of Riverwinds Gallery in Beacon. In recent years, she has been experimenting with use of iPhone photography. She processes her images using multiple photo apps. The resulting images are rich in visual texture and have a soft, almost surreal quality. Glass enjoys sharing her passion for this new form of photography with others, offering workshops in iPhone and iPad photography at Riverwinds and other local art organizations.

As part of the library’s new Community Art Programs, the Second Saturday eExhibits can be viewed on continuous loop at the library every Second Saturday. The Howland Public Library is located at 313 Main St. in Beacon. For more information, email communityart@beaconlibrary.org.

(See photo on next page)
Hiro Ichikawa Show Opens at Theo Ganz
Paintings, etchings from Garrison Art Center printmaker
Theo Ganz Studio will present In-Between, a solo exhibition of recent paintings by Hiro Ichikawa, on view from Dec. 13 through Jan. 18, with an opening reception from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13. In-Between will include up to 15 abstract paintings as well as several etchings.

The artist grew up in a small city in the mountains, recognized for its silk weaving and kimono industry. His father was a master of traditional silk weaving and textile production. Ichikawa was greatly inspired by the idealized landscape that doesn’t exist in nature. He explores the “creation of an imaginary or idealized landscape that doesn’t exist in nature.”

Patiently working with delicate brushes, his paintings are imaginary, abstract landscapes with dreamlike qualities. A recent commission in Japan for traditional sliding doors helped him recognize the "creation of an imaginary or idealized landscape that doesn’t exist in nature." He started with small paintings and has been showing them in Japan since the 1980s and has been shown in three countries. Ichikawa has been teaching printmaking at Pratt Institute, and after graduating he moved to New York. He is working on his ninth album and tour the East Coast extensively. Playing congas and hand percussion, Savoca infuses the music with her love of soul, R&B, and world rhythms.

Sara Milovich, of Beacon, and Andy Goessling are part of the roots-rock band Daxxentric. Milovich is a songwriter, a sought-after accompanist, and has performed with many artists including Richard Shindell, Pete Seeger, and Eliza Gilkyson. Goessling is a founding member of Railroad Earth and has performed with artists including Phil Lesh, Warren Haynes, and Bruce Hornsby.

The Towne Crier Café is located at 379 Main St. in Beacon. Reservations are recommended. Call 845-855-1300 or visit townecrier.com.

Towne Crier Presents ‘We Three Duos’
Dec. 19 concert features uncommon holiday music
Six musical friends shared the stage at an inaugural festival this past summer, and the spontaneous musical connection was so powerful that they decided to replicate the magic in a contemporary holiday show. All six will take the stage at 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19, at Beacon’s Towne Crier Café. There will be a focus on fresh interpretations of uncommon holiday songs, along with some uplifting originals. Among the six players, singers and songwriters, there is an abundance of multipart vocal harmony and instrumental collaboration.

Karen Savoca and Pete Hittman hail from Oneida, New York, and are working on their ninth album and tour the East Coast extensively. Playing congas and hand percussion, Savoca infuses the music with her love of soul, R&B, and world rhythms.

Sara Milovich, of Beacon, and Andy Goessling are part of the roots-rock band Daxxentric. Milovich is a songwriter, a sought-after accompanist, and has performed with many artists including Richard Shindell, Pete Seeger, and Eliza Gilkyson. Goessling is a founding member of Railroad Earth and has performed with many artists including Phil Lesh, Warren Haynes, and Bruce Hornsby.

Michele and Rick Godney (Open Book) of Cold Spring residents, are finishing their third album, Grateful, due out by year’s end. Mike Jurkovic of Chronogram writes that Open Book’s music is “an engaging amalgam of harmony vocals, tasty folk rock, and, most importantly, intelligent and astute songwriting that fully realizes that whatever the two songwriters are living through, most of their audience has also experienced.”

The Towne Crier Café is located at 379 Main St. in Beacon. Reservations are recommended. Call 845-855-1300 or visit townecrier.com.

Hiro Ichikawa Show Opens at Theo Ganz
Paintings, etchings from Garrison Art Center printmaker
Theo Ganz Studio will present In-Between, a solo exhibition of recent paintings by Hiro Ichikawa, on view from Dec. 13 through Jan. 18, with an opening reception from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13. In-Between will include up to 15 abstract paintings as well as several etchings.

The artist grew up in a small city in the mountains, recognized for its silk weaving and kimono industry. His father was a master of traditional silk weaving and textile production. Ichikawa was greatly inspired by the idealized landscape that doesn’t exist in nature. He explores the “creation of an imaginary or idealized landscape that doesn’t exist in nature.”

Patiently working with delicate brushes, his paintings are imaginary, abstract landscapes with dreamlike qualities. A recent commission in Japan for traditional sliding doors helped him recognize the "creation of an imaginary or idealized landscape that doesn’t exist in nature." He started with small paintings and has been showing them in Japan since the 1980s and has been shown in three countries. Ichikawa has been teaching printmaking at Pratt Institute, and after graduating he moved to New York. He is working on his ninth album and tour the East Coast extensively. Playing congas and hand percussion, Savoca infuses the music with her love of soul, R&B, and world rhythms.

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Towne Crier Presents ‘We Three Duos’
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Patiently working with delicate brushes, his paintings are imaginary, abstract landscapes with dreamlike qualities. A recent commission in Japan for a Buddhist temple’s fusuma paintings (Japanese-style sliding doors) helped him explore the ‘creation of an imaginary or idealized landscape that doesn’t exist in the physical realm.’

The artist also oversees the printmaking club at Garrison Art Center, and on Sunday afternoons in January he will be giving a class in nontoxic spit bite etching. Ichikawa maintains a blog on his studio practice at his website, users.rcn.com/yukeye. For further information, visit theoganzstudio.com or contact theoganzstudio@tds.net. The gallery is open noon to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday and by appointment via 917-318-2239.
Climate Change in Philipstown: Noticing the Impact Now

By Pamela Doan

A s a follow-up to last week’s ‘Roots and Shoots’ column, here’s more about the information that was presented at the Nov. 25 panel discussion Climate Change and the Hudson River, co-hosted by the Desmond-Fish Library and the Garrison Union Free School, the panel included Dr. Radley Horton of the Center for Climate Systems Research at Columbia University; Erin Lind, director of Constitution Marsh Audubon Center; Andrew Revkin, journalist, professor and writer of the DotEarth blog on The New York Times website; Paul Gallay, president of Riverkeeper; and Dr. Sacha Spector, director of conservation science with Scenic Hudson.

Lind brought the issues of global warming home with real life examples of the changes he’s seen around Constitution Marsh and Philipstown. Tidal wetlands on the Hudson River, like Constitution Marsh, are important habitats that sustain fish spawning and bird breeding; they’re some of the most productive areas in the river. These wetlands are a delicate balance for life that can’t survive in a higher river. Lind used pickerelweed as an example. It’s an aquatic plant with beautiful flowers currently found in the marsh. Some birds eat its seeds. It’s an important part of the ecosystem of the marsh and other wetlands. It can only grow to a certain height, though, and if the water level continues increasing, it won’t make it.

Spector described how some wetland flora and fauna will be able to migrate inland and upslope, but their success all depends on how fast the river rises and how much time they have to move. Many sections of the Hudson Highlands have steep slopes that will block that migration, too. If climate change continues at its current rate, Constitution Marsh will no longer be a tidal wetland by the end of this century, maybe sooner. Lind called birds “an umbrella species that acts like a barometer.” Basically, if birds are doing well, then everything else in the habitat is doing well. He used data showing shifts in birds’ patterns, like seeing robins during winter in Philipstown.

For more than 100 years people all over the Americas have been counting birds and submitting the data to the Audubon Society. (The Christmas Bird Count is starting soon.) This data shows that birds averaged about 250 miles to the north in the past 40 to 50 years for a bird, that’s a long distance, and with the specific needs that some birds have for breeding, feeding and nesting, it’s a big question if their requirements for survival can be met in the radius that they have to move when their habitats are altered by the warming climate.

Gallay shared an organizer’s perspective, starting off with a phrase that he repeated a few times, “We’re going to need a bigger boat,” referring to Pete Seeger’s Clearwater Sloop, I believe. Gallay mentioned recent victories for the river, including the recent halting of the desalination plant in Rockland County, as examples of the power of people doing something about the problems we face.

Since its beginning in the 1960s, Riverkeeper has achieved incredible success in cleaning up and ending pollution in the river. As a sign of the growing awareness about global warming, the Climate March in New York City last September drew a diverse group of more than 300,000 protesters, one of the largest gatherings in recent years.

All the participants emphasized that personal actions matter. Lind recommended planting berry bushes in the yard to feed migrating birds and encouraged more community forums for discussion about climate change as two of his top priorities. Spector said: “I want to end carbon pollution in my lifetime; that has to be our goal. The cars we drive, putting solar panels on the roof, it all matters.”

Where are we now? Horton summarized the situation succinctly: “The threshold is 2 degrees of warming as agreed upon globally. Once we get beyond that, it’s hard to tell what’s going to happen. All bets are off. We need to drastically reduce our emissions.” At our current rate, we’ll hit the 2 degrees of warming threshold within 25 years. The lever needs to be turned now and it needs to be turned dramatically.

For more information and to get involved, check the websites for Riverkeeper, Scenic Hudson, Constitution Marsh and the DotEarth blog on nytimes.com.
Art, Biology, Species Preservation Intersect in Gallery Exhibit

In writing about Ballengeé’s work on her ecospace blog, curator Amy Lipton, who organized the show, said Ballengeé’s work as a biologist “looks at amphibians as bio-indicator species, particularly their development in complex ecosystems and the proximate causes for developmental deformities among wild populations … Though the Gulf of Mexico species depicted in Ghosts of the Gulf do not appear to show deformities, Ballengeé hypothesizes as to why: ‘The subjects in Ghosts were found shortly after the spill so do not have any obvious morphological abnormalities, however we don’t know what the long-term impacts of the spill yet will be, on these species or even our own.’ These images of species once common to the Gulf represent a creative process that blurs the lines between art and biology.

Ballengée’s specimen-subjects transition from their once living state to brightly colored x-rays revealing the complex architectural anatomy of these beautiful and vanish-and other aquatic ecosystems are many. He’ll also touch upon ongoing bodies of work dealing with the Hudson and what people should be aware of and working toward in terms of remediation.

The Beacon Institute is located at 959 Main St. in Beacon. For more information, visit Brandonballengee.com and biv.org.
happy holidays!

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