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# The Philipstown.info Paper

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## NY State Cites Progress on Dealing With Dangerous Crude-Oil Trains

*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.

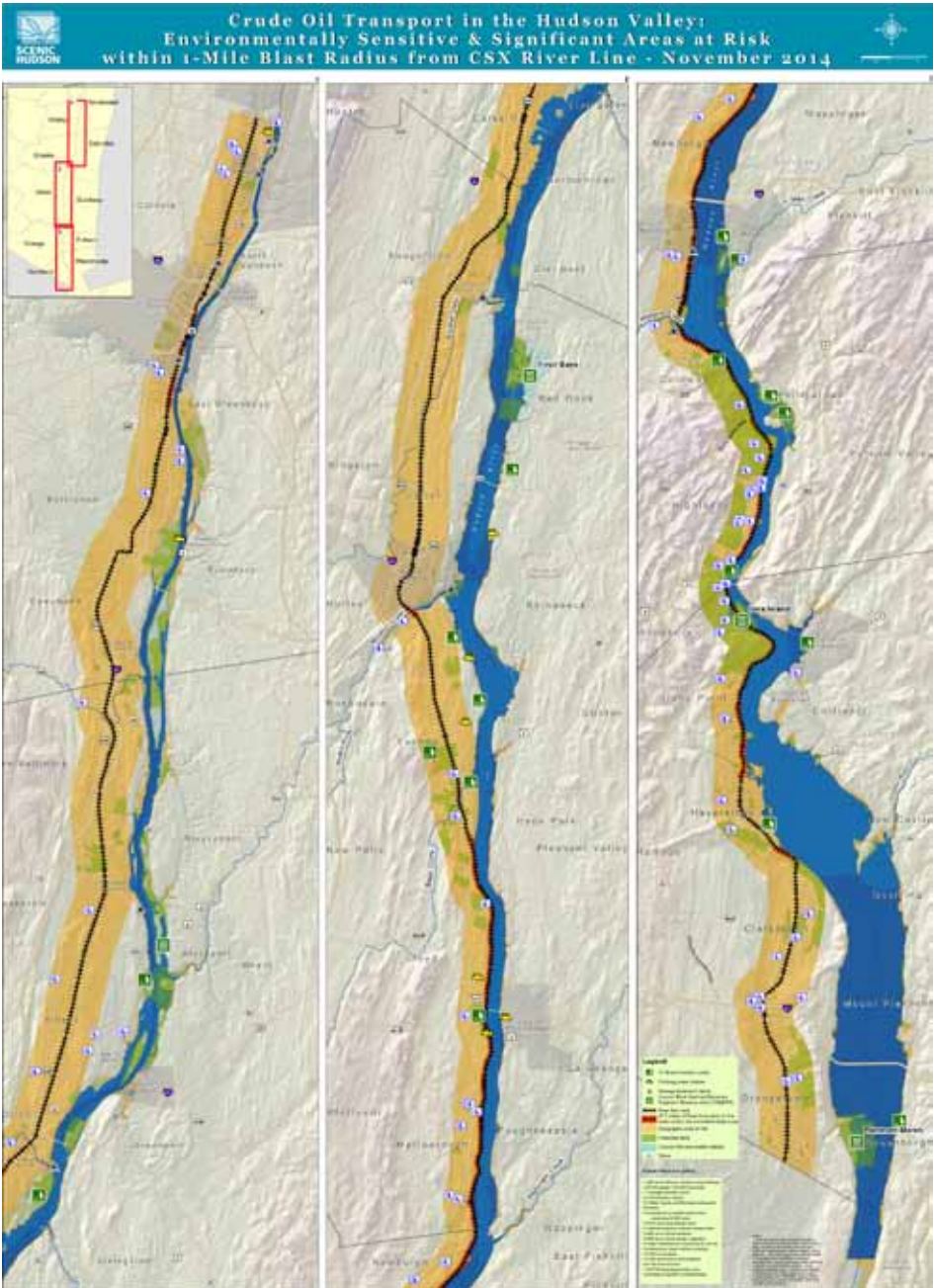
### Philipstown fears

Supervisor Richard Shea Wednesday night (Dec. 10) 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

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A map prepared by Scenic Hudson shows oil-train routes along the river.



Bird feeders are a favorite target of bears. New York State DEC photo

## Nuisance Bear Shot With Pellets in Garrison

*Bird feeders provided tempting food source*

By Michael Turton

“It was big — more than 300 pounds.” That’s how Nick Berger described the black bear that came face-to-face with him on the evening of Monday, Dec. 8, just outside his home on Old West Point Road in Garrison. The area is heavily wooded.

The bear had taken a liking to the bird feeders located near the Bergers’ home, destroying the feeders in the process of getting at the food they contained. Its appearance at around 9:30 that evening was the third time the animal had approached the Berger home — however this encounter would prove

(Continued on page 5)

## 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 Nelsonville.

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

(Continued on page 4)



The Town Board received an offer on the VFW on Kemble Avenue. Photo by Michael Turton



Cook On  
1 part chaos, 2 parts calm

# 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

king 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 in the region since 2011 and the current security situation have made a profound impact on the tourism industry, an important economic driver for the country. I would relish a return to the Valley of the Kings, the site of Tut’s tomb, as well as the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, so full of antiquities that it would take countless visits to appreciate the full collection.

For now my return to Egypt prevails through the dining table. I can’t imagine trying to replicate a stroll through a traditional Egyptian spice market searching for fresh packets of cumin, coriander and

cardamom here in the Hudson Valley, but the convenience of ordering just about any spice and having it delivered to the doorstep within days makes it possible to flavor foods with the perfect spice blends. And with the right ingredients on hand, making great multicultural food just gets better. As for Egyptian cooking, my husband favors *ful medamis*, simmered beans (small broad beans), a national



Spicy tomato poach

Photos by M.A. Ebner

staple that he came to love while living in Egypt, while I’m charmed by a one-dish meal and an epicurean day-starter like few others, *shakshouka*.

Try to say this three times fast: shakshouka, shakshouka, shakshouka. Shakshouka is essentially a batch of eggs poached in a spicy tomato bath.

A friend inspired us with his Egyptian family’s take on the mixture. And this variation just happens to be “Sharif’s Shakshouka.” Sharif’s simple but fit-for-a-pharaoh, Middle Eastern–North African dish is simplified for the contemporary kitchen, yet retains its miracle-meal status as an age-old poaching option for eggs.

Brunch with Sharif and his wife can feel like a welcome respite from the demands of a noisy routine. He’s a modern-day man who can hold his toddler on his hip while stirring a spicy tomato sauce and baking crusty bread all with a casual

approach. Regardless of his main menu, count on bread. And the crusty bread is the thing. Sure, there’s always flat bread, but Sharif serves shakshouka with a crusty bread, dense and absorbent. The dish drips with wet flavor, and the crusty bread makes a nice bed for a tasting of runny egg, or a worthy slice to soak up the spicy broth that may be remaining in your bowl once you’ve worked your way through the final spoonful of the seasoned tomatoes, peppers and onion.

Poaching eggs remains uncomplicated, along with Sharif’s recipe, but his shakshouka makes basic poached eggs look lonely. And presentation most definitely stands as part of Sharif’s family tradition. If you own a decent-sized deep frying pan, skillet or Dutch oven, break it out for a brunch gathering and serve this flavorful dish in its cookware.

It’s a simple and savory way to start the day that even the boy king may have found satisfying.

## Sharif’s Shakshouka

Serves 4 to 6

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 4 tablespoons olive oil   | 3 cups water                        |
| 1 large onion, diced  | 1 tablespoon kosher salt            |
| 2 cups (mild to medium) green chili peppers, stemmed, seeded and chopped  | ½ teaspoon ground black pepper      |
| 6 cups tomatoes, diced<br>(Fresh tomatoes are best when available; canned will work as a substitute but require a reduction of liquid.) | 8 to 10 eggs                        |
|   | 2 cups flat parsley, finely chopped |

Using a deep frying pan or Dutch oven, heat olive oil. Sauté onion in olive oil. Add chili peppers and cook through. Add tomatoes, stirring constantly, and cook over medium heat 5 minutes.

Add water, salt and pepper. Stir and bring to a low boil. Lower heat and simmer uncovered 15 minutes.

Gently crack eggs into simmering mixture. Do not stir. Cover and poach eggs over medium heat 5 minutes. Cook an additional 5 to 10 minutes to your liking if you prefer egg yolk firmness. Remove from heat. Finish dish by covering surface of shakshouka mixture with parsley. Ladle shakshouka into bowls and serve immediately with crusty bread.



Preparing shakshouka

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# NY State Cites Progress on Dealing With Dangerous Crude-Oil Trains

(from page 1)

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

Councilor Mike Leonard remarked that a crude-oil rail accident “would have a direct impact on the Hudson River — direct. 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 proposed 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 formation 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.

Despite tentative federal action this summer, New Yorkers perceive sluggishness in Washington.

“Over the past six months, our administration has taken swift and decisive action to ... better protect New Yorkers from the possibility of a crude oil disaster,” Cuomo said on the report’s release. “Now it is time for our federal partners to do the same.” The report explains that the federal government holds “exclusive statutory and regulatory authority over the interstate transportation of crude oil”

Tuesday (Dec. 9), the Empire State found a potential ally halfway across the country, when the North Dakota Industrial Commission, which includes that state’s governor, adopted new rules forcing oil producers to make Bakken crude safer before shipment. The commission mandated that, pre-transport, the fuel be conditioned to separate it into gas and liquid and remove light hydrocarbons and keep a vapor pressure of no more than 13.7 pounds per square inch (psi), less than the national standard of 14.7 psi. In an October letter, Joseph Martens and Joan McDonald, commissioners of the New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation and Transportation, respectively, had asked North Dakota to adopt such regulations.

To deal with the problem closer to home, New York state’s April report recommended numerous actions. [See “Crude-Oil Train Hazards Bring Federal Emergency Action, State Efforts,” May 16, in *Philipstown.info*.] Its Dec. 1 report outlines the follow-up since then and says that, among other things, the state:

- Hired five new rail safety inspectors, which augments the inspection force to “significantly enhance New York’s ability to monitor the safety of rail operations” by inspecting tracks and oil tanker-rail car equipment and enforcing regulations on hazardous materials.
- With the rail corporation CSX, held railroad and tank car training for local and state emergency responders in the Hudson Valley and other regions.
- In conjunction with Canadian Pacific, another railroad, organized oil-spill containment training for

first responders on the Hudson River in Albany.

- Alongside the Federal Railroad Administration, conducted seven “blitz” inspection sweeps of oil-transport infrastructure, covering 6,664 rail cars and approximately 2,564 miles of track and detecting 740 track and rail equipment defects, including 12 hazardous materials defects that the railroads corrected.
- Released “strategic and tactical guidance for fire departments during the initial phases of a rail incident involving crude oil,” while observing 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 Institute (API), a leading trade group in Washington for the oil industry, and the API’s member oil companies, to reduce the volatility of Bakken crude oil before shipping it by railroad.

Furthermore, according to the report, in March the state fined CSX \$10,000 for tardy notification of two derailments and in May announced a \$5,000 fine of Canadian Pacific for a derailment. However, it complained that “while the rail industry has made progress” lately on enhancing safety, “the oil production industry has actively opposed taking protective measures.”

## Maloney weighs in

Like the state, Rep. Sean Patrick Ma-



Oil train on the west shore of the Hudson

Photo courtesy of Riverkeeper

## Memorial Service for Gordon Stewart

A memorial service will be held for Gordon Stewart  
Sunday, Dec. 14, at 1 p.m.

at St. Mary-in-the-Highlands Episcopal Church.

Reception to follow in the Parish Hall.

loney — who lives in the Cold Spring area — wants a more vigorous federal role. This fall he requested the DOT to promptly finalize regulations stipulating that controversial DOT-111 train cars be discontinued or retrofitted to meet heightened safety standards. “Since 1992, we’ve known these were highly hazardous, which is precisely why we need to immediately phase out” such models, currently “carrying highly explosive and dangerous crude,” he said. “With billions of gallons of oil barreling down the Hudson, it’s an accident waiting to happen if we don’t act. The safety of our neighbors, environment and communities is far too important.”

## Environmental applause and appeals

Scenic Hudson commended New York state actions so far but also urged renewed efforts. It likewise reiterated its call for “a moratorium on crude oil transport along the Hudson River until further safety measures are in place.”

The environmental group also proposed 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 present, it said, cleaning an oil spill would cost 40 times more than the spill fund contains.

“It is crucial that the state dedicate additional resources to dramatically reduce the daily threat to communities and natural 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 rising public outcry for the state to make

this issue a priority.”

Another Hudson River-oriented environmental group, Riverkeeper, also advocates more stringent controls over crude-oil trains, or, in its parlance, “bomb trains.” Nov. 25, Riverkeeper petitioned the federal government to limit oil trains to 4,000 tons, a weight that, it said, the American Association of Railroads associates with “a ‘no problem’ train” — less likely to derail. Riverkeeper said the weight restriction would limit crude-oil trains to 30 cars, in contrast to the 100-car trains mostly used now. “Setting a cap on train length and weight is 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 daily basis,” said Phillip Musegaas, Riverkeeper’s Hudson River program director.

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

“North America’s rail network moves hazardous materials without incident 99.998 percent of the time,” Gerard asserted. “The challenge for both industry and regulators is to address and eliminate the remaining .002 percent.” He endorsed outreach to emergency responders “to help ensure they have the training and information they need” and cited API’s support for trains’ “enhanced braking capabilities” and “proper testing ... 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 billion 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 industrial commission, affect “every barrel of Bakken crude” in the state. Lynn Helms, North Dakota’s director of Mineral Resources, said his department would conduct field visits and that any oil company failing to comply with the rules could face penalties of up to \$12,500 per day of violation.

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Residents Can Learn About Government Health Care Options Dec. 13

Affordable Care Act help at Butterfield Library

At 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 Advocate Program," is scheduled to 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 1-800-453-4666.

Program representatives recently addressed a Philipstown Town Board meeting, urging uninsured residents to take advantage of the no-cost advice at such information sessions and get health 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.

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. First and foremost is the question of why our highest-level elected county officials would intimate that they will not enforce an established New York state 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 is their 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 disappointed to see our top elected county officials participate in such spectacle.

Richard Shea  
Philipstown Supervisor

District attorney: Philipstown.info misquoted me

To the Editor:

On Wednesday, Dec. 3, I was proud to be one of several speakers at an informa-

tional forum at Paladin Center in Carmel about New York state's gun laws. The event was intended to clarify what the SAFE Act means for New York gun owners, answer questions about the laws, and dispel some pervasive myths about the law and its consequences.

Roughly 200 Putnam County 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 bullet 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 is not yet binding 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 As-

sociation confirming that I would not prosecute anyone arrested for violating the seven-round magazine limit, which had been found unconstitutional. Even the NY State Police have revised their enforcement guidelines to reflect Skretney's decision, and will not arrest those whose only crime is possessing more than seven bullets in an otherwise legal magazine.

I made it very clear that night — and will reiterate now — that I took an oath to uphold the law, to enforce the law, and to do so equally without fear or favor. Enforcing the SAFE Act is part of that oath. In fact, I've had to have alterations made to my own personal firearms to bring them into compliance. When I was asked what would happen if Skretney's decision was overturned, I replied that I would uphold the law, regardless of my personal opinion on it. And I will.

I have respect for the value of local media and the need for residents to be informed. However, it is misleading and sensational reporting like this that necessitates the need for educational events like the one at Paladin Center, to educate people about the true facts of the matter.

Residents who want more information are encouraged to visit PutnamCounty-DA.org to view video of my remarks in their entirety, as well as the full text of Skretney's decision.

Sincerely,  
Adam Levy  
Putnam County District Attorney

Town Board Considers Composting Village Leaves (from page 1)

Roger Chirico had discussed the landfill as a leaf-disposal/composting venue but 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 sold 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 Trimble and Chirico had been talking and said "it's something we need to defer on to highway [officials]." Hawkins also pointed out 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," not something merely agreed upon by the highway department officials, Shea responded. And so far, he reiterated, "we haven't heard anything" directly from the village government.

**VFW Hall**

Turning to the VFW sale, Shea announced that "we do have a bid. That's good news," although 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

To dispose of collected leaves, Cold Spring uses an empty lot at the end of Benedict Road.

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

at the Philipstown Recreation Center in Garrison, although long-term the coordinator "has to stay in the village." Town Planning Board Chairman Anthony Merante, a former Nelsonville trustee, remarked that the Village of Nelsonville 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 yet 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 de-

molish it. "I'm kind of nostalgic about it, actually, [about] the art deco," she said. "It's cinder-block art deco."

**Horton Road-Hudson Highlands Reserve**

The board briefly discussed the proposed leisure housing-cum-horse center Hudson Highlands Reserve, planned for 155 acres off Horton Road. Shea read a formal letter he wrote to the Planning Board, which is handling the town government's review of the development plans, stating that in his capacity as a private contractor he once had done business with the sponsors. "I will not be working on the project" and will recuse himself should it come before the Town Board for any reason, he declared. "In the interest of full disclosure I wanted" that known publicly.

Councilor Nancy Montgomery recommended the town bring in an expert planner to advise the Planning Board in its scrutiny of the project. Merante answered that arrangements have been made for the town's planning consultant firm, AKRF, to provide ongoing assistance.



# 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 recorded holiday music and stomping their feet against the chill as they awaited the lighting of the tree and Santa Claus. Shortly after the lights transformed the plain evergreen into something sparkling and almost magical against the gloom, the venerable St. Nick appeared. As usual — at least here — he eschewed his 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. Pete’s Hometown Deli 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 Flower Shoppe came at a discounted price. The fire company provided Santa, while the hot chocolate, cookies and decorating were supplied by the village Recreation Commission and village government.



Santa goes one-on-one. Photo by L.S. Armstrong

## 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 that strategy seemed to work. 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 decided to shoot a round into the air, thinking that the loud noise would startle the animal, hastening its exit.

Berger fired the shotgun into the air. The bear’s reaction had to have come as shock. “The darn thing charged me. It ran straight at me,” Berger recalled.

After its initial retreat, the bear had stood about 15 feet from Berger. Now it was coming at him — and very quickly closing that gap. It was an adrenaline rush “to say the least,” Berger said. “I was completely surprised. I didn’t have time to think twice.” He aimed and shot. “By the time I shot, the bear was only 6 feet away,” he said. The shot stung the bear. It ran into the woods and has not returned since.

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

### Birdshot spared 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 lightweight 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 Marcinak killing I figured I needed [a gun],” he said. Marcinak, 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 advised homeowners that if problem bears are in an area prior to 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 population. “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 several sightings over the past two years. “Most sightings are in the late spring ... when second-year bears are encouraged 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 northern 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 average 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.

### NOTICE OF SALE OF PROPERTY

**TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN, COUNTY OF PUTNAM, STATE OF NEW YORK NOTICE OF SALE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 34 KEMBLE AVENUE, COLD SPRING, NEW YORK**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown, Putnam County, New York, at a regular meeting thereof, held on December 4, 2014, duly adopted, subject to a permissive referendum, a resolution, an abstract of which is as follows:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY LOCATED AT 34 KEMBLE AVENUE, COLD SPRING, NEW YORK, TO KIMBERLY CONNER, FOR THE SUM OF \$285,000.00 SUBJECT TO A PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM

WHEREAS, it is no longer necessary for the Town to retain said property, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

That the Town Board does hereby authorize the sale of the above property to the above-named purchaser, Kimberly Conner, for the sum of \$285,000.00, subject to a permissive referendum.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN  
Tina M. Merando, Town Clerk DATED: December 4, 2014



# Marbled Meat Shop Launches

Another new grass-fed butcher business

By Alison Rooney

Hot on the heels of Beacon’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 farther up Route 9.

The coincidences of the two new meateries don’t end there — both have women as their catalysts, and both women are new to the trade, have come to it purposefully, 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.



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

Photos by A. Rooney



After giving birth to their son in June 2013, they both felt constrained by their one-bedroom apartment. More or less on a whim, Hall started looking beyond the city, having always had a yen to return to the Hudson Valley, where she had spent many years, including four attending

SUNY New Paltz. Together they had visited Cold Spring and Beacon many times and determined that the area was perfect in terms of the “How far can we go and still be able to commute?” equation. Hall found a house online and, in very quick succession — they saw the house on a Monday, made an offer two days later and closed on it two months after that — transplanted to Cold Spring, where, crazily enough, Pascarella’s

commute is only 20 minutes longer than the multi-subway-line journey he took from the outer reaches of Brooklyn to his Manhattan office. Hall joked that it took “only an hour to convince Chris it was time.”

During their visits to Cold Spring, Hall and Pascarella often hung out at the Cold Spring Coffee Pantry, which is close to their new home. They tried out the new beers and got snacks from Vera’s. After they moved in, Vera gave them a hanging plant and a dozen doughnuts as housewarming gifts. Meanwhile, Chris, a home-brewing aficionado, had spotted an ad seeking an experienced home brewer. Checking it out, he discovered it was the Pantry. All seemed to be coalescing when the “We need a meat shop here too” cry was heard, and Hall and Pascarella, with their background in meat, decided that they would jump in and fill that need.

While Hall is in training, learning butchery skills, MMS is “not a full-service butchery yet, but it will be by spring,” Hall explained. What they are now offering is selected cuts from a whole animal, raised on a local, USDA-

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 delivered immediately 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 goose. Generally, orders are sent in on Monday afternoons, and deliveries are made 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.



Cheese selections at Marbled Meat Shop

PHILIPSTOWN  
DEPOT THEATRE

Youth Players present:

**The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf**

**Dec. 12, 7 p.m. • Dec. 13, 4 p.m. & 7 p.m.**

**Dec. 14, 4 p.m.**

**All tickets \$10: brownpapertickets.com**

World’s End Theater presents:

**A Christmas Carol**

A new one-man fully-staged version of this classic Dickens holiday ghost story. Featuring Gregory Porter Miller as all the characters you know and love, with movement and direction conceived by Christine Brooks Bokhour.

**Dec. 18, 7 p.m. • Dec. 19, 8 p.m.**

**Dec. 20, 4 p.m. & 8 p.m. • Dec. 21, 7 p.m.**

**Tickets at brownpapertickets.com**

**845.424.3900 • www.philipstowndepottheatre.org**

Garrison Landing, Garrison, NY (Theatre is adjacent to train station.)

DOWNING  
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19 Front St., Newburgh, NY  
845-561-3686  
www.downingfilmcenter.com

Now Showing → Held Over

**The Theory of Everything** (PG-13)

**FRI 7:30, SAT 2:00 4:45 7:30**

**SUN 1:30 4:15, TUE & WEDS 7:30, THUR 2:00 7:30**

Special Screening

**Awake: The Life of Yogananda** (NR)

**Sunday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m.**

Tickets \$10 at: gathr.us/screening/9758 (Monday, Dec. 15 screening SOLD OUT!)

YOUR BEST BET — buy tix ahead at box office or at www.downingfilmcenter.com

Visit [www.philipstown.info](http://www.philipstown.info) for news updates and latest information.



# The Calendar



Brandon Ballengée: from left, pompano, silverside, skate

Images courtesy of Brandon Balengée and the Ronald Feldman Fine Art Gallery

## Art, Biology, Species Preservation Intersect in Gallery Exhibit

Scientist/artist Brandon Ballengée to speak at Beacon Institute

By Alison Rooney

Let anyone presume that someone growing up in a very rural area might have a childhood spent searching for “things to do,” they should consider Brandon Ballengée. Ballengée, who grew up amidst 20 acres of forest, ponds and streams in the Ohio countryside, drew from those surrounds an abiding interest in them — and that interest took hold in a variety of ways, scientific and artistic. Fusing the two together has been his life’s work, and an exhibit highlighting this fusion, *Ghosts of the Gulf*, focuses on Ballengée’s images of marine species gathered in the Gulf of Mexico following the environmentally ruinous 2010 Deep Water Horizon oil spill there. These specific images are also emblematic of the general diminishment of numerous species globally.

The exhibit, which opened in November, runs through March 8, and Ballengée will give an artist’s talk at the institute this Saturday, Dec. 13, at 5 p.m.; a reception follows.

Ballengée’s “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 biology 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



Above, ray; at left, trigger

let me have dozens of aquariums and eventually build a wet lab.” He would bring frogs, fish and amphibians in, study them, let them go and get more. Though his initial degree was in fine arts — he said it was “tricky to figure out how to do it professionally” — he found a master’s program that let him combine both.

Today, as in recent years, he divides his time between fieldwork, largely working with amphibians in temperate wetlands (access to which is limited by climate to a little less than half the year); lab work analyzing his findings; artwork, as an eco-artist, documenting and highlighting the specimens and the conclusions he has drawn from them; and teaching — he is a professor in various departments, fine arts (includ-

ing a course on eco-arts), humanities and sciences, at the School of Visual Arts in New York City.

Throughout he has focused on ecology and how “citizen science” can aid ecological research. “At any given moment I’m working on a dozen or so projects. Science-wise it’s a good thing I’m working in a temperate environment, which gives me five months 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 two days a week looking at data and two more on making the imagery.

His CV describes his artworks as “transdisciplinary, inspired by ecological field and lab research” and describes his “central investigative focus on the occurrence of developmental deformities and population decline among amphibians.”

Drawn particularly to amphibians by 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.”

The fieldwork fuels the art, and vice versa. Ballengée cites as an example work he did last spring, in the Netherlands, at site, where many deformed frogs were found. “The question becomes how do you take that and make it into a work of art?”

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 in and around Philipstown? Grab The Calendar and go. For more details and ongoing events, visit [philipstown.info](http://philipstown.info). Send event listings to [calendar@philipstown.info](mailto:calendar@philipstown.info). See you around town!

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

### Kids & Community

- Sparkle!**  
5 - 9 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Garrison  
845-265-3638 | [boscobel.org](http://boscobel.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.com](http://allsportfishkill.com)
- Holiday Sing**  
7 p.m. Beacon Sloop Club  
2 Red Flynn Drive, Beacon  
914-907-4928 | [beaconsloopclub.org](http://beaconsloopclub.org)
- Warwick Valley Winery and Distillery Dinner**  
7:15 p.m. The Garrison  
2015 Route 9, Garrison  
845-424-3604, ext. 25 | [thegarrison.com](http://thegarrison.com)

### Art & Design

- Holiday Show (Opening)**  
5 - 9 p.m. Russell Cusick Gallery  
45 Beekman St., Beacon  
845-729-9262 | [reflectionsonthehudson.com](http://reflectionsonthehudson.com)

### Film & Theater

- All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914**  
7 p.m. St. Mary's Church  
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring  
845-265-9575 | [hvshakespeare.org](http://hvshakespeare.org)
- International Film Night: The Hundred-Foot Journey (India)**  
7 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St., Beacon  
845-831-1134 | [beaconlibrary.org](http://beaconlibrary.org)

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

### Music

- A John Denver Christmas Starring Ted Vigil**  
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St., Peekskill  
914-739-0039 | [paramounthudsonvalley.com](http://paramounthudsonvalley.com)
- Myles Mancuso Band**  
8 p.m. BeanRunner Café | 201 S. Division, Peekskill  
914-737-1701 | [beanrunnercafe.com](http://beanrunnercafe.com)
- Caravan of Thieves**  
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe  
379 Main St., Beacon  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)
- Live Music**  
9 p.m. Whistling Willie's | 184 Main St., Cold Spring  
845-265-2012 | [whistlingwillies.com](http://whistlingwillies.com)
- Pink Ride**  
9 p.m. Quinn's | 330 Main St., Beacon  
845-831-8065 | [quinnnsbeacon.com](http://quinnnsbeacon.com)
- T. Jay**  
9:30 p.m. Max's on Main | 246 Main St., Beacon  
845-838-6297 | [maxsonmain.com](http://maxsonmain.com)
- The Billy Joel Experience**  
10 p.m. The Hudson Room | 23 S. Division St., Peekskill | 914-788-3663 | [hudsonroom.com](http://hudsonroom.com)
- The Spookfish/Dean Cercone/Brown Bread**  
10 p.m. Dogwood  
47 E. Main St., Beacon  
845-202-7500 | [dogwoodbar.com](http://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 | [visitbearmountain.com](http://visitbearmountain.com)
- Cold Spring Farmers' Market**  
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. St. Mary's Church  
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring | [csfarmmarket.org](http://csfarmmarket.org)
- Denning Hill Hike (Easy)**  
10 a.m. Appalachian Market  
1467 Route 9, Garrison  
845-471-9892 | [midhudsonadk.org](http://midhudsonadk.org)
- Holiday Boutique**  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403, Garrison  
845-265-3652 | [desmondfishlibrary.org](http://desmondfishlibrary.org)
- Holiday Felting Project**  
10 a.m. Common Ground Farm  
79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls  
845-231-4424 | [commongroundfarm.org](http://commongroundfarm.org)
- Holiday Project Workshop (First Session)**  
10 a.m. Grades K-3 | 12:30 p.m. Grades 4-6  
Philipstown Recreation Center  
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison  
845-424-4618 | [philipstownrecreation.com](http://philipstownrecreation.com)
- Hudson Valley Etsy Holiday Craft Fair**  
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St., Beacon  
845-831-4988 | [howlandculturalcenter.org](http://howlandculturalcenter.org)
- Miss Emily's Family Hootenanny**  
10 a.m. Beacon Music Factory  
629 Route 52, Beacon | 845-765-0472  
[beaconmusicfactory.com](http://beaconmusicfactory.com)
- Seed Wreaths**  
10 a.m. Outdoor Discovery Center  
100 Muser Drive, Cornwall  
845-534-5506 | [hhnaturemuseum.org](http://hhnaturemuseum.org)
- Create Your Own Holiday Wreath**  
1 p.m. Fort Montgomery Historic Site  
690 Route 9W, Fort Montgomery  
845-446-2134 | [nysparks.com](http://nysparks.com)

- Santa Visits Secret Garden**  
1 - 4 p.m. Kismet at Caryn's  
72 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-4403
- Holiday Open House**  
2 - 4 p.m. Manitoga  
584 Route 9D, Garrison  
845-424-3812 | [russelwrightcenter.org](http://russelwrightcenter.org)
- Holiday Tree Lighting**  
3 p.m. Kids' craft | 4 p.m. Santa arrives  
Main Street at Route 9D, Beacon  
[beaconarts.org](http://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, Vails Gate  
845-561-5498 | [nysparks.com](http://nysparks.com)
- Roll Your Own Mezzuzah Workshop**  
5 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance  
331 Verplanck Avenue, Beacon  
845-831-2012 | [beaconhebrewalliance.org](http://beaconhebrewalliance.org)
- Kids' Night Out (ages 3-12)**  
5 - 8 p.m. Church on the Hill  
245 Main St., Cold Spring  
914-382-6389 | [coldspringchurchonthehill.org](http://coldspringchurchonthehill.org)
- Sparkle!**  
5 - 9 p.m. Boscobel  
See details under Friday.
- 4th Annual Santa's Pub Crawl**  
6 p.m. - Midnight. Downtown Peekskill  
[peekskillartsalliance.org](http://peekskillartsalliance.org)
- Holiday Cheers Celebration**  
6 - 11 p.m. Beahive Beacon  
291 Main St., Beacon  
845-765-1890 | [beahivebzzz.com](http://beahivebzzz.com)
- Health & Fitness**
- Affordable Care Act and You (Talk)**  
10 a.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring  
800-453-4666 to register



# Lament of an Expat

*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."*

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*"It's best to read it with a gin and tonic at your elbow."*

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*"The book has pictures, which is nice, but only a tiny one of me on the cover, which is not nice."*

~ Columnist, Tara

*"Aren't we giving too much space to this damned book? It's not War and Peace."*


~ Newspaper publisher, Gordon Stewart

*"I couldn't pick it up so I couldn't put it down."*

~ Scribbler, F. Scott Fitzgerald

*Lament of an Expat* 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.



4 1st violins

3 2nd violins

2 violas

2 cellos

1 bass

2 oboes

2 bassoons

2 trumpets

1 tympani

1 harpsichord

1 positiv organ

1 solo soprano

1 solo countertenor

1 solo tenor

1 solo bass

20+ chorus

A Philipstown

# Messiah

by George Frideric Handel Parts I and II (abridged)

A special benefit for Saint Mary's-in-the-Highlands, and Philipstown Food Pantry

Featuring top professional period instrument players and singers

Prepared and conducted by Gordon Stewart in 2013, and performed in his memory.

July 22, 1939 – November 26, 2014

Sunday, December 21, 2014

2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., Reception: 3:30-4:30 \$20, \$100, \$250, \$500

Tickets: [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com)

All costs for these performances have been donated in the spirit of the season. All tickets and contributions will be tax-deductible to the extent provided by the law.

Saint Mary's-in-the-Highlands, 1 Chestnut Street, Cold Spring, NY 845-265-2539 [stmaryscoldspring.org](http://stmaryscoldspring.org)



**Acroyoga With Matt Fields-Johnson (First Session)**  
1:30 & 5:30 p.m. SkyBaby Yoga | 75 Main St., Cold Spring | 917-362-7546 | skybabyyoga.com

**Art & Design**

**Howland Public Library**  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Mary Ann Glass: *My iPhone Journal* (Exhibit) | 5 - 7 p.m. Barbara Masterson: *Sessions* (Opening) | 313 Main St., Beacon 845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

**Regine Basha on Sol LeWitt**  
2 p.m. Dia:Beacon | 3 Beekman St., Beacon 845-440-0100 | diabeacon.org

**Garrison Art Center (Openings)**  
5 - 7 p.m. Group Show: *smallWORKS*  
5 - 7 p.m. Stacey Farley: *Fragments, Bundles and Clusters* | 23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison 845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

**Brandon Ballengée: Ghosts of the Gulf (Talk and Reception)**  
5 - 7 p.m. Beacon Institute | 199 Dennings Ave., Beacon | 845-765-2721 | bire.org

**Group Show: Buone Feste (Reception)**  
5 - 8 p.m. RiverWinds Gallery  
172 Main St., Beacon  
845-838-2880 | riverwindsgallery.com

**bau Gallery (Openings)**  
6 - 9 p.m. Group Show | 6 - 9 p.m. Herman Roggeman  
506 Main St., Beacon  
845-440-7584 | baugallery.com

**Group Show: Gift Wrap 2 (Opening)**  
6 - 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery | 163 Main St., Beacon 212-255-2505 | cluttermagazine.com

**Hiro Ichikawa: In-Between (Opening)**  
6 - 9 p.m. Theo Ganz Gallery | 149 Main St., Beacon 917-318-2239 | theoganzstudio.com

**Film & Theater**

**27 Santas 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 800-338-2620 | graymoorcenter.org

**The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf (Youth Players)**  
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. Embark  
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 Cafe  
124 Main St., Cold Spring  
845-265-2525 | silverspooncs.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)

WORLD'S END THEATER PRESENTS

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Sunday 12/14 7:30pm  
CHERYL WHEELER  
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Friday 12/19 8:30pm  
"WE THREE DUOS"

Saturday 12/20 8:30pm  
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CHRISTMAS

Sunday 12/21 7:30pm  
Winter Solstice Holiday Show  
THE COSTELLOS  
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Sunday 12/28 7:30pm  
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Saturday 1/3 8:30pm  
RED MOLLY

Sunday 1/4 7:00pm  
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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.

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Artist Talk & Reception, a Beacon Second Saturday

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# happy holidays!

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The Calendar *(from page 10)*

<b>Doug Munro (Jazz)</b> 8 p.m. BeanRunner Café   Details under Friday
<b>Latin Music Night</b> 8 p.m. Virgo's Sip N Soul Café   469 Fishkill Ave., Beacon   845-831-1543   virgossipnsoul.com
<b>A Tribute to The Band and <i>The Last Waltz</i></b> 8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe See details under Friday.
<b>Live Music</b> 9 p.m. Whistling Willie's   Details under Friday
<b>Stax of Soul</b> 9:30 p.m. 12 Grapes   12 N. Division St., Peekskill 914-737-6624   12grapes.com
<b>Talking Machine</b> 9:30 p.m. Max's on Main   Details under Friday
<b>Meetings &amp; Lectures</b>
<b>Bereavement Support Group</b> 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Our Lady of Loretto 24 Fair St., Cold Spring 845-265-3718   ourladyoflorettocs.com.
<b>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14</b>
<b>Kids &amp; Community</b>
<b>Breakfast With Santa</b> 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. Bear Mountain Inn See details under Saturday.
<b>Beacon Farmers Market</b> 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Scenic Hudson River Center Long Dock Drive, Beacon 845-234-9325   beaconfarmersmarket.org
<b>Candlelight Tour of Newburgh</b> Noon - 5 p.m. Capt. David Crawford House 189 Montgomery St., Newburgh 845-561-2585   newburghhistoricalsociety.com
<b>Warm Up at the Washingtons'</b> Noon - 4 p.m. Washington's Headquarters 84 Liberty St., Newburgh 845-562-1195   nysparks.com
<b>Holiday Boutique</b> 1 - 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library See details under Friday.
<b>Memorial Service for Gordon Stewart</b> 1 p.m. St. Mary's Episcopal Church 1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring 845-265-2539   stmaryscoldspring.org
<b>Christmas on South Street</b> 2 - 6 p.m. Beale Street Barber Shop 907 South St., Peekskill 914-271-5891   bealestreetbarbershop.com
<b>10 Local Writers x 7 Minutes (Readings)</b> 4 p.m. Philipstown.info   69 Main St., Cold Spring
<b>Candlelight Tours</b> 4 - 7 p.m. Mount Gulian Historic Site 5 p.m. Living History scenario 145 Sterling St., Beacon 845-831-8172   mountgulian.org
<b>Film &amp; Theater</b>
<b><i>Winter Tidings (Dance)</i></b> Noon. St. Luke's Church (Parish Hall) 850 Wolcott Ave., Beacon 845-831-1870   balletartsstudio.com
<b><i>27 Santas With an Elf Called Kevin (Musical)</i></b> 1 & 3:30 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley See details under Friday.
<b>No-Strings Marionette</b> 1 p.m. <i>The Snow Maiden</i> 4 p.m. <i>Scrooge: A Christmas Carol</i> Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St., Beacon 845-831-4988   howlandculturalcenter.org
<b><i>Cheaper by the Dozen</i></b> 3 p.m. The Beacon Theatre See details under Friday.
<b><i>The Santa Closet</i></b> 3 p.m. Embark   See details under Saturday.
<b><i>The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf (Youth Players)</i></b> 4 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre See details under Friday.
<b><i>A Christmas Carol (Dinner Show)</i></b> 5:30 p.m. Hudson House River Inn 2 Main St., Cold Spring 845-265-9355   hudsonhouseinn.com
<b><i>Awake: The Life of Yogananda (Documentary)</i></b> 7 p.m. Downing Film Center 19 Front St., Newburgh 845-561-3686   downingfilmcenter.com

<b>Music</b>
<b>St. Philip's Choir: <i>Gloria!</i> by John Rutter</b> 4 p.m. St. Philip's Church   1101 Route 9D, Garrison   845-424-3571   stphilipshighlands.org
<b>Greg Westhoff's Westchester Swing Band</b> 5:30 - 8 p.m. 12 Grapes   Details under Saturday
<b>Cheryl Wheeler / Patty Larkin</b> 7:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe See details under Friday.
<b>Stephen Clair and the Millionaires</b> 8 p.m. Quinn's   See details under Friday.

<b>Meetings &amp; Lectures</b>
<b>BHA Book Club: <i>No One Is Here Except All of Us</i></b> 11:30 a.m. Bank Square Coffeehouse 129 Main St., Beacon 845-831-4867   beaconhebrewalliance.org

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

<b>Music</b>
<b>Saxophonist Josh Rutner's Christmas Spectacular (Jazz)</b> 8 p.m. Quinn's   See details under Friday.

<b>Meetings &amp; Lectures</b>
<b>Justice Court</b> 7 p.m. Village Hall 85 Main St., Cold Spring 845-265-3611   coldspringny.gov
<b>Blue Devil Booster Club</b> 7:30 p.m. Haldane School 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring 845-265-9254   haldaneschool.org
<b>Nelsonville Village Board</b> 7:30 p.m. Village Hall 258 Main St., Nelsonville 845-265-2500   villageofnelsonville.org

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

<b>Kids &amp; Community</b>
<b>Craft Hour (grades 2+)</b> 4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library 472 Route 403, Garrison 845-424-3020   desmondfishlibrary.org
<b>Lighting of Bicycle Menorah</b> 5:30 p.m. Polhill Park Main Street at Route 9D, Beacon   beaconarts.org
<b>Winter Terrarium Workshop</b> 6:30 p.m. Stony Kill Farm   79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls   845-831-1617   stonykill.org

<b>Sports</b>
<b>Haldane vs. Hendrick Hudson (Girls Basketball)</b> 6:15 p.m. Haldane School 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring 845-265-9254   haldaneschool.org

<b>Film &amp; Theater</b>
<b>Film Class: <i>The Wizard of Oz (1939)</i></b> 9:30 a.m. MSMC Desmond Campus 6 Albany Post Road, Newburgh 845-565-2076   msmc.edu/communityed

<b>Meetings &amp; Lectures</b>
<b>Highland Knitters</b> Noon. Desmond-Fish Library 472 Route 403, Garrison 845-424-3020   desmondfishlibrary.org
<b>Digital Salon</b> 7 p.m. Beahive Beacon 291 Main St., Beacon 845-765-1890   beahivebzzz.com
<b>Haldane School Board</b> 7 p.m. Haldane School 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring 845-265-9254   haldaneschool.org
<b>Board of Trustees</b> 7:30 p.m. Village Hall 85 Main St., Cold Spring 845-265-3611   coldspringny.gov

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

<b>Kids &amp; Community</b>
<b>Come and Play (ages 0–3)</b> 9:45 a.m. Howland Public Library 313 Main St., Beacon 845-831-1134   beaconlibrary.org

<b>Senior Bus Trip to Fishkill</b> 10 a.m. Chestnut Ridge, Cold Spring 845-424-4618   philipstownrecreation.com
<b>Desmond-Fish Library</b> 10:15 a.m. Music & Motion for Toddlers 1:30 p.m. Preschool Story Hour (ages 3–5) See details under Tuesday.
<b>Candlelight Tours</b> 1 - 5 p.m. Mount Gulian Historic Site See details under Sunday.
<b>Film &amp; Theater</b>
<b><i>From Here to Eternity (1953)</i></b> 7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley See details under Friday.

<b>Music</b>
<b>Julie Corbalis</b> 8 p.m. 12 Grapes   See details under Saturday.
<b>Meetings &amp; Lectures</b>
<b>Library Board of Trustees</b> 7 p.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring 845-265-3040   butterfieldlibrary.org
<b>Planning Board</b> 7 p.m. Village Hall 85 Main St., Cold Spring 845-265-3611   coldspringny.gov
<b>Garrison School Board</b> 7:30 p.m. Garrison School 1100 Route 9D, Garrison 845-424-3689   gufs.org

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

<b>Kids &amp; Community</b>
<b>Howland Public Library</b> 10 a.m. Brain Games for Seniors   3:30 p.m. Come and Play (ages 0–3)   3:45 p.m. Lego Club (ages 4+) See details under Wednesday.
<b>Candlelight Tours</b> 1 - 5 p.m. Mount Gulian Historic Site See details under Sunday.
<b>Film &amp; Theater</b>
<b><i>A Christmas Carol</i></b> 7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre See details under Friday.

<b>Music</b>
<b>Piano Bar Night</b> 7 - 11 p.m. Bear Mountain Inn See details under Saturday.
<b>Rock Band Boot Camp: Joe Jackson</b> 8 p.m. Southern Dutchess Bowl   629 Route 52, Beacon   845-765-0472   beaconmusicfactory.com
<b>Alva Nelson Band (Jazz)</b> 8:45 p.m. Virgo's Sip N Soul Café See details under Saturday.

<b>Meetings &amp; Lectures</b>
<b>Zoning Board of Appeals</b> 7 p.m. Village Hall   85 Main St., Cold Spring 845-265-3611   coldspringny.gov
<b>Philipstown Planning Board</b> 7:30 p.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring 845-265-3329   philipstown.com

<b>FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19</b>
<b>Kids &amp; Community</b>
<b>Candlelight Tours</b> 1 - 5 p.m. Mount Gulian Historic Site See details under Sunday.
<b>Gaming Club</b> 3 - 5 p.m. Howland Public Library See details under Wednesday.
<b>Sparkle!</b> 5 - 9 p.m. Boscobel   See details under Dec. 12.
<b>Holiday Party</b> 7 - 10 p.m. Beacon Music Factory See details under Saturday.
<b>Health &amp; Fitness</b>
<b>Navigating Healthcare Options</b> 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Howland Public Library 313 Main St., Beacon   800-453-4666 misn-ny.org. Appointment required.
<b>Holiday Potluck Party</b> 7 - 8:30 p.m. Living Yoga Studios 3182 Route 9, Cold Spring 845-809-5900   livingyogastudios.com

<b>Theater &amp; Film</b>
<b><i>Musical Revue (Youth Players)</i></b> 7 p.m. VFW Hall   34 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring 845-424-4618   philipstownrecreation.com
<b><i>A Christmas Carol</i></b> 8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre See details under Dec. 12.
<b><i>Cheaper by the Dozen</i></b> 8 p.m. The Beacon Theatre   Details under Dec. 12

<b>Music</b>
<b>KJ Denhert</b> 6:30 & 9:30 p.m. 12 Grapes   Details, see Saturday
<b>Rock Band Boot Camp: <i>Purple Rain</i></b> 8 p.m. Southern Dutchess Bowl See details under Thursday.
<b>Open-Mic Night</b> 8 - 10 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St., Beacon 845-831-4988   howlandculturalcenter.org
<b>Ricardo Gautreau &amp; Friends</b> 8 p.m. BeanRunner Café   Details under Dec. 12
<b>We Three Duos Holiday Show</b> 8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe See details under Dec. 12.
<b>The Compact</b> 9:30 p.m. Max's on Main   Details under Dec. 12.
<b>Brian Conigliaro</b> 10 p.m. The Hudson Room   Details under Dec. 12

ONGOING

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Part of Mary Ann Glass’ iPhone journal  
Photo courtesy of Howland Public Library

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.



Apparition by Hiro Ichikawa  
Photo courtesy of Theo Ganz Studio

The artist grew up in a small city in the mountains, recognized for its silk weaving and kimono industry. His father was a designer of wedding kimonos. Growing up in this environment, Ichikawa was greatly influenced by not only the natural world around him but also the rich colors, patterns and textures of the silk textiles. In the 1980s he came to the U.S. to study art at Pratt Institute, and after graduating he remained in Brooklyn until he moved to Beacon several years ago.

Patiently working with delicate brushwork, 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/yukey. 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.

Visit [www.philipstown.info](http://www.philipstown.info) for news updates and latest information.

Towne Crier Presents  
‘We Three Duos’

Dec. 19 concert features uncommon holiday music

Six musical friends shared the stage at an Adirondack 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 Heitzman hail from Oneida, New York, are working on their ninth album and tour the East Coast extensively. Playing conga and hand

percussion, Savoca infuses the music with her love of soul, R&B, and world rhythms.

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

Michele and Rick Gedney (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](http://townecrier.com).

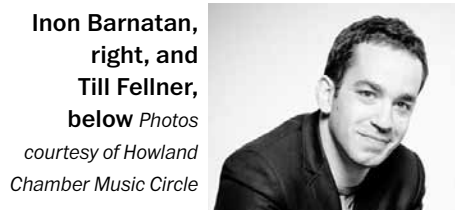


We Three Duos, including Andy Goessling and Sara Milonovich of Beacon, perform Dec. 19 at the Towne Crier in Beacon  
Image courtesy of the artists

Howland Chamber Music  
Announces Piano Festival

Winter concerts by Albright, Lee, Barnatan and Fellner

To brighten the music scene in winter, the Howland Chamber Music Circle again presents its very popular Piano Fest, a series of four solo piano recitals in the acoustically ideal setting of the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon.



Inon Barnatan, right, and Till Fellner, below  
Photos courtesy of Howland Chamber Music Circle



The first, on Jan. 18, will be by the young American pianist Charley Albright, who will play works by Beethoven, Chopin and the original piano version of Mussorgsky’s *Pictures at an Exhibition*. On Feb. 8, Soyeon Kate Lee, already well known to the Chamber Music Circle’s audience, will perform works by Scarlatti, Janacek, Schumann, Scriabin, Debussy and Ravel.

The third recital, on Feb. 22, presents Israeli pianist Inon Barnatan, who will play works by Bach, Beethoven, Franck and Barber. March 8 will bring the return of Austrian pianist Till Fellner, who will perform music by Bach, Mozart and Schumanns *Kreisleriana*.

Since the piano recitals tend to sell out fast, it is advisable to reserve tickets early. A subscription to the whole series is \$105; three concerts are \$80. Individual tickets are \$30; all student tickets are \$10. Subscriptions and tickets can be ordered by calling 845-297-9243 or on HCMC’s website, [howland-music.org](http://howland-music.org), where further information on the Chamber Music Circle’s presentations can be found.



Night Walk by Basha Maryanska  
Photo courtesy of the artist

Bashasart Open Studio  
Beacon Second Saturday

‘International Artist Holiday Show’

Basha Maryanska, an international artist who lives and creates in Beacon, has brought her group of international and regional artists to her new Bashasart Open Studio, Room 202 at the old high school building at 211 Fishkill Ave. during Beacon’s Second Saturday, Dec. 13. The reception is from 3 to 6 p.m. on Saturday and is open to all who love contemporary art.

Maryanska is a painter educated in Europe and showing around the world. She has been working as a curator at New Century Artists Gallery in Chelsea in New York City for 12 years. She not only shows but teaches painting in her Bashasart Open Studio.

Russell Cusick’s Annual  
Holiday Show On View  
in Beacon

Gallery open select weekends in December

Artist Russell Cusick will hold his Annual holiday show at his gallery in Spire Studios, located at 45 Beekman St. at the corner of 9D in Beacon. The show is open from 2 to 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, Dec. 12, 13, 19 and 20, and from 2 to 8 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 14 and 21. An opening wine and cheese reception is from 5 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 12.

This season, Cusick will offer many new photoacrylic pieces, varying in size, from “Barely fits through your door” to “Fits nicely in your beloved’s stocking!” Most all of the work for this show has been inspired by Cusick’s 16 years in the Hudson Valley and Highlands and by experiences in nearby New York City.

To see more, visit the Russell Cusick Gallery website, [reflectionsonteheudson.com](http://reflectionsonteheudson.com), or [spirestudios.org](http://spirestudios.org).



Artwork by Russell Cusick  
Photo courtesy of the artist



Roots and Shoots

Climate Change in Philipstown: Noticing the Impact Now

By Pamela Doan

As 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; Eric 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. Library Trustee Fred Osborn facilitated.

Eric 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,



Robins have moved farther north in winter and have been seen in Philipstown due to warming temperatures. Photo by Jonathan Oleyar, courtesy National Audubon Society.

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


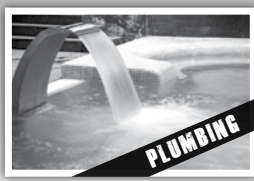
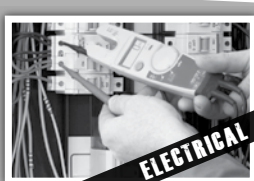

repeated a few times, “We’re going to need a bigger boat,” referring to Pete Seeger’s Clearwater Sloop, I believe. Gallay mentioned recent victories for the river, including the recent halting of the desalination plant in Rockland County, as examples of the power of people doing something about the problems 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.

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# Art, Biology, Species Preservation Intersect in Gallery Exhibit (from page 7)

not always ready to absorb it while they are looking at the work.

“I try to leave all the work open to interpretation, but I’m always hopeful that people will have an engaged response, that they will want to learn more,” Ballengée said, adding that he finds “people get engaged by visuals, and then later they are stimulated to learn more.” Ballengée tries to incorporate activities, such as field trips, in conjunction with or soon after an exhibit, that bring people out to collect data and make real world observations and just partake of the experience of the wetlands. He tries to make materials available at galleries’ front desks and/or provide online reference material that “saves didactic material from being on display.”

In writing about Ballengée’s work on

her *ecoartspace* blog, curator Amy Lipton, who organized the show, said Ballengée’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, Ballengée 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 vanishing species.”

The images are made by injecting dead specimens with red and blue dyes and then scanning them using a high-resolution scanner — which brings forward the intricate details of the internal anatomy of each subject, making them transparent, yet mysterious, concurrently.

In his Beacon Institute talk, Ballengée plans on providing a brief introduction into what his practice is and how all the work he has done ties into the challenges faced by the Hudson. He’ll be invoking the spill in the Gulf of Mexico insofar as the parallels between it and



**Parrotfish** Image courtesy of Brandon Balengée and the Ronald Feldman Fine Art Gallery

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 199 Main St. in Beacon. For more information, visit [BrandonBallengée.com](http://BrandonBallengée.com) and [bire.org](http://bire.org).



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