

BlueStone Press

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Town to change tax exemptions

Grace Molenda
BSP Reporter

The Marbletown Town Board met on Tuesday, Nov. 21. Supervisor Rich Parete was present along with Tim Hunt, Daisy Foote, Ken Davenport and Don LaFera. During the meeting, board members revisited the issue of senior income tax exemptions and discussed a plan for repairs in the High Falls Water District. The board also how the sale of the Marbletown Fire House proceedings.

This year, IRA distributions to seniors were tax exempt across the state. Going forward, the state will allow municipalities to decide whether IRA distributions should be counted as taxable income. Marbletown is positioned to include them. During the meeting, the board set a public hearing to discuss the change. If approved after the public hearing, Parete said, "this will make IRA distributions included in the income for the senior exemption," effective in 2024.

During public comment, resident Bill Terpinning remarked that the inclusion would be "misguided and egregiously unfair to seniors who have traditional IRA's." Terpinning continued, "Excluding IRA distributions has been the appropriate, just, and long-term practice for the state and by Marbletown."

The public hearing is set for the board's next meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 5. During the same meeting, a second hearing will take place to discuss changing income definitions and exemptions for persons with disabilities and limited incomes.

The High Falls Water District is working to replace all meters in the district. Currently, all the meters are out of use. The expected cost of the project is \$200,000.

See **Tax**, page 12

Holiday pancakes with Santa



Katie Kortright and her mother Colleen have an exciting event planned on Sunday Dec. 3, Get ready for fun with a worthy cause. All you can eat pancakes with a toppings bar, sausage, coffee, hot chocolate and juice, gingerbread cookie decorating and 50/50 raffle are all planned. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child under 12 and will be held at MCC. See the full story on page 4

Zoning changes coming

Crowd of landowners attend Rochester public hearings

Lori Childers
BSP Staff

The Town of Rochester is changing its zoning code, and over 525 land parcels are directly impacted.

Letters from the town were mailed to the approximately 525 affected parcel owners on Nov. 17.

The letters announced the town's Nov. 30 public hearings at the Community Center to address the 2023 Zoning Code changes.

The Town Board said they will review all the information received at the public hearings, and the matter, "will be discussed" and could be voted on at either the Dec. 5 or Dec. 14 Town Board meeting, said Mike Baden Rochester Supervisor in an email to BlueStone Press on Nov. 29. During the public hearing on Nov. 30, Baden said that he would hold workshops, open house style meetings in order to be available to answer questions.

The town is pressed for time, Baden said that the building moratorium - no subdivisions over two lots and no non-residential development over 4,000 square feet - will "absolutely not" be extended after Dec. 15.

The moratorium has gone through several extensions since it began in June 2022, and Baden insists it is over as of Dec. 16.

During the public hearing Baden said there wasn't time to do another extension of the building moratorium and there were reasons not to [extend it].

Yet many residents at the public hearing expressed concern that their was not enough time to understand all the proposed zoning changes and their implications in such a short time.

Rochester has about 4,300 total land parcels, and about 525 will have a changed zoning designation from the new 2023 Zoning Code update.

Baden, has spoken to many landowners this week who were shocked at the zoning

See **Zoning**, page 3

Holiday Tree and Menorah lightings in High Falls and Rosendale

High Falls Civic Association Tree and Menorah lightings

The 85-year old High Falls Civic Association presents its annual gift to the community on Dec. 9 at 4:30 p.m., on the Green, Sue Paterson Way, in High Falls. Free and open to everyone, the event includes Soup, Songs and Santa. Caroling, Hanukkah songs and performance buy

Robin Baker and Eric Stamborg. There will be a drop-off for Toy For Tots at the Firehouse and cocoa and cookies after the event at the High Falls Church. info: highfallscivicasociation@gmail.com

Frozendale Tree Lighting

Feel the warmth of the holidays with some hot chocolate in a Town of

Rosendale mug, at the Frozendale Tree Lighting, 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at the Rosendale Recreation Center, 1055 Route 32, Rosendale. Delicious hot chocolate will follow the illumination. For more information, visit townofrosendale.com or call 845-658-3159.

Bill Brooks brings the BSP to Egypt
PAGE 16



Parete won't commit to repairing the MCC
PAGE 7



BSP Holiday Section for all the local flavors
PAGES 17-25

Quite a life, and long as well

How long have you lived in the area and what brought you here?

I was born in NYC in 1927. In 1929, during the Great Depression, my parents bought a farm in Gardiner. We went on a one-year vacation to Florida while our house was being built. My father had been a welfare worker in NYC. When they bought the farm, he became a farmer. The farm had a tenement house on the property. My mother was the hardest worker I've ever known. She managed the tenement house, took care of my brother, sister, and me and helped on the farm.



Q&A

Visit the folks next door

At the age of four, I went to a one-room schoolhouse that was two miles away through the woods. Then in the fifth grade I went to the Normal School in New Paltz, where we had a new teacher every five weeks. I graduated from high school in 1945. After that I had many different jobs. I tried working in a factory and a few other places. I wanted to go to college to become a veterinarian, but my parents couldn't afford it.

In 1946 I enlisted in the Army mostly because I wanted the G.I. benefits (so I could attend college). My father and my brother were both Veterans. My father served in WWI from 1917-1919. He served in France and was gassed in the Battle of the Argon Forest. This affected his lungs badly, his doctor told him that he had to move out of the NYC air which is why they moved upstate.

When I got out, I got a degree in agriculture from Cornell. Then in 1950 I got married. We had an apartment on the farm (My parent's farm) in Gardiner. My wife Carol and I went on farm shopping trips upstate. On the way back from one of those trips we drove past a for sale sign for a 90-acre farm in High Falls. The farmhouse was built in 1917. After we moved in, my wife and I had our first child, a son in 1951 and a daughter in 1953.

What did you do for a living?

I was always interested in serving the community. When I was still in high school, I joined the Gardiner Fire Department. I was a member there until I moved to High Falls. When I moved to High Falls, I joined that department. When the High Falls rescue squad opened, I decided that my skills would be better served on the rescue squad so I switched to that.

We were also involved in 4-H. I had a 4-H boys club and my wife Carol had a girls club, we did that for 20 years. We did everything from animal husbandry, sewing, cooking to public speaking.

My job? I was a dairy farmer and an artificial inseminator. I also managed the



William Warren, aka Bill or Billy

Profession: Dairy Farmer
Age: 96
Town: Marbletown

Stone Ridge Nursery for five years.

You're a WWII veteran, tell us about your experience

I went to basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina and upon finishing basic training I was assigned to a base in South Korea. Myself and the rest of the bunch that were shipped there had to look on a map because we had never heard of it! We were shipped out of San Francisco on a victory ship. The trip was supposed to take two weeks. A few days in, however, we hit a typhoon. We spent a week bobbing around the ocean in one spot. The ship had a newspaper that the Army put out, it shows where you are every day on the way across. The dot on that paper stayed in one position for a week. The trip across the Pacific ended up taking 21 days.

During that time the ship's hull cracked and flooded one of the compartments with the food in it. All of the food spoiled. All we had to eat was Cheese-Its ... Our bunks were four hammocks high, but it flooded to the bottom of the first bunks, finally they pumped enough water out so we could use our bunks again.

We ended up having to go to Japan to fix the ship. We spent about two weeks in Japan doing nothing ... When we finally left Japan we sailed to Korea. I was stationed at the 38th parallel where the standoff was between Russia and the U.S. We were guarding South Korea so that the Russians didn't come down and take them over. We had a few incidents.

The funniest thing was, in our company in Korea, we had a kid from southern California. He'd never seen snow. When the first snowfall in Korea came, the first thing he did was he ran out in bare feet and his skivvies and he went rolling around in the snow like a puppy dog.

Shortly after I arrived, I was in the quonset hut. The company bugler had the bunk next to mine. I was supposed to wake him up when it was time to do his bugle call. He got his discharge notice one day, and he came in and handed me the bugle and said, "you're the bugler now." He knew I could play the trumpet, well I learned the bugle pretty quickly. After that I stayed in the rec hall, because I was the company bugler. I had my own hours, and I was the radio operator.

Korea was the coldest place on earth. One day I had spent the night in the orderly room on the radio telephone. When I was on my way up to my quarters, I met the lieutenant halfway and he told me "Warren, don't salute, keep your hands in your pockets!" because it was so cold, he didn't want my hands to freeze.

The cook had a 7- or 8-year-old Korean boy come to the kitchen every day. He would beg for food for his family. I asked the captain if I could hire him to help in the rec hall. So, I hired him full time. I paid him a carton of cigarettes a month. He lived with me for the remaining six months that I was there. I was in Korea from December 1946 to March 1948.

You recently went to Washington, D.C, tell us about that

I went on the Hudson Valley Honor Flight to DC along with 83 other veterans. I was the only WWII veteran on the trip. My Marine Veteran son David accompanied me on the trip.

We were treated like kings. Each person had special treatment, and there were so many volunteers. Everywhere we went was a celebration. There was a parade from the airport with fire trucks with their sirens on. Stewart Airport and the charter plane were decorated with flags.

One of the biggest contributors was ShopRite. There were so many volunteers who were there who paid their own way. They do two of these trips a year and this was Flight 31. The volunteers work very hard on this trip throughout the year.

What did you do when you got to DC?

We went to many of the Veterans Memorials. I saw the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It was a whirlwind of a day.

What do you like to spend your time doing these days?

Spending time with my great-grandkids and reminiscing. I've lived the life that I wanted to live and I have no regrets.

You've been around for a long time, what advice would you give our readers?

Life is short, enjoy it, take advantage of every opportunity. Watch out for your fellow man and be kind. **BSP**

-Compiled by BSP Reporter Jeff Slater



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A large, concerned but civil crowd attended the public hearings at the Harold Lipton Community Center on Nov. 30. Photo by Thomas Childers

Zoning

from page 1

change affecting their property. Some said that they were also surprised by the timing of the town's letter and public hearing so close to the Thanksgiving holiday.

The 2023 Zoning Code will change the designated acres and/or use associated with each zone on the affected properties.

The highest acreage zone in the town will change from 5-acre residential zoning to 10-acre residential zoning with the 2023 Zoning Code voted into law.

The next levels will be 5-acre residential zoning, a 3-acre agricultural and commercial zoning.

Baden said, "There are other zoning designations of 1 acre, 2 acre, in the town. We have a range of 1 acre to 10 acres depending on zoning district."

Some parcels are being changed from commercial to agriculture and others from agriculture to residential.

The town says they made these decisions based on the current use of the land and the environmental characteristics of each parcel.

Baden said, no lots, "by new zoning [code] changes" will cause any land parcels to be unbuildable.

Many landowners attended the Nov. 30 public hearing and are upset that they are losing some investment in their land, voicing that this is an overreach by the government to change the zoning designation to land they purchased and paid taxes on based on the current zoning.

Gerry Fornino the town's director of emergency and former zoning committee member for the 2009 update said "During the past 50 years, that's how long I've been here. I've been a tenant of the Town of Rochester, Ulster County and the State of New York. I average over \$10,000 a year in real estate taxes to my aforementioned landlords... Please act like you are part of our community as opposed to ordering us to fork over more of what little property rights we have left."

Once the 2023 Zoning Code is approved by the Town Board, any changes to zoning designation would have to go before the Town Board and be changed by local law.

Baden said, "Land use is really challenging because you are predicting social change, economic change and environmental change."

He described the town's landscape with the very mountainous land on both sides of Route 209 that are mostly owned by New York state, preservation organizations and individual easements. He said that these amount to about 300 of the approximately 525 affected parcels in the new zoning. According to him, these parcels are already preserved and will not be affected by the change to 10-acre zoning.

He explained, there are also some "swampy" areas in the Valley that are being switched to 10-acre zoning.

In an interview this week, Baden described the Rochester landscape with the Catskills Mountains on one side and the Shawangunks on the other side, pointing out the mountainous area will be the 10-acre zoning.

Then he described, as you come down the mountains it will transition into the 5-acre zoning. Baden admits, this is where "it gets trickier." That's where many of the people he's hearing from this week are affected. He explained, the question might be where possibly to adjust that transition from the 10-acre residential zoning to the 5-acre residential zoning.

There are also agricultural parcels throughout and further down into the valley meeting Route 209 and the Rondout Creek.

He said some agricultural parcels that were not being used agriculturally were being changed to 5-acre residential zoning. The idea is to "keep [the town] rural and protect it from high-density subdivisions."

Along both sides of 209 more parcels are changing to agriculture and residential zoning.

Before the 2009 zoning code, all of Route 209 in the town was zoned commercial. The 2009 zoning code modulated areas along 209 so that the entire stretch of highway in the Town of Rochester would no longer be zoned commercial.

Many people spoke out against the 1-acre hamlet designation on Route 209 coming out of Accord Main Street and extending along 209. This was described at the public hearing by Baden as an area that would have both residential and business and could someday have sidewalks. The area shown on the maps includes Saunderskill Farms and Skatertime properties among others in that area.

But many were skeptical and spoke out against their land having this new zoning designation.

Randy Hornbeck who owns Standing Rock Farms on Route 209 near Kyserike Road, said "I got 4 letters out of the 525, so it was a pretty horrible Thanksgiving right? The carpet was pulled from under my feet... I asked why are you taking my commercial land from me where my cows are on 209. Because you aren't using it, so I guess I should have glommed it up with a bunch of cars and farm equipment so I'm using it. I think this whole thing was done wrong and pushed in way too fast. Here we are heading to what December 15 is your deadline? It's got to be done by then?" Mike Baden responded by saying "Not necessarily." ... Hornbeck continued "Traffic is backed up on 209 and School road all afternoon, that's where your business's should be. You want to go Hamlet and bring in 1 acre zoning, HOA right? These great sidewalks [on 209], the whole thing brings more people in, I can't even get a coffee at Saunderskill at 8 in the

See Zoning, page 10

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BlueStone Briefs

Rochester Boards & Commissions Open House, Dec. 3

Curious about how to get more involved? Join us for the Town of Rochester Boards & Commissions Open House!
 When: Sunday, December 3, Time: 1-4 p.m. Location: Harold Lipton Community Center, 15 Tobacco Road, Accord NY

Learn about the current vacancies on our appointed boards and commissions, the types of projects and duties of each, and what participation and time commitment looks like.

Agenda: 1-2 p.m.: Special Presentation: Climate Smart Task Force & Q+A
 This is a new commission! Staff from Hudson Valley Regional Development Council will present on what a Climate Smart Task Force could achieve in our town and the assistance and resources available to us to be successful with this program.

2-4 p.m.: Boards & Commissions Showcase
 Visit tables of each participating board & commission, speak with current members and officials, learn about what participation looks like, and how each board works with our local government and community. Apply on the spot if you find a good match!

See our list of Boards & Commissions. Note: Not all Boards & Commissions will have vacancies in 2024.

Email Council Person Erin Enouen with questions at eenouen@townofrochester.ny.gov or call 845-417-5624.

Boice Mill bridge replacement over Falls Mill Brook

A public informational session on Project 8762.64 will be held on Dec. 13, 2023, from 6:30-8 p.m.

Location: Rochester Community Center, 15 GLF Road, Accord NY.

The project will replace the bridge carrying Boice Mill Road over the Falls Mill Brook in the Town of Rochester. The existing timber deck bridge will be completely replaced, including abutments and footings. The new bridge will maintain the existing 9-foot lanes and add 4-foot shoulders.

The project is being funded by the NYS-DOT BRIDGE NY program. For additional information, please call the Town of Rochester Supervisor at 845-626-3043 or email mbaden@townofrochester.ny.gov.

'Pancake Breakfast with Santa,' new event at the MCC

Jeff Slater
 BSP Reporter

This Sunday Dec. 3 get ready for a fun event for a worthy cause because Katie Kortright and her mother have an exciting event planned. All you can eat pancakes with a toppings bar, sausage, coffee, hot chocolate and juice, gingerbread cookie decorating and 50/50 raffle are all planned. The event runs from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and the cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child under 12. The contest will be an additional fee. This event will be held at Marletown Community Center [MCC], and all proceeds will go to the Ulster County Christmas Wishes charity.

The event was the brainchild of Katie Kortright and her mother, Colleen.

"We came up with the idea together. Last year I ran a gingerbread contest and vendor event to benefit Ulster County Christmas Wishes, that was hosted at the old Rosendale school. This year I wanted to do something different and have all the proceeds go to Christmas Wishes. We were unsure if we had the time to plan this event but decided to do it anyways. Because there is a record number of kids in need this year and not enough donors. We decided to throw this event together in time to help them out. Luckily, we have some past experience planning and hoisting events! We picked the Marletown Community Center since we wanted a local place right off 209. We have done events there in the past and love it," said Katie Kortright.

About the charity the proceeds will go to Katie continued, "We found this charity roughly six years ago through word of mouth. This year they are helping over 500 local families in need. Which totals over 1,600 kids. And it was all started by this amazing woman, Melissa Harshberger."

"We all do love Christmas, but our favorite part is adopting a family from Christmas Wishes," said Colleen Kortright.

Christmas Wishes of Ulster County was founded in 2014 and is a nonprofit organization. Their goal is "To make the world a better place for all by helping all those in need." You can adopt a family, which means you get a family and buy gifts for them through the organization or you can volunteer, or you can donate to the organization. For more information go to www.christmaswishesuc.com.

Katie is a Rondout graduate and also a Culinary Institute of America (CIA) graduate.

"My culinary degree is in baking and pastry arts which led me to do things like hosting a cookie decorating event which we will have at this event. I run my own



Katie Kortright and her mother, Colleen Kortright, in their Chef's Hats.

small business called Katie's Confections. I also teach baking classes and horseback riding on my family's farm. I love planning events like this one so I do it when I can. I struggle with many health issues, and I have to be able to work around them. So, this is why I work for myself and do my own thing," said Katie.

This event is not just Katie and her mother, Colleen, it is a whole family affair.

"We have eight to 10 volunteers. My grandparents, boyfriend, my brother and his friends, our cousins and a couple of family friends are the volunteers. Almost everyone is local, besides my two cousins who live in Jefferson. Their daughter

owns Thompson's Sugar Shack where they do a pancake breakfast every year for Maple Day. So, they are helping us out in the kitchen and giving us some tips since this will be our first pancake breakfast! They are generously donating two gallons of maple syrup to our event," Kortright continued.

"I think events like this are important for our community since it bring everyone together for a good cause!," Kortright concluded.

Come on out this Sunday Dec. 3 from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. to the Pancake Breakfast with Santa, a good time will be had, and you'll be helping folks in need. **BSP**



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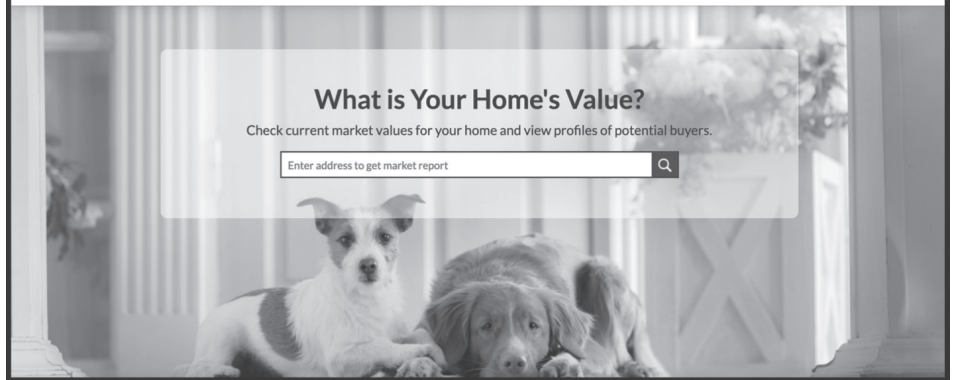
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READ THE NEWS ABOUT YOUR HOMETOWN

DeJager subdivision, Hudson Valley Seed Bank moving toward approval

Ann Belmont
BSP Reporter

Planning board chair Marc Grasso opened the board's Nov. 13 meeting with this local trivia: "When the British burned Kingston in 1777, all the old records and many of the important papers were brought out to the town of Rochester and hidden in stone houses, many of which still exist today." Rochester, he mentioned, was originally called the town of Mombac-us, a Lenape word.

DeJager Realty's application to build a conservation subdivision on a 93-acre parcel off Lucas Turnpike was back on the agenda after a well-attended public hearing last month. This application has been reduced to 10 houses from an original 14. Land features include wetlands as well as frontage on the Rondout Creek. Nadine Carney of Peak Engineering was there representing DeJager.

Franny Hertz, who lives nearby the planned subdivision, read a letter to the board from herself and Ira Klein. She stressed the importance of this section of creek to wildlife as a migratory flyway, saying they were "very concerned" about development along the creek. She asserted that the parcel the developer has agreed to preserve in the conservation easement is principally wetland, "land that is already undevelopable," and therefore the town is giving a zoning bonus (extra density of house lots) without getting much in return. "Lots Three, Four, Five and Six are all close to the creek and will have an impact on wildlife," she said, and those house sites should be "further away from the creek or eliminated." She singled out Lot Three, calling it a "carve-out" from the conservation area. "The septic system will require extensive tree removal from the riparian forest. The planning board should uphold the intention of the code ... Lot Three should be eliminated ... the planning board should reconsider the design of the lots close to the creek."

Hertz repeated the concerns, voiced last month by several of those who live along Peninsula Lane, about increased traffic and stormwater runoff. She advocated creating a cul-de-sac for the subdivision separate from existing roads. She also objected to the idea of the conservation easement being administered by the future homeowners' association (HOA), viewing that as a conflict of interest, recommending instead that it be held by "a land trust or conservancy who are interested in holding a conservation easement ... an

HOA should be a last resort. We rely on the planning board ... protecting the Rondout Creek frontage should be your priority," she concluded.

Grasso answered, "The DeJager property does have the right to use Peninsula Lane and Rondout Lane for access. It's in the deed," he said, and therefore the board can't legally require them to create a cul-de-sac. DeJager does plan to exercise those road access rights.

Joel Kaminsky of Rondout Lane observed that Peninsula Lane was only 13 feet wide and therefore it would need widening to 20 to meet code. "The subdivision would have to pay for that." Another member of the public wondered if the town was going to take over the maintenance of the roads. Grasso answered, "The town does not take over private roads period, whether they're up to spec or not." He added that Peninsula and Rondout Lanes will not be utilized during construction. "They will use the Lucas Avenue access. We will make that a condition of approval. Keep in mind ... that there's a list of conditions that the planning board, our consultants, our attorney, the Army Corps of Engineers ... [and] there's an array of people who are watching this project as it goes along."

After the public had its say, the board continued to discuss the issues people had brought up. Board member Rick Jones compared having the HOA be responsible for managing the conservation easement to "having the fox guard the chickens, we can require by law that they do certain things, but who's going to check up on the fox, so to speak? Has the applicant reached out to the Rondout-Esopus Conservancy?" he asked, turning to Carney, the applicant's representative. She didn't know, but town attorney Dave Gordon answered the question. "If they intended to, they would have done it."

Grasso asked him, "Dave, where do we stand on that? Can we require them to ask?" Gordon said, essentially, no. According to town zoning code, it's up to the landowner who administers the conservation area, and they have a choice to name the HOA as that entity. "It's striking that most observers do not like the idea of the HOA, but it's in the code," he said. Carney observed that it'll be important to homeowners to have some recreation areas, since they'll have smaller lots as per the easement agreement. "If they want to have a community garden, if they want to have walking trails ... I feel like it's important to the homeowners to feel invested in that

open space." Jones replied that the residents could make a list of what they plan to do on the land and present it to a conservancy. He also pointed out that HOA management precludes any state income tax advantage; but according to Gordon, the developers did not care about that.

Jones didn't want to let the issue go, but Gordon said that as far as "who's the enforcer," legally, it'll be the HOA. If this is a concern of the planning board as a whole, "we need to get in touch with the town board and ask them if this is a good idea." However, the planning board does have the power to set the easement conditions, "and you'd better start thinking about what they are going to be."

The board agreed to continue this discussion in their workshop meeting the first week of December, and voted to close the public hearing.

Next up on the agenda was the Accord Granary. Accord L.L.C, a partnership between Henry Rich, Renn Hawkey and Hawkey's wife Vera Farmiga, has won approval for a relaxation in certain zoning requirements called an Economic Enterprise Opportunity (EEO), created by the town of Rochester a couple of years ago. They propose to restore the old granary building on Towpath Road as well as other nearby structures and create several businesses there. "This is Phase Two," explained Grasso. "We are taking five existing lots in the hamlet of Accord and combining them into one," called a lot line deletion. Approval for the new single lot took five minutes. In December, Phase Three, the process of site plan approval, will begin. "See you guys next month," said Grasso to Hawkey and his team.


A public hearing was held for the Hudson Valley Seed Library's ongoing application to move their business to a 107-acre property at 11 Airport Road, right off Route 209. The entire property is conserved for agricultural use, with five acres allowed for a farm stand and other farm-related business uses. Grasso had comments from the Ulster County planning board, which reviewed the application: "The UC Planning Board is pleased to support this proposed use, which supports local farming land and a growing, successful business in our community, while minimizing environmental effects."

Gerald Dewitt from the Dewitt family farm on Airport Road spoke glowingly of the proposal. "I support it wholeheartedly. Airport Road is one of the only roads in this town that hasn't been affected by development, because of all the farming

that goes on." He also spoke to an issue that came up last month concerning the projected driveway, which is so situated that headlights would shine directly into a house across the street. "The driveway is a non-issue because I do not believe [they] are going to operate after five o'clock ... my tractor lights turn on that house every time I come to the end [of a row]. And anybody going north and turning off 209, their lights go directly into the house," he said.

Then Jen Kelly spoke. "As a resident of Accord ... I am so excited about this proposed project," she said, praising the "many wonderful people" who work there. "I see this new space as a wonderful way to engage the public" for the company. "I can see it attracting positive attention and more jobs to our area ... and more attention to the importance of local agriculture."

Grasso was ready to read a decision of approval for the Seed Bank, but Carney stopped him. The neighbor whose house directly faces the proposed driveway expressed concern about that to her, so she wanted an option put in the approval to move the driveway. She'd need to submit a new map, Grasso replied. "What do you want to do?" he asked the applicants directly. One of the three answered that to honor the relationship with a neighbor which they will have for many years, they would like to move the entrance. Grasso said that in that case they'll have to do the paperwork and the final approval will take two more meetings, adding, "Thank you for doing this, we weren't expecting it." **ESP**



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Marbletown awarded \$500K grant for Osterhoudt land purchase

Grace Molenda
BSP Reporter

In June, the Marbletown Town Board voted to purchase the Osterhoudt Flats: a 97-acre parcel of private land on Cooper Street currently owned by the Open Space Institute. A contract between the town and OSI stipulated that the \$1.1 million transaction occur within three years. In light of a recent grant award, that timeline has been expedited greatly.

At the Nov. 21 Town Board meeting, councilwoman Daisy Foote announced that New York state had awarded \$500,000 to Marbletown to support the purchase of the Osterhoudt Flats. Other funding will come from the recently established Real Estate Transfer Tax: a preservation tax collecting 1% of every real estate transaction over the median home price.

According to Town Supervisor Rich Parete, the RETT has generated about \$235,000 since its adoption in January. Going forward, he said, "If we can hit this target of \$200,000 [to] \$225,000 a year, we'll be in really good shape."

With new funding at the ready, the town is prepared to purchase the Osterhoudt Flats in the coming months. Said Parete, "We're hopeful that we will be able to pay OSI off sometime in the late winter, [or] early spring."

The forecasted purchase and subsequent design will require the input of many. The town recently contracted landscape architect Stephen Yarabek (of Hudson & Pacific Design) to draft a project plan for the property. Yarabek's proposal



Map of Osterhoudt Flats

identified five necessary features: street signage, parking and crosswalks, internally connected trails, observation points and ample seating. His proposal also included flexibility for "other features or facilities that are deemed appropriate to achieve the objectives of the Community Preservation Plan ... and are suited to the Osterhoudt Flats property."

In the future, Yarabek will work with members of the Town Board and Commu-

nity Preservation Fund Advisory Board to determine best use and layout of the property. According to Parete, the town also plans to hold community input sessions as the project develops. "We want to have a broad, diverse group of volunteers in our community to be part of that group to help us come up with what we want there," he said.

Another source of guidance will be the Youth and Recreation Committee. During the Nov. 21 meeting, the board set a public

hearing to reconfigure this committee to encompass outdoor offerings that did not exist at its 2001 inception. One of those will be the Osterhoudt Flats. "Once we have purchased a property with the RETT, [the Youth and Recreation Committee] will be in charge of the direction of that property," said Councilwoman Foote.

Parete hopes committee members will become community stakeholders in the Osterhoudt Property just as members of the CPFAB have been. "We want this new Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee to be equally as active, to go out and say to the town: 'Hey, we need this ... we want to add this program' and: 'Hey, there's grant money available,'" he said.

Maximizing involvement will help to enrich the eventual plan for the Osterhoudt Flats. At the Nov. 21 meeting, Parete mentioned the possibility of enlisting a permaculturist to help cultivate wild spaces there. "Maybe we want to have birdwatching or something and plant the proper vegetation and habitat ... If we wanted to do community gardens, they could work to set up community gardens," he said. Another development option is to connect the Osterhoudt trail network to the existing rail trail. In this case, the town would use RETT proceeds to purchase easements, allowing the trail to traverse privately owned land.

These auxiliary projects are on the distant horizon. The site plan alone will take months to produce. Still, the recent grant has brought Marbletown's vision of the Osterhoudt Flats into much closer view. **BSP**

The future of the MCC is not decided, according to Supervisor Parete

Peak Engineering report on MCC repairs reveals work needed

Jeff Slater
BSP Reporter

On Nov. 7, the Marbletown Town Board received Peak Engineering's visual building assessment of the Marbletown Community Center (MCC). It was briefly discussed at the Nov. 21 board meeting. Scott Davis, of Peak Engineering, went through the building with Board Members Daisy Foote and Tim Hunt, said Town Supervisor Rich Parete.

"The board can't make a decision until we know the costs of the repairs. The town is looking to build a new highway garage that will be shared with Rosendale and there is an expense to bring municipal water to Route 209. We have a lot of projects and a limited amount of money. We want to keep the Community Center, but

we have to know what the financial impact will be," said Parete.

The report cited several things in need of repair at the center, prioritizing them by what needs to be done immediately and what needs to be done subsequently. Some of the items in need of immediate repair include the stairs at the entrance, the roof, the heating system and the chimney and mold in the basement which must be remedied. The short-term problems include the building foundation, the building exterior needs work, the siding and trim [and] the windows made more efficient.

The report is available to the public and will be put up on the town's website according to Parete.

Parete said "The town will identify what repairs we want to do and then we will go out to bid. Peak Engineering will write the bid documents and oversee the construction. We know we need a new roof and want to do drainage work, other than those two, we aren't sure what else."

Ev Mann of the group "Love the Marbletown Community Center" said, "Scott did

a very thorough assessment of everything that needs to be done. Obviously, some of it needs to be done sooner rather than later."

"We are still reviewing the report and will decide which repairs we are going to get quotes for," Parete said. "Wendy Saul [Marbletown resident and member of the Love the MCC group] applied for a \$93,000 grant to help with the repairs. We should be hearing in March if we are awarded the grant. We are at a standstill until we decide what work to do and whether we receive the grant."

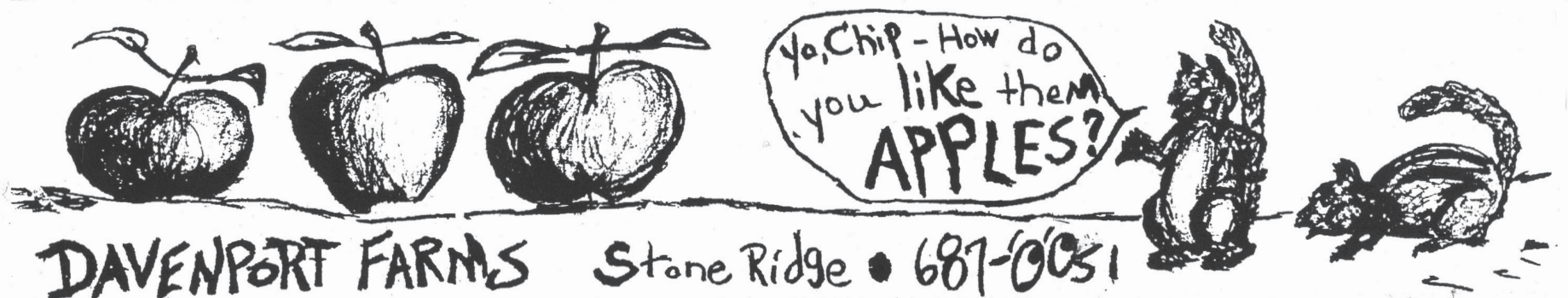
Parete continued, "I wasn't surprised by anything in the report. We have been aware that the roof needs to be replaced and that there is a drainage problem. Depending on the grant and what the town decides to repair, the earliest the work will start is the summer of 2024. I don't think it's going to be cheap to repair the building and if we do, we are going to have to reevaluate how much we charge for building use."

If the town decides to make the repairs, we are going to have to use town funds.

The money raised will not cover all the work that needs to be done."

Mann, whose group presented a check to the Board in September for \$15,000 that they raised by fundraisers and a "Go Fund Me" page, said, "No doubt the expense of fixing the building is daunting especially given all the other town building that need attention. My hope is that we, as citizens of Marbletown, can work with town to save the Marbletown Community Center. Some grants have been written and more will be and we feel it is well worth the effort. Our group is committed to doing all we can to preserve this precious community resource and we are working with the supervisor and the board to find a way to make this work without a tax increase. We truly believe that folks will assist us in this effort. We envision not only a restored MCC but one that uses green energy and is updated for current needs. We see an MCC that is fully utilized and thriving."

The next Town Board meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 5, at the Municipal Center. **BSP**



Bon appetit! John Novi gathers with former employees of the Dupuy Canal House

Chelsea Miller
BSP Reporter

The Dupuy Canal House was a luminary of culinary arts in High Falls for 51 years. Within that just over half a century, the building was home to more than just the birth of cuisine Nuevo but also served as a hub for many locals who were employed there throughout the years. As many may know, working in restaurants is more than just a gig – it’s a calling. Between the long hours and stressful situations, bonds are forged that last a lifetime. On Nov. 9, John Novi – owner and executive chef of the Dupuy Canal House – hosted a luncheon at the Enneagram Institute and welcomed many of the lives touched by their time working at the restaurant.

However, before we arrive at the reunion, a bit of history. The Dupuy Canal House opened on June 14, 1969. Initially, the restaurant operated out of an 8x10 kitchen (the kitchen addition wouldn’t arrive until the 70s) and Novi brought to the table many of the hospitality traditions of Italy, where he had spent the last year studying and cooking, including San Pellegrino on every table. He also bucked the tradition of the day and set a seven-course menu – no willy nilly ala carte menu in sight. Also, in the tradition of Italy, where purveyors are traditionally local and by specialty, he cultivated relationships with local farmers opting to make the real stars of the plate local fruits and vegetables. While the early reception was most certainly positive, life changed for Novi on a blustery night in February of 1970. On



Group shot of some of the attendees of the Dupuy Canal House Reunion with John Novi (sitting all the way to the right in the front row)

a Sunday night in February, just seven months into being open, a table of nine was sat in the main dining room.

Among the other who’s who of the party (which included Gene Huet, Jacque Pepin, Pierre Franne and a couple of chefs) was the who’s who that would shape the narrative of the Dupuy Canal House as everyone knows it: the equally celebrated and feared food critic Craig Claiborne. Claiborne would go onto publish a four-star review in early March and suddenly the sleepy days were over and Novi had patrons knocking on the door at 11 p.m. hoping to squeeze in for dinner.

Since selling the building to the Delaware and Hudson Canal Historic Society,

Novi has dedicated his time to many local efforts, including the design and implementation of the Christ the King kitchen redesign, where he remains an active member. However, restaurant bonds run deep and many of the folks who worked at the Dupuy Canal House went on to very successful careers both in and out of restaurants. Novi organized a reunion for the restaurant which took place on Nov. 9 at the Enneagram Institute in Stone Ridge. Thirty-five people attended from as far-flung places such as Detroit, Minnesota, Chicago and Albany.

The menu for the event presented a charming blend of traditional and contemporary, a testament to its legacy of the Dupuy Canal House. The menu began with a range of hors d’oeuvres that paid homage to the classics with items like herring in white wine and sprats fish on toast, alongside a more modern, vegetarian-friendly option of eggplant and beet green on toast, suggesting a progression from sea to land as well as a thoughtful consideration for diverse palates and dietary preferences. An intermezzo of fennel sorbet was offered as a refreshing palate-cleanser and a nod to the haute culture of food as it was served in the hay day of the restaurant. For the main course, a variety of wraps, a gluten-free option, mac and cheese, a hearty chicken cacciatore, and a splash of cross-cultural flair with empanadas a la Claudie was offered. Keeping fresh produce as the star of the show continued by way of Napa and Garden salads which gave Novi the opportunity to once again highlight the produce of the area. The dessert courses favored comfort and nostalgia, with French crullers and a strawberry shortcake that incorporated ricotta cannoli cream – a creative twist on two classic desserts as well as an homage to Novi’s roots in Italian cooking.

Rick Halberg, who worked at the Dupuy Canal House (for one day!) as a waiter before moving on to appetizer chef and eventually executive chef, says that it was at the Canal House that he learned what it is to be a chef. “I learned so much, mainly that cooking is an art,” says Halberg. “I wouldn’t have been the chef I turned out to be without my experience at the Canal House. It was a magical place for me. John gave me a sense of what I could do and let me fly. Back then was the heyday of the Canal House so all sorts of people would show up from the city ... we were like a wild crazy family. Lots of love and lots of frustrations too. But I knew at the time that I was lucky to be there at that time.”

Carol Numrich was also in attendance. Numrich worked at the restaurant just after it opened and was the hostess. While there, Numrich says that she gained a deeper appreciation for food and wine.

“John Novi’s cooking (especially his sausage stuffing with pine nuts); it opened my taste buds to a whole new world of foods, and I became a gourmet cook at home because of John,” says Numrich. “I also gained an appreciation for good wines after listening to Kevin Zrale, who was bartender then, talk about wine and how it was going to change Americans’ preferences for alcoholic beverages ... he was so right! When I worked at the Canal House, it was new, up-and-coming, and everyone was excited to be connected to this avant-garde enterprise. I was a local girl, so I was quite impressed by all the savvy people who came up from NYC and from other more distant areas to work at the Canal House. They brought a new energy and creative spirit to the area, and I was excited to be a young person swirling around in the middle of it.”

While Numrich didn’t ultimately go into the restaurant business, she credits the experience for setting the stage for her culinary life. She says that when she heard about the reunion, she knew that she had to attend. “It was amazing, as I went to it not knowing if I would know or recognize anyone (1969 was a long time ago!), but it turned out that I reconnected with several dear friends (John Novi, Rosalou, Frank Barr, Terry) and other coworkers and high school classmates I’d known at the Canal House years ago,” says Numrich. “We’re all older, and some of us are now gone, so the reunion was bittersweet.”

Michael Lally, who also hailed from the early days, says that at the Canal House, art was an all-encompassing term. “John Novi is an inspired artist who saw his kitchen as the palette and the dining rooms as his canvas. At the time that Craig Claiborne came to dinner, no one was cooking like that. In the mid-1980s Mimi Sheraton in Time Magazine called John ‘the father of New American cooking’ and he was, before Alice Waters, before French Laundry, before any other chefs looked to local ingredients and imaginative combinations. Everything from his kitchen had to taste wonderful and be visually striking.”

He also notes that the Dupuy Canal House was a trend setter. “Around this time, Barry Wine, his wife, and their two children would come to dinner on Sundays, each ordering something different. In the days before we carried pretty good cameras in our pockets, he would jot down details about each dish and fairly soon something similar would appear on the menu of the Quilted Giraffe, which was a highly regarded Manhattan restaurant at the time. Any number of young people from the CIA worked in the Canal House as externs and many who worked as sous-chefs went on the open their own restaurants with a similar focus on locally sourced, fresh ingredients and imaginative combinations.”

As for the man behind the curtain, Novi himself, he says that the day was filled with laughter and connection and it was deeply gratifying to see firsthand the impact on place and one man can have on so many. “The whole reunion was very gratifying, I never ever registered how important the hundreds of people who have work at a Canal House, over 51 years they were very special to me then. My philosophy was if something was not correct during dinner service, I would correct the person and then tell them see you on Monday. Monday represented all forgiveness and the start of a new week with great personalities and characters who crossed my path.” **BSP**



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Planning board asks for a traffic study for Lexington Center and water tank for hotel

Amber Kelly
BSP Reporter

The Marbletown Planning Board in meeting at the Rondout Municipal Center on Nov. 20 had Tracey Kellogg, David Cobb, Max Stratton, Harry Hansen, Sharon Klein, Brendan Masterson, Jim Economos, John Farrar and Shawn Marks present.

First on the agenda was an application at 46 Fairview Avenue, High Falls for a minor subdivision seeking to divide an 11.5-acre lot into two lots, 7-acres, and 4.5-acres. The public hearing is scheduled for Dec. 4.

A subdivision project at 26 Crestview Ridge, High Falls with Terry Ringler representing owner David Smith was the second agenda item. The board had only just received comments from the town engineer on the morning of Nov. 20. The engineers' comments were good with all aspects of project, but wanted to see a 20 ft. wide driveway. The driveway is mostly 20 ft. for first 500 ft. then a varying width from 12 ft. to 16 ft. wide. The person who owned it prior to 2019 did have the first 500 ft. inspected, so it is the remainder that will need inspection.

"What needs to be discussed at the Dec. meeting," Marks said, "is are they looking for conditional approval or an approval with conditions."

"Right, the map wouldn't get signed until the road is either completed or bonded," Kellogg said.

"The conditional approval brings them back in x number of months," Marks said.

"What is your sense? He is going to do this, correct? It's not something he is just going to sit on for a number of months," Kellogg asked.

"My sense is that this will get done. He is waiting for the commitment from the board that this is good to move forward with," Ringler said. "Until we have that, he doesn't want to ..."

"Put any money into it," Stratton interjected.

"Well, why lay out the money if we don't have conditional approval," Ringler said. "If you make this wait for another month, and obviously this is going to take another month, we get into the freeze and thaw cycles. So, the earlier for us, the better. We were hoping to get conditional approval tonight so we can move forward with road



Left to right, chair Max Stratton, Harry Hansen and Sharon Klein study a new application at the planning board meeting on Nov. 20. Photo by Amber Kelly

construction."

DEC already held them up for a month, and everything is now in. Comments back from the town engineer said that the storm water control looks good, proposed construction plan for driveway looks good. The engineers just want it inspected and bonded.

A board member asked if it was conceivable that he could do that work and get it inspected before the next meeting, but the answer was no, due mostly to timing of required inspections.

Ringler said, "We will get it moving and perhaps have a start on it before the next meeting."

Next the planning board opened and accepted a new subdivision application for 120-121 Mill Road with Bill Eggers representing Katy and Gregory Sans.

Egger said, "This is on Mill Road, a proposed two lot subdivision, 7-acres total, 3-acre zoning district. We have a little wrinkle there; they don't have enough road frontage (for the houses) to be side by side. This went to the ZBA for an area variance and it went through a process there that was quite diligent, I've got to say. They did approve that area variance.

"Everything was done; that included approving locations of the houses, the septic, including showing the distance between houses, and they had a public hearing. I feel that your work has been done already.

We are in the process of submitting plans to the Dept. of Health for the septic. The test holes look good out there," Eggers said.

The proposal is to stagger the homes and run a driveway along the right edge of the property to the back lot. The public hearing got scheduled for Dec. 4.

Three representatives came for the Lexington Center medical office with changes to the site plan based on feedback from the planning board. A pedestrian flight of stairs from the lower lot to the upper lot is now proposed. A turn-around area near the entrance for emergency vehicles and deliveries has been put in. Four parking spots were added. The lower parking lot is capped at ten spaces. Additional outdoor lighting has been specified.

Klein pointed out that the entrance on 209 has double yellow lines, so turning is technically illegal, and traffic is getting heavier.

Stratton said a traffic study should be done on this. He proposed the motion to refer it to the Ulster County planning board and he got a second. Next, he proposed to refer it to the town engineer. The board agreed and set escrow at \$1,200 to cover that cost."

A Lexington representative asked if they could participate on zoom next meeting since they come from two hours away, and the weather could be bad.

"We haven't done Zoom since Covid," Stratton said. "There was some legality in all of that, as far as what we are allow to do. We'll discuss it."

Kellogg said, "You may not need to come if everything is in. We may not need your physical body."

Next up was the proposed hotel at 4321 Route 209 presenting a site plan revision. Owner Doug Posey said, "Walking around the site multiple times and working through the building needs has led us to change the driveway and the addition of a utility shed. The size of the fire tank needed for the fire suppression water is 18 ft. in diameter. So, we were hunting around for a place to put it. It is 1,500 gallons. We are happy to do it. We know it increases the safety of the uses on the site."

"1,500 gallons for fire suppression," Klein said. "Are you sure you are not filling a swimming pool with that?"

"It is tied together," Posey said. "So, it is the 200-capacity with an assembly room which triggers it, but it is also going to be trenched down to sprinkle the guest rooms."

"It's going to service the entire property," Stratton said.

"That is exactly right, it is all indoor spaces on the property," Posey said.

Posey explained that due to freezing of joints, rather than burying it, having the tank halfway enclosed is the best option. The new shed is insulated to house half the tank and electrical panels. There will be insulated vertical wood panels around the outdoor portion of the tank so it blends in with the buildings.

The driveway was also changed to have an exit for emergency vehicles. They will be using EZ roll grass pavers that have a hexagonal shaped support structure. It is engineered to support fire trucks but visually looks like grass and will not be used as a driveway normally. It will be maintained in the winter. There is also additional ingress and egress to the concentrated portions of the site.

"I think this fulfills all my requirements, so go ahead and add it to the plan," Stratton said. **ESP**



The Rondout Valley Growers Association is a nonprofit organization, deeply rooted both in farming and community. We are committed to celebrating, educating, and advocating about the importance of local farming. We work to inspire and engage all generations in order to create a sustainable local food system and strong agricultural fabric.

Mission—To strengthen our community and economy by supporting local agriculture.

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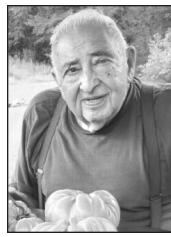
Elizabeth Showers (no pic)

COTTEKILL—Elizabeth J. Showers, 87, of Cottekill died on Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023 at Golden Hill Health Care Facility in Kingston. She was born in Brooklyn on Aug. 5, 1936 a daughter of the late John and Frances Schuh Hummel. Elizabeth was a homemaker and an area resident for most of her life. She loved to read, enjoyed cooking and spending time with her family. Her husband of more than 67 years, Robert P. Showers Jr., died Dec. 9, 2022. She is survived by her son, Robert P. Showers III and his wife Patricia of Cottekill, a granddaughter Megan Showers of Hurley and a grandson John Showers (Kelsey) of Cottekill. She is also survived by a great-granddaughter Hailey Showers, a sister Rose Marie Diamond of Cottekill and a nephew, Matthew Diamond. Graveside funeral service will be 2:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 17, at Rosendale Plains Cemetery, 793 Springtown Road, Tillson, New York. Rev. Arlene Dawber will officiate. Memorial donations are requested to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (<http://www.stjude.org>). There are no calling hours at the funeral home. The family extends sincere thanks to Unit A3 at Golden Hill Health Care in recognition for the excellent care that Elizabeth received. George J. Moylan Funeral Home Inc., Rosendale, is assisting her family.

Anthony Rusolo

ACCORD—Anthony Rusolo, a beloved resident of Accord, New York, passed away on Nov. 17, 2023, at the age of 96. He was born on July 29, 1927, in Brooklyn, New York to Antoinette and Generoso Rusolo. On June 10, 1951,

Anthony married the love of his life, Jennie in New York City. They were married for over 70 years. For most of his life, Anthony resided in Brooklyn until he relocated to upstate New York where he spent the last 20 years of his life. Anthony had an exceptional talent to repair things and was especially known for his expertise as an automotive mechanic. He had a remarkable ability to accomplish many tasks and derived immense satisfaction in creating artistic projects. In his free time, he found solace in gardening, which brought him great joy. Anthony leaves behind a loving wife, Jennie; his devoted son Gerald; his cherished daughters Annette, Vivian, Laura and Mike his son-in-law. He will also be remembered fondly by his seven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. Additionally, he is survived by his sister Sue, along with many nieces, nephews, and extended family members who join the grieving family in mourning their profound loss. He is preceded in death by his parents Generoso and Antoinette, his brothers Sylvester and Gerald, his sister Carmela and Dominick his son-in-law. He will be in our hearts to remember always. The family welcomed friends to share their condolences during visitation hours on Saturday, Nov. 25, from 12-3 p.m. at Humiston Funeral Home in Kerhonkson, New York. The funeral service began at 3 p.m.



Rusolo

Richard Myers

TILLSON—Richard George Myers, age 94, of Tillson, New York, passed away on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023. He was born Dec. 18, 1928, in Maspeth, New York, a son of the late Dorothy and Richard T. Myers. He would have celebrated his 95th birthday next month. Richard retired from IBM in April 1990 after 35 years of service. It was at IBM early

in his career where he met his wife to be, Anna Martha Kerbacher, who he married on April 28, 1956, in St. Peter's Church in Rosendale. Richard was an Army veteran of the Korean War and a past member of the Tillson Fire Department, where he also served as a fire commissioner for many years. In his early days as a teenager, he worked at Mount St. Alphonsus in West Park, where he wrapped books for the facility. He also worked at his parents' Hilltop Cabins on Route 9W in West Park. For those who knew Richard, you could always bet that his lawn and yard were well manicured, something he always took pride in taking care of. Richard and Anna enjoyed traveling to Maine for many years, always looking forward to seeing the beautiful ocean area. Richard is survived by his daughter Barbara Myers of Hurley, his son Richard (Bert) Myers and his wife Kelly Flood-Myers of Kingston and his grandson Kyle Myers and his wife Kate Myers also of Kingston. He is also survived by several great nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife Anna, his parents, a brother Frederick (Mabel) Myers, and nephews Fred (Elizabeth) Myers and Bruce (Carol) Myers. We would like to thank Susan and Jeffrey Plonski, and Joanne Velsor and Valerie Lowe for their friendship, help and kindness to our father over the years. In addition, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Ten Broeck Commons Catskill wing staff for caring for our father in recent weeks. Calling hours were at George Moylan Funeral Home Friday, Nov. 24, 2023, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., followed by a short service at 1 p.m. Rev. Arlene Dawber officiated. Burial followed in Union Cemetery of Lloyd in Highland. In memory of Richard the family suggests donations to the Tillson Fire Department, P.O. Box 214, Tillson, NY 12486 or a charity of your choice.



Myers

Tax

from page 1

The board approved the project, with Hunt saying, "It seems like we don't have a choice ... It has to be done." EZ Does It Plumbing and Heating has been contracted to replace the meters.

A bond will fund the project. Parete suggested that Bank of Greene County might offer the best option. "We spoke to Bank of Greene County," he said. "They're willing

to give us a \$200,000 loan paid back over five years at a little bit over 5%, like 5.2%. We have a savings account with them that we're getting 5.2% from so ... we're in pretty good shape." The decision to seek a bond was unanimously approved. The board also voted to allocate \$6,041.86 from the water district's reserve fund for meter replacement parts. According to Parete, "It's cheaper for us to purchase [some parts] than to have the contractor go do it." Residents within the High Falls Water District should expect a letter to schedule meter replacement in the coming weeks.

Sale proceedings are underway at the Marletown Firehouse. According to Parete, the town received a finalized offer of \$330,000. In order for the sale to move forward, the board was required to approve a zoning change for the property, located at 535 North Marletown Road. "The current district ... severely limits what can be done with it," Parete explained. Even after the board's approval, the potential buyer will need to consult the Marletown Planning and Zoning Boards for further determinations. After discussion, the board voted to change zoning and accept the offer, which

is subject to permissive referendum.

The meeting ended with a discussion on pending repairs to an underground aqueduct that services New York City. Due to malfunctions, Parete said "there are people that their basements would just fill up with water for no reason." The town is currently working with city agencies and the Department of Environmental Protection to fix the tunnel. According to Parete, "it looks like we're in the final stages" of contract approval for the repairs. **BSP**

Zoning

from page 3

morning the place is so busy... Commercial land belongs on 209 ... You are taking out my retirement, I'm not wealthy, this was my plan ... I could always do something to make sure I survive... I've been paying taxes on that and everything else is commercial land, now you're going to pull that, I'm not getting a break."

Along Route 209, Baden pointed out that the Rondout Creek area is "good for agriculture" because "when the creek floods it puts nutrients into the soil," but it's a sensitive area to develop. Additionally, he pointed out that, despite the creek being there, the water table was low in that area and the town took that environmental consideration in mind with the proposed zoning designation changes.

The last zoning code update was in 2009. Before that, the entire town was 1-acre zoning for residential.

In 2016 during supervisor Carl Chip-

man's last term, the town board set up a committee to review the town's zoning code. They started with a response to short-term rentals.

In 2019 the Town Board took it up again with a new 10-person committee consisting of five members from the town's commissions, the planning board and the town supervisor, and five residents that were chosen by each town board member. The code enforcement officer participated as an informational source.

The committee worked since 2019, though slowing during Covid. In spring of 2022 the committee presented their proposed changes to the Town Board. Committee meetings were open but not recorded.

(Short-term rental zoning code changes were made by the Town Board in 2021.)

Baden said that on Nov. 9, after "many long committee meetings," they finished the zoning map decisions and the county provided digital files of the maps on Nov. 13 (currently on the town website), and letters to landowners were sent on Nov. 17.

Baden said the town was not required

to mail letters to the parcel owners but chose to do so. People have complained to the town that the Nov. 17 letters were not received in the mail in a timely way and too close to the holidays.

Despite some appeals from affected landowners for the Nov. 30 Zoning Code public hearings to be postponed the town is moving forward. Baden said that on Dec. 16, even though it is a Saturday, the moratorium will end.

Additionally, on Nov. 30 the town conducted a public hearing for changes to the subdivision code to "allow for cluster housing" of lesser acreage in return for conservation subdivision by putting part of the lots in a conservation easement.

When asked by the BSP about creating more housing for working families, Baden explained that the 2023 zoning code change "allows for multi-family housing density bonuses" that could successfully impact workforce and affordable housing.

The 277-page proposed 2023 Zoning Code and zoning maps are available for view on the town's website. (<https://town-of-rochester.ny.gov/>) **BSP**



A large, concerned but civil crowd overflowed the public hearings at the Harold Lipton Community Center on Nov. 30. Photo by Thomas Childers

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Local beauty mavens rejoice – Bliss Beauty Bar opens in Stone Ridge

Chelsea Miller
BSP Reporter

Thanks to up-and-coming 21-year-old entrepreneur Neva Suszczynski, the commute for a fabulous facial, lash extensions or waxing from pretty much head-to-toe just got a whole lot shorter. The 21-year-old opened Bliss Beauty Bar on Main St. in Stone Ridge in June of this year and is currently expanding into a larger space at the same location.

Suszczynski grew up in Accord in a decidedly entrepreneurial family. Her parents own the Elm Rock Inn in Stone Ridge and also previously owned a restaurant in New Paltz. Suszczynski says that these early years shaped her. “My parents have helped a lot through the process of opening Bliss Beauty Bar,” says Suszczynski. She continues, “growing up, my parents made a lot of time to be home but I definitely worked for them a lot from a young age. I still do sometimes, like when they have weddings.”

Suszczynski attended and graduated from Rondout Valley Central School Districts, and says that while she wouldn't consider herself a star student, she had an overall very good experience and played a lot of sports. After graduating she enrolled at SUNY Ulster in the individual studies program. “I wasn't sure what I wanted to do, which is why I chose the individual studies program,” explains Suszczynski. “I ended up taking a lot of art and a lot of business.” Suszczynski says that even though she didn't know it at the time, as it turned out – that combination of art and business – would prove incredibly useful for her future career. “Looking back makes me laugh, because when I was taking notes I'd often find myself drawing eyebrows without thinking about it.”

After graduating from SUNY New Paltz in 2022, Suszczynski still wasn't completely sure. She says that she has long loved beauty and selfcare, “I was always into beauty,” explains Suszczynski. “I would always be doing my friends makeup, giving them facials – that combined with my love of art really drew me to the work. I also love helping people and this profession helps me do both of those.” While she initially looked into cosmetology, after finding an esthetician program she knew she'd found her calling. Today, Suszczynski is both a licensed esthetician



Neva Suszczynski, proprietor of Bliss Beauty Bar in Stone Ridge

and certified lash artist and opened Bliss Beauty Bar in June of 2023.

Bliss Beauty Bar offers an array of beauty treatment options including facials, micro blading, lash extension and waxing. The beauty of the services is that they are all entirely customized to every client. For lashes, for example, clients can opt for a classic lash extension which consists of attaching individual lashes to your already existing lashes for an enhanced appearance or go big with full on cat eyelashes or volume full lashes for an ultra-glam result. The Bliss Signature Facial can be customized to address acne or aging and there is an optional add-on of dermoplaning (a noninvasive process to remove peach fuzz and dead skin), hydrojelly masks and facial massage. In the waxing department, clients have the ability to hyper focus on specific parts of the body (such as just the

stomach or the chest) or opt for the full monty to be baby smooth top to bottom.

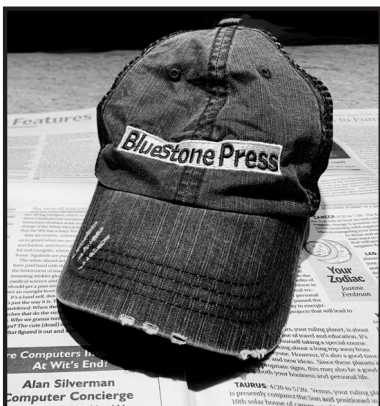
In terms of universal beauty rules, Suszczynski is a wealth of knowledge. If, for example, you are struggling with acne, Suszczynski has refreshingly straightforward advice. “I have a lot of clients who struggle with acne, and I say, start with not stressing about it! I recommend cleaning your pillow case very often – that's biggest things along with changing out your facial towel.” Whether or not you struggle with acne, Suszczynski recommends the practice of double cleansing. “Double cleansing is amazing, especially if you wear any makeup. To double cleanse, you're going to cleanse once and then dry off and then cleanse again to ensure that you are really getting your skin fully clean and free of germs and makeup. Moisturizer is an absolute must and I recommend incorporating SPF every day. I also love a good facial oil, there are so many kinds out there that address all skin types like dry, normal and oily. They seep a little deeper than other moisturizers. So, to sum it up: Double cleanse, tone, apply any serum, and then go in with the facial oil, moisturizer and SPF. Oh, and don't forget to drink water!”

Suszczynski says that since opening she has been overwhelmed by the community support. “The community has been extremely supportive and I'm so grateful,” says Suszczynski. “It feels so good to make people feel beautiful. I love handing them the mirror and seeing them happy. I love transforming them.” Clearly the love is mutual because after only six months after opening, she is expanding into a bigger space in the same location, and she's already looking towards the future. “In five years, I hope to still be in the area and expand into a bigger salon with employees and different services like hair and nails – a place where you can go and get everything done – you don't need to go anywhere else.” **BSP**

Bliss Beauty Bar is located at 3642 Main St., Stone Ridge. Learn more at <https://blissbeautybar.glossgenius.com> or follow along on Insta @ [blissbeautybar](https://www.instagram.com/blissbeautybar)

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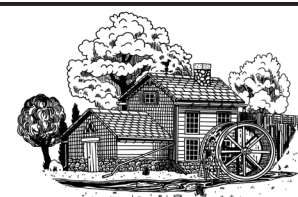
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Rondout boys' basketball, a new coach

Upcoming season of hoops and hope as they prepare to start the season

Jeff Slater
BSP Reporter

The boys' basketball team opens its season this Wednesday, Dec. 6 against Fallsburg. The team has a new coach, Jared Freese of Kingston takes the helm of this team as they move forward. Freese is also a first-year physical education teacher at Rondout.

"I think our team is shaping up well. The energy and team chemistry we are building will carry into the season. It is nice to build a rapport with and within the team and really get to know how to prepare the team to succeed," said Freese.

The team has been practicing since Nov. 13 and the season starts for real on Dec. 6.

The team is coming off a rough year last year, but Freese and his players are hoping to change that.

"Any team I coach and am a part of the goal is to spread knowledge and love of the game, along with winning. Whatever we have to do as a team to give us the best



Rondout Valley Boys Varsity Basketball team

chance of winning we will do," continued Freese.

His players are excited to start the season as well.

Ethan Dean, a junior, said, "I would say I am most excited for the energy we are going to bring to the table."

"I am excited to see everyone on the team grow and improve. There's a lot of potential on the team this year and I can't

wait to see everyone on the team get better and better. I want to see everyone playing hard, having fun and winning," said senior Emil Weintraub.

Aidan Davenport, a senior, said, "I am excited about competing with the team getting on the court every day and pushing each other to be better. I think we have a good group of guys and I'm looking forward to getting after it with them while

enjoying my senior season at Rondout."

The team competes in the MHAL conference with Saugerties, Onteora, New Paltz and other teams.

Coach Freese is working hard to prepare them for the season.

"We are working on our offensive and defensive schemes, getting players where they are the strongest and most successful. As of now our starting five is not solidified," said Freese.

About the team's future, Freese continued, "I am hoping to establish a culture within the team of good energy, utilizing our player's strengths to the best of their ability, winning and most importantly having a good time throughout the process of team building and the season in general.

I am greatly enjoying coaching this team. We are all doing our best to build team chemistry, a system that all the players buy into, and I am excited to build upon what we started. I encourage everyone on this team to discuss their thoughts because I have found that it brings a team closer together."

So, come on out and see these hoopsters on Dec. 6 and best of luck to them on a good season. Go Ganders! **ESP**

Pickleball Tournament

On November 16th, 2023, the YMCA and Bridget McGrew (certified Professional Pickleball Instructor) held their 3rd Annual Fall Round Robin Pickleball Tournament.

There were 20 Women's Doubles teams and 4 Men's Double Teams.

There were many women who played and represented Marletown Pickleball.

Out of the 20 teams Jackie Seils and Pat Paddock made it to the semi-finals and tied for 3rd place.

Other teams representing Marletown were:

Sandy MacDonald/ Mary Carrol Starke
Lisa Fries/ Lisa Seisel

Pam Garrison/ Mirelva C

Congratulations to all participants!

Looking forward to another Round Robin Tournament at the Y this spring.

Pictured on right Jackie Seils and Pat Paddock, semi-finalist



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Veterans Day

To the Editor: This past Veterans Day I attended a ceremony held at the Stone Ridge, New York firehouse. The ceremony was put on by a scout group. The firehouse social room was crammed with people of different ages. Children came up and read the names of relatives and the wars they fought in and the names of those who died in wars. It was very personal and very touching.

At the end they asked all the veterans in the room to come up to the front and form a line. There were perhaps a dozen. Anyone who wanted could come up, shake the veterans' hands and thank them. I went up, shook their hands and thanked each in turn.

I am 76 years old. Last year I called a friend whom I hadn't seen since high school, when we were both on the wrestling team. He didn't realize it, but this was a labor of guilt. I went to college in the autumn of 1965. The summer after my sophomore year, 1967, was the Summer of Love, when psychedelics hit campuses all across America. 1968 was the Year of Protest. I protested against the Vietnam War at the 1968 Chicago Democratic Convention among other venues.

I won't get into whether what we did was right or wrong. What we spoke of as the "1960s," from JFK's death through Richard Nixon's victory in 1968, was a wave that engulfed all within it, soldier and protestor alike. But when I marched against the Vietnam War, ugly things were said about human beings who went into the military. They made me uncomfortable at the time. I asked my friend from high school if he bore any animosity to the protesters. He said, "No, none at all. When I came home on leave my younger brother called me a "baby killer." I asked him what he did. He laughed, "I beat him up."

After the Veterans Day ceremony at the firehouse, I called my friend and left a message, wishing him a happy Veterans Day. That evening he called back. We talked for several hours, mostly about his path taken. He told me harrowing stories of the Tet Offensive, fighting in a Vietnamese graveyard, death all around ... incredible things that only heroes could possibly do. He said that he hated war and the Army and never attended a Veterans Day ceremony.

Here I had come for clemency from my own conscience. I hope that I unburdened his. I always thought to apologize to veterans of the Vietnam War. But that would cheapen the experience for both of us. To regret one's life is like regretting the wind. So, I said, "Thank you," to him and shortly hung up.

Alan Silverman
Stone Ridge

Parete wins by 40 votes

To the Editor: I was amazed to see your headline in the last issue of the BSP. Of course, "Rich Parete won the election of the Marbletown Town Supervisor." He was the ONLY candidate. What a shame! And, to make matters worse, he and his cronies on the Marbletown Town Board, Don La Fera and Ken Davenport, voted to make this position a four-year term beginning 2024. How nice

DECEMBER! Time to get reacquainted with some old friends



for Rich Parete to come up with this idea to coincide with his new term. Is this what a conflict of interest means? It only won by about 40 votes on Election Day! What does that tell you? Lots to think about here, for sure. By the time Parete's term is over, will there be any money in the town treasury?

Rose Percolator
High Falls

IRA income impacting Tax Credits

To the Editor: As Oliver Wendall Holmes said, "I hate paying taxes, but I like the civilization they give me." But these days, it's obvious that the rich are not contributing their fair share to our civilization. Thus, Marbletown evidently wants to get more tax money from those who own IRAs, assuming that they are the rich.

Our first question is how much of an increase in revenue do the members of Marbletown's Town Board anticipate? How much is needed?

Secondly, what are these extra tax dollars for? Will they somehow reduce the burden on the poor, or are they to take up new, unspecified projects?

Thirdly, has the town board recognized the difference in income of IRA holders? I gather that unions often set up IRAs with matching funds to help working people with their retirement. Should a new tax burden be placed on the required distribution of IRAs for these people?

Fourthly, in order to determine how much of a hardship this new taxation might be, has the town board researched the current cost of living in this area?

Finally, has the town board considered other means of raising what it suggests is a necessary increase in tax revenue? For example, what about instituting a means test, so that if your tax bracket is below a certain amount

each year, you can count on an exemption on taxing your required IRA's distribution? Or what about taxing only those with distribution income from multiple IRAs, etc.

Please keep in mind, you are adding taxes to those on a fixed income. If their income is huge, I agree it should be taxed. Otherwise, we should consider alternatives.

ViVi Hlavsa
Lomontville

It's not too late to send a donation to your local food pantry

To the Editor: Thank you for highlighting the work of food pantries in the Rondout Valley. These volunteer organizations help numerous families get through temporary and sometimes chronic food insecurity with dignity and respect. Your article [Local food pantries ready for Thanksgiving amidst growing numbers of clients on page 16 of the Nov. 17 BlueStone Press] incorrectly names me as president of the Rochester Food Pantry (RFP) - that responsibility is efficiently filled by Nelda Gerner, its chairperson. Members of the Rochester Residents Association have been significant financial supporters for nearly 20 years.

It's not too late to send a donation to RFP at P.O. Box 12, Accord, NY 12404 or to any of our community's food pantries. Monetary donations are always preferred as they enable a pantry to buy exactly what is needed, and at a discount from local food banks. Thank you for your continuing support.

Zali Win, President
Rochester Residents Association

WE MISSED YOU THIS ISSUE.
Your letter to the editor is one of our readers' favorite sections!

Email: bluestonepress845@gmail.com
Snailmail: BlueStone Press, PO Box 149, Stone Ridge

Coffee mugs

Dear Wally: Is it possible that things taste better in certain containers or on certain plates? I swear my morning coffee tastes better in the plain white mug versus the one I sometimes use with the bananas printed on it that says "I Chimpily Love You." – Curious

Dear Curious: Well, that's a cute mug! So, this is sort of interesting because I think you might be onto something that resonates in a neurofamiliar* way even if there is likely no science behind it. The obvious explanation is someone not thoroughly cleaning the banana/chimp mug before filling it with coffee.

*This is one of my more ridiculous, made up, nonsensical, pseudo technical, full BS, partial portmanteaus, so let's just smile politely and keep going.

Could the slightly off flavor actually be because some disgruntled or distracted member of your household used it to scoop out the log jams in the kitty litter box and just forgot to:

- clean it?
- clean it with soap?
- throw it away and never speak its name again?
- flee the country?

But let's assume (and pray) my snarky/gross stinkin' thinkin' isn't a factor and that hygienic continuity be-

tween all your cutlery is a given.

Next on the checklist: What are the cups made of? The material might legitimately impact the taste. I have had coffee and other beverages, in ceramic (and glass) vessels and they taste unadulterated. By comparison, plastic/nylon mugs always make me feel like I am drinking my own premature death from leaching nano-whatevers.

And I'm not sure it's not in my head, but nothing tastes as good to me in plastic. And plastic/nylon vessels refuse to release their chimp grip on the salty soup or tomato juice taste no matter how effective the dishwasher is. Likewise, a travel mug regularly used for coffee just once will make soup taste like coffee. I'm not a germaphobe, but plastic/nylon (Pylon?)† feels like a funky fomite to me.

†sketchy portmanteau #2!

So, maybe composition and cross contamination are factors at play?

Another explanation might be some sort of subconscious association. For me, I think of plain white vitreous china (coffee cups) as what I would get in a tony restaurant. I make the possibly erroneous leap of logic to assume that upscale restaurant equals upscale coffee. Maybe. And maybe not. If a fancy restaurant brought out coffee in a mug with bananas printed on it and the

words "I Chimpily Love You," I'd be amused but might also think they didn't really care about the continuity of the high-quality experience because they got their cups and stemware from a yard sale (no offense). Again, not much science here, but maybe a factor that's at least a little in play?

We are odd beings. I find (in the absence of all evidence) that the left front burner on my stove is my favorite/the best. What makes it the best? Nothing. It works just as well as the others. No better no worse. But, in my mind, it's THE ONE. And soup (for example) tastes a little better when heated on it, and in a particular pot. I might also be a little crazy – that's not ever been ruled out.

Try not to overthink it and instead celebrate the parts of the daily coffee drinking experience that are known to be good, to wit: The day's dilatory speed bump of sipping a hot beverage, the warm convection that follows the slight thermals up to your face, and the textured aroma of roasted, free trade beans doing their very best to overpower the cutting miasma of the soon to be attended, but currently undeniable, cat box.

Good luck, and ... have a chimpily awesome day!

– Wally

Got a question for our columnist? (And yes, there ARE some dumb questions, but it's fine, send 'em!) Email him at cwn4@aol.com BSP



Dear Wally

Wally Nichols

Romance, magic and solid truth blend in 'Girl from the Sea'

Coming of age and coming out both feel like major challenges to 16-year-old Morgan Kwon, whose home on a Nova Scotia island feels way too tight and slow for the fierce, creative, accomplished and openly gay human she is becoming. She has a tight friend group, an irritating brother and a recently divorced mom; she longs for the freedom to reinvent herself and live louder, but dreads any rocking of the boat while she still has a foot on the dock of childhood, a paradox that leaves her feeling sad and disconnected.



Book Review

Anne Pyburn Craig

But life has a way of happening while you're busy making other plans, and Morgan's about to ride a few big waves. The catalyst is a newcomer with a hidden agenda: an adorable selkie, or human/seal shapeshifter, who's both wildly attracted to Morgan and a double agent on a mission to save the local seals. And in "The Girl from the Sea," described by author Molly Knox Ostertag as a "teen summer romance graphic novel with a little bit of magic," Morgan's tidy, if depressing and alienating, plan to

conform, go along to get along, and keep her true self in a box gets blown out of the water in all sorts of fun ways.

Ostertag, whose previous works include the Disney Channel animated series "The Owl House," the Witch Boy trilogy of YA graphic novels, the third of which was a New York Times bestseller, and the webcomic Strong Female Protagonist, which she co-created with Brennan Lee Mulligan, tells and draws a ripping good yarn. It's been a good few decades since this reviewer could be classified as YA, but the art, plot and dialogue aren't talking down to anyone and I found myself unable to put the book down, rooting for Morgan and Kelsie, and for Morgan's friends and family,

who turn out to be bigger people than she'd realized.

Being simultaneously outed by her nosy kid brother and thrown into the center of a local controversy involving one of her besties, who can't quite understand what comes over

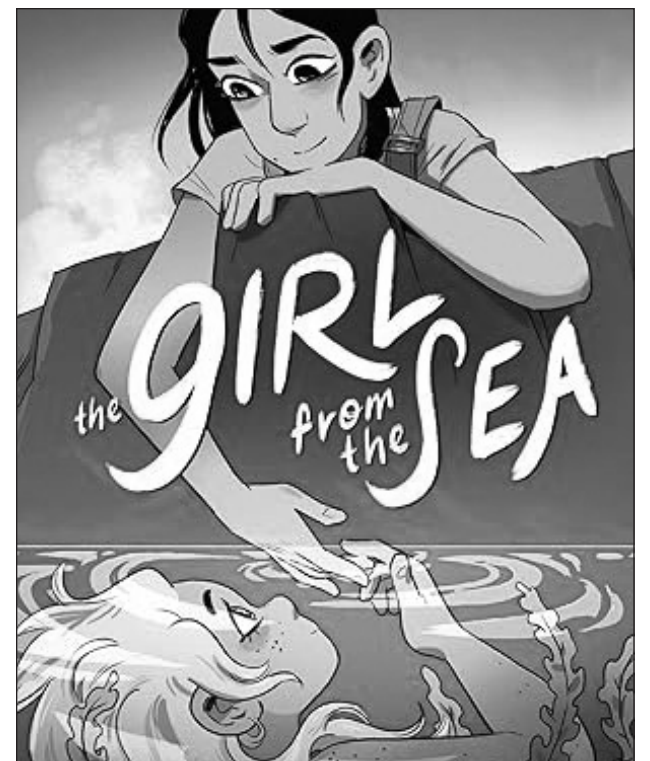


Ostertag

her when this Kelsie kid with the odd manners and love of fish shows up but nonetheless love her more than she realizes, is a heavy lift. But Morgan's about to learn that she's a lot stronger than she thought, and a whole lot about love, survival, patience and compromise. All of this fits seamlessly into a quick read that's partly told in text-message strings.

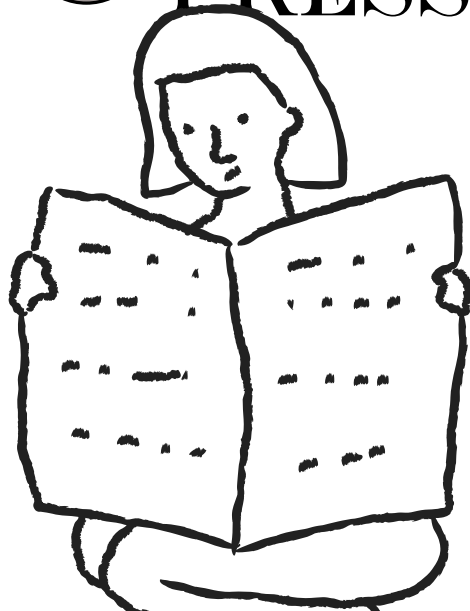
There's plenty of suspense, hilarity and insight, and a fully formulated and beautifully drawn supporting cast.

Know a young person who's struggling with the agonizing process of daring to be different in whatever way, perhaps feeling misunderstood? Gift them a copy of "Girl from the Sea," a book with a message none of us can possibly hear too much of: that things may not work out the way you expect, but they do work out. The book can be found on mollyostertag.com, where there's also a lot of fascinating information about the process of making graphic novels. BSP



The cover of The Girl from the Sea

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Your friends and community

December 1, 2023

Bill Brooks goes to Egypt

Amber Kelly
BSP Reporter

Bill Brooks said that the trip to Egypt put together by the Ulster County Chamber of Commerce went much better than expected. He reported back a travelogue. A lot of people said it was crazy to go with everything going on over there. The majority of participants actually decided not to take the trip. "We were in minority. It was their loss. The whole thing being, a lot of people stayed home but they missed out."

The 12-hour non-stop flight started at 2:00 a.m. but when we got to the airport, we had to wait another three hours before the flight took off. Once we got into Cairo the fun began. Upon arriving, our room had a view of the Nile so instead of sleeping right away, we watched the riverboats going up and down with all the lights and everything.

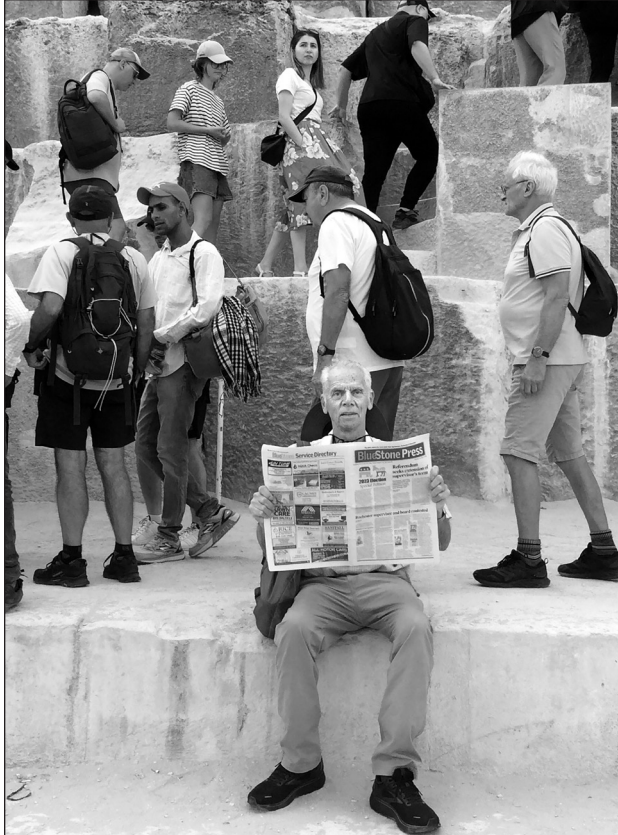
We had a tour guide, and he was with us from the time we left until the time we got home. He had a masters in archeology and knew more about even our history than we did. It was well orchestrated. We rode camels in the Sahara, did a five-day cruise on the Nile and they had places where we stopped and visited some tribes. Every day was full.

We were in a bus in Cairo at night. I said to Susan (Curcio), look there is a car without headlights, oh, there's another one, and as we looked closer more than half the cars had no headlights. There are over nine million people in Cairo and they have no stop lights, no turn signal lights, and no stop signs. We were lucky, we got to ride in the bus. The bus driver deserves a badge. We saw cars, scooters, people, horse and buggies, bicycles and people using burros to carry bundles.

It is a nice mixture of old school and new things. We got to ride a horse and buggy in the streets of Cairo. The horse did not seem at all worried, he just navigated the street.

The food was great everywhere on the trip. We were given places to eat and there was nothing I didn't like. I had been there 40 years ago and it is a lot different now with 40-story building, six lanes of traffic and even traffic circles.

We got to ride a felucca which is a big sailboat over to an island where we visited a Nubian tribe that was relocated there when they put in the Aswan dam in the sixties. The tribe has no written languages, it was just verbal and among themselves they spoke five different languages. A



Bill Brooks goes on an adventure to Egypt with the BlueStone Press in hand. The trip was organized by the Ulster County Chamber of Commerce

troupe from the tribe entertained us on the riverboat one evening and we felt dizzy just watching them dance!

I thought the camel ride would be in a nice little circle, but next thing I know, we are heading off into the Sahara Desert like the Arabian Knights.

We were in the Valley of the Kings and there were two tombs that were open to the public. You sort of walk down into these tombs and the air was, how shall I describe it, non-breathable. The paintings and the works of art on the walls looked like they were painted yesterday but they were from 3,000 years old. It was amazing that after 3,000 years the colors were brilliant, not faded, probably because it was closed off for thousands of years. You were not allowed to use a flash because it would damage the pictures, but you could still get really clear photos.

There was no talk about what was going on in the Middle East. But they did say that if you see people following us, it is our hired security.

It was one of the best trips I've been on. I've been to a lot of places and this was really well put together.

They had people waiting for us at the airport, they had a bus to take us to JFK, and to bring us back. We did not have to worry about anything and things you wouldn't even think about. We had all three meals provided. The first hotel was gorgeous. They had a huge buffet out and we just got what we needed. The food was a mixture of local foods as well as "oh yea, that is what we usually have for dinner." Me, I like to have foods I don't ordinarily have at home.

It was a good learning experience and it was a good group of people. I'm waiting for them to finish the new museum that will be four times bigger. You can spend days in the current one so you'd have to camp out for a week to see the new one. It will be three to four years before it is done, so that timing is just about right for me to take another trip. After we had breakfast and lunch and we didn't even want dinner.

We travelled by airplane, boat, buggy, riverboat sailboat, a little boat and a camel.

We flew to Cairo, to Luxor, then five days on a riverboat cruise. Every day we stopped at places you wouldn't get to see otherwise because they are inaccessible by car. Then we went to Aswan, then back to Cairo. We saw the new dam by Nassar Lake, named after the person in power when the dam was built.

Both sides of the Nile were really green. It used to flood all the time but since the dam was built, they have better agriculture. Also, after the dam was put in, a lot more people were able to have electricity.

It took a couple of days to recover. Egypt is seven hours different from here. A lot of times we got up at 4:00 a.m. It was a really good experience. You just wanted to collapse but you don't want to miss anything. We travelled for 12 days in total. It was in the 90s, but comfortable because there was a breeze, and it was dry heat.

They had an Egyptian shop on the ship with Egyptian clothes and things. I celebrated my birthday on the Nile, so we went to the dance floor and Susan got a bunch of women to dance around me to celebrate my birthday.

We really got a feel for the country. The people are so nice. I love to travel, and Susan loves to travel and we are not done yet. **BSP**

A small sampling of special holiday events around the towns

Holiday pop-up show

This holiday exhibition has been extended one week-end only, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Dec. 1-3, at the Wired Gallery, 11 Mohonk Road, High Falls with the opening reception, 4-6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1. The show features local artists and artisans including Tarryl Gabel, fine arts; Dave Ventresca, woodworking; Marlo Richards, fine arts; Mitchell Saler, fine arts; Larry Chapman, photography; Holly Cohen, photography; and Kaete Brittin Shaw, ceramics. For more information, visit thewiredgallery.com or call 682-564-5613.

Marbletown Elementary School PTA Holiday Craft Fair

Enjoy the crafts and gifts of over 40 vendors at this annual event, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at Marbletown Elementary School, 12 Pine Bush Road, Stone Ridge. Lunch and snack items will be available for purchase in the cafeteria. For more information, email craftedbyoconnell@gmail.com.

Craft fair & bake sale

All proceeds will support the programs and services at the Center for Spectrum Services, a school serving local children on the autism spectrum for this holiday event



with soup and bake sales, raffles and more, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, at Rondout Municipal Center, 1925 Lucas Avenue, Cottekill. For more information, visit centerforspectrumservices.org.

Community Clothing Swap

Presented by the High Meadow Parent Organizations, this event will be held, noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, at High Meadow School, 3643 Main St., Stone Ridge. Bring clothing, coats, shoes, boots and accessories (sizes newborn to adult), kids sporting gear (cleats, shin guards, ski boots, helmets, etc.). This event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit highmeadowschool.org or call 845-687-4855.

Santa Claus is coming to Stone Ridge Fire Company

Santa is coming, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at Stone Ridge Fire Company, 525 Cottekill Road, Stone Ridge. They will also have Christmas trees and wreaths available for sale, 5-8 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. For more information, visit Stone Ridge Fire Company on Facebook.

High Falls Fire Department Food and Toy Drive

Same building, different door for this annual event, 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10. For more information, visit High

Falls Fire Department on Facebook.

Holly Day

Kids, grades K-5 can enjoy this annual holiday story hour with stories, snacks and crafts, 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, in the activity room, at the Stone Ridge Library, 3700 Main St., Stone Ridge. Register at stoneridgelibrary.org or 845-687-7023 for the program, suitable for all faiths.

Holiday pubtime sing along

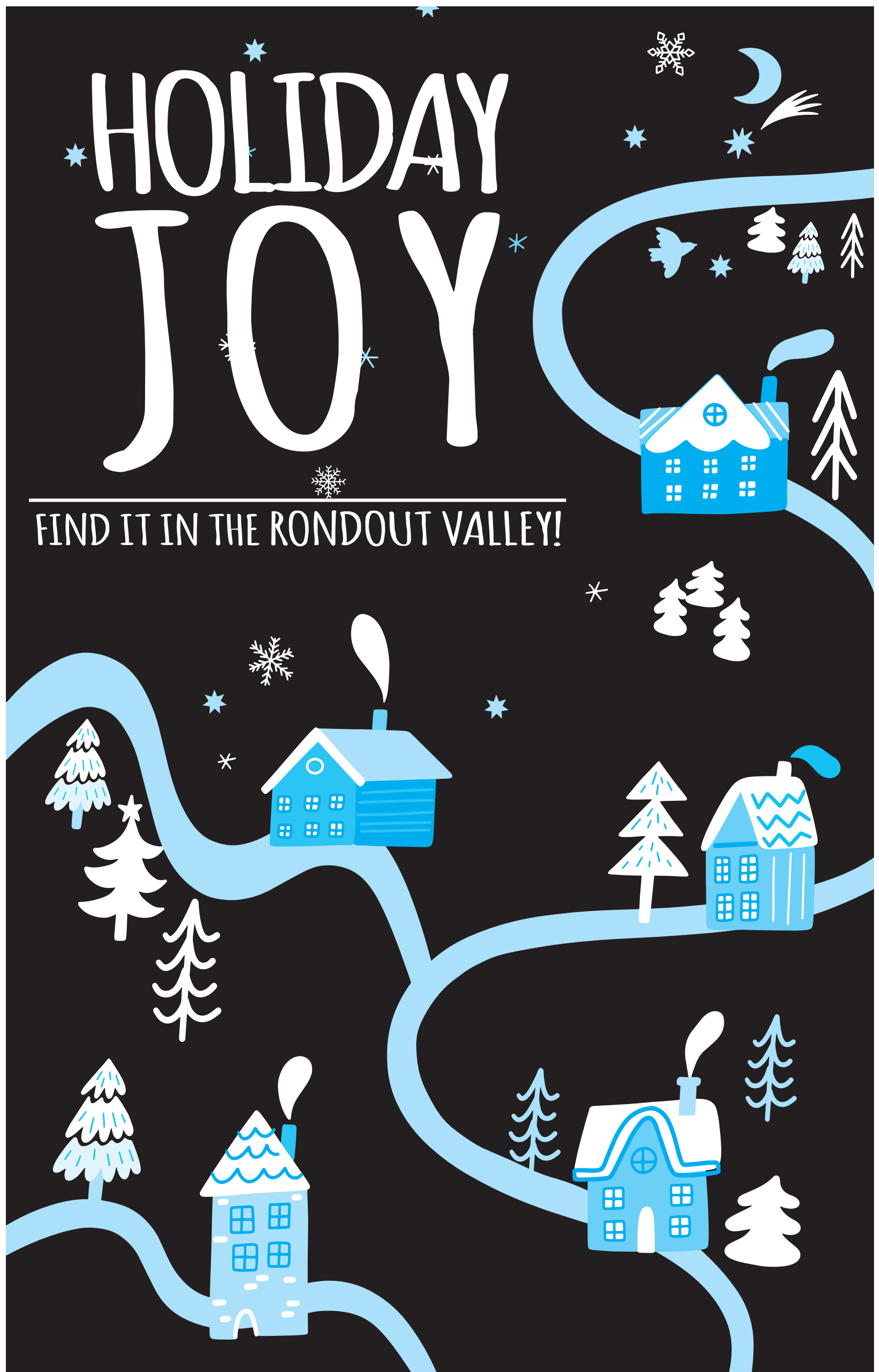
Drink and dine with exuberance, 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, at The Spy Social Eatery, 155 Main St., High Falls. Elliot Metz will tickle the ivories and Jay Blotcher will co-host this event with all tips for the piano man to be donated to the Rondout Valley Food Pantry. For more information, visit thespysocialeater.com or call 845-687-7249.

Kripplebush-Lyonsville Fire Company Annual Pancake Breakfast

This annual pancake breakfast will feature Breakfast with Santa, 8 a.m.-noon Sunday, Dec. 17, at 519 Pine Bush Road, at the corner of Route 2 and Pine Bush Road, Stone Ridge, with all you can eat pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, home fries, hot coffee, tea, hot chocolate and cold OJ. For more information on this event by Kripplebush-Lyonsville Fire Company, all-volunteer since 1952, call 845-687-9801.

HOLIDAY JOY

FIND IT IN THE RONDOUT VALLEY!



The light and traditions of Hanukkah

Donna Cohn Viertel

Calendar of Events Editor and nice Jewish girl from Long Island

Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, recalls the victory, more than 2,100 years ago of a militarily weak, but spiritually strong, Jewish people over the mighty forces of a ruthless enemy that had overrun the Holy Land and threatened to engulf the land and its people in darkness.

According to National Geographic, the Syrian Greeks invaded the Jewish home-

land and captured Jerusalem, where the Jewish Holy Temple was located. After the invasion, they attempted to force the Jewish people to forgo their religion and customs and adopt Greek beliefs instead. The Syrian Greeks desecrated the Holy Temple and enacted laws forbidding the practice of Judaism. Rather than assimilate, the Jews rebelled against their oppressors. A tiny army of Jews, led by a man called Judah Maccabee (the Hebrew word for hammer), fought back against the huge Syrian-Greek army, reclaiming both

Jerusalem and the Holy Temple.

The miraculous victory of religious freedom was compounded by a second great miracle that took place when only one jug of sacred oil was found. The Maccabees poured the one-day supply of oil into the great menorah they rekindled the menorah had been desecrated and extinguished by the enemy. The small amount of oil did not burn out at the end of the first day but instead stayed continuously lit for eight days.

Lighting the menorah each Hanuk-

kah serves as a symbol and a message of triumph of freedom over oppression, of spirit over matter, of light over darkness.

On the first night of Hanukkah, one light is kindled on the right side of the menorah by the shamash, the servant candle that kindles the other lights. On the following night, a second light to the left of the first is lit, then lights are kindled with the new light first, proceeding from left to right, and so on each night.

Besides lighting the menorah, it is a tradition that each night, a gift is given.



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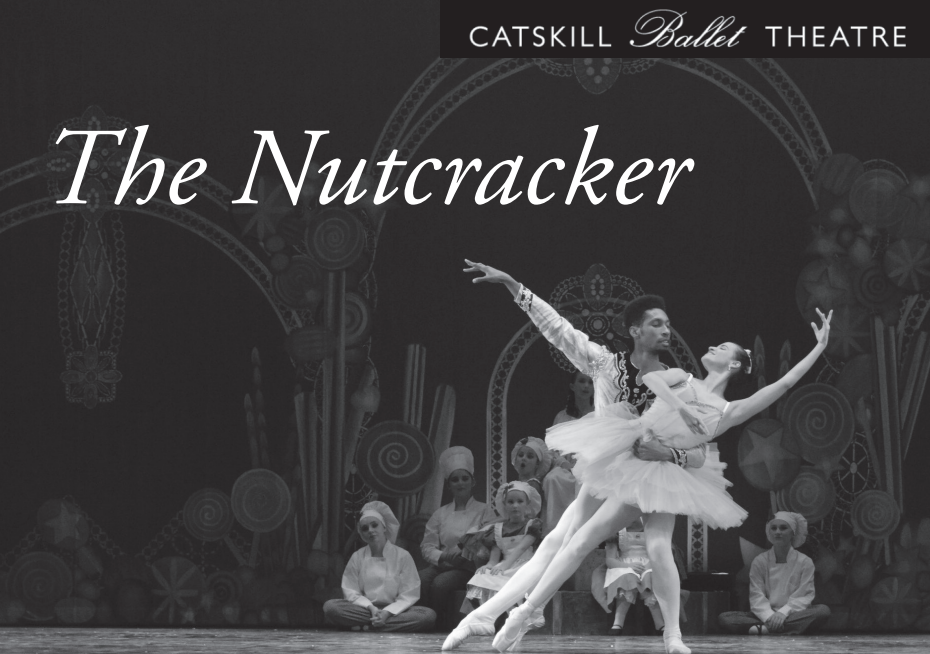
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Now, being that, as my mom and dad used to say, "we are not made of money," gifts start pretty small with a favorite candy for example and gradually get larger, a pair of socks, a book, to perhaps a hockey jersey. Point is, the gift giving should not cause stress or competition, but more of an added bonus to the menorah lighting each night and the excitement that it entails of light, presents, playing dreidel, with making and eating latkes!

In the dreidel game, the dreidel is a four-sided spinning top. On each side is a Hebrew letter, Nun, Gimmel, Hay, and Shin. The letters stand for the phrase, Nes Gadol Hayah Sham, a great miracle happened there, the miracle of the oil. It is traditional to use Hanukkah gelt (chocolate coins) to "gamble" with. In the game, land on Nun, give or receive no gelt; Gimmel,

take the whole pot; Hey, take half; and Shin, put in half. Play!

Because of the great significance of the miracle of the oil in the story of Hanukkah, it is traditional to serve foods cooked in oil. Among the most popular, and my personal favorite are potato latkes.

Presented to you from my food bible, Faye Levy's International Cookbook, the potato latkes recipe: Grate four large potatoes and one medium onion with a hand grater in to a large bowl. Mix in 1 teaspoon of salt, 1 large egg, a small handful of flour, and half a teaspoon of baking powder. Heat oil in a deep, heavy 10-12-inch cast iron pan. Drop about a 2-tablespoon portion of latkes mix into heated pan and flatten with spoon, adjust the temperature of the pan as latkes brown on each side. Hold latkes in warm oven while cooking

the rest. Continue and add more oil as needed. Serve with sautéed spiced apples and sour cream. Makes 4-5 servings.

When Hanukkah comes this year, sundown Thursday, Dec. 7-sundown Thursday, Dec. 14, I will feel the warmth and love of eight nights of kindling the lights, making latkes, giving a present each night and doing a little dreidel gambling with the family. Happy Hanukkah!

You can kindle and mingle, from home, for Hanukkah or celebrate with the Kerhonkson Synagogue at their Hanukkah party, 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at 26 Minnewaska Trail, Kerhonkson. Bring your menorah to light, maybe some latkes to share, and a heart open to give and receive the light.

For more information, visit kerhonkson-synagogue.org or call 845-626-7260. **ESP**



Potato latkes and other foods fried in oil are symbolic of Hanukkah. Photo by Lauri Patterson

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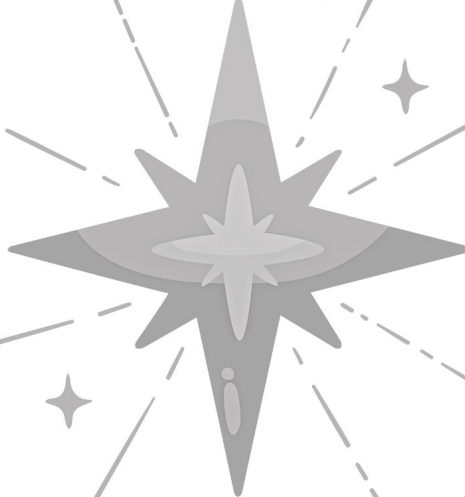
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Who are these people?

Notes on what to get the strangers in your life

Grace Molenda
BSP Reporter

When my parents got divorced in my early childhood, I was the lucky and unthinking recipient of a second Christmas. "Hooray!" I thought, "More gifts!" I was right, and with the later addition of new spouses on both sides of the aisle, I began putting up real numbers come holiday time. Relatives seemed to materialize out of thin air on Christmas Eve (or Christmas Eve-Eve, my dad's plea deal) for the sole

purpose of giving me something I would cherish very deeply, for about five days. For a decade or so, I had it made. And just when I thought it couldn't get any better, the gifts gave way to envelopes, plump with tall and sparkling cards signed from this relative or that, containing (to my great delight) ... MONEY! Not savings bonds, not gift certificates, but cold, hard cash! Even \$25 felt like a windfall. After making my holiday rounds, I would cajole my parents into taking me shopping, often blowing my entire loot in one frantic spree.

Prior to ever having money, I had no idea that it was a problem to go without it. But walking back to the car on those cold January afternoons, bearing the weight of my purchases and the sheer emptiness of my pocket at once, I understood that something had to change.

The summer that I turned 15, I got my first part time job working in a restaurant after school and on the weekends. With the ensuing funds, I decided that I would get into the gifting game, once and for all.

I faced my first card carrying Christmas without a shred of discernment. I committed to serious gifts (read: not macaroni ornaments) for my parents and stepparents.

But I didn't want my brother to feel left out, and if I was going to get my brother a gift, it was only right to get something for each of my stepsisters - what's fair is fair, after all.

The whole scheme was so small back then, I could hardly tell that it was in the shape of a pyramid. The first tier added was nieces and nephews, by way of my stepsister. If I was going to get something for her, shouldn't I give them gifts as well? And what about my friends? Didn't they deserve a little something from me? And if so, what should it be?

Seven years later, as December darkens my door, I ask myself the same question



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on a much, much greater scale. Considering my family (both actual and by proxy), I now have six parents, seven siblings, one boyfriend, five grandparents, an amorphous number (30 plus) of aunts, uncles, and cousins, five nieces and nephews and at least three friends that count as practical kin.

I can name them all. I can tell you a little bit about each of them. But aside from the main cast of characters, I have naught but a glimmering shadow of who they are, or what they might want to find under their many, many (too many!) Christmas trees. Which brings me to my question: Who are these people? And what on earth are we supposed to get them?

Plant cuttings. That's the best answer I've got. Even if it dies immediately upon receipt, the homegrown plant is a symbol

of ongoing effort and thoughtfulness: foresight, even. A small pot can cost under \$2, if you know where to look. Dirt, dare I say, is free.

Mouse traps. 'Tis the season for creatures stirring no matter what the stories say. I was recently made aware of humane traps that allow you to keep the mouse alive long enough for it to be considered a common law pet. Who doesn't want a furry friend to keep them warm as the temperatures drop? I know I do!

\$2 bills. In the restaurant industry, these are considered good luck. I have brought home nearly a dozen in the past two weeks. Too much of a good thing, well ... I just can't keep all of these. Some mints are going for hundreds, even thousands on eBay. Looking for a unique gift for that

one cousin-in-law whose name you aren't so sure of? Reach out to me! Going rate on my bills is only \$20.

Toilet paper. You've seen the commercial: we all go. Why not go in style? For a bespoke gift, soak a one-ply roll in diluted beet juice for 15 minutes, remove, and bake at 375 until it feels dry. The final product is an eye-catching conversation piece perfect for the holiday host in your life. After the rash sets in, no one will be able to stop talking about it! **ESP**

On right, plant cuttings are among the easiest (and most affordable!) gifts you can give. My advice? Cut them on the day of. Don't even give them a chance to wilt up and die. Photo by Grace Molenda



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Big Snow

Ann Belmont
BSP Reporter

When I was growing up in Monticello, 60 miles to the west of where I live now in Kerhonkson, snow dependably covered the ground from December 'til at least mid-March; but one year sticks out in my mind, the year of the Big Snow. I'm not talking two feet; it was over three. I know I'm not making it up, because there was a 38-inch snowfall recorded when I was six years old. Not that I remember it so well,

but there are photos of my older brother Paul and me bundled and scarfed, standing next to mountainous snowbanks. In those days, the snowbanks didn't melt completely 'til probably April. Paul and his friend Mark built huge snow forts (at least, huge to an eight-year-old) in the field in back of our house. Across the field lived the Casteluzzi brothers, who built their own fort and provided an enemy to throw snowballs at.

Another year, I was probably nine at the time, there was a Big Freeze. It went

down to 27 below zero. This number was etched on my brain, giving a clue to the weather obsessive I grew up to be. I remember the steam from the old radiators crystallizing on the living room window, building up so thick that there wasn't much window to see out of. When you went outside, it hurt to breathe.

That was some epic cold, but winters were reliably cold enough for snow-removal guys from the village highway department to drive out on the skating pond with a small Caterpillar tractor,

confident there was no possibility of breaking through the massive layer of ice. My family had the incredible luck to live across the street from that pond and right at the bottom of the steepest hill in town. Our road was closed to vehicular traffic in the winter and drew sledders from all over the neighborhood.

When my daughter was growing up, we lived in Manhattan. It's not snow country, but one year - 1996 - there was a freak storm that dropped around 20 inches on the city. The kids in our apartment com-



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plex had a blast, including our nine-year-old and her buddies. On the second-floor courtyard, she recalls, "Where the snow had been shoveled into tall piles, we climbed up and pretended we were Arctic explorers. We held hands in a daisy chain and yelled, 'Don't let go! I think I see the edge of the iceberg!' (Unbelievably, when I think about the hazards now, we let the kids excavate snow tunnels.) We crawled through the tunnels like prairie dogs. It was the most fun thing that ever happened." (When the building security force found out the kids were doing this, the tunnels were destroyed; I shudder now to think that about how they could've collapsed.) City kids had a wonderful couple of days playing in the snow, while out in the street the banks got dirtier and

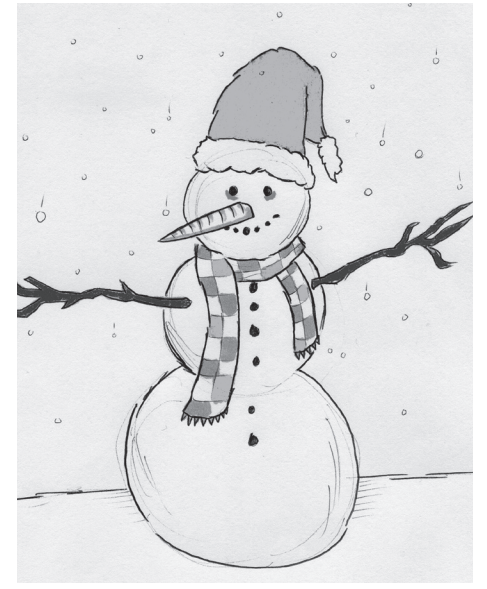
grayer by the day, as urban snowbanks always do.

Now that grown-up girl lives in High Falls and has a son who's not yet three. It snowed the night he was born. When he was a baby, we had the ice storm of February 2022, when giant tree limbs crashed to the ground and power outages were everywhere and it took an hour to chip the ice off our Subaru even with the engine on and the heaters going full blast.

But will there be a Big Snow for my little grandson to remember? Will he have a winter tale to tell his own grandkids? I hope so. The fondest memories I have of childhood are those scenes of winter - the skaters on the pond, the crowds of kids whooshing down the hill on sleds, coming inside to take my boots

off and drink hot chocolate. I took all that for granted, and now it seems that maybe those kinds of winters will not be repeated in the foreseeable future.

However, I know that my grandson and his generation will not miss what they haven't had. Everything is relative. If you grow up in the High Sierras, a 38-inch snowfall is nothing special; snowfalls are measured in feet. If you're from south Texas, one inch of snow is amazing. My wish is for my grandson's winter memories to have moments that are just as magical, for him, as his mother's are for her and mine are for me, whether the snow he remembers is 4 inches deep or 40. **BSP**



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Happy holidays from all of us at Mohonk Preserve!

Photo: Cross-Country Skier on Undercliff Road by Glenn Koehler

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Rosendale

The joys of shopping small

Anne Pyburn Craig
BSP Reporter

Exchanging gifts in December with favorite people is a brilliant custom. There you are, despairing over the fact that the sun seems to set ten minutes after it rises, the general chilliness that assaults us when we venture out the door, the heating bills that come with it, and considering the possibilities of hibernation, when you're smacked in the face by a whole other to-

do list.

This is actually a wonderful thing. Motivation. Up from your cozy couch you get, to make yourself a hot beverage ... and sink back down with your laptop to see what the Internet has to offer. After all, it's bleepin' cold out there and gas costs money, and who wants to put real clothes on? Completely understandable.

You might be tempted to try to dream up the specific items you're after and then do a general search for them. Hang on a

second there. Just because you're doing the sensible thing of shopping while cozy doesn't mean you can't keep your spending local and patronize the independent businesses that help make the Rondout Valley an outstanding place to live.

Our hardware stores have expanded their offerings far beyond nuts, bolts and screws; you'll find clever home goods, outdoor gear, sporting goods, toys and craft ideas. Our farms aren't sound asleep this time of year, nor are they limited to pro-

duce - we have creameries and butchers, and there are loads of prepared, artisanal and specialty foods in farm markets. And between the farm markets and the hardware stores, you can find everything you need to make your house festive inside and out.

Our antique shops curate selections of beautiful and useful things at a vast range of price points. Our artists, ceramicists and jewelers make items as unique as the loved ones you're shopping for. Our

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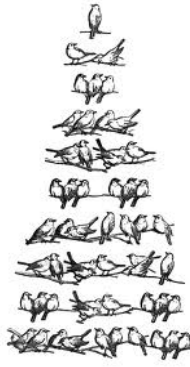
restaurants will happily sell you a gift certificate that'll provide an afternoon or evening out guaranteed to shake off anyone's cabin fever. We have a grade-A Christmas tree farm.

Shopping local in these awe-inspiring times of ours doesn't even have to involve much more effort, as many places have honed their websites. The Rondout Valley Business Association and Rondout Valley Growers Association are both great starting points if you have a general idea of what you're looking for but aren't sure who might sell it locally. Google a type of item in combination with the terms "Accord Kerhonkson Stone Ridge Rosendale" or any combination of those - chances are you'll discover indie businesses you've never heard of. Or just Google that intriguing

looking place you've always meant to check out.

Further research on the phone with an actual human should clear up any questions you have. This process leaves you with a clear plan of action. You know what you're getting and where; in many cases you can pay online or even have your item shipped.

But why be a complete couch spud? Put your shoes on and go buy that item in person. You never know, you might see something you like even better. You might run into a neighbor you haven't seen in months. You might well glimpse some wildlife, witness or take part in random acts of kindness, see interesting people



doing interesting things, even witness some absolute insanity. At the very least, you'll be surrounded by gorgeous scenery.

Then there's the Full Tilt Boogie version. Set a course for downtown Rosendale, where there's an afternoon's worth of browsing within comfortable walking distance, along with options for a bite to eat and a drink. Or map yourself a route including four or five Rondout Valley antique shops, studios, or gift shops and hit the pretty roads, where opportunities to pause for refreshment likewise abound.

Hey, it's a bit more complicated than clicking "Add to Cart" and awaiting delivery, even if many small businesses

are happy to do the wrapping part of the job. But it's exponentially more rewarding to know that your money is staying local, having a 4x multiplier effect on local wealth creation, which is true even if you complete the entire purchase online. And exponentially more rewarding than that is the face-to-face, neighbor-to-neighbor excursion, with its guaranteed beauty and infinite potential for surprise. Shop local for your friends - you'll get them cooler stuff. Shop local for the businesses, so they can keep producing cooler stuff. And shop local for yourself, because it's an adventure and a great reminder of just how special our area really is.

Happy holidays, folks! **BSP**



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Patching the Quilt

I stood in the Lower Awosting lot shifting from foot to foot. It was too cold to ride. I don't yet own winter cycling gear, and I was not eager to slog through a breezy, overcast, 42-degree day on my bike. Despite these less-than-ideal conditions, I was determined to go anyway. The trail I had chosen was too delicious to pass up.



A Sense of Place

Jodi LaMarco

Recent improvements at Minnewaska have connected the eastern portion of the park in Kerhonkson with the western Sam's Point Preserve area in Cragmoor via bikeable gravel carriage roads. I had hiked both areas extensively, but not the land between. I had long dreamed of walking from Awosting Falls to Lake Maratanza, but the opportunity to bike there was even more enticing. My sad, substandard kit notwithstanding, I put on my knit hat, strapped my helmet over the

hood of my coat and pedaled off into the morning.

It's exciting to feel your personal map expanding in real time. I have hiked Minnewaska and trekked every inch of Sam's Point. As I pedaled the 10 miles separating Awosting Falls from Lake Maratanza, I felt as though I were connecting two squares on a patchwork quilt – places I had always considered separate but which are really parts of a whole.

Slivers of the distant Catskills appeared in gaps between the pitch pines. I was approaching the Berry Picker's Trail,



Jodi LaMarco and Cheyenne Mallo at the top of Awosting Falls. Photo by KB Barilla

so named for the transient inhabitants who populated the ridge through the 1970s. Near the intersection, I found a plaque which read, "Vanleuven Store," nailed to a tree below a few rusting artifacts. On the opposite side of the carriage road was another sign reading, "4 Mile Post. Entering the lost community of the huckleberry pickers. You are not forgotten."

I had read stories about Four Mile Post, but hadn't realized it was a site I could actually visit. I hurriedly parked my bike and followed a herd path into the forest. Pieces of metal cookware hung on trees and leaned against rocks. Pickers camped here seasonally for decades, squatting on the land rent-free, following the ripening berries up the mountain. Some were misfits, picking enough to buy

liquor and food but little else. Others were regular folks who raised families or running small stores and berry-buying operations from tar paper shacks.

I'm a descendant of the Borscht Belt, the last of three generations who had all spent a portion of their summer in nearby towns like South Fallsburg and Ellenville. I sometimes wonder if any of my more unconventional cousins or great aunts were among the Jews who occasionally ventured into the Shawangunks to fraternize with the pickers on weekends. Probably not, but it's a fantasy I love to indulge in – the possibility of a lineage (of sorts) linking myself to this interesting group of people. People who were perhaps a little out of place. Who loved the mountains, content to live off sunshine and berries for a few months. Weirdos. Like me.

I arrived at Lake Maratanza just as my feet began to freeze in my shoes. I plunked down by the water and reflected on the formerly disparate scraps of my map. The Berry Picker Trail had been my upper eastern boundary of the Sam's Point Area. Once past the intersection, I had returned to familiar ground – passing Napanoch Point before turning south onto the High Point Carriage Road. From there, it wasn't far to the lake.

I also thought of the huckleberry pickers. The sign was correct. They hadn't been forgotten. Nor would they be. I shivered and rubbed my hands together, cold but content. I had found Four Mile Post, and would certainly return to explore the woods that so many had called home. I had filled in the last blank spots on my map. My quilt was complete. **BSP**

Decembers past in the Rondout Valley

December 5, 1871 The Evening Gazette (Port Jervis)

Young ladies this season of the year are spending a great deal of time in embroidering slip-pers, smoking-caps and cigar-cases for their gentlemen friends, under the impression that such presents are very highly appreciated and valued when received. [Smoking caps were round caps used by men in smoking rooms to keep their hair free of cigar smoke to prevent offending the ladies. These were popular gifts in the Victorian era and often highly embroidered.]

—An exciting race came off a few days ago between a hand-car on the W.V. Railroad and a fast horse owned at New Paltz. The race lasted nearly all the way from Rosendale to New Paltz, and the horse came in a little ahead, traveling eight miles in about 35 minutes.

December 1, 1874 The Franklin Register (Franklin, Delaware County)

The barn and lumber shed of N. W. Carmen, furniture dealer, at Kerhonkson, were consumed by fire recently. The fire was discovered about 11 o'clock, and rapidly

destroyed the building and contents, which consisted of a new hearse, valued at \$1,300; a new top wagon, \$175; sleigh, \$75; hearse bobs, \$50; lot caskets, \$700; lumber, \$300; coffin boxes, \$100. Insurance, \$1,500.

The fire is believed to have been the work of an incendiary. [Early on, furniture makers also made coffins. This evolved into funeral homes as well, and often even ambulance services, using the hearse to transport patients to the hospital. Bobs were sled runners that pivoted making the sleigh more stable and faster, and replaced wheels in winter.]

December 7, 1876 New Paltz Times

—Within eight days past the Lawrenceville Cement Company has chartered and loaded at the dock at Ponckhockie three large vessels—the schooner Calista with 1,300 barrels cleared for Baltimore, Nov. 11th; the schooner Jefferson, 4,000 barrels cleared for Galveston, Nov. 23rd; schooner Gildersleeve, 2,000 barrels, cleared for Washington, Nov. 25th ...

December 7, 1881 New Paltz Times

The average payment for hoops and hoop-poles

between Wurtsboro and Kerhonkson for the past month has exceeded \$1,000 per day. All along the Shawangunk Range the hoop-pole business will boom from this time until spring.

The last boat for the season on the Delaware and Hudson Canal cleared from Honesdale on Saturday last and the water was withdrawn from the basin. As fast as the boat passes down the canal the water will be withdrawn from the level.

December 25, 1902 Tri-States Union

Large shipments of apples from Ulster County—The Ellenville Journal is informed that some 6,000 barrels of apples have been shipped from Kerhonkson over the new railroad, and as many more from Accord. It is said the O&W officials have been agreeably surprised by the freight receipts from this new line.

December 3, 1909 Ramapo Valley Gazette

Rev. C. W. Alberti, one of the temperance lecturers in Monroe a year ago, besides his clerical duties at Kerhonkson, is working nearly every day installing electric wiring in the village stores and residences. **BSP**



From the archives

Linda Tantillo

WE MISSED YOU THIS ISSUE.

Your letter to the editor is one of our readers' favorite sections!

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How to be a forest detective

When my brother Matthew was here visiting over Thanksgiving, we took a walk in the patch of woods my husband and I call ours, a couple of acres of land that has been allowed to go its own way for awhile. Matt has a lot of tree knowledge stored in his brain. We wandered among the bare trunks while he told me things about them.

The majority he identified as oaks by their bark, which is straighter, finer-grained than maple or hickory. Were there any maples? He squatted down to examine the fallen leaves underneath the top layer, because, he explained, "oak leaves fall last," so the underlayer might reveal something. Sure enough, when he brushed away the top, there were some red maple among the chaos of chestnut oak, red oak, and white oak leaves.

There are a lot of wild cherries there too (not the kind that bear fruit, alas), which have an elegant silvery skin with horizontal notches somewhat like birches. There are witch-hazels - tall shrubs, growing in a cluster of spindly trunks that fan out from the base of the plant. There are white pine, and there are hemlocks, valiantly fighting the woolly adelgid beetle, the pest that threatens their existence. The few big, old hemlocks look straggly, with a lot more dead limbs than they should have, though even a healthy hemlock tends to have dead limbs near its base, "because of lack of sunlight," as my brother said.

The more we wandered, the more revealed itself. "This area was logged," Matt commented, pointing out some mossy stumps about to disintegrate completely back into the earth. Yes, I suddenly noticed a line of massive



Photo by Ann Belmont

half-buried stumps poking out of the slope among many slender cherry saplings. How old are those young trees? I don't know. The answer would give a clue to when those disintegrating stumps were cut. Chances are they were oaks, prime lumber trees being replaced now by the cherries. Why? Both species are fast-growing, but the cherries have won out, I think, because deer prefer the taste of oak buds.

Looking at one pretty big cherry, I noticed there was a hollow at the bottom of the trunk. Matt explained that as evidence of an old lightning strike. The lightning hit the

top of the tree and traveled through it down to the earth, coming out the bottom, and leaving a sort of blast hole.

If you live in the Catskill foothills and observe a smooth forest floor, that is almost certainly the site of formerly tilled land, because Catskill ground is rocky ground. In woods like mine, it's all you can do to avoid stumbling over the large and small boulders dominating the surface of the earth. Based on the evidence, these acres have never been tilled, although an ancient rock wall tells the story of settled habitation. What did they do for a living, the makers of those walls? Perhaps they worked at the tannery in Samsonville, in operation 'til the 1940s, and kept a cow for milk. There's an old path through the woods behind our house that old-timers in the neighborhood have told me was originally a right-of-way for cattle going to drink at the creek across the street.

In late November the evidence of damage wrought by invasives like stilt grass is invisible, but since I live here, I'm all too aware; it's everywhere around here. The fact that the deer won't eat it gives stilt grass a huge advantage over most of its competition. At the moist bottom of the slope in our woods, ferns seem to be waging a slow-motion battle with the stilt grass. I am on the side of the ferns, but there is at least some comfort in knowing that it provides cover for small amphibians (though ferns do that and more).

I wonder what people 200 years from now would make of the traces of our former neighbors, the ones who owned our land before they moved away to Tennessee. Besides dodging between the rocks, walking in my woods involves stepping around an old aluminum door, plastic bins, abandoned 50s-style furniture, and other assorted former household items we just haven't gotten around to hauling out of there. To me it's annoying junk, but maybe to a future person it would be fascinating evidence of a vanished way of life. **ESP**

BlueStone Kudos

Rondout Valley High School First Quarter Honor Roll

Grade 12

High Honor Roll: Django Accardi, Sydney Allen, Merryn Arms, Michelle Avello, Jakob Baron, Ella Marie Bennett, Shana Blandon, Hunter Bober, Clifford Bush, Jonathan Chamberlain, Abigail Chorzempa, Hannah Coddington, Zola Coughlin-Ebert, Jill Creegan, Jessica Daddio, Victoria DeGraw, Adeline Delessio, Amelia Dunphy, Trevor Gilliland, Chloe Goodin, Sadie Heagney, Sierra Hikade, Kylie Ivan, Finnigan Kenney, Mica King, Luke Kotsides, Giada Labate, Siddhartha Lama, Nicholas Laskowski, Justin Nazario, Jackson Paley, Erin Parete, Ellis Picuri, Maceo Pileggi, Thomas Rearick, Hunter Ridgely, Lucas Russell, Gabriel Schoonmaker, Brayden Soura, Olivia Waruch, Nadja Welden and Chase Yark. Honor Roll: Garvey Chiarolanzio, Joseph Ciancio, Alil Clark, Thomas Clark, Logan Davis, Preston Demorest, Peter Dymitryszyn, Kaitlynn Gratis, Brayden Hanigan, Jacqueline Kennedy, Sumner King-Barra, Mona Mernin, Gabriel Needham, Gavin Rosa, Harriett Seubert, Mackenzie Snair, Caleb Tazsak, William Thrust and Emil Weintraub. Merit Roll: Jack Amend, Emily Andrews, Anthony Barringer, Ethan Bowman, Brittany Brown, William Brush, Richard Cross Jr, Grace Cutaia, Aiden Davenport, Connie Deegan, Alexandria Dennin, Joseph Deyo, Savannah Freer, Lydia Haynes, Emma Jolly, Leon Kellerhouse, Annika Mahany, Adriana Marano, Olivia Olechowski, Niomi Perry, Jared Secore, Alexa VanDemark, Daniel Wolfiel, Nathan Wright and Ashton Wynkoop.

Grade 11

High Honor Roll: Ramona Anderson, Sophia Bollin, Rowan Boyd, Sophia Clark, Grace Curran, Gage Davis, Andrew Dingman, Addyson Eck, Kendall Erlwein, Freja Ermer, Adriana Faso, Stori Gallicchio, Vivian Gonzales, Logan Keller, Joana Koehler, Joleigh Kozack, Samuel Lever, Halle Meoli, Tyler Mitchell, Miles Ouellette, Dominic Palazzolo, Clara Samko, Kenneth Schade, Lauren Schoonmaker, Ava Seablom, Joseph Soi, Millina Tully, Juliana Turner, Gwenyth Tuscanes, Anna Weber and Abigail Williams. Honor Roll: Finn Bowers, Carlo Buetti, Kelly Casas, Daniel Delaura, Julia Deyo, Violet Elder-Rusciolelli, Ashton Engel-Deppe, Dominic Giamei, Ryan

Gillis, Gabriella Goodrich, Brian Henderson, Deven Joyce, Nash Kennedy, Matthew Kowalik, Hunter Lamey, Hayden Lazzaro, Brooke Long, Alicia Lyons, Abigail McGuinness, Nathan Nilsen, Aiden Nolan, Flora Parker-Myers, Justin Paterno, Jaycub Schaniel, Lukcas Schaniel, InJolina Secreto, Aaron Smith Jr, Jadin Sprague, Madelyn Tuscanes, Odin Vitek, Alexeah Walsh and Carsyn Wolford. Merit Roll: Alexander Acocella, Addyson Auchmoedy, Morgan Barcone, Jordan Beechel, Candace Browne, Grace Coonrod, Ethan Dean, Kaylin Decker, Ian Domitrovits, Danielle Driekonski, Juliana Ellsworth-Dumond, Chloe Gabler, Jamie-Lynn Gratis, Ashtyn Gray, Devin Jimenez, Keara Johnson, Sophia Johnson, Joseph Lightstone, Jaylen McLean, Colby Merck, Anthony Parisio, Joseph Perez, Maria Read, Riley Reese, Lacey Russe, Tate Suszczynski and Chloe Warren.

Grade 10

High Honor Roll: Brody Baker, Fahad Bhuiyan, Tristan Cantello, Chloe Coonrod, Corwin DeRosa, Maven Flamhaft, Gabrielle Hart, Hannah Heijink, Isaac Herman, Grace Kizkiel, Jack Kotsides, Jacob Kraft, Harris Kyaw, Eline Lesage, Zi Qing Liu, Ruby Ortner, Hudson Paley, Boryn Patwoary, Tristan Post, Hanna Rylewicz, Owin Simmons, Meribelle Stringham, Henriette Stueven, Jeffrey Ulrich Jr, Beatrice Wilhelm and Gypsy Wish. Honor Roll: John Basten, Sedric Boughton, Nasir Boyd, Diego Castro Linares, Waylon Foreman, Fionn Forsythe, Crusoe Gill, Elizabeth Hanigan, Kyleigh Healy, Morgan Hermance, Henry Hutchins, Hailey Kellerhouse, Noah Kelly, Grace McArdle, Camille McMillan, Jasmine McNeil, Graham Palmentiero, Ruby Powell, Hunter Rion, Hudson Scott, Owen Shafer Sermini, Addisyn Spano-Meyer and Alyssa VanLeuven. Merit Roll: Michael Avello II, Jackson Barcone, Christopher Baumann, Laszlo Beke, Emily Bodie, Serafina Broome, Julia Brown, Ryan Clark, Kaden Dennin, Amanda DeWitt, Lacey Freer, John Hedley, Reagan Heil, Lila Hill, Arianna Ireland, Josephina Kozack, Cecilia Kwiecinski, Jocelyn Leahey, Adreenah Mason, Emma McGrath, Brooke Mulkowsky, Elizabeth Murphy, Hattie

Nichols, Arianna Novotny, Samantha Ritayik, Madison Shultis, Kloe Teague, Mia Trumbore and Georgia Tuttle.

Grade 9

High Honor Roll: Isaiah Applestone, Hayden Bauer, David Bonilla Serrano, Hannah Chapin, Jessa Clark, Dahlia Davis, Ruby Focarino, August Ganter, Johnny Guo, Lauren Ivan, Aubrey Jagodzinski, Yarema Kurkevych, Juliana Lunstedt, Brooke Martire, Helena Molitoris, Hannah Nawrocki, Penelope Roosa-Dunphy, Stephen Schwartz, Greta Sutherland-Roth, John Sweeney, and Zinnia Vargas. Honor Roll: Bridget Boyd, Adda Lee Braselmann, Aiden Carroll, Chloe Cooke, Oscar DiDonato, Izaak Donnelly, Cy Gray, Sienna Greenberg, Tyler Harned, Ryan Helm, Kadi Holt, Taiyo Kizawa, Joshua LaPierre, Zachary Mickelson Jr, Addison O'Donnell, Madison Pfaff, Samantha Reyes, Jasmin Smith, Karl VanValkenburgh and Georgia Weinstein. Merit Roll: Ethan Allen, Ava Barba-Andujar, Brooke Baul, Rebecca Carroll, Katrina Domitrovits, Elliot Engel-Deppe, Alyviah Green, Kailee Hicks, Alma Landauer, Lola Malenski, Antonio Mason, Lucas Millrood, Adrianna Moran, Eli Olen, Syler Padusnak, Ava Quick, Jaden Rion, Oliver Roosa-Dunphy, Maxwell Santiago, Emma Schwall, Adriana Slater, Laszlo Sterling, Madeline Williams and Payton Worden.

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Editor's note: Due to space limitations, not all the submitted calendar items get printed. We get hundreds of entries each issue, especially in the busiest event seasons. We encourage BSP readers and event hosts to use our free calendar listing service on the BSP website at www.bluestonepress.net. Print advertising is also available as a sure way of promoting your events and supporting this community newspaper.

Winter Holiday Sale at Hollengold Farm in Accord Join Wendy Hollender (Draw Botanical) and Faye Forman (Seed Head Floral Design) for a farm inspired holiday gift sale of their work, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, at Hollengold Farm, 222 Lower Whitfield Road, Accord. Come to the barn for shopping, gathering around the fire and hot mulled cider. Hollender is a botanical illustrator selling prints, books on botanical drawing and foraging and notecards. Special for this sale will be hand crafted botanical illustration ornaments many inspired from Tributary Farm vegetables. Forman grows flowers and forages native grasses and seed heads for creating magical dried flower arrangements and wreaths. Special for this holiday sale will be dried flower ornaments and holiday wreaths. For more information, visit hollengold-farm.com or call 917-607-7366.

Horse Quiz Bowl information session and practice at Cornell Cooperative

Attend the Cornell Cooperative of Ulster County Horse Bow information session, 6-7:15 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15, at CCEUC, 232 Plaza Road Kingston to learn more and get practice with the Horse Quiz Bowl, an exciting opportunity offered as part of the NYS 4-H Equine Program. In this event, youth are able to showcase their horse knowledge in a competitive, jeopardy-like contest. This contest involves a series of questions that are asked either of a specific individual or a team. Participants use a buzzer system to "buzz" in first and answer questions. These questions might be in the form of a regular question, toss-up, or bonus depending on the half of play. There are a variety of subject areas covered including general equine terms, the horse industry, feeding and care, and anatomy. Each year, top-scoring youth are selected to represent their region at the state competition, which is held at Cornell University. Representatives from each participating state are then sent each year to the Eastern National 4-H Horse Round-up. Overall, competition offers youth a great way to showcase their horse knowledge, while also creating an opportunity to meet youth from all over the region that share a passion for equine. The event is free for 4-H youth. To join the 4-H program, contact Kaitlyn McNamee, 4-H program leader, at km767@cornell.edu or 845-340-3990, ext. 341.

The Wired Gallery of High Falls presents, 'Contemporary Abstraction Now!'

Curated by Meredith Rosier, the exhibition featuring the works of local artists, Robin Adler, Ava Barbour, Carol Pepper-Cooper, Frank D'Astolfo, Reneé Englander, Patti Gibbons, Judith Hoerstring, Michael Hopkins, Melanie Hulse, Roxie Johnson, Ellen Jouret-Epstein, John Kleinhans, Jennifer Leighton, Lois Linet, Harriet Livathinos, Linda Miller, Gloria Mirsky, Kerry Moskowitz, Joan Oliver, Nancy O'Hara, Susan Piperato, Monique Robidoux, Natalee Rosenstein, Meredith Rosier, Anne Sanger and Ted Welch will be on display, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, Dec. 9-24, and by appointment, Dec. 25-May 5, at the Wired Gallery, 11 Mohonk Road, High Falls. "My selection of the work on view reflects the diversity of 32 artists who plunge headlong into the mesmerizing world of abstraction," said Rosier. "These artists offer up revelry, quiet grace, restless entanglements with drawn lines rough and tumble, notably exact, tinged with perforation. Zigzagged into repetitive pattern, floating merrily in open space, densely layered into geometric configurations or meandering lazily in tidy script. All of which can carry their ideas of grace, tension, leisure, rage or sensitivity." For more information, visit thewiredgallery.com or call 682-564-5613.

Marbletown Seniors meetings and last group trip of the year Open to all those over 55, whether living in Marbletown or not. The Seniors hold their meetings at the Marbletown Community Center,



Melissa Hewitt and daughter Mirabai Trent after teaching a flower crown workshop

Accord Mother and daughter showcase 100 artists

Circle Creative Collective founded and directed by Accord mother and daughter team, Melissa Hewitt and Mirabai Trent, announce their 4th Annual Handmade Holiday Market, a festive celebration of artistry, community and the spirit of giving, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 9 and 10, at ArtPort Kingston, 108 E Strand St., Kingston. The Handmade Holiday Market is the perfect opportunity to find unique, one-of-a-kind gifts for loved ones this holiday season. Circle Creative Collective is working to provide accessible and affordable opportunities for artists and artisans to promote and share their work while supporting themselves financially through their craft. The Handmade Holiday Market is a testament to this mission, as it allows talented individ-

uals to connect with the community and showcase their creations. In addition to shopping, attendees can indulge in the festive atmosphere with live music, hot cider, pancakes and more! The market takes place across two floors. Meet nearly 100 talented local artists and makers behind the creations and learn about their inspirations and techniques. Admission to this event is free, with an option to make a donation to support the artists and the missions of Circle Creative Collective and ArtPort Kingston.

For more information about the Artists and Makers Handmade Holiday Market, including a detailed schedule of events and participating artists, visit in-circle.org or contact Melissa and Mirabai at info@circlecreativecollective.org or by phone at 845-389-8318.

3564 Main St., across from Key Bank in Stone Ridge, at noon (a lunch meeting) on the first Friday, Dec. 1 (bring a dish to share or drop \$3 in the basket on the food table), and at 1 p.m. (for dessert) on the third Friday, Dec. 15 (bring a dessert to share or drop \$2 in the basket on the dessert table), each month. For more information, call Donna Lamerson at 845-750-8616. The last group trip of the year is Wednesday-Friday, Dec. 6-8, Gaslight & Gingerbread, Christmas Time in Cape May, New Jersey. The trip includes two nights lodging, two breakfasts and two dinners; a tour of 1879 Physick Estate Trolley; tour of Cape May; free time at Washington Street Mall; and visit to historic Smithville. The cost is \$557 per person double occupancy and \$726 per person single occupancy. Departure time is 9:30 a.m. All trips leave from and return to Marbletown Reformed Church, 3750 Route 209, Stone Ridge. For more information and trip reservations, call Sharon Letus at 845-687-9162.

'A Christmas Carol' comes to life at the Rosendale Theatre as a live radio play

Experience Charles Dickens's holiday classic like never before with a live radio play of "A Christmas Carol," performed 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1 and two shows, at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at the Rosendale Theatre, 408 Main St., Rosendale. Five WRDL Radio Players bring to life scores of characters, live sound effects, vintage commercial breaks, and musical underscore to create an authentic 1940s radio experience, all in front of a live studio audience. The actors play dozens of roles as the familiar story unfolds. Three ghosts take Ebenezer Scrooge on a thrilling journey to teach him the true meaning of Christmas. The cast features beloved local actors Virginia Ferri, Rick Meyer, Mourka, Julie Novak and Griffin Stenger.

The production is directed and produced by Theatre Arts Director, Ann Citron. Marta Waterman performs the live music, and Patrick McDonough will be the Foley (sound effects) artist. This show is family-friendly and for all ages! Tickets are \$20/\$18 members. Kids 12 and under are \$8. There are limited cabaret tables near the stage, available for \$25/each for the four seats. It is strongly suggested that patrons buy their tickets early at rosendaletheatre.org or at the box office where there is ample parking behind the theatre. Visit rosendaletheatre.org, call 845-658-8989 or contact Citron at ann@rosendaletheatre.org for more information and sponsorship opportunities.

Frozendale at the Rosendale Library

This event will be held, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at the library, at 264 Main St., Rosendale and will feature the Children's Holiday Story Hour with Iza Trapani at 11 a.m. and a comedic rendition of "Twas the night before Christmas" by Carl Walden at noon. There will be raffle baskets, free homemade cookies, handmade knitted quilts for sale and more! For more information, visit rosendalelibrary.org or call 845-658-9013.

'Winter Wonderful,' celebrating the season in song and good cheer

The local chapter of the Mid-Hudson Women's Chorus will present their winter concert, "Winter Wonderful," celebrating the season in song and good cheer, 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, at St. James United Methodist Church, 35 Pearl Street, Kingston. Tickets are available at the door, \$10 general admission; kids and seniors, \$8. For more information, contact Ruth Mandelbaum at 914-388-4630 or ruthm@midhudsonwomenschorus.org.

Little Ones Learning Center happenings A free early literacy program,

located at Rochester Reformed Church, 5142 Route 209, Accord, recently added a day to their program and rented a second room in the church. Their Story Times are currently 10 a.m.-noon Wednesdays (Dec. 6, 13, 20 and 27) and Saturdays (Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30) and 3-5 p.m. Thursdays (Dec. 7, 14, 21 and 28). The program, which includes stories, crafts, socialization and free time to explore the many early learning activities available, is geared toward children 0-6, but all are welcome. Parents/caregivers are required to stay with children. For more information call 845-750-4112 or email LOLC12404@gmail.com.

Stone Ridge Library's Little Book Shop

Hours are 3-5 p.m. Monday-Friday (Dec. 4-8, 11-15, 18-22) and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays, (Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30) for Stone Ridge Library's Little Book Shop, all volunteer run, at 3700 Main St., Stone Ridge. For more information, visit stoneridge.library.org or call 845-687-7023.

Seniors Serving in Place (SSIP) at Wesley's Way Café in Stone Ridge

SSIP meets weekly, 10 a.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays (Dec. 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27), at Wesley's Way Café, 7 Old Route 209, Stone Ridge. Two different groups, both fun, meet to exchange ideas, memories and support for men and women wanting to stay in their own homes and remain active in the community. For more information, call ViVi at 845-331-0155.

American Red Cross Blood Drive at the Marbletown Community Center

The Marbletown Community Center will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Marbletown Community Center, 3564 Main St., Stone Ridge. All donors receive a \$10 Amazon.com gift card by email. To make an appointment or for more information, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767.

Olive Free Library Holiday Craft Fair

Enjoy cookies and book sales; raffles; Lisa Menard on piano, 10:30 am. and Ukulele group, at 1 p.m. Saturday; the museum room with the Town of Olive archive 2024 calendars; and much more at the Holiday Craft Fair, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9 and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at the Olive Free Library, 4033 Route 28A West Shokan. For more information, visit olivefreelibrary.org or call 845-657-2482.

Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and more at the Redwing Blackbird Theater in Rosendale

Join the community at the Redwing Blackbird Theater, 413 Main St., Rosendale, 5:30-8 p.m. Tuesdays (Dec. 5, 12, 19 and 26) and Fridays (Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29) for the Open Puppet Workshop with works in papier mâché, puppet making, banner sewing and painting, dancing, slapstick puppetry, and dinner at 7 p.m., all to prep for shows at the Rail Trail Café, and 4-6 p.m. Saturdays (Dec. 3, 10 and 17), the museum is open for tours and short puppet shows. The group is always looking for people to join for shows, parades and marches. For more information, visit redwingblackbirdtheater.com or call 845-658-7651.

Events at the Kiva, at MaMA

The Kiva is located behind Marbletown Multi-Arts, MaMA, at 3588 Main St., Stone Ridge. Upcoming events include Rites of Passage, Community and the Evolution of Culture with Charles Purvis, 4-6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3; Unlocking Your Body's Wisdom with Cameron Grayson, 6-9 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11; Family Constellations with EveMarie Elkin, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12; and each week, Meditation, a movement and conversation group led by Wes Ostertag, 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays; Music Together on Tuesdays and Fridays; 5Rhythms, led by Michael Griffith, Certified 5RTA, 6:30 p.m. Thursdays; and Sunday Gathering via Zoom, 10:30 a.m. Sundays. For more information on these events and more, visit cometomama.org or call 845-853-5154.

Peter's Kill area hike at Minnewaska

Join Nick Martin, Park Educator, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2 for an approximately two-mile hike in the Peter's Kill Area. On this outing, the group will be hiking exclusively on footpaths, which may have slippery rocks and roots and uneven footing. In the event of snow, this hike may be offered as a snowshoe hike. Meet at the Peter's Kill

See **More events**, page 29

Events continued from page 28

Area. Pre-registration is required by calling the Lake Minnewaska Visitor Center at 845-255-0752.

Hike to Rainbow Falls and back at Minnewaska Join Laura Conner, Environmental Educator, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3 for a walk along the Upper Awosting Carriage Road to reach Rainbow Falls Footpath. A half-mile hike on this trail brings us to the base of this misty waterfall. The round-trip distance for this outing is about six miles, mostly on the easy walking carriage road, however, the footpath section can be muddy, wet and slippery. Meet at the Lake Minnewaska Visitor Center, 5281 Route 44/55, Kerhonkson. Preregistration is required by calling Minnewaska at 845-255-0752.

Writers' group with Cathy Arra Two separate writers' groups meet 4-6:30 p.m. on alternate Mondays at the Stone Ridge Library in the activity room, 3700 Main St., Stone Ridge, with a maximum of 10 participants in each group. The program is designed for those who are actively writing and publishing work and who want to participate in a structured, critical feedback process. Cathy Arra, a poet, writer and former teacher of English and writing in the Rondout Valley School District, facilitates the groups. The next meetings are Dec. 11 and 25 for Group 1 and Dec. 4 and 18 for Group 2. For more information and to join the group, email carra22@aol.com.

The Old Meadows to Kempton Ledge and Patterson's Pellet at Minnewaska Join Laura Conner, Environmental Educator, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5 for an approximately five-mile hike on historic carriage roads and one footpath. If conditions are icy, participants are encouraged to bring Micro Spikes or other ice traction devices and to dress appropriately for the cold. If ski trails are being groomed, this outing location will change. Meet at the Lake Minnewaska Visitor Center, 5281 Route 44/55, Kerhonkson. Preregistration is required by calling Minnewaska at 845-255-0752.

Technology Tuesdays, by appointment only Schedule a one-hour appointment on Tuesdays (Dec. 5, 12, 19 and 26) in the activity room at the Stone Ridge Library, at 3700 Main St., Stone Ridge, with Elena, library volunteer, and learn how to get the most out of an iPhone. Elena can help with setting up reminders for appointments, medication schedules, managing photos or how to successfully attend zoom meetings. Have specific skills that need attention? Elena can help with that too. To schedule an appointment, send an email to programs@stoneridgelibrary.org. Include the type of device and model and what skills are needing help. Note, this is only for learning new skills, not to fix or repair a device. For more information, visit stoneridgelibrary.org or call 845-687-7023.

After-work yoga with Laura Brown at the Marbletown Community Center Thanks to the Town of Marbletown Parks and Recreation Department, the after-work yoga program with Laura Brown has been extended with classes running 5-6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 6, 13 and 20, at the Marbletown Community Center, 3564 Main St., Stone Ridge. Classes are for all levels with everyone encouraged to move at their own pace. Bring a yoga mat and any blocks or straps if needed. For registration and information, visit stoneridgelibrary.org or call 845-687-7023.

Scenic hike along Beacon Hill and around Lake Minnewaska Join Laura Conner, Environmental Educator, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10 and Tuesday, Dec. 12 for an approximately four-mile hike along the Lake Minnewaska Carriage Road, Beacon Hill Footpath and Beacon Hill Carriage Road. The carriage roads are relatively easy walking; however, the footpath does include some hills and tricky footing. If conditions are icy, participants are encouraged to bring Micro Spikes or other ice traction devices. If ski trails are being groomed, this outing location will change. Meet at the Lake Minnewaska Visitor Center, 5281 Route 44/55, Kerhonkson. Preregistration is required. Call Minnewaska at 845-255-0752.

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The Ashokan Center's Holiday Craft Faire is a family affair of fun activities

Holiday Craft Faire at Ashokan Center

Had enough of box stores and online shopping? The Ashokan Center's 2nd annual Holiday Craft Faire, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at 477 Beaverkill Road Olivebridge is the answer. The Ashokan Center's performance hall will be transformed to showcase an incredible assortment of locally made crafts. Their wonderful elves (staff) will be ready to help in the Tin Shop (make an ornament), Broom Shop (make a wood-handled sorghum broom), Blacksmith Shop (make a fire poker, heart-shaped trivet, or plant hanger) and Discovery Room (make a natural holiday wreath). Arrive early to sign up for these hands-on activities. The Faire will also include a family photo booth in the Ashokan sleigh, live holiday musical offerings, and an array of tasty food for

sale. Shop, eat, make and be merry!

There will be a winter clothing drive requesting gently used hats, coats, gloves and boots; delicious hot food and beverages for sale; and jolly seasonal music.

There is no cost to attend, and all craft and food sales benefit the Ashokan Center's ongoing work to inspire learning and build community through shared experiences in nature, history, music and art. Bring donations for the winter clothing drive, as many school kids who come to the Ashokan Center field trips are under-prepared. Thanks for helping them!

Interested in vending or volunteering? Email alexis.perry@ashokancenter.org.

For more information, visit ashokancenter.org or call 845-647-8333.



Walt Michael, 40 years as a performer, musician, vocalist recording artist, composer, band leader, educator and artistic director; waltmichael.com

International Music Series at Christ the King's holiday finale with Michael & Co.

The second year of the International Music Series at Christ the King, 3021 Route 213 East, Stone Ridge continues with its Christmas Concert, the last concert of the season 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10 with Walt Michael & Co. Celebrate the holiday with Walt Michael on hammered dulcimer; upstate New York residents Evan Stover and Frank Orsini, twin fiddles; and Tom Wetmore, upright bass. This will be a joyous return to the Hudson Valley for Michael who left to move to Maryland where he is the artist in residence at McDaniel College in Westminster and founder and executive director of Common Ground on the Hill, now in its 26th year as an international arts organization which seeks to promote interracial harmony through the traditional arts. Michael's various incarnations have spanned 40 years and taken him from the coal camps of Appalachia to the White House to the Closing Ceremonies of the 13th Olympic Winter Games.

Considered to be a virtuoso of the hammered dulcimer, his wide repertoire ranges from old-time Southern Appalachian, to Celtic, to breathtaking original

compositions. As a vocalist and multi-instrumentalist and he has recorded fourteen albums and instructional videos, appeared at the Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center and toured extensively throughout the US, Canada, Europe and the UK. His music has been heard on ABC-TV, NBC's Tonight Show, Broadway, BBC, TNN, CBC, OLN and PBS.

The International Music Series which carries on with much enjoyment of different artists is booked by CTK parishioner Robyn Boyd who has been an agent for international musicians since 1991. Many of the performers are friends who are giving off their time in this new series. The idea behind doing the performances on Sunday afternoon was to offer a show to musicians passing through the Northeast with good Friday and Saturday gigs. After the shows the audience and performers are invited to share a supper in the Parish Hall as the church's way of building community. For more tickets and more information, visit ctkstoneridge.org or call 845-687-9414.

Rosendale artist Ted Dixon exhibition, 'Space Between'

Join the community for the opening reception of Rosendale artist Ted Dixon's exhibition, "Space Between," 5-7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at Corcoran Country Living, 319 Wall St., Kingston. The show will be on exhibit through Jan. 13.

"As an abstract painter, I am 'often' focused on creating art that encourages people to consider the space between," said Dixon. "The third and fourth, the chair and the table, black and dark, Monday evening and Tuesday morning." For more information, visit hereisted.com.



Meet Tiny Tim and Ebenezer Scrooge in the performance of "A Christmas Carol" on Dec. 14.

Theatre on the Road of Rosendale's holiday events begin in Kerhonkson

This season Theatre on the Road, a Rosendale based production company, is inviting local residents to its productions of "It's a Wonderful Life" and "A Christmas Carol."

"It's a Wonderful Life" will be presented as a live radio play and holiday luncheon with actors in vintage costumes with live sound effects, noon-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, at Soyuzivaka Ukrainian Heritage Center, 216 Foordmore Road, Kerhonkson. See the beloved holiday classic come to life as a 1940s radio broadcast. Five actors in costume will portray the characters of Bedford Falls the world has come to know and love. Live music and sound effects will enhance the story of idealistic George Bailey. See the action unfold as he considers ending his life one fateful Christmas Eve. Join neighbors, family and friends for a story of faith, hope and the power of community.

Kick off the Christmas holiday season with song, laughter and nostalgia as actors and carolers bring scenes from Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" to life. Theatre on the Road's production will be held, 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, at the Venue Uptown at the Best Western, 50 Washington Avenue, Kingston. The family-friendly performance includes a three-course dinner with entrée choice. Victorian carolers will sing at tableside, before the show and during the dinner break, and the event will be preceded by a reception where guests will meet Ebenezer Scrooge, the Ghosts of Christmas, the Cratchit family including Tiny Tim and Nephew Fred. Audience members are encouraged to interact with the Dickens' characters, as they settle in for a fine dinner and evening of celebration.

Adapted from Charles Dickens' classic, the script was written by Frank and Kristen Marquette, and she is also providing her handmade costumes. This is the 24th season the Marquette's version of "A Christmas Carol" is being produced.

For ticket links and more information, visit theatreontheroad.com or call 845-475-7973.

Events continued from page 29

Second Sunday Supper The Rondout Valley United Methodist Church will host its Second Sunday Supper at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at the church, 25 Schoonmaker Lane, off Route 209, Stone Ridge. All are invited to meet and greet other members of the community, dine together and enjoy one another's company. Second Sunday Suppers are free and held on the second Sunday of every month (except July and August). Sunday worship at RVUMC is in person at 10 a.m. or online anytime at rvumc.org. Call 845-687-9061 for more information. Need prayer? Call Pastor Caroline at 845-687-9090.

Rosendale Seniors meetings and trip to Alaska The Town of Rosendale Seniors will meet at the Rec Center, 1055 Route 32N, Rosendale, twice this month, at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13 for a social meeting, and Wednesday, Dec. 20, at 10:30 a.m. for the executive board meeting, and 1 p.m. for the business meeting. Join the group in this lifelong dream, May 17-24, 2024, as the Rosendale Seniors are proud to sponsor the Alaskan cruise aboard "Celebrity Hedge." For eight days and seven nights, receive event prices starting at \$2,832, double occupancy which includes round trip bus fare to Newark, round trip air fare, to Seattle, round trip transfers to the ship, port charges, government fees, beverage gratuities and more. A deposit of \$350/ea. is required, and for double occupancy, \$700. Make checks payable to Grand American Tours and mail to Hal Sampson 39 Walkkill Avenue Tillson, NY 12486. Payment by credit card is also available. Rosendale Senior trips are open to all ages. For more information, call Chickie at 845-658-2414 or Hal at 845-658-9020. For videos and group pictures, visit grouptrips.com/chicky.

Teatime book group discusses 'The Marriage Portrait' by Maggie O'Farrell Join the group, 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, in the activity room, at the Stone Ridge Library, 3700 Main St., Stone Ridge to discuss the book, "Marriage Portrait" by Maggie O'Farrell. In the book, Lucrezia, third daughter of the grand duke, is comfortable with her obscure place in the palazzo; free to wonder at its treasures, observe its clandestine workings, and devote herself to her own artistic pursuits. To join the group, visit stonerigdelibrary.org or call 845-687-7023.

Rondout Valley Lions Club New members, men and women of all ages, are wanted and encouraged to join the Rondout Valley Lions Club, serving the towns of Marletown, Rochester, Rosendale and Wawarsing since Oct. 18, 1950. During this time, they have helped those in need, whether it is for sight, hearing, medical emergencies or any worthwhile cause. "We serve" is their motto, and this is what they do. The Lions will meet this month at 5 p.m. on the second Wednesday (Dec. 13), at Soyuzivka Heritage Center, 216 Foordmore Road, Kerhonkson. For more information on being included in the club's next meeting, contact Bill Brooks, president, at wbrooks1110@gmail.com or Dan Gagnon, treasurer, at daniel@gagnoncpa.com.

SUNY Ulster Open House Highlighting many of the career programs and courses offered this spring that are in high demand in the Hudson Valley region, SUNY Ulster will hold its open house, 4-7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14 at their Kingston location, 94 Mary's Avenue. The schedule will include a lecture presentation on Natural Cement, Bluestone & Bricks, a geologic history of Ulster County presented by Professor Steven H. Schimmrich, Professor of Geology & Earth Science, 4-5 p.m.; Reiki demonstration and registration, 4-7 p.m.; CASAC information session, 5-5:30 p.m.; Advanced Manufacturing info session and registration, 5-6 p.m.; How to Start a Family Childcare Business in Your Home, 5-6 p.m.; New Start information session, 5:30-6 p.m.; Certified Clinical Medical information session and registration, 5:30-6:30 p.m.; Introduction to Excel, 6-7 p.m.; and Regional update on the Cannabis industry, 6-7 p.m. Throughout the event, there will be light refreshments and live music. Admissions counselors will also be available to answer questions and help those who want to apply and register. To sign up for the open house for one or more of these info sessions, visit <https://bit.ly/springopenhouse24>.



The SUNY Ulster College Chorus, directed by Janet Gehres and accompanied by Edward Leavitt, will perform some holiday favorites in the fall concert on Dec. 6 in Quimby Theater

SUNY Ulster Fall Concert

In this, the third concert of their annual fall concert series, SUNY Ulster presents their 7:30 p.m. Dec. 6 concert, made up of SUNY Ulster students, faculty and staff members performing in the Quimby Theater in Vanderlyn Hall on the Stone Ridge Campus, at 491 Cottekill Road, Stone Ridge. In the concert, the College Chorus, directed by Janet Gehres and accompanied by Edward Leavitt, will perform, Gloria in Excelsis, Now Winter Nights Enlarge, Dance of the Sugar-Plum

Fairy, The Seal Lullaby, Autumn Gives Her Hand to Winter, and Shule Aroon. The African Drumming Ensemble, directed by Paul Chambers will play music from Ghana, Guinea and Nigeria. The evening concludes with the best of the semester performances chosen from the Live Music Convocation Series. The concert is free and open to the public. Donations are greatly appreciated. For more information, contact Janet Gehres at gehresj@sunyulster.edu.



"Into the Light" Multicultural holiday dance show celebrates the traditions of Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Sankta Lucia (Sweden), the Winter Solstice, and Yule. Photo by Sonam Zoksang

'Into the Light,' A tale of hope, at the darkest time of the year

"Into the Light" weaves the magic of Arm-of-the-Sea Theater's giant puppets into the tapestry of the Vanaver Caravan's global dance repertoire. The family friendly pageant uplifts spirits and deepens appreciation for cultural traditions. The show, to be performed, at 2 and 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 9 and 10, at the Rosendale Theatre, 408 Main St. Rosendale tells the fairy tale-like story of a young girl, Lucia, as she struggles to find joy and hope in a winter with no sunlight. As she grows up, she leaves her sunny village and journeys into the cold, haunted forests of the winter star. In her darkest moment, she is helped by a kind old bear, who guides her around the world to see how people everywhere, keep the light of hope alive in the cold months of winter. With giant puppets and holiday songs, dances, and music traditions, the performance celebrates many of the world's traditions for bringing light, joy and beauty into the darkest part of the year. Through dance and music, "Into the Light" honors such

holidays as Christmas, Hanukkah, Diwali, Kwanzaa, Sankta Lucia, Yule and the Winter Solstice.

General admission tickets are \$15 and limited VIP priority seating tickets are \$25 and include meeting the cast and puppets and front-of-house seating. Following the Dec. 9 shows, at the Rosendale Theatre, there will be a swing dance workshop and social dance from 7-9 p.m. with a special guest appearance by the beloved bear puppet. Tickets for the party are an add-on to "Into the Light" and may be purchased with or separately. All tickets are available at <https://vanavercaravan.org/upcoming-events/intothelight2023>.

These performances are made possible through the generous support of the New York State Council on the Arts and the Regrowth and Capacity Covid relief grant, in collaboration with the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

For more information, visit vanavercaravan.org, rosendaletheatre.org or call 845-658-8989.

Mindell Dubansky on American Decorated Paper at D&H Canal Historical Society

Join the community, 7-8:10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at D&H Canal Historical Society, 1315 Main St., High Falls. Mindell Dubansky, museum librarian for preservation and head of the Sherman Fairchild Center for Book Conservation at the Metropolitan Museum of Art will give a lecture on the history of American arts on paper, such as book design and wallpaper. Her most recent publication is "Pattern and Flow: A Golden Age of Decorative Paper; 1960s to 2000s" (2021).

For more information, visit canalmuseum.org or call 845-687-2000.

Stress relief for the holidays, relax and let go workshop with Ami Jayaprada Hirschstein

Relax and let go using simple techniques of restorative yoga, stress reduction, pranayama, meditation, Marma acupressure and Yoga Nidra with Ami Jayaprada Hirschstein of Whole Sky Yoga, 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at 3588 Main St., Stone Ridge. For more information, visit wholeskyyoga.com or call 845-706-3668.



Hirschstein

Lydia's winds down its live music season with Bob Meyer & Circular Jazz

Enjoy live music 7-10 p.m. this Saturday night Dec. 2, at Lydia's Café, 7 Old Route 209, Stone Ridge with its final performance of the season until spring with Bob Meyer & Circular Jazz featuring Meyer on drums; Dan Blake, saxophone; Luke Franko, guitar; and Bryan Copeland, bass playing the music of Bert Wilson and others.

Buffet and select items from the kitchen are offered. Call to reserve a table. There is a suggested donation of \$20. Artwork by Fran Sutherland is on display. Proceeds from sales go to Doctors Without Borders Ukraine. For more information, call 845-687-6373 or visit lydias-cafe.com.



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Sales & Events

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Lucky Cat Studio ceramics is opening for its annual holiday sale December 1-3, 11-5 pm
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