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Tri

Ye Olde TOWNSMAN

Valley

"The Best Journal Published by a Dam Site!"

VOL. 8 NO. 48

GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740

DECEMBER 6, 2012

FIFTY CENTS

Reservoir Music Notes - Fred Perry Pg. 6 • Mysterious Book Report - John D. McKenna Pg. 4 • The Olive Jar - Carol La Monda Pg. 6

REMINDER: *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman* will not be published on Dec. 20 or Dec. 27, 2012 in observance of Christmas and New Years. Next week will be our Holiday Issue. If you wish to publish a holiday greeting, see page 10 for details.

On behalf of the entire Townsman Staff, we all wish you all a wonderful Holiday Season!

Law Enforcement Students Graduate

The 2012 graduating class of the Ulster County Law Enforcement Training Group and Ulster County Community College at their graduation ceremony on November 21, at the Hillside Manor in Kingston.



The graduates were: James Adams, Emily-Claire E. Sommer and Bryan A. Aitken, City of Kingston Police Department; Antonio J. Bell, Village of Ellenville Police Department; Michael Hansen, Village of Walden Police Department; Peter J. Boutros, Town of Highlands Police Department; Joseph Guarneiri, Town of Mount Hope Police Department; Jeffrey Haber, NYS Office of the Attorney General, as well as the following students in the Ulster County Community College Police Basic Training Program: Brendan Paulsen of Boiceville, David C. Schaller Jr. of Cottekill, Stephen A. Sawyer of Ellenville, Cassandra E. Carman of Gardiner, Dominic G. Mills of Kingston, Justin M. Felicello of Marlboro, April Roberts of Modena, Eric M. Cussick of Mount Tremper, Stuart B. Lloyd of New Hampton, Garrett R. Lunt of New Paltz, Vincent R. Sayles of New Windsor, Patricia McIntyre of Poughkeepsie, Daniel T. Farcher and Ryan J. Saguid of Saugerties, Eric P. Bernhardsen of Slate Hill and Eddie Santiago Jr. of Woodbourne.

UC SPCA Aids in Hurrican Sandy Relief Efforts



The Ulster County SPCA (UCSPCA) received 9 dogs from the Long Island Hempstead Animal Shelter today in efforts to provide some much needed kennel relief for the displaced animals caused by Hurricane Sandy.

UCSPCA worked closely with Cynthia Iacopella, Hempstead Animal Shelter Executive Director, to coordinate the efforts. (Contd. Pg. 4)

ERH First Annual Staff Art Show

Artwork created by the Ellenville Regional Hospital staff, volunteers and their family members will be on exhibit at the Healing Arts Gallery at Ellenville Regional Hospital from December 4 through January 25. The show is free and open to the public, 8am-8pm daily. Ellenville Regional Hospital is located at 10 Healthy Way in Ellenville.

For more information about the Healing Arts exhibit or the Ellenville Regional Hospital, please contact (845) 210-3043.

An artist reception is planned for Thursday, December 13, 2012 from 5:00-7:00pm.

Ellenville Regional Hospital is located on Route 209 in Ellenville. For more information about the Healing Art exhibit or the Ellenville Regional Hospital, please contact (845) 647-6400.

Musical Performance at the Daniel Pierce Library

On Wednesday, December 12, from 3 to 5 P.M., two special guests will be featured on the harp and the violin. Jan Hirsch, who is a local musician, a Certified Therapeutic Harpist and a graduate of the International Harp Therapy Program, will be playing the harp. (Contd. Pg. 3)

Traditional Holiday Tea hosted by Time in the Valleys Museum Notes the Arrival of the Holiday Season



Volunteers, members, friends and family enjoyed an afternoon in the warm cordial environment of the Reading Room at the Daniel Pierce Library for a Holiday Tea hosted by the Time and the Valleys Museum on Sunday. Many volunteers who have helped to make the museum the great success that it is, were honored at the tea.

Guests were invited to a preview of the new state-of-the-art exhibits that are being added to the museum and will be ready for the spring opening in 2013.

Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony Brightens the Season



The Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Sunday evening hosted by the Town of Neversink, has now become a holiday tradition for many of the residents as well as a symbol of community spirit. Children of all ages enjoyed holiday refreshments provided by volunteers from local organizations. Special music was provided by Tri-Valley students and teachers, Regina Hartman and Tara Beresick, who also led the celebrants as they sang Christmas Carols. And of course, Santa didn't miss this opportunity to pass through town as he began his final check on his "Naughty and Nice List". Supervisor Mark McCarthy did the official countdown that lit Bi-Centennial Park in Grahamsville where the display will continue to be illuminted with seasonal cheer throughout the holidays. (More pictures available at the Townsman website at: thetownsman.com)

Frost Valley YMCA Receives ACA Eleanor P. Eells Award

Frost Valley YMCA has been selected to receive the American Camp Association's Eleanor P. Eells, the ACA's highest honor of distinction. The award will be presented to Frost Valley YMCA at the national ACA conference in February 2012, in Dallas Texas. (Contd. Pg. 4)

YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN
OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR

THE TOWN OF DENNING AND THE TOWN OF NEVERSINK
Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman (USPS #009 398 - ISSN 1558-9013) is published weekly except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's week for \$25.00 per year by Gnome Home, Inc.. Periodical postage paid at Grahamsville, NY. POSTMASTER: Send change of address to:

The Townsman • P.O. Box 232 • Grahamsville, NY 12740
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DAYS OF 'YORE' - Barbara Slater
NEVERSINK NOTES - Hulda Vernooy
OLIVE JAR - Carol La Monda
RESERVOIR MUSIC - Fred Perry
MYSTERIOUS BOOK REPORT - John McKenna
GETTING IN TOUCH WITH NATURE - Peggy DeWire
LEGALS - Gloria Beavers
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POLICY ON SUBMISSIONS AND LETTERS TO THE EDITORS:

1. **ALL submissions** should be typewritten or printed legibly.
2. Letters should contain no more than 300 words.
3. Letters should offer worthwhile comments and avoid libel or bad taste.
4. Letters must be signed with the writer's own name. No letter will be published without a signature.
5. The writer must provide his/her full name, address and telephone number (for verification). This information will be kept on file in the YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN office.
6. Copies of letters or third-party letters will not be accepted.

Opinions expressed in Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman belong to the writers and are not necessarily the viewpoint of Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman or its staff.

To renew or receive a new subscription to the TOWNSMAN, please fill out the form below. Mail form to the address above or place in the TOWNSMAN drop box located on the porch of the First Aid Building in Grahamsville. Make checks payable to: *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman*

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A change of address must be received a month prior to change in order to make the necessary changes in our computer. All changes of address, whether seasonal or permanent, are the responsibility of the subscriber.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE: 3:00 P.M. FRIDAYS • FIRM -

Drop Box, FAX, Mail or Email

WEEKLY ADVERTISING RATES

Classified ads - \$6.00 for the first 20 words and 20 cents each additional word.

- 1" Boxed ad (1" x 3") - \$6.00 per week (\$2.00/ sq in)
- Business card ad (2" x 3") - \$12.00 per week (\$2.00/ sq in)
- (3" x 4") - \$24.00 per week (\$2.00/ sq in)
- (3" x 6") - \$36.00 (\$2.00/sq in)
- (4" x 6") - \$48.00 (\$2.00/ sq in)
- 1/4 pg (5" x 7") - \$70.00 (\$2.00/ sq in)
- (6" x 8") - \$96.00 (\$2.00/ sq in)
- 1/2 pg (7" x 10") - \$140.00 (\$2.00/ sq in)
- (Full page - 10" x 14") - (\$2.00 sq in) \$280 B/W
- (Color ads) - (\$3.00 sq in) (Centerfold & pg 16 only)
- (Full back page - 10" x 14") - \$420.00 B/W
- (Full back page in Color - 10" x 14") - \$630.00

Rates are based on **Camera-ready copy. A Graphic Designer is available at \$35.00/hr.** Call or email us for more information. Guaranteed placement is available for a 25% surcharge on a first-come, first-serve basis on all pages except the front page, page 2 & page 3. **All advertising must be pre-paid** unless other arrangements have been made.

All inserts/flyers must be pre-paid. Please send the correct amount of money along with **1,500 copies** of your flyer. If the insert/flyer is printed only on one side, the rate is \$40.00 per week. If the insert/flyer is printed on both sides, the rate is \$60.00 per week. The customer must provide the correct number of pre-printed flyers. If you wish *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman* to print the flyers the charge for a one-sided flyer based on **1,500 copies (white paper)** \$95.00; (color paper) \$125.00. If both sides of the flyer are to be printed the charge based on **1,500 copies (white paper)** \$145.00; (color paper) \$175.00.

Deadline for all submissions is 3:00 p.m. Friday. NO EXCEPTIONS

If you are submitting your advertising by email, our email address is: tvtownsman@yahoo.com If you do choose to send ad copy via the internet please send it in either PDF (Acrobat) files or JPG format. All press releases/articles should be sent as Microsoft Word Documents

Have a question- please call: Linda Comando (845) 985-0501. As always, thank you for your support.

Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman
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ON THE FRONT BURNER: Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from old. Psalm 25:6

OBITUARY:



"Polly"
1929-2012

Pauline "Polly" A. Hill of Grahamsville passed away on Tuesday, November 27, 2012 at home, peacefully, surrounded by her family. She was 83.

She was the daughter of the late Glenn and Marguerite Annabel Thompson, born on March 17, 1929 in Marcellus, NY.

She was a proud graduate of Marcellus High School, class of 1946. She later obtained her bachelor's and master's degrees in 1951 from the NYS College for Teachers in Albany, NY.

Polly started her teaching career at Tri-Valley Central School in 1951, teaching both Latin and English. In 1967 she taught English until her retirement in 1987. While she was at Tri-Valley she was head of the English Department, senior class advisor, chaperoned numerous senior trips, directed several senior plays and for a brief stint she was a cheerleading coach.

For many that knew Polly, she was known for being the author and creator of the column, "Here and There" in the Townsman. She was the Secretary for the Grahamsville Rural Cemetery Association from 1987-2001. She was an active member of our community who impacted many lives; she will continue to be loved and will always be missed by her family and friends.

She is survived by her loving children: David Hill and his wife, Lisa of Virginia Beach, VA, Glenn Hill and his wife, Sally of Grahamsville, NY and Susan Hill and her partner, Cheryl Martin of Orlando, FL; grandchildren: Aaron Hill of Annapolis, MD, Matthew Hill of Virginia Beach, Sarah Raco and her husband, Joe of Red Hook, NY, Rebekah Allen and her fiancé, Jeremiah Lics of Rhinebeck, NY; her sister, Joyce Williams of Kirkville, NY and many nieces, nephews and cousins. She was predeceased by her devoted husband, Donald H. Hill whom she married on August 17, 1957.

Funeral Services were on Saturday, December 1, 2012 at the Grahamsville Reformed Church, Grahamsville. Interment followed at the Grahamsville Rural Cemetery.

Donations in Polly's name can be made to the Grahamsville Fireman's Scholarship Fund, or Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties, 800 Stony Brook Court, Newburgh, NY

Note of Thanks

The Sundown Ladies, WSCS and 'Church Community' want to thank all of those who attended the Christmas Fair last weekend and also a big 'thank you' to all those who helped to make this event such a great success.

See you again next year in Sundown!

**Days of Yore...
...Today's History**

December 3, 1952 - Nine members of the local F.F.A. were recently initiated as Greenhands. They were: John Bowers, Dennis Eighmy, Robert Grey, James Ward, John Pinser, Harrison Stickle, Leslie Krum, Robert Terwilliger and Nelson Donovan.

Ray Muthig and Robert Mickleson are included in a group of fifteen young men to be inducted into the Army on December 8th. All are twenty years old or older. A pre-induction group will leave for New York for examinations the same day. Local men included are Edward Phelps and Harry Hill.

Excavation on the outlet works at Lows Corners by Booth and Flinn, contractors, will be completed within the next week or ten days. Concreting operations will be resumed in early spring when weather permits.

November 28, 1962 - Miss Susan Shaut, a senior at Tri Valley Central, has won early admissions to Barnard College in New York City. Miss Shaut has been admitted on the basis of her outstanding scholastic record and wide participation in extracurricular activities. She plans to major in either music or history upon her entrance to Barnard in September.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hamilton and children, Douglas and Ellen, of Kings Park, L.I. spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Don Hill and son David.

Mrs. Effie M. Rose, 70, of Woodbourne Road, Grahamsville, died on Sunday, November 25, 1962 at her home. She was born in Palentown on April 5, 1892, the daughter of John and Hannah Barley Feltman. She was married to William H. Rose at Accord on September 23, 1911. She has resided in Grahamsville for 36 years and was a member of the Samsonville Methodist Church. Survivors are her husband; a son, Albert Rose of Grahamsville; a brother, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

December 13, 1972 - Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Hill who will celebrate their 29th wedding anniversary on December 14th.

Monty LaHanko has been spending a 14 day leave from the Navy with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Al LaHanko. Monty leaves Saturday for his new assignment in San Diego. (Not a very "newsy" issue; better luck next week!)

December 2, 1982 - Cathy Coombe of Grahamsville participated in the National Junior Olympic Regionals this past weekend in Holmdel, N.J. She placed 6th in a field of over 100 runners, to qualify for the National Championship in Cincinnati, Ohio on December 11th.

The Women's Institute of Northamptonshire, England held a competition in which women were to name the most useless gadget in your kitchen. It was won by a member who submitted a photo of her husband. (Taken from "Tri Valley Topics" - Tom Higgins)

NYSEG crews are still busy restoring power lines and cleaning up following Sunday night's ice storm which glazed roads, making them a skating rink. As many as 1,000 motorists were stranded in the Livingston Manor, Roscoe area. College students and others stranded spent the night sleeping on floors or anywhere available.

TVCS Indoor Track Team News

- Joe Iaturo

Congratulations to the entire Girls and Boys Indoor Track team on their performances Saturday at West Point with Kate Greffrath, Mareena Dimilia, Mary Alongi, Jessica Hussey, Sarah Coney, Shannon Smith, Justin Weintraub and Mohib Khan all placing in the top three in their events. Special congratulations on winning an event to Kate Greffrath in the Long Jump, Mareena DiMilia in the Weight Throw, Vicky Tingley in the Pole Vault, Aidan Woolsey in the Pole Vault and Aric Boyes in the Shot Put and Weight throw.

A Round About Tri-Valley -Carol Furman

As the old song says, "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas". Bicentennial Square in Grahamsville looks very festive with all of the tree lights. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Square look so bright and cheery.

Of course this time of year groups are planning their holiday parties and get-togethers. The Neversink-Rondout Antique Machinery Club has their holiday party planned for December 7th and the Grahamsville Reformed Church invites everyone to attend their holiday roast beef dinner on December 8th.

The Tri-Valley Lions had their holiday dinner party at the Daniel Pierce Library on December 4th. There were 36 present and everyone had plenty to eat and enjoyed the fun and games. What a nice place to have a gathering! The folks at the Library are so accommodating.

Mrs. Russell's second grade class at Tri-Valley, with the help of the Culinary Arts Program at Sullivan County BOCES, made 60 Thanksgiving pies. The pies were donated to food pantries to help some less fortunate Tri-Valley families. What a nice way to show young children how they can help others in need. Thank you, Mrs. Russell! The Record had a nice picture of Adam Furman holding one of the donated pies.

Get well wishes to Helen Mickelson who was in the hospital. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Happy anniversary wishes to two great couples.. Tom and June Smith will celebrate 55 years of marriage on December 7th and Jim and Irma Mentnech will celebrate their 54th anniversary on December 6th.

Pauline Thompson Hill passed away on November 27th. Polly wrote the "Here and There" column for the Townsman for many years, until she was no longer able to do so. Miss Thompson was my husband's school teacher when he attended Tri-Valley School in the early 50's; Mrs. Hill was my children's teacher in the late 80's; and Polly Hill was a veteran teacher when I began teaching at Tri-Valley in 1967. Her students were many; her legacy incalculable! Polly and her husband, Don, who was often referred to as the "mayor" of Grahamsville, were wonderful people. They were always very active in the community. You just don't find too many folks like them any more! Polly, you will be missed and may God rest your soul! Sympathy goes out to all the members of the Hill family.

Words of Wisdom. Words that soak into your ears are whispered, not yelled.

GLIAC Announces Spring 2012 Commissioner's Award Recipients

BAY CITY, Mich. - The Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) announced the recipients of the Spring 2012 Meijer Commissioner's Awards. The awards, sponsored by Meijer, Incorporated, were presented after the Fall, Winter, and Spring athletic seasons



to six female and six male student-athletes that excel both in the classroom and on the fields of play. All grade point averages are based on a 4.0 scale.

Among the six male student-athletes to receive the Spring 2012 Meijer Commissioner's Awards were Garrett Grey, a Junior at Ashland University. Garrett finished eighth in the hammer throw at the NCAA Division-II

Championships. He helped the Eagles to a seventh place finish at nationals. Grey was the runner-up in the hammer throw at the 2012 GLIAC Championships. At the 2011 NCAA Championships, Grey captured the bronze medal in the hammer throw. He is a sport management major and owns a 3.54 grade point average.

Congratulations Garrett!
Garrett is a Tri-Valley graduate and the son of Diana and Scott Grey

Operation Sandy Christmas

From now until Dec 15th The Assembly of God church is receiving new unwrapped toys for kids that were affected by hurricane Sandy. Toys are being collected. If you are a

Distance away, we have been recommending that you go on line and purchase the toy (it doesn't matter the value) then just ship it directly to the church.

Crossway Assembly of God C/O Pastor Ismael Berrios 464 State Route 52 Woodbourne, N.Y. 12788

On December 15 they will be hosting a benefit Christmas Concert at 7pm at the church. For more info you can go to our website www.crosswayaog.com or email me at operationsandychristmas@crosswayaog.org Or call at 845-434-8263.

From Dec 16th to Dec 21 they will be wrapping and prepping to ship the toys. The church will be open from 1 pm to 9 pm.

On Dec 22 they will be trucking the wrapped toys to

locations in the affected areas. Their goal is to fill a tractor trailer.

According to Pastor Berrios, "We are one third of the way already. I need your help, the need is so great! Will you partner with us? Love you guys lets get the word out! We still need: new unwrapped toys; wrapping paper; tape; money; volunteers."

Musical Performance at the Daniel Pierce Library(From Pg. 1)

According to Jan, "The harp is a very special instrument used in healing. Its long, freely vibrating strings have a very positive effect on the listener." Her CD, "Gently You Raise Me," a collection of solo harp music based on the Twenty-Third Psalm, is used by Orange and Sullivan Hospice, and has received very positive responses for bringing comfort and peace. She will be accompanied on the violin by our own Paul Lounsbury, a musician himself, who is the creator and host of the Old Tyme Fiddle Contest. His CD, "From My Perspective," is a delightful potpourri of his many talents and original compositions. Please join us in the Reading Room for an afternoon of lovely music from two talented people who radiate peace and joy.

4H Puppy Pals Do Community Service -

By *Patrick Coombe and Andrea Decker*

The 4H Puppy Pals have been working very hard to help prepare the Daniel Pierce Library for its Annual Holiday Tea Party. At our last two meetings we have been making snow globes and tree skirts that will be used to decorate the library. We are looking forward to a good turn out at the Tea Party being held on Sunday December 9 from 2-4 pm. We hope to see you there.

You also may have noticed that we decorated the vestibule at the Grahamsville Post Office back in October. We did this as part of a window display contest that raised 4H awareness. The theme was a hard one- Join the Revolution of Responsibility. We placed third in the contest.

CWC Watershed Education Grant Applications Available

The Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) is now accepting Watershed Education Grant proposals from schools and non-profit organizations serving students and teachers in the New York City West-of-Hudson (WOH) Watershed and within the five boroughs of New York City.

Applications for Special Watershed Education Grants for adult and general audiences are also available.

All proposals are due February 4, 2013. Applications and guidelines are available at www.cwconline.org (Programs/Education); or call 845-586-1400, ext. 29 (toll-free 877-WAT-SHED) to obtain an application packet by mail. Questions may also be directed to galusha@cwconline.org.

Proposals must be for education projects and programs that help increase awareness of the human and natural history of the WOH Watershed and the New York City water supply system; the critical role of communities in caring for water quality in the watershed, the importance of water conservation, the history and contemporary use and operation of the vast water system, or the cultural and biological diversity of the city's WOH Watershed.

Special attention will be paid to proposals that explore the causes and impacts of flooding, and of climate change.

Applicants for grants intended for school-age audiences may also choose from among several Special Options, including trips to environmental education centers, cultural programs, Trout in the Classroom and classroom models for teaching about water quality.

This program is offered in partnership with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection.

The CWC is a non-profit, Local Development Corporation responsible for several environmental protection, economic development and education programs in the New York City Watershed West of the Hudson River.

Public Invited to Hear State Agriculture Commissioner

FERNDALE - New York State Commissioner of Agriculture Darrel Aubertine will address the current state of agriculture in New York on Tuesday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the CVI Center in Ferndale. The public is invited to meet the commissioner on his first visit to Sullivan County since his appointment.

The address will take place at the 98th Annual Meeting of Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Sullivan County, which will announce members to the Board of Directors and Program Committee. Plans for

the organization's centennial celebration in 2014 will also be introduced. Space is limited, so call 845-292-6180 or email sullivan@cornell.edu to reserve a seat.

Darrel J. Aubertine was appointed as the state's 27th Agriculture Commissioner by Governor Andrew Cuomo in 2011 and leads the NYS Department of Ag and Markets. He oversees the agency's 500 employees who work to ensure a safe food supply, the conservation of productive lands and a vibrant agricultural industry in the state.

"We are very pleased to have Commissioner Aubertine speak at our annual meeting and encourage the public to join us for an informative evening," said Joan Howard, President of the CCE Association Board of Directors.

Aubertine has his roots in agriculture, having been born and raised on a small family dairy farm in Cape Vincent, NY where he worked over 35 years. Prior to taking state office, he chaired his local town council. Aubertine was elected three times to represent the 118th Assembly District and later became a State Senator for the 48th District. He was a strong advocate for farmers and rural, upstate citizens and chaired the Senate Agriculture Committee, as well as the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources. Aubertine continues to raise animals and grow crops on his sixth generation farm with his family.

CCE Annual Meeting is being hosted by Sullivan Renaissance. Light refreshments will be served.

A Santa Claus Bush

By *Peggy DeWire*

A few days before Christmas, Betty and I were walking her dog back to the farmhouse when we were stopped by a shout from her young children who came running up yelling, "Look, Mom, we found a Santa Claus bush!"



Betty admired the sticks which were covered with bright red berries and handed them to me asking, "What are these, Peggy?"

The kids added, "Can we eat the berries?"

Twirling the sticks in my hand, I praised the kids for finding a Black Alder bush and said, yes, the berries were edible though you could eat only a few at a time because they contained medicine for headaches and stomach aches.

So as we stood around chewing the spicy slightly bitter berries, we talked about how Black Alder bushes came from Europe to America a long time ago and spread across the northeastern states. Nowadays there are four cultivars used in landscaping and controlling erosion on banks of rivers and ponds.

Black Alder or Winterberry is a many-stemmed bush that grows 10-15 feet high on moist ground in full sun. Its leaves are oval bright glossy green until the first frost when they turn black and all off. Young leaves are so sticky and gummy that they inspired the Black Alder family's Latin name *Alnus gluninosa*.

Another unusual thing about Black Alder is its wood which is white when fresh cut - look at the ends of these sticks - but turns blood red. In Norse and Irish myths the first humans were made of Black Alder wood. Back then cutting a bush down was forbidden because it was a symbol of the resurrection.

Today we make furniture from the wood and use the bark to tan leather and smoke fish and other foods. Old timers made a tonic tea by boiling three ounces of park in three pints of water.

Black Alder contains so much tannin that it repels insect pests. The wood is very durable underwater for pilings.

The pretty red berries are winter food for songbirds, wild turkeys and deer. When I asked if anyone wanted more berries, they all held out their hands. Betty had a twinkle in her eye as she high-fived her kids for finding the Santa Claus bush.



Household Hints

Herbed Vinegar a

Vinegar captures the essence of herbs and is a welcome Christmas gift for family and friends. This colorful basil vinegar is great in salad dressings; it's particularly delightful on a spinach salad. Or add a little oil and try marinating poultry in it before grilling or broiling. Label your vinegar and include suggestions for use, and voila! You've made a perfect Christmas gift. (See Pg. 11 for recipe)

Mysterious Book Report No. 77 by John Dwaine McKenna



Woof-woof-woof. There's an old saw that goes like this: You can't teach an old dog new tricks, that I learned from my mother's mother when I was just a little boy. Superstitious to the end, "Nanny," as Grandma O'Toole was called, set store by it and many others like it. Well . . . without any disrespect to dear old Nanny . . . I've gotta say that that's a whole bunch of hooey. Because, now as a fully-matured hound with gray whiskers about the snout, born on the cutting edge of the Boomer generation in 1946 and a couple of decades older than the current occupant of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue; I learn new things all the time. How? By reading of course. This is, after all a book review column. ooof-woof, Bow-wow and a little bitty howl . . .

Don't worry folks; the hyperbole and doggerel stops here.

The Dog Stars, (Knopf, \$24.95, 320 pages, ISBN 978-0-307-95994-2) by Peter Heller is a post-apocalyptic novel of surprising beauty and tenderness combined with the brutality of the daily struggle for survival in a world without law, civilization or society. It is a world in which ninety-nine percent of the human population has died from a mutated strain of the Asian bird flu and the survivors battle for the remaining goods from an industrial world that no longer exists. Tigers, gray whales, elephants, apes, cheetahs, collared doves, titmice, gray pelicans and every known species of trout are extinct in this sad world, nine years after the flu pandemic. Of the surviving humans, some have contracted an AIDS-like blood disease which eventually kills them. Most of the rest have turned into predators, intent on pillage, rape and plunder.

The rest are survivalists. That's where we meet Hig, a sad and disillusioned pilot, the protagonist, and Bangley, the hard-core survivalist, who's keeping Hig alive with a combination of vigilance and brutal realism and sniper skills. They're holed up in a small airport at Erie, Colorado, a few miles north of Denver.

As Hig flies patrols with his dog, Jasper for company in an antique Cessna, Bangley maintains security at the airport.

In such a bleak forsaken world, Hig retains hope. It is his most human, redeeming quality and the element that illuminates this novel. Hope is the ability to see the beauty of a seed germinating, a hawk on the wing or a mountain stream tumbling over rocks. Hope is what pushes him on, to keep surviving in a nihilistic world bent on destroying all humanity.

As for the old dogs and new tricks, Heller has forged and shaped and hammered and bent the English language in ways that wordsmiths haven't ever thought of . . . and it works.

Somehow, I t's enjoyable. But

Takes a moment to get one's mental arms around. All in all, a great debut novel from an author with superior talent and a message for all of us. *The Dog Stars* is getting a lot of positive attention in the literary world. No serious reader should miss it.

If you're not a regular visitor to your local library you're missing one of your greatest opportunities in life . . . a chance to learn. No charges, no entry threshold, no pedigree necessary to receive access to the world's best and brightest minds . . . and all you have to do is go there. Why not today? Meet some of those smart and foxy librarians. You'll be glad you did. Go on. Just go . . .

It's getting awfully close to Christmas and books make great presents. They're easy to wrap too. Why not get an autographed copy of *The Neversink Chronicles* or *The Whim-Wham Man*? Want it inscribed to a special someone? No problem. Just let Lora, Sally or J.D. at Rhyolite Press know and they'll have it inscribed by the author for you. Call them at (719) 203-5265 or order at: Rhyolite Press, P.O. Box 2406, Colorado Springs, CO 80901

By sending \$15.00 each plus \$4.00 shipping and handling for the first book and \$1.00 for each additional one. Express and priority mail are available at slightly higher rates. A few signed copies are available at *Cannie D's*, the *Time* and the *Valleys Museum Store* and *Peter's Whole Foods Market*. Be sure to check out rhyolitepress.com - for other unique books and gifts, including *The Drift*, an exciting environmental thriller and treasure hunt in Cripple Creek, Colorado by our newest author; Bert Entwistle.

Questions, gripes and comments are received at my website: johndwainemckenna.com

There you'll find all the *Mysterious Book Reports*, a short story or two, hundreds of reading suggestions and our Best Books of the Year list, soon to be updated for 2012 at midnight on New Year's Eve. Give us a holler by hitting the CONTACT icon and fire away. We'd love to hear from you.

A parting thought; you can't get into trouble while reading a book.

See you next week. --JDM

Frost Valley YMCA Receives ACA Eleanor P. Eells Award (From Pg. 1)

The award recognizes camp's which excel in the following program categories:

- o Motivate staff to develop effective, creative responses to the needs of people through camp.
- o Encourage the development of creative responses to societal problems through camp.
- o Stimulate the exchange of creative ideas with others.
- o. Promote, in and out of camping, the positive contribution camp makes to the well-being of individuals and society.
- o Give recognition and honor to those whose programs exemplify these objectives.

Frost Valley's organizational commitment to its entire community is a cornerstone of its selection for the award. From the inception of the Ruth Gottscho Dialysis and Children's Kidney Program in 1975, the nation's first program to offer children with kidney disease an overnight camping experience, through 2011, with the launch of East Valley Ranch, a girls only equestrian summer camp experience Frost Valley's commitment to serve through camping has been a pillar of the camping world.

ABOUT ELEANOR EELLS:

Eleanor P. Eells was a leader and inspiration within the field of camp throughout her life. She was an active participant in the Settlement House and Social Service Agency camp movements and a pioneer in therapeutic camping.

Eleanor Eells had an equally important influence on the American Camping Association. She worked with FAC to support programs such as ACA's 1970s standards research and rewrite; the pilot Camp Director Certification Institute; the Camping Unlimited/Intergrouping Project; ACA's last reorganization; and securing government funding for campership use. Her greatest contribution was helping individuals and camps start new programs. When these programs were operating, she shared results with countless others.

UC SPCA Aids in Hurricane Sandy Relief Efforts (From Pg. 1)

The transport consisted of a boxer/pitbull mix, a dachshund with a recovering broken leg, a mother dog and puppies all which were longer Hempstead Animal Shelter residents.

"We wanted to provide as much space relief as possible to allow Hempstead Animal Shelter to continue intake of displaced animals. It's especially important to provide this kind of relief during times of disaster since shelter adoptions typically decrease yet continue to be flooded with incoming strays and foster animals. Animals in need of shelter will contin-

ue for weeks after such a storm. We are committed to taking in the longer term residents to allow the incoming strays displaced by the storm to remain at the local shelter should the pet's owners be looking for them. It provides the best chance for pets and families to be reunited," said Stacey Price, UCSPCA Executive Director.

According to UCSPCA Shelter Manager, Adam Saunders, the UCSPCA has twice in the past 10 years faced weather severe enough to force a shelter evacuation. Both times the community's response was overwhelmingly positive. We are viewing this small effort as a way to pay it forward. Price states, "During times of disaster it's essential groups work together and pool available resources, especially when animals and families lives have been so heavily affected."

The UCSPCA staff gathered donations for the shelter who will distribute items to local families and rescues in need and plans to continue their support of animal shelters in need.

The UCSPCA is a private, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to prevent cruelty to animals by providing temporary shelter and finding adoptive homes for homeless, abused and neglected animals; conducting cruelty investigations; eliminating the crisis of homeless animals by providing low-cost spay/neuter services and spaying or neutering all animals offered for adoption; offering humane education; and working to improve laws to end animal cruelty. Visit www.ucspca.org for more information.

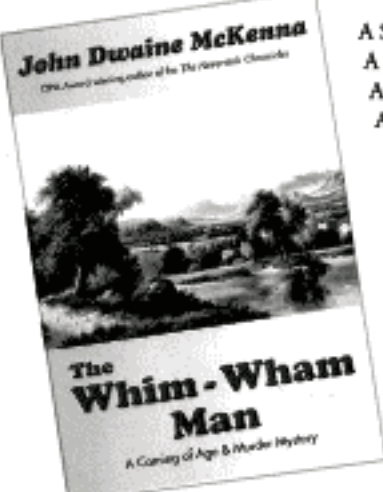
Assemblywoman Claudia Tenney Encourages Local Art Teachers to Submit Outstanding Student Art

Assemblywoman Claudia Tenney (R,C,I-New Hartford) today announced that the 23rd Annual Legislative Art Exhibit is now taking submissions from art educators who teach Kindergarten through 12th Grade, to have outstanding art created by their students presented in the "Well" of the Legislative Office Building in Albany, NY.

"I encourage all of our local art teachers to submit artwork this year, so we can acknowledge the talent of our upstate students and the pride we have in their hard work. We have some of the best teachers in the nation, and developing the artistic and creative minds of our children helps put our students on a path for educational and professional success," said Tenney.

Submission deadline for art is Wednesday,

January 16, 2013. Only two pieces of art can be submitted per instructor. Guidelines and registration can be found at www.nysata.org. The full exhibit will be in place, in the "Well of the Legislative Office Building in Albany, NY, from March 4 thru 8, 2013, with a reception for teachers, parents and students on Wednesday, March 6 from 12:30 p.m. till 2:00 p.m.



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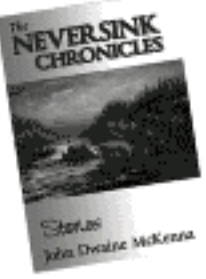
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The Olive Jar - Carol LaMonda

Holiday Brouhaha

It is the first of December as I write this; there is snow on the ground, and it is cold enough to dig out those hats and gloves. Yes, the holiday season is upon us. Listening to early morning TV I heard some holiday statistics. The average family spends \$750. on gifts. Another survey found that 45% of responders would rather "SKIP" Christmas. My assumption is that they really don't want to skip the holiday; they just want to skip the expense and stress of the season. It is the commercialization of all the holidays that taints the season and turns some people off.

Our winter holidays, all of them, involve cooking, decorating, entertaining, and gift-buying. Lights, ornaments, traditional recipes, and parties fill our days and nights. My over-achieving friends have already strung lights, blown up lawn decorations, hung wreaths and boughs of green, decorated the tree, lit candles for the Advent Wreath or the Menorah, sent their holiday cards, and baked cookies. All I have done is make a list (I am a compulsive list maker) and taken vitamins to boost my energy for all that the season involves.

I am not one of the 45% who want to skip Christmas. I just want to make sure that what I do is not get so caught up in the trappings of the season that I miss the joy of the holiday. I long ago gave up cards. I do a holiday letter that has now become an easy task because it can be written once and sent electronically to the 98% of friends and relatives that have the Internet. I love keeping in touch and getting replies. I do bake cookies, but I don't do it until a few days before because we will consume them before serving them to others. I shop on-line rather than cruise the mall. I decorate with greens and red berries and a pine-cone wreath that has been around for decades.

As I get older, I do pare down the unnecessary steps. I choose the traditions that are a JOY and not a JOB. I want to be able to ENJOY the preparations, not be overwhelmed by mechanical actions that I may miss the spirit that underlies all the holidays we celebrate. We should decorate to the point where our families and friends are welcomed into our home. We should cook to share our good fortune with others. We should give with our heart and not just our pockets. We should remember the reasons why we put so much effort into making the cold, wintery month of December one of warmth and compassion.

Merry Chrismahannukakwanzafestivus! Enjoy the Winter Solstice too. Let's not just celebrate the differences of our holidays traditions; let's concentrate on the underlying spirit of all these celebrations...love and caring for others.



RESERVOIR MUSIC NOTES- Fred Perry-Owner of Reservoir Music Center 711 Route 28, Kingston, NY 12401



Photo by C3 Photography Catharina Christiana
"Graham Parker onstage at The Bardavon, on November 25, 2012."

Toots' 70th birthday at The Capitol Theatre in Port Chester, and CHAD SMITH'S BOMBASTIC MEATBALLS are at The Iridium. Chad Smith is the drummer for The Red Hot Chili Peppers, but what is a bombastic meatball?

Friday, December 7 - Big show at The Bearsville Theater in Woodstock - STEVE KIMOCK with P-Funk founding member and Talking Heads member BERNIE WORRELL! Pick of the Week! Also country blues genius, RORY BLOCK at The Towne Crier in Pauling.

Saturday, December 8 - The night we've all been waiting for - THE ROLLING STONES at The Barclay Center in Brooklyn! If you can't snag a ticket, console yourself with TROMBONE SHORTY AND ORLEANS AVENUE at Terminal 5 in Manhattan! Regular readers of this column know how I feel about Trombone Shorty, so this has to be a Pick of the Week! And if you're upstate, check out THE WOODSTOCK EXPERIENCE at The Bearsville Theater for a bit of nostalgia.

Saturday, December 9 - The only game in town tonight is DARLENE LOVE at BB King's in Manhattan.

Sunday, December 10 - SMASHING PUMPKINS at The Barclay Center!

Monday, December 11 - Great line up of the rockin'THE DEL LORDS, Americana songbird, LAURA CANTRELL, Country satirist, TAMMY FAYE STARLITE, who has to be seen to be believed, and four more bands! At The Rock Shop in Brooklyn.

Tuesday, December 12 - Fabulous Rap/Reggae/ RnB concert at The Barclay Center with UB40, MAXI PRIEST, and SHAGGY, but the big show tonight is The 12-12-12 CONCERT FOR HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF with SPRINGSTEEN, MCCARTNEY, THE WHO, DAVE GROHL, EDDIE VEDDER, ROGER WATERS, BILLIE JOEL, JON BON JOVI, ALICIA KEYS, and KANYE WEST, with more artists to be added! We really can't let this one go by without making it a Pick of the Week!

Wednesday, December 13 - Huge night for music! THE ROLLING STONES play their first show at The Pru Center (with the second show scheduled for next week, on December 15th), THE RASCALS start a three day run at The Capitol Theatre(continuing on the 14th and 15th), and, for my last Pick of the Week, we have LUCKY PETERSON'S TWO DAY TEXAS BARBECUE BASH with THE JONNY MONSTER BAND opening! This will be great!

What a week! Of course, The Stones and The Who are picks of the week, but then, everybody knows that! What you might not know is that the Lucinda, Billy Joe Shaver, and Toots' shows will be pretty damn great too! And I'm pretty darn sure you don't know that The Del Lords' show at The Rock Shop will be awesome! All of the above get an honorable mention. You can't go wrong with any of them! Or any of the other shows this week! This is one of the strongest weeks for music in recent memory! Enjoy it!

Good night, and have a great week!

I can't believe it! It's only 2 AM and I'm exhausted already, so we're gonna basically go right to the live picks, but before we do, I just wanna say, The Supersuckers were good, but I've seen them better, and John Waters, as promised, was hilarious! If you like edgy comedy, John's your man! Every minute was thoroughly enjoyable!

And now to the picks.

Wednesday, December 5 - THE WHO at Madison Square Garden and LUCINDA WILLIAMS at The Beacon Theater with STEVE EARLE, SHAWN COLVIN, SHELBY LYNNE, and AMOS LEE. Two smaller, but no less in musical stature, shows tonight are the great guitarist, ARLEN ROTH at The Iridium, and the great singer and songwriter, BILLY JOE SHAVER, at Hill Country Barbecue, both in Manhattan.

Thursday, December 6 - THE WHO at The Pru! The Prudential Center in Newark, that is! TOOTS AND T H E M A Y - T A L S c e l e b r a t e

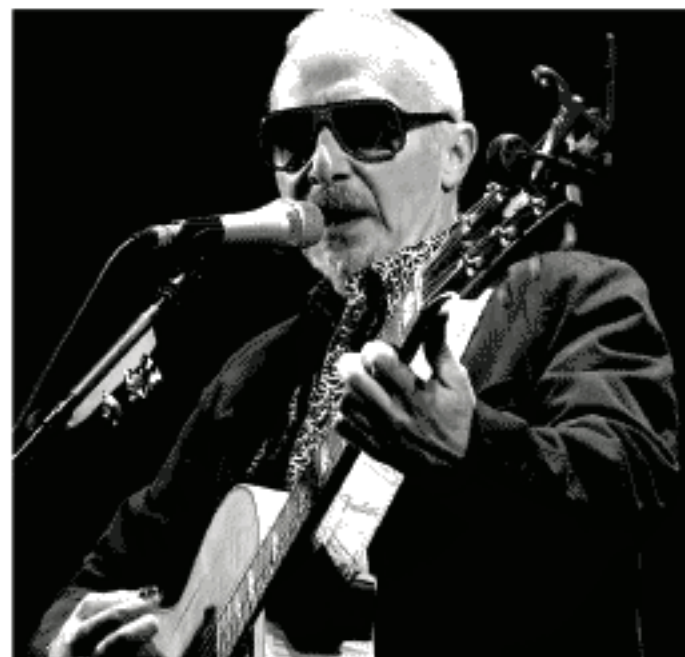


Photo by C3 Photography Catharina Christiana
Eddie Spaghetti of 'The Supersuckers' at Valentine's in Albany, on Nov. 28, 2012

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-DMV Bus is at the Town Hall Friday Dec. 7th & Friday Dec. 21st. 10-1, 2-3pm

-Dec. 3rd - Shandaken Town Board Regular Monthly Meeting 7pm. Town Hall Rt. 28 Shandaken

-Dec. 7th - HEAP - Home Energy Assistance Program - Apply or get help w/application. Friday 10- Noon Town Hall, Rt. 28 Shandaken, NY

-Dec. 8th - Leaping Trout Live Auction Fund Raiser for Ashokan - Pepacton Watershed.

-Sat. 4-7pm. - Art Upstairs 60 Main St. Phoenicia

-Dec. 11th - Big Indian/Oliverea Fire District Election 6-9pm. 8 Firehouse Rd. Big Indian

-Dec. 14th - Catskill Interpretive Center Meeting Friday 3-6pm. Shandaken Town Hall

-Recycling open every Mon. Thurs & Sat. 7:30-12:30. Now also accepting Electronics & Computer Waste

-Helping Hands Food Distribution Every 2nd & 4th Monday of the Month @ Phoenicia Fire House Rt. 214 Phoenicia. Call Otia for info 845-688-5004.

For more info on Town Events call Town Clerk 845-688-5004. Website: <http://www.shandaken.us>

December Calendar of Events at Pine Hill Community Center

Pine Hill Community Center Annual Winter Holiday Fair. Saturday, December 15 10 am. -4 pm. Crafts, gifts, children's workshops, great food. Join us for a seasonal celebration of all that's wonderful in the Catskills. Shop for gifts, make holiday ornaments, hear some great music, eat chili donated by the legendary Jaime DeForest. Music by Mike Herman. (1-3 pm) Children's holiday ornament workshop (10:30-noon). Vendors welcome.

Ongoing activities at Pine Hill Community Center:

Mondays: Senior Yoga - 9 am. \$1.50
Scrabble for All - 6 pm. free; Zumba - 6pm. \$7;

Wednesdays: Social Circle. 1-3pm; Thursdays: Tai Chi - 9 am. \$1.50; Writers' Nook. 1-3 pm;

Zumba - 6 pm. \$7.00; Fridays: Senior Stretch - 9 am. \$1.50; Zumba Gold - 10 am. \$1.50;

Saturdays: Kid Stuff 10:30- noon. Free for kids 6-12. (no Kid Stuff on Dec. 22 or 29). Check our website calendar for info on each

week's program. Coffee's Ready. Arts and Crafts Shop open 11am. - 7 pm; Sundays: Arts and Crafts Shop open 11 am - 3 pm.

Office Hours: Wednesdays - Fridays 10 am. - 5pm - Saturdays - 10:am -2pm.

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The Family Memoir, **PROSILIO...**
... in Greek means "Toward the Sun," was written by Carol Olsen LaMonda. Carol writes the column "The Olive Jar" for *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman*. This local author has been busy guesting at book clubs who have chosen this local memoir as their book choice. As the holidays get closer, the story of memories of a carefree vacation in the Catskills should be added to your gift list. The memoir is available at Amazon or Barnes and Noble on-line as a soft or hard cover or as a downloadable e-book for Nook or Kindle. Go to amazon.com or barnesandnoble.com and type in **Prosilio** in the search to order your copy of *Prosilio*

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Hunters Invited Where the Whitetails Roam

Hunters going afield this autumn have more than 100,000 acres of New York City land to roam in search of four-legged quarry. Of the 71,040 NYC-owned acres in the Catskills, 51,056 acres are Public Access Areas where outdoor enthusiasts can hunt, fish, hike and trap without a DEP access permit. An additional 6,357 acres of watershed land east of the Hudson River are open for those activities in Dutchess, Putnam, and Westchester Counties but users must obtain a free DEP access permit online, or by calling (800) 575-LAND.

DEP recently opened additional lands around the Ashokan Reservoir for bow hunting to reduce the deer population in that area and curb impacts on forest regeneration. Since 2003, DEP has doubled the amount of city-owned water supply lands open for recreation to 108,000 acres. Of those acres open to recreation, 75,000 are land and 33,000 are water.

Contracting Opportunities

Building Trades Employer's Association and New York City is currently searching for contractors who are interested in providing their services to areas destroyed by Hurricane Sandy.

NYC will select general contractors, which will then need sub-contractors to provide construction services. In order to qualify, you should register your business on the following website: <http://www.bteany.com>

There is additional information about how the

award of contracts is being made that is important for all to know. Some of these changes include:
-The list of contractors registering on www.bteany.com website are now being forwarded directly to the 6 general contractors on a daily basis;
- Each individual contractor identifies specific trade contractors to perform the work and submits their names to the Mayor's Office of Contracts for a limited review;
- Within 24-48 hours the Mayor's Office of Contracts approves the list to submit bids for the work in their geographic region;
- The scope of work is focused on restoring heat, electrical power and gas. There is no abatement or structural repair work.

Hurry, take advantage of this free opportunity to register your business now.

Gas Prices Slightly Down in the Hudson Valley

The current national average according to AAA is \$3.41. That average has remained steady since last week, and is down about \$0.13 since a month ago.

In New York State, drivers are still not seeing quite as much relief at the pump. Prices are sitting at \$3.89. That's down about \$0.03 since last week

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at this time.

It's also down about \$0.03 since last month, showing that prices here are taking much longer to fall than in the rest of the country.

Locally, drivers are doing better. Prices are significantly lower ranging from \$3.66 to \$3.81 in Kingston. In Poughkeepsie, prices are a bit higher, ranging from \$3.83 to \$3.99. In Middletown, prices range from \$3.70 to \$3.89.

For up to date prices in your area, visit www.NewYorkGasPrices.com

Mid-Hudson Planning Consortium announces plans for sustainable energy

The Mid-Hudson Planning Consortium announced their plan to ensure the Mid-Hudson Valley's future of sustainable energy. The plan will greatly reduce greenhouse gas emission. It will focus on agriculture, economic development, energy, community conditions, materials and water management, and climate adaptation. The plan is a part of Governor Andrew Cuomo's Cleaner, Greener Communities Program. (Contd. Pg. 10)

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In addition, Gwen Nieves will represent Liberty in the Women's Chorale at the All-State Festival in Rochester, NY. William Killian was also selected to be an alternate in the mixed chorus. Congratulations to these talented student-musicians!

CAS Open Call for 2014 Exhibition Season Proposals
 Livingston Manor, NY - Catskill Art Society seeks artist and curatorial proposals for the 2014 Exhibition Season at the CAS Arts Center in Livingston Manor. Applications will be accepted between December 1, 2012 and February 1, 2013. This is a postmark deadline.

Please note that artists who will present their work as part of the 2013 Season will not be eligible to re-apply until 2015.

All proposals must include: an application (downloadable via catskillartsociety.org or available at the CAS Arts Center, 48 Main Street, Livingston Manor, NY); a cover letter with 2014 availability; a resume; a short bio (no more than 3 sentences); an artist/curatorial statement regarding the proposed work; and a minimum of ten propose images on a CD in high-

resolution JPEG format at 300dpi, approximately 1,000 pixels wide. Curatorial proposals must include images from each of the participating artists. Please also include a list of work samples with media, title, date and dimensions of each piece. No slides please.

Proposals may be sent any time from December 1, 2012 to February 1, 2013 to CAS, c/o 2014 Exhibition Season, PO Box 991, Livingston Manor, NY 12758. All proposals are reviewed by an outside jury panel of independent curators that changes each year. CAS will notify all applicants before the end of April 2013. Please note that artists who will present their work as part of the 2013 Season will not be eligible to re-apply until 2015. Please email ann@catskillartsociety.org or call 845-436-4227 with questions.

About Catskill Art Society
 Catskill Art Society is currently celebrating its 40th anniversary as a non-profit cultivating public interest, participation, and enjoyment of the arts. Through its multi-arts center, CAS explores contemporary art practices and facilitates creative and professional development for established and emerging artists. Located in Livingston Manor, NY,

Seven Liberty High School students chosen for All-State Music Festivals
 Liberty, NY...Seven student-musicians were selected to represent LHS at the 2012 Area All-State and All-State Music Festivals.



Pictured above from L to R: Jonathan Nilsen (orchestra, bassoon), Ella Kleinberger (women's Chorus), William Killian (mixed chorus), Gwen Nieves (mixed chorus), Ryan Boxberger (mixed chorus), Taylor Lamerand (mixed chorus) and Andrew Maier (mixed chorus).



Gwen Nieves (seated at the piano) and William Killian were selected for the All-State Festival in Rochester, NY. The concert festival was held November 16-17 at Monroe Woodbury High School.

Students are chosen based on their audition in the spring of 2012 at the NYSSMA Solo Music Festival (New York State School Music Association). The Area All-State Festival showcases the talents of students in a particular region of New York State. Liberty is a part of Zone 9, which is also made up of Orange, Ulster, Greene and Rockland Counties.

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the renovated 4,500+ square foot facility includes a designated fine arts gallery, a large multi-purpose space, a pottery studio, a painting studio, and a digital arts lab. For more information, please visit www.catskillartsociety.org

"Be Mine Forever" an Exhibition at Alliance Gallery

Alliance Gallery in Narrowsburg is calling for artwork for "Be Mine Forever," the fifth in a series of five exhibitions of poetry and photographs with a Valentine's Day LOVE theme, January 26 - February 16, 2013. "Be Mine Forever" will showcase poetry and photography expressing romance, marriage, and new and lasting love. Submission deadline: Friday, December 15, 2012. There is no entry fee.

Poetry Submissions: Poets may submit up to four love poems, up to 25 lines each, as separate documents. Each entry must include your name, phone, address, and email. Send to Mary Greene, mogreene44@yahoo.com, or 1258 Crystal Lake Road, Narrowsburg, NY 12764. Electronic submission preferred. Please put "Be Mine" in the subject line and include a 50-word or less bio. Submission deadline is December 15th, 2012. For questions and more information call Mary at 845-252-7506. If one of your poems is selected for the exhibit, a process will begin to create a physical object or "Poem Object" that expresses a central idea of the poem. You can make the object yourself in consultation with gallery director Rocky Pinciotti; it can be a collaborative effort between you and Rocky; or Rocky will create the poem object for you under your direction.

Photography Submissions: Photographers may submit up to four photographs. Entries must be emailed in jpeg format (1 mb or less) to rocky@artsalliancesite.org. Include the artist's name, phone, address and email and put "Be Mine Always" in the subject line. Submission deadline is December 15th, 2012. If one of your photographs is selected, you will be asked to deliver it by Saturday, January 19 to Alliance Gallery, 37 Main Street, Narrowsburg NY. Your photograph must be professionally framed and ready to hang. For questions and more information call Rocky at 845-252-7576.

Notification: Photographers and poets will be notified of acceptance on or before December 22, 2012.

Alliance Gallery is located at the Delaware Arts Center at 37 Main Street, Narrowsburg, NY. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information visit www.ArtsAllianceSite.org.

Willow and Brown to Open a "Pop-Up Boutique" at the CAS Art Center for the Holidays

Livingston Manor, NY - Carolin Walton-Brown of Willow and Brown will be opening a "Pop-Up Boutique" at the CAS Arts Center from December 15 - 31, 2012. Willow and Brown is one of the businesses that was a part of the historic Hoos Building, which was destroyed by fire November 20.



Willow and Brown, formerly located in Livingston Manor's historic Hoos Building, is opening a "Pop-Up Boutique" at the CAS Arts Center, December 15-31

The Willow and Brown "Pop-Up Boutique" will offer a variety of gifts, housewares, men's and women's clothing and accessories to choose from this holiday season. Shop the Willow and Brown "Pop-Up Boutique" during Gallery Hours at the CAS Arts Center, which will be open every day from December 15 to December 24: Monday through Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please note that

the Willow and Brown boutique and the CAS Arts Center will be open until 3:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

The CAS Arts Center is also offering four weekends of Holiday Bazaars in December (through the 23rd), featuring the work of local art and craft vendors including children's books illustrated by Helena Clar Pittman, children's superhero capes from Teresa Bortree, embroidery services from Mountain Bear Crafts, felt flowers from Annie Hat, fine jewelry from Joan Nicole of Light Curves and Karin Houeland of Crystalite Jewelry, hand-dyed up-cycled clothes from "I Upcycle," handmade scarves and hats, holiday decorations and ornaments from Sugar Blossom Flowers and others, holiday baked goods from Flour Power Bakery, incense burners (made from repurposed wine bottles), notecards featuring drawings and monoprints of cats and florals, novelty and luxury yarns from Brokemarys, "Smile Tiles," upcycled collaged bathroom tiles

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(that are sure to make you smile) from song-writer/artist Karen Hudson, and more!

Plus, don't miss "Holiday Trains on Main" featuring elaborate handmade model train displays at the CAS Arts Center, Morgan Outdoors and new for 2012: Flour Power Bakery and Café, December 1-31. The CAS Arts Center is wheelchair accessible.

Catskill Cabaradio 25th Broadcast

Catskill Cabaradio, the area's favorite event, will celebrate its twenty-fifth broadcast on December 8th with a stellar lineup that includes storyteller Joan Henry, singer Kyle Esposito, poet Sharon Rutenik, Karen and Jake Fairbairn from Lazy Crazy Acres, folklorist Ginny Scheer, Dennis Gaboury of ZimKids, Elly Winger and The Pine Hill Playboys, and, of course, everyone's favorite mom, Dorothy Greenburg will be on hand with advice that "Every Mother Should Know." There will be prizes for the correct answers to maddeningly difficult trivia questions and special raffle prizes.

If you absolutely can't be there, but have a burning question, email it to your-mothershouldknow@catskillradio.

The free evening begins with a pot luck supper at 6:00pm. Then promptly at 7:00, house lights dim and the broadcast begins. *A Prairie Home Companion* meets David Letterman meets *Hee Haw* extravaganza not to be missed, but if you must, tune in live at www.wioxradio.org or 91.3 FM WIOX in Roxbury. Pine Hill Community Center, 287 Main St., Pine Hill, NY 12465. (845) 254-5469. info@pinehillcommunitycenter.org; pinehillcommunitycenter.org.

Catskill Mountains Acoustic Slow Jam

The Catskill Mountains Acoustic Slow Jam will be held on Friday, December 14, 6-9pm at the Pine Hill Community Center.

Acoustic musicians meet to play Bluegrass, Old Time, Irish, and Catskills Contra in a low-key, non-competitive atmosphere. You can pick up standard tunes across genres, become more proficient on a 2nd or 3rd instrument, or improve your improvisational skills, all at a slower pace. For advanced beginners to intermediate and professional players. Pine Hill Community Center, 287 Main St., Pine Hill, NY 12465. (845) 254-5469. info@pinehillcommunitycenter.org; pinehillcommunitycenter.org.

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FEM Recovery Center in Kingston

- Art Snyder

FEMA will operate a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) next week in Kingston. The DRC will be located in the Hudson River Maritime Museum at 50 Rondout Landing, and will be open from noon until 5 PM on Monday December 3, and then 10 AM to 5 PM Tuesday through Friday December 4-7. Unlike the registration centers that were open last weekend in Kingston and Saugerties, the DRC will provide residents and businesses with an opportunity to talk to FEMA and Small Business Association representatives about their specific situation. Affected property owners are encouraged to apply for assistance by calling FEMA at 800-621-3362, registering on line at DisasterAssistance.gov, or by stopping in at the DRC.

The DRC will be open for one week only, so this is the best opportunity for individuals and business owners to meet face to face with those most knowledgeable about the FEMA and SBA programs.

Please help spread the word about this opportunity.

UC Executive Mike Implores NYS DEC to Hold NYC DEP Accountable for its Ongoing Environmentally Damaging Behavior

Kingston, NY - According to Mark Klotz, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYS DEC) Director of the Division of Water, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP) plans to install a new siphon at the Gilboa Dam that will replace those used during the reconstruction work on the dam that were damaged during Hurricane Irene, and dismantled. To lower the Schoharie Reservoir, NYC DEP intends to transfer water from the Schoharie Reservoir, through the Shandaken Tunnel to the Upper Esopus Creek and eventually into the Ashokan Reservoir. It is anticipated that the work will take three weeks.

Because of the expected turbidity of the water that will be transferred from the Schoharie Reservoir into the Upper Esopus Creek, NYC DEP requested that NYS DEC issue it a waiver from the water quality standards it must maintain in at the portal or entrance to the Upper Esopus Creek. It is anticipated by the NYS DEC that NYC DEP will release the maximum amount possible, which is approximately 550-600MGD, through the portal and into the Upper Esopus.

The Ashokan Reservoir is approximately 83% full, with the west basin at capacity and spilling into the east basin. Since this proposed work to the Gilboa Dam will result in a large volume of water entering the Ashokan Reservoir, the NYC DEP is also planning on releasing water from the west basin of the Ashokan Reservoir into the Lower Esopus Creek. Such an operational release is also expected to be at the maximum level of 600 mgd.

County Executive Hein stated, "This is yet another example of NYC DEP's mismanagement outside of Ulster County negatively impacting the people of Ulster County. Over the course of the last year, Ulster County rebuilt 100% of our infrastructure damaged during Hurricane Irene. We accomplished this ahead of schedule and under budget. Yet NYC DEP, only now with the Schoharie Reservoir spilling, seeks to install a siphon capable of lowering the reservoir. Had the NYC DEP planned ahead and done this during the summer months, this would not be necessary now."

NYC DEP's plan of action is purely operational, meaning that it is going to be accomplished for DEP's benefit only, not the health or safety of the Lower Esopus or the people Ulster County. Better planning, which considered the needs of Ulster County's residents and businesses along the Esopus Creek would have reduced the need for these releases. I implore the NYS DEC to hold the NYC DEP accountable for its ongoing disgraceful, environmentally-damaging behavior."

Department of Environmental Protection to Resume Installation of Siphons at Gilboa Dam- New siphons important component of \$400 million rehabilitation of Gilboa Dam

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today announced plans to resume the installation of new siphons at Schoharie Reservoir, which will help regulate water levels in the reservoir and allow workers to finish rebuilding the Gilboa Dam. Siphons are steel pipes that draw water out of the reservoir over a barrier.

The three-week-long project will install at least one of two siphons to be added to the dam. Each siphon will be capable of releasing 250 million gallons a day from the reservoir into the Schoharie Creek, allowing

DEP to better manage reservoir levels and provide added flood protection downstream. Currently, diverting water through the Shandaken Tunnel and into the Ashokan Reservoir or operating the newly installed crest gates are the only ways to lower water levels.

The new siphons are the latest step in a \$400 million full-scale rehabilitation project, which includes reinforcing the dam with 234 million pounds of concrete, reconstructing the spillway and installing a new release tunnel around the dam from the Schoharie Reservoir into Schoharie Creek. The siphons are an important component of the reconstruction plan because they allow DEP to lower water levels, providing workers with access to portions of the dam that would otherwise be obstructed by water. The siphons will also help DEP meet its commitment of lowering the reservoir for snowpack mitigation during winter months - a measure that aims to further reduce spring flooding.

To install the siphons and continue the dam rehabilitation, DEP must lower the elevation of water in the Schoharie Reservoir. On Saturday, DEP will increase the flow of water from the Schoharie Reservoir through the Shandaken Tunnel and begin operational releases from the Ashokan Reservoir. Both actions aim to reduce the water level at Schoharie Reservoir without unnecessarily increasing storage at the Ashokan Reservoir. DEP will run its Operational Support Tool on a regular basis - as often as daily - to gather data and enable the agency to minimize diversions from the Schoharie Reservoir and operational releases at Ashokan.

The diversions have been approved by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the operational releases are in compliance with the Interim Ashokan Release Protocol. DEP staff has reached out to state and local officials to inform them of the releases and pending construction work at Gilboa Dam.

Reconstruction of Gilboa Dam is expected to be finished in 2014, while the new release tunnel is expected to be complete in 2019. The Gilboa Dam was built from 1919 to 1927 and impounds the Schoharie Reservoir, the northernmost reservoir in New York City's Catskill water supply system.

DEP manages the city's water supply, providing more than one billion gallons of water each day to more than nine million residents, including eight million in New York City, and residents of Ulster, Orange, Putnam and Westchester counties. This water comes from the Catskill, Delaware, and Croton watersheds that extend more than 125 miles from the City, and the system comprises 19 reservoirs, three controlled lakes, and numerous tunnels and aqueducts. DEP employs nearly 6,000 employees, including approximately 750 scientists, engineers, surveyors, watershed maintainers and other professionals in the upstate watershed. In addition to its \$68 million payroll and \$153 million in annual taxes paid in upstate counties, DEP has invested more than \$1.5 billion in watershed protection programs-including partnership organizations such as the Catskill Watershed Corporation and the Watershed Agricultural Council-that support sustainable farming practices, environmentally sensitive economic development, and local economic opportunity. In addition, DEP has a robust capital program with a planned \$13.2 billion in investments over the next 10 years that creates up to 3,000 construction-related jobs per year. For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/dep, like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/nycwater, or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/nycwater.

Tenney Encourages Eligible Private Landowners to Apply for Grassland Protection Program

The DEC just announced that funds will be available for eligible private landowners to help promote bird habitats. Those interested in enhancing and restoring grassland habitats can apply for the Grassland Protection Program and be eligible for grants totaling approximately \$1 million.

"With grasslands on the decline nationwide, especially in New York, DEC's Landowner Incentive Program for Grassland Protection and Management directs funding to projects on private property to help at-risk species, which depend on unique grassland ecosystems to survive," said Tenney.

The Landowner Incentive Program was created as a partnership between DEC and private landowners, because the majority of grasslands are privately owned. The program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through State Wildlife Grants. This grant program was created and is funded by Congress to help rare and declining species before they require listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

Grasslands provide important habitat for a variety of wildlife and are especially significant for birds. In New York State, the endangered short-eared owl, the threatened Henslow's sparrow, and the threatened

upland sandpiper need grasslands to avoid further declines in their populations. Under the Landowner Incentive Program, enrolled landowners that engage in stewardship activities, which are beneficial for breeding grassland birds, are compensated for their efforts.

Eligible private landowners interested in offsetting the decline in grassland bird habitat and populations will be able to apply for technical advice and financial incentives of \$110 or \$113 per acre per year to conduct the prescribed site management. The higher rate will be applied for parcels of land located within 25 miles of large urban areas, reflecting higher soil rental rates near population centers. To be eligible to apply, an applicant must own at least 25 acres of contiguous grassland located within one of the grassland focus areas across the state. They include portions of the following counties: Herkimer, Oneida, Otsego, Ulster, Allegany, Cayuga, Chemung, Clinton, Cortland, Erie, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Genesee, Jefferson, Livingston, Madison, Monroe, Montgomery, Niagara, Onondaga, Ontario, Orleans, Saratoga, Schoharie, Schuyler, Seneca, St. Lawrence, Steuben, Suffolk, Tompkins, Washington, Warren, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates.

To learn more about the program and to obtain an application form, please visit the Landowner Incentive Program page at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/32722.html> on DEC's website. For questions or comments regarding the program, send an email to F&WLIP@gw.dec.state.ny.us or call (518) 402-8943. The deadline for submitting a pre-application is January 15, 2013.

NYS Attorney General to Track Hurricane Sandy-related Fundraising and Spending of 75 Charities

Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced that his office has sent letters to 75 nonprofits requesting information on their fundraising and relief activities related to Hurricane Sandy. In an effort to promote transparency and donor confidence, and to ensure that funds raised for Sandy relief are properly used, the Attorney General's Charities Bureau will compile this information and report it online.

"Our office commends all of the charities, and their volunteers and donors, who have come to the assistance of New Yorkers after Hurricane Sandy," said Attorney General Schneiderman. "In light of the importance of the recovery efforts, and the enormous amount of money raised in such a short period of time, it is critical that donors know where their money is going, and that funds are spent responsibly. In the name of transparency and accountability, we must ensure that funds raised for Hurricane Sandy relief are used for that purpose."

Information obtained from the responses will be made available on the Attorney General's website. In addition to promoting transparency, this information will also assist relief organizations in coordinating their delivery of services.

The Office of the Attorney General is responsible for overseeing charitable activities and fundraising in New York. The Office's Charities Bureau has established a dedicated Hurricane Sandy email address, and any complaints regarding charitable activities relating to Hurricane Sandy should be sent to: sandyresponse@ag.ny.gov

Tips for donors supporting Hurricane Sandy relief, as well as financial reports of charities, are available on Attorney General Schneiderman's Charities Bureau website at: www.charitiesnys.com

Mid-Hudson Planning Consortium announces plans for sustainable energy

(From Pg. 7) "We want to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by the year 2050," said Ecology and Environment Inc's Sustainability Specialist Michael Wironen.

If this happens the region will be less dependent on energy imports, air quality will improve, and it will reduce the area's contribution to climate change.

The plan focuses on Sullivan, Ulster, Dutchess, Putnam, Westchester, Rockland, and Orange counties. The priority projects for implementation include increasing transportation efficiency, relieving highway congestion, street and sidewalk improvements, expanding organics recycling, encouraging material reuse, among many more.

Orange County legislator Christopher Eachus encouraged the council to get more elected officials involved in the Mid-Hudson Regional Sustainability Plan.

"You have to start right now selling this as best you can," said Eachus.

The final draft is due to the NYSERDA by December 24.

Firms Can Get Storm Repair Aid

Advisers from the Mid-Hudson Region Small Business Development Center are available to assist with emergency loans for local small businesses affected by Superstorm Sandy.

The New York Bankers Association and the New York Business Development Corp. have established a \$10 million small business emergency loan fund to provide immediate financial assistance.

Businesses can apply for loans of up to \$25,000 immediately by going to www.esd.ny.gov or calling (855) NYS-SANDY.

The Mid-Hudson Region SBDC provides no-cost professional business counseling to new and existing businesses in Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan, Delaware and parts of Schoharie and Greene counties and to the Catskill Watershed region. It is partly funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration and hosted by Ulster County Community College.

DiNapoli Cautions New Yorkers To Read Fine Print When Purchasing Holiday Gift Cards

State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli urged New Yorkers to pay special attention to fees and expiration dates when purchasing gift cards as holiday gifts.

"If you plan on giving gift cards this holiday season, my advice is pay attention," DiNapoli said. "Some gift cards have upfront fees or rules and restrictions that may diminish their value over time."

"If you find an old gift card, it may still have value, so try to spend it or see if the funds were turned over to my office as unclaimed funds. Be smart this holiday season and maximize your money."

DiNapoli advised recipients to avoid inactivity charges by using the cards within a year of purchase. A significant number of gift card sellers have done away with inactivity fees, but consumers should ask when purchasing a card whether such fees apply.

Under the Federal Credit Card Act of 2009, many types of retail cards sold after August 22, 2010, are not permitted to charge inactivity fees unless the card has been inactive for at least 12 months. All terms and conditions for a card must be disclosed directly on the card, and gift cards may not expire within the first five years after purchase.

Since January 1, 2011, New York State has required companies offering rebates to disclose whether those rebates will be issued in the form of a gift card, and whether any fees will apply to those cards. Rebate cards are not all covered by the same rules as regular gift cards, so this disclosure helps consumers to identify the different cards and how they can be used.

Gift cards still might come with terms and conditions that can decrease the value of the gift card. These include charging:

- service fee when the card is purchased;
- dormancy fee if the gift card is not used within a certain period of time;
- fee to call and check the balance remaining on the card; and
- replacement fee for lost or stolen gift cards.

DiNapoli also reminded consumers that if an item costs more than the value of a card, consumers may not be able to split payment between the card and another method of payment.

Unused gift card values issued by New York corporations are required to be turned over to the Comptroller's office as abandoned property after five years of dormancy. DiNapoli's office is currently holding more than \$12 billion in unclaimed funds. To find out if you are owed money, go to www.osc.state.ny.us.

Albany's rules for Beltway - Richard Brodsky

First things first, go see *Lincoln*. It's a really good movie, a really good story, visually and intellectually top-notch, wonderfully acted, and it makes you think.

But it's what you think about that matters most: *Lincoln* is the first film I've seen about American government that has a clue about how our system actually works. Earlier attempts, from *Mr. Smith Goes To Washington* to *The Best Man* to *The Candidate* focus on corruption or nutty idealism. *Lincoln* is the first to dive into the question of how decisions are made in our democracy.

Lincoln centers around the ratification of the 13th Amendment, which banned slavery. It takes place right after Lincoln is re-elected but in a lame duck session before his Second Inauguration. It's about a leader with a moral vision and a political agenda who uses the levers of power as they actually exist to achieve something concrete. The film doesn't ignore corruption, but it paints a picture of the House of Representatives as a place where the full variety of American character and interest can be found, and where Lincoln uses all forms of persuasion and intimidation, savory or not, to get his way.

There are some flaws in how the film depicts government. Some of the bad guys are cartoonish, the bribery part is overemphasized, and the decisions by the vast bulk of Members to vote their philosophy barely pokes its head above water.

What history paints as inevitable and easy turns out in the film to be miserable and murky and difficult. But if you want to know how American legislatures dispose of Executive proposals, well this is it. The closeness of the decision for Lincoln are dramatically apparent. Should he negotiate a peace with the Confederacy that stops the horrific bloodshed? Shall he seize the moment and permanently end slavery, at the cost of thousands of dead and maimed? How can he use the President's powers to get the decision he wants from the Legislature? His Cabinet has a full measure of geniuses, idiots, self-righteous rivals and generous friends. It's hard, even cruel.

The interplay between Congressional leaders and rank-and-file members is made equally clear in the film. Political parties and factions within them are crucial blocs of votes, combinations of self-interest and political philosophy. Wavering individual Congressmen are motivated by greed, or personal experience, or moral vision. Leaders must bully or persuade or themselves take positions they don't really believe. It's ugly and inspirational at the same time.

That, ladies and gentlemen, is the way it works. I spent over 25 years in a significant legislative body, the New York State Assembly. There were a few life-and-death decisions, lots of wasted time, lots of money and lobbyists, lots of important decisions, lots of arm-twisting, and a variety of characters and personalities second to none. It is the American system as the Founders designed it, and it worked.

Obama and the Congress are about to engage in just that process and there's lots at stake. Economic stability, prosperity, fairness, equality, strength and power hang in the balance. And a decision must, must be made. What often passes for good government these days is a vision of politics that, however laudable, doesn't exist and never existed.

America's elegant liberal reformers and its Tea Party activists who share a dislike for the bargaining and deal-making that democracies use as an alternative to armed conflict should watch "Lincoln." It's an important reminder of how things get done. Politics ain't beanbags, as Mr. Dooley said, and it ain't polite or easy to watch either.

The "fiscal cliff" is not the 13th amendment. But it matters, a lot. Elegant theory will not keep us safe. Hard bargaining and old fashioned politics will. Don't blow it boys. Lincoln is watching.

Gillibrand Amendment in 2013 Defense Bill Lifts Restrictions on Treatment for Tens of Thousands of Military Children Suffering from Autism and other disabilities

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, today announced that the Senate voted for her amendment that would cover behavioral treatment for military children with autism spectrum disorders and other disabilities. Based on the USA Heroes Act that Senator Gillibrand authored and introduced in 2009, this bipartisan amendment under the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) bill would help reduce the burden of military families and their children living with autism and other disabilities by requiring the military health insurance program to lift restrictions on behavioral care and expand proven treatment by meeting the national recommended standards.

"It is alarming that our military families who have sacrificed so much are denied essential services for their children suffering from autism and other disabilities," said Senator Gillibrand. "This amendment will help ensure that our military families have access to the critical services, care and support they desperately need and deserve."

Autism is the fastest growing developmental disability in the country, with over 23,000 TRICARE beneficiaries diagnosed with autism, and another 10,000 families are estimated to have a dependent with a developmental disability. Nationwide, this disease affects 1 in 88 children and 1 in 54 boys, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

The current military health insurance program (TRICARE) does not cover applied behavior analysis (ABA), a treatment recommended for autistic disorders, leaving retirees and reservists and their families without care. Under the Extended Care Health Option (ECHO), available only to active duty personnel, ABA therapy is covered, but capped at \$36,000 a year or an estimated 6 to 11 hours of therapy a week - a fraction of the care medically recommended to improve the life of a child suffering from autism.

As a result, tens of thousands of military families impacted by this disease suffer emotional and finan-

cial strain and are forced to choose between paying out-of-pocket or forgoing therapy altogether. Forced to rely solely on other coverage, families find themselves at the end of a long line waiting list for a specialist each time they relocate.

To ensure that military families have the care they need, Senator Gillibrand's amendment would require TRICARE to meet the minimum threshold of basic care, cover behavioral treatment for developmental disabilities, including autism, modeled after national standards, and lift the financial cap on care. More than 30 states already have laws in place that require private insurers to cover ABA as a medically necessary health service and starting next year, federal civilian employees may see ABA-inclusive health benefits.

The amendment is co-sponsored by Senators Joe Lieberman (I-CT), Scott Brown (R-MA), John Kerry (D-MA), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Mark Begich (D-AL), Bob Menendez (D-NJ), Bernard Sanders (I-VT), Daniel Akaka (D-HI), Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Saxby Chambliss (R-GA), and Marco Rubio (R-FL).

Today's Senate vote ensures that Gillibrand's legislation is included as an amendment to the NDAA, which is being debated on the Senate floor this week.

POLITICAL SLANT

*By Frank Comando -
From: Press Release Center for Public Integrity -
R. Jeffrey Smith
NUKES LIKELY TO DECLINE IN OBAMA'S
SECOND TERM.*

The Pentagon's budget is almost assuredly going down in coming years, under heavy pressure from those who wish to trim the federal deficit and see the agency - whose budget increased by two-thirds over the last decade - as a ripe target. But it also looks like a specific weapon system, the nation's stockpile of nuclear warheads, is also headed down, with Barack Obama's reelection.

This is not a great surprise. Obama promised in a 2009 speech in Prague, after all, that the U.S.-Russian arms control treaty he was then negotiating "will set the stage for further cuts." But the administration's planning was not detailed publicly before the election to avoid creating controversy.

Now that the voting is past, a group of independent advisers to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has publicly urged her to consider pursuing an informal accord with Russia aimed at lowering the number of nuclear weapons the two countries might deploy under existing treaties. Its report, issued Nov. 27, has also acknowledged official support for deeper cuts inside the administration.

The idea of an informal agreement would essentially sidestep the need to obtain formal congressional approval for cuts deeper than those authorized in a 2011 U.S.-Russian arms treaty known as New Start. The accord, which caps strategic deployments by both countries at 1,550 warheads, was approved by at least a three-quarters margin in both legislatures, but only after months of political debate.

The department's International Security Advisory Board includes some defense and military heavyweights, such as former defense secretary William Perry, former nuclear weapons laboratory director Michael Anastasio, former generals Montgomery Meigs and Frank Klotz, former national security adviser Brent Scowcroft, and former deputy energy secretary Charles Curtis. Two former Republican congressmen, Terry Everett and Douglas Bereuter, are also members, as well as 16 others.

In a bow to the current fiscal debate in Washington, the report noted that lower agreed limits on the number of nuclear warheads would allow both countries to forgo "costly or destabilizing modernization efforts." In Russia, those efforts include the development of a new land-based missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads to U.S. soil, a weapon system that conceivably could be scrapped in Washington agreed to trim its arsenal, according to the panel.

The report did not detail which weapons might be scrapped or what the associated savings might be. But the Stimson Center, a nonprofit group in Washington, estimated this summer that the United States will spend \$352 billion to \$392 billion on strategic nuclear offensive forces over the next decade. *For complete article, <http://www.publicintegrity.org/2012/12/03/11879/nukes-likely-decline-obama-s-second-term>*

This space is also for you;

To have your comments and/or questions, space allowing, and townsman guidelines adhered to, as listed in the masthead, Email politicalslant@yahoo.com

SCDW Announces Holiday Event!

(Hurleyville) The Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop cordially invites the public to its charming Holiday event: "The Little Town of Christmas". Everyone in Christmas town is friendly and funny, including elves (Skeezic & Sylvester), Dancer (the reindeer), Mrs. Claus, Santa, a tough little kid - plus a multitude of colorful characters! Carolers sing "Twas the Night Before Christmas" and "A Christmas Carol" and everyone has a jolly time. Performances are on Friday, Dec. 14 & Saturday, Dec. 15 at 7:00PM and Sunday, Dec. 16 at 2:00PM at the Sullivan County Museum in Hurleyville, NY. Suggested donation is \$5.00. For more information, please call Sally 434-0209 or Bunny 866-3206.

Following the Sunday performance, the annual General Membership meeting and election of SCDW officers and Board for 2013 will take place at 4:30PM.

All members are urged to participate and stay to enjoy the holiday buffet dinner provided by the SCDW Board and members. RSVP by December 12 to Vicki (845) 985-2976 or vtzcr@earthlink.net if you plan on attending the meeting and dinner and with the dish you will provide

Sixty Christmas Trees Stole - Adams Fairacre Farms to the Rescue!

After Sixty Christmas trees were stolen and a 40-foot display stand was vandalized at the site of the fundraiser of Boy Scouts of America's Rip Van Winkle Council from the Burlington Coat Factory parking lot on U.S. Route 9W, on Thanksgiving morning, Adams Fairacre Farms in the town of Ulster donated 40 Christmas trees to replace some of those stolen

Ray Braun, executive director of the Boy Scouts of America's Rip Van Winkle Council said, "It's unbelievable!"

Braun told reporters that the support made him feel like Jimmy Stewart in the movie "It's a Wonderful Life." Braun said the donation from Adams was unsolicited and he added that other community members have also been reaching out to the council due to the theft.

Braun also mentioned that the theft would cost the council about \$3,000.

Ulster town police Chief Anthony Cruise said last Monday that detectives are still actively looking into the theft and reviewing surveillance videos from the area. He said detectives are also tracking down some leads but have not yet developed a suspect.

Cruise asked anyone with information about the theft to contact police at (845) 382-1111.

Italian Dinner Before the Play
Hosted by the Tri-Valley FCCLA
Friday, December 7, 2012
Tri-Valley Cafeteria
4:00 - 6:30 pm
Eat In or Take Out
Tickets: \$5.00 per person
Profits go to

"Ashley Campiglia Scholarship Fund"

Tickets are available from FCCLA Members, Secondary Office or at the Door
Spaghetti w/meat sauce
Salad, Bread Cake
Ice Tea/Coffee

Breakfast Everyone Welcome!
Sundown Methodist Church Hall
Sundown, NY
December 8th, 2012
6 am - 9 am
HUNTERS WELCOME
Free Will Offering

Grahamsville Reformed Church Roast Beef Dinner
December 8, 2012
Saturday, 4 pm - 7 pm
Menu: Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Carrots/Pes, Salad, Bread, Ice Cream with Sprinkles/Syrup & Drinks
Adults: \$12.00, Child 5-10 \$5.00 under 5 free
•Christmas Items Sale Table•
Grahamsville Reformed Church Hall
For more information please call: 845-985-7480
Thank you for your support and God Bless You All!

Holiday Penny Social
Saturday • December 8th
•Doors Open 6pm • Drawing 8 pm
Refreshments Available
• 50/50 Raffle-Special Tables•
Masonic Hall, Canal Street, Ellenville, NY

Finalists Named for Liberty Superintendent
The Liberty Central School Board of Education has released the names of its finalists for the position of Superintendent of Schools.

Dr. William Silver was most recently the Superintendent of the Killingly Public Schools in Connecticut, overseeing a student enrollment of 2,800 and a district budget of \$37 million. He has held administrative positions in New York and in Connecticut.

Dr. Patricia Garcia is the Superintendent of Schools with the Hempstead Union Free School District, with a student enrollment of 6,500 and a district budget of \$177 million. In addition to her NY experience, she has held administrative positions in Virginia.

Finalist interviews are scheduled for the week of December 3rd. Committees consisting of instructional staff, non-instructional staff, students, administration, and community members will meet and interview the candidates. Those groups will forward their reactions to the Board of Education. The Board will consider this information and also interview the finalists. The Board hopes to make an offer to a successful candidate and complete contract negotiations so that the new superintendent will take office in January.

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TIME & THE VALLEYS MUSEUM
GRAHAMSVILLE, NY

2012 Season: Open Noon-4 p.m. Thurs.-Sun. and by appointment
332 Main St., Grahamsville
Price: \$2, \$1 ages 6-15; free age 5 and younger
Call: 985-7700

Time and the Valleys Museum has copies of every *Townsmen* printed since the beginning classified by year for research.
timeandthevalleymuseum.org

The Hurleyville and Woodridge United Methodist Churches
invite you to weekly worship:
9 am in Hurleyville,
10:30 am in Woodridge.
For more information, call
Pastor Susan Woodworth 985-2283

CrossWay Assembly of God

Service Times
Sunday School 9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service/Children's Church 10:30 am
Monday Night Home Bible Study 7 pm
Tuesday Night Youth Home Bible Study 7 pm
Friday Youth Night 7 pm

Ismael Berrios
Lead Pastor
P. O. Box 480
507 Hasbrouck Drive
Woodbourne, NY 12788
845-434-8263

Email: crosswayaog@aol.com
www.crosswayaog.com

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL MISSION
The Little Church with the Big Heart
Sunday, 8:15 am Service of Holy Communion
Music by Susan and Fred Van Wagner
Coffee hour follows service
All are welcome!

5277 State Rt. 42
South Fallsburg
845-436-7539
Rev. Ninon Hutchinson
www.standrewsepiscopalmission.org

Sundown United Methodist Church
Sunday Worship Service • 8:30am

Grahamsville United Methodist Church
Sunday Worship Service
10:30am
985-2283

Claryville Reformed Church

Claryville Road
Claryville, NY 12725
845-985-2041

Bible Class 9:00 am
Worship Services @ 10:00 am
Rev. Paul Nulton
John Bult, Organist

RAMSAY'S FUNERAL HOMES, INC
Serving Sullivan County Since 1896

66 John Street, Monticello, New York (845) 794-2700
275 S Main Street, Liberty, New York (845) 292-7100
Route 55, Kauneonga Lake, New York (845) 583-5445

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
(embraces Fallsburg, Neversink, Sundown and Ulster Heights)
6317 Rte. 42, Woodbourne, NY

Weekend Mass schedule:
Saturday afternoon: 5:00.
Sunday morning: 9:00 am and 11:30 am

Holy days of obligation: as announced in church bulletin.

Daily Mass schedule:
Monday afternoon 5:45 (Holy Rosary at 5:30); Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday mornings: (includes Morning Prayer)- 8:50 am

Saturday afternoon confessions: 4 to 4:45.

Rev. John J. Lynch, Ph.D., Pastor. 434-7643.

St. Augustine's Chapel
Watson Hollow Rd. • West Shokan, NY
Sunday Mass - 9:30 am
Holy Days 5:30 pm
Penance 9:00 am, 2nd Sunday of the month
Rev. George W. Hommel, Pastor

Loucks Funeral Home
Geoff and Heather Hazzard & Anthony Perito
79 North Main Street
Ellenville, New York
(845) 647-4343

Grahamsville Reformed Church
Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
Worship Service 9:30 A.M.
Rev. Paul Z. Ruter, Pastor
845-985-7480

LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

The Town of Denning Organizational Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 2, 2013 at the Denning Town Hall, 1567 Denning Road, Claryville, N.Y. 12725, scheduled to begin at 7 P.M. prior to the Town Board Meeting.

BY THE ORDER OF THE DENNING TOWN BOARD

Joy Ann Monforte
Town Clerk

12/6;12/13

**ANNUAL ELECTION OF THE NEVERSINK FIRE DISTRICT
DECEMBER 11, 2012**

NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that the Annual Election of the Neversink Fire District will take place on December 11, 2012 between the hours of 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. at the Neversink Fire House, located on NYS Rte. 55 for the purpose of electing one commissioner for a five (5) year term, commencing on January 1, 2013, ending December 31, 2017. All voters registered with the Sullivan County Board of Elections on or before November 21, 2012 shall be eligible to vote.

Candidates for the District Office shall have filed their names with the Secretary of the Neversink Fire District, PO Box 394, Neversink, NY 12765, no later than twenty days before the election, November 21, 2012.

Dated November 29, 2012
Allison Ruef, Secretary
Board of Fire Commissioners
Neversink Fire District

12/6/12

THE TRI-VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

A Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 6, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. In the Secondary School Lower Library Level, Grahamsville, New York

4,000 Septic Repairs and Counting

The number of residential and small business septic systems repaired or replaced by the CWC has passed the 4,000 mark. As of October 31, the total number of systems paid for under the program reached 4,030. These included one- and two-family residences, home-based and small businesses, and temporarily managed repairs in hamlets where municipal wastewater systems were or are planned.

The CWC has been addressing failed on-site wastewater systems in the Catskill-Delaware NYC Watershed since 1997 when the program was funded under the NYC Watershed Memorandum of Agreement. Full-time property owners receive 100% of eligible costs of such repairs. Part-time residents are reimbursed 60% of eligible costs. The average cost of repair/replacement is \$16,000.

Failed systems located within 250 feet of a watercourse are currently eligible for the program. Property owners who think they may have a problem are invited to call the CWC at 845-586-1400 to

schedule a site visit from technical staff members who can determine eligibility and explain the program.

Owners of failed systems outside the 250-foot distance who can prove economic hardship may also be assisted by the CWC.

A Maintenance Program is also available to property owners whose systems were repaired or replaced since 1995 and are at least three years old. The CWC reimburses half the cost of pumping and inspecting their septic tanks.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter to the Editor:

I would like to remind the readers of the Townsman that the Fire District Elections are on Tuesday Dec 11th from 6pm to 9pm. I hope all people who live in the fire districts, and already vote in our local towns, will come out and vote at our Firehouses that evening. I am running for Fire Commissioner in Claryville. Along with my wife Jane, I have been in our Fire Department as a active members for more than three years. In the past I have been involved in a Fire Department that runs several hundred Fire and EMS calls per year. We are both legal residents of Denning for years, and actually spend a great portion of our time here. I am going to soon retire from my job with Lilco (where I have served on safety boards), but already have a lot of time available. I am willing to put in the energy to help our local fire department, and help bring together our community as a whole. Please come out to vote.

Anthony Carminati
Claryville, NY 12725

Letter to the Editor:

Regarding: Trails throughout the Catskills

Completing a world-class trail network linking the Walkway Over the Hudson to Kingston and then out to the Ashokan Reservoir and beyond offers the Catskills huge economic benefits built on healthy recreational activity. Studies across the country repeatedly demonstrate substantial economic and health benefits from building off-road multiple-purpose trail networks, and linking existing mountain biking and hiking trails in the Catskills with these trail networks obviously creates an invitation for outdoors enthusiasts from around the world to join us in enjoying these riches.

In the mid-1970s, Ulster County purchased the old Ulster & Delaware Corridor running along the Esopus Creek as an almost 40-mile long linear park intended for the benefit of the public. Over the past three decades, the best efforts of the Catskill Mountain Railroad, a for-profit railroad line operating in the corridor, have left them far short of their obligations and aspirations, with only about five miles of track active and huge environmental and financial hurdles looming. Ulster County's residents therefore deserve immediate access to all those sections of the corridor that the railroad has been unable to maintain and will never be able to put into use. This can be done without harming the railroad's existing operations, and, as with other rail trails around the country, the railroad Right-of-Way can be preserved via rail-banking, so that in the future a railway can be brought in, if a viable business plan for doing that emerges.

Meanwhile, a great new section of trail (and existing rail) in Ulster County can connect with trails in Sullivan and Delaware County, joining people in trail activities throughout the Catskills.

Kathy Nolan, Chair
Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee

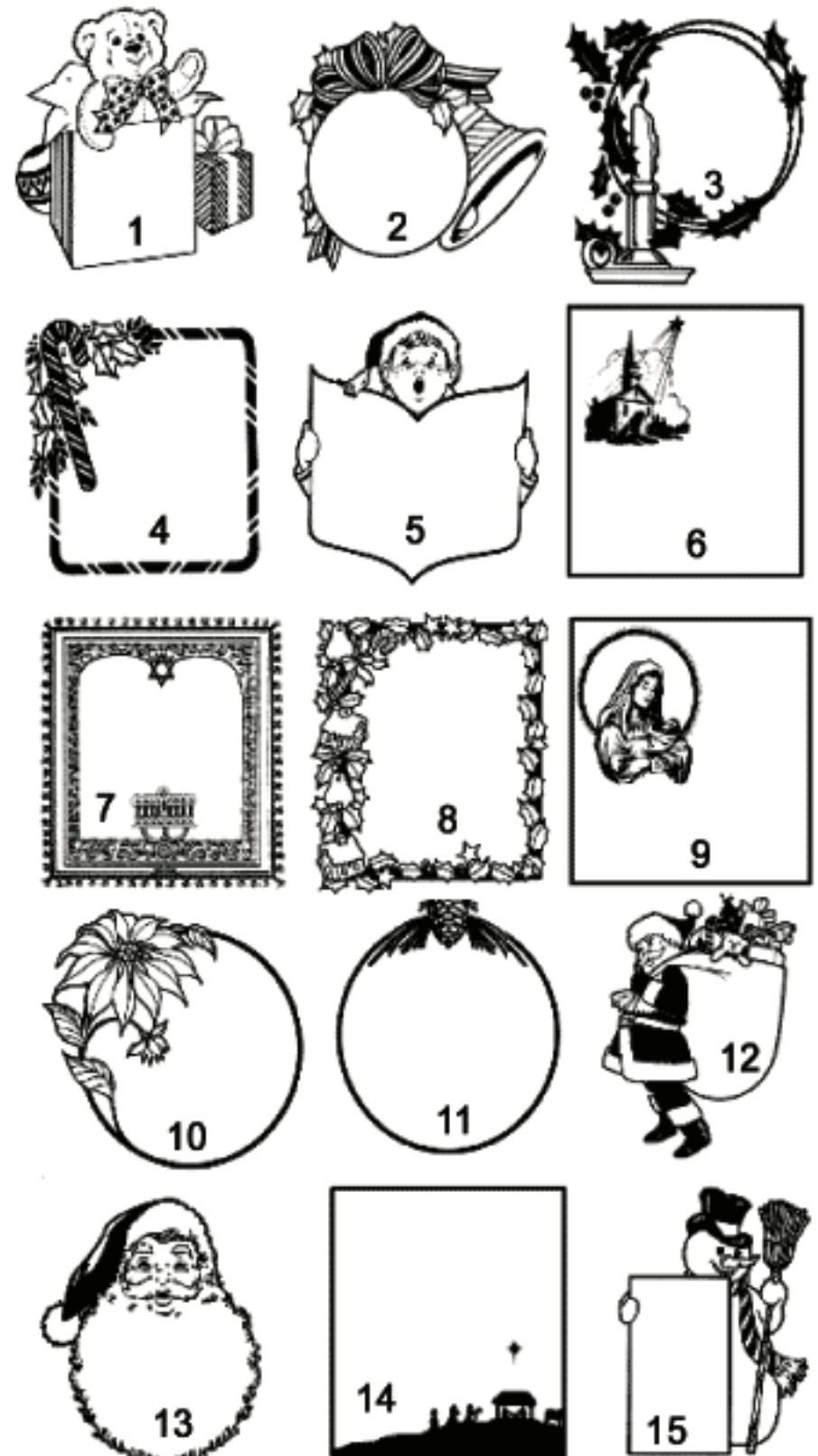
SUNY Ulster Holds Nursing Information Session

Beginning at 3:00 p.m. SUNY Ulster will hold an information session about its Nursing degree program in room 113, Vanderlyn Hall, on the Stone Ridge Campus. This session will provide information on the admissions process, the program curriculum including pre-requisites and co-requisites, as well as new testing requirements. Due to limited openings, SUNY Ulster's Nursing Program is only available to residents of Ulster County.

A seat for this session may be reserved by calling the Admissions Office at (845) 687-5022 or online at www.sunyulster.edu.

SEND YOUR HOLIDAY GREETINGS BY WAY OF THE TOWNSMAN

Each year *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman* publishes holiday greetings to your friends, neighbors and family. This year our holiday issue will be published on December 13th. The deadline for all holiday greetings is Friday, December 7th, 2012. Businesses are welcome to send greetings too! Please use our "Holiday Wishes" order blank when ordering your greeting. Thank you and have a wonderful Holiday Season!



Please circle the greeting you want and then write the Holiday message you wish to include in your greeting:

Send this form along with your check for \$8.00 for each holiday greeting you wish to: *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman* - P O Box 232, Grahamsville, NY 12740 by December 7, 2012 All greetings will be published in our holiday issue, December 13, 2012

NAME _____
Telephone _____

The Perfect Holiday Gift

Keep in touch with friends and neighbors!

Order a one-year subscription to *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman*

Fill out the order form and send it along with a check for \$25.00 to:

Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman
P O Box 232 Grahamsville, NY 12740

Upon receipt of your order a greeting card announcing your gift will be sent to the person(s) receiving your gift.

All holiday subscription orders must be received by December 28, 2012 Gift subscriptions will begin with the January 3, 2013.

NAME OF PERSON YOU WISH TO SEND A GIFT SUBSCRIPTION TO: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Your name: _____ Telephone #: _____

Town of Neversink Parks & Recreation Department

www.townofneversink.org

(845) 985-2262, extension 312

FREE FUN every FRIDAY after-noon 1- 4 pm in the upstairs meeting room in the Neversink Town Hall.

Walking Club Tuesdays 6:30-7:30
Grahamsville Fairgrounds

Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at Bi-Centennial Park in Grahamsville will be held on Sunday, December 2, 2012 at 5:00 pm.

There will be caroling, special music and refreshments.



Daniel Pierce Library hours of operation beginning September 1, 2011.
Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sunday and Monday: Closed
If you have any questions, please call the library at 985-7233.

The Library Board of Trustees meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. On occasion, a meeting date is changed. Please call ahead to confirm.

VETERANS always **Free** search of the Archives for family or history of Sullivan County at the Sullivan County Museum, 265 Main St., Hurleyville, NY. For information call 845-434-8044.

AL-ANON MEETINGS -

<http://www.al-anon.alateen.org>

Mon- 7:00 p.m. United Methodist Church, 170 N. Main Street, Liberty
Thurs- 7:00 p.m. Immaculate Conception Church Annex, 6317 Rt 42, Woodbourne
Sat- 8:00 p.m. United Methodist Church, 170 N. Main Street, Liberty

Make the Perfect Valentine's Day Gift for Someone Special!

The Master Gardener Program is sponsoring a "Suminagashi" workshop. This is the ancient art of Japanese marbled painting on silk scarves. Each participant will make their own hand painted silk scarf. This process is done in a large vat of water about 1/2" deep. Your choice of paint colors are placed on the water's surface. You then swirl it with a brush to make your very own one of a kind design.

The silk fabric is then placed on top of the water transferring your design on to your unique handmade scarf. Fun to do and fun to watch! We hope you can join in the fun, but you must pre-register. No walk-ins. Space is limited.

The Cost is \$40.00/scarf and must be paid in advance. Please call 845-292-6180 for more information.

Safety comes first...Enroll in the Home Firearm Safety Course

MONTICELLO - The Adult and Continuing Education Program at Sullivan BOCES is offering a Home Firearm Safety Course on Saturday, December 8, 2012 at the Kauneonga Lake Fire Hall from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm.

SUUJI WA TANSU NI KAGIRU
answer

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- 12/5/12 Town of Neversink Planning Board Meeting - 7:30 pm
- 12/7/12 Neversink Rondout Antique Machinery Assoc. Holiday Party - no meeting
- 12/7/12 **Italian Dinner** before the Play - TVCS Cafeteria 4-6:00 pm (See ad pg 13)
- 12/8/12 **Breakfast** -Everyone Welcome! Hunters Welcome! Sundown Church Hall 6 am-9 am. Free will offering.
- 12/8/12 **Cookie Walk**, Hurleyville United Methodist Church - 10 am - 12 noon
- 12/8/12 **Grahamsville Reformed Church Roast Beef Dinner** - 4 - 7 pm
- 12/8/12 **Holiday Penny Social** Masonic Hall, Canal St., Ellenville, NY - Doors open 6 pm •Drawing 8 pm
- 12/11/12 Town of Denning Audit/Business Meeting 7 pm -Denning Town Hall
- 12/12/12 Town of Neversink Board Meeting - 7:30 pm
- 12/12/12 Claryville Fire District Meeting - 6:30 pm
- 12/13/12 **Dept. of Motor Vehicles** Neversink Town Hall 10:00 am - 2:30 p.m.
- 12/13/12 **The Townsman holiday issue- Last issue of 2012. Next issue Jan 3, 2013.**
- 12/16/12 Grahamsville Reformed Church **Christmas Program** - 6 pm (Snow date Dec 23)
- 12/18/12 Town of Neversink Zoning Board of Appeals - 7:30 pm
- 12/18/12 Town of Neversink Parks & Rec Meeting 7 pm Town Hall
- 12/19/12 Neversink Fire District Meeting -7:30 PM, Public Meeting -8:00 PM
- 12/24/12 Grahamsville Reformed Church **Christmas Eve Service** - 7 pm
- 12/24/12 Town of Neversink Holiday (1/2 day)- **CHRISTMAS EVE**
- 12/25/12 Town of Neversink Holiday - **CHRISTMAS**

The Townsman will not be published on 12/20/12 or 12/27/12.

The first issue of the New Year will be published on 1/3/13.

Reminder: To all local organizations & municipalities to send their Meeting/Event calendars for 2013 **Save the Dates!**

Saturday, May 4th, 2013 for the Tri-Valley Lions Journey for Sight Walk in the Townsman
-- in memory of Donald Ter Bush, Charter Member and President of the Tri-Valley Lions, who passed away July 16, 2012.

Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman is available at the following retail stores and restaurants:

- SUNDOWN CAMP & BAIT SHOP
- ARATI GIFT SHOP (Brickman Rd.) • NADIA'S (Hurleyville)
- JAMES NAPANOCH GROCERY
- GRAHAMSVILLE DELI
- VALERO MINI MALL (Loch Sheldrake) • WOODBOURNE CITGO STATION
- COUNTRY FLOWERS
- CANNIE D'S
- MO'S GAS STATION (Woodbourne) • P.D. SMITH ENTERPRISE (Woodbourne)
- MATTHEW'S PHARMACY
- BLUE HILL LODGE
- LIBERTY FITNESS • CHARLIE'S PIZZA • AGWAY (Liberty) • J.B. MAK (Liberty)
- NAPANOCH APPLIANCE
- 3 GOLDENS
- NEW LOCATIONS in the TOWN OF OLIVE & SHANDAKEN**
- Boiceville IGA • Boiceville Florist • Reservoir Music • Snyder's
- PETER'S MARKET
- Phoenicia Hardware • Phoenicia Pharmacy • Phoenicia Deli • Mama's Boy • Brio's • Emerson Resort • Big Indian Market & Deli • Now in Pine Hill!

TOWN OF OLIVE MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Town of Olive Board Auditing Meeting every **second Monday of each month.** This meeting is open to the public and all bills being reviewed are available for the general public to see.

Town Board meets **every second Tuesday of each month.** Both meetings begin at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall on Bostock Road, Shokan, NY.

Town of Olive Planning Board meets the **first and third Tuesdays of each month.** Meetings start at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall on Bostock Road, Shokan, NY. You can contact the Town Building & Zoning Department to confirm a meeting date if you would like to attend at 657-2015. If there is nothing on their agenda, they will cancel meetings.

The cost of the class is \$62.00.

This is a hands-on pistol permit safety course from the National Rifle Association. You will learn basic firearms safety and will handle a variety of real handguns. A National Rifle Association instructor and firearms dealer with over 35 years of handgun experience will familiarize you with handguns, their working parts, and their safe handling and storage.

To register for either course or to obtain more information please contact the Adult and Continuing Education Program at (845) 295-4900 between the hours of 8:30 am and 3:30 pm or visit us at scoces.org, like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

Moving Beyond the Leakages; Practical Strategies to Manage Incontinence

LIBERTY- Family caregivers and seniors are invited to join Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County Caregiver Resource Center for a presentation on managing incontinence to be held on Thursday, December 13, 2012 at 2:00 pm at the Gerald J. Skoda Extension Education Center on 64 Ferndale-Loomis Road in Liberty. Please RSVP at 845-292-6180.

This program is presented by the Family Caregiver Alliance with guest speaker Nicole Davis, a board certified Adult and Gerontological Nurse Practitioner with expertise in urinary incontinence and the needs of the aging.

The presentation focus is on:

- Understanding the challenges and issues related to caring for an older adult with urinary incontinence
- Learning practical tips to manage urinary incontinence
- Identifying strategies to promote toileting safety, reduce risk of falls, and care for skin.
- Learning strategies to manage stress surrounding incontinence

This program is presented by the Family Caregiver Alliance. Cornell Cooperative Extension in Sullivan County provides equal program and employment opportunities.

Please contact the Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County office if you have any special needs.

Kingston Law Firm Partner Appointed to SUNY Ulster Board of Trustees

Rod P. Futerfas, an attorney and partner at the Kingston law firm, Wapner, Koplovitz & Futerfas, has been appointed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo to SUNY Ulster's Board of Trustees.

Futerfas was admitted to the bar in 1974 and was educated at Syracuse University and Albany Law School. He is a member of the New York State Bar Association. He served as Ulster County Assistant County Attorney from 1979 to 1980 and as a New York State Estate Tax Attorney from 1981 to 1990. He is currently an attorney for the Town of Woodstock and has been a town attorney for the Town of Rochester and special town attorney for the Town of Ulster.

In the community, he has been involved as a Director of the United Cerebral Palsy of Ulster County, a Director of the Woodstock Fire Company No. 5 Emergency Rescue Squad, Inc., and as a Commissioner of the Ulster County Charter Review Commission.

Futerfas replaces Susan McConekey who served on the Board of Trustees for the past 16 years.

Gotsch Tree Farm

Christmas Trees For Sale

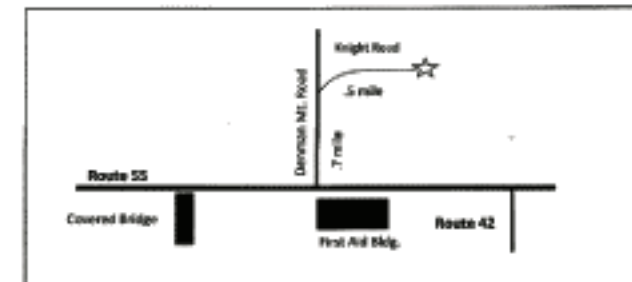


Open: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm
December 8 & 9
December 15 & 16
December 22 & 23
Tree Species: White Spruce, Blue Spruce, Various sizes available
Weekdays By Appointment

Cut-Your-Own Tree: \$30 any tree
Fresh Pre-Cut Tree: \$35 any tree

Location:

86 Knight Road, Grahamsville, NY 12740
Phone: 845-985-7902



You are invited to our 2nd Annual CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK!

Sat. Dec. 8, 10am-12noon
Hurleyville UMC Fellowship Hall

We will have DOZENS of homemade holiday cookies for sale
You get to choose the ones you want!
\$5 per take-out container
\$8 per decorated gift plate

Come and enjoy the abundant selection.
Any questions? Call Pastor Sue
At 985-2283 or 434-5097

Christmas Bazaar/Bake Sale

Thurs., Dec. 6th, Fri., Dec. 7th, and Sat., Dec. 8th
From 11 AM to 1 PM each day

Ellenville Reformed Church
188 Canal Street
Ellenville, NY 12428



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Catskills Real Estate for Sale

- NEW 2 BR/1 BA cabin on 2 acs in scenic Claryville. \$149k
- 4 BR/4.5 BA contemp with views on 20 private acs. \$1.88m
- 3 BR/2.5 BA on 8.5 acres with stream in Roscoe. \$650k
- Off the grid 6 BR/3 BA lodge in the Neversink Gorge. \$995k
- 3BR/2 BA architect-owned/renovated farmhouse with modern addition on 1.7 acres. \$349,000.
- 4BR/2.5 BA eyebrow colonial w/fpl, screened porch, sep dining rm on 15+ acs nr State Land. \$364,500.
- 5 BR 1840s home on 20 acs in the Beaverkill Valley. \$490k
- Dramatic views from 108 acre property with huge meadows, woods, 1900s farmhse, barns & apple orchard. \$599k
- Former church and attached meeting room. \$55k
- Bright 3 bed/1 ba on 4.5 acres adj State land. \$75k
- 2BR/1BA authentic log cabin on 20+ acs with fpl, skylights, woods that end at the Neversink River. \$289k
- Cute 2BR seasonal cabin on 3 acs on dead end road with fpl, screened porch. \$105k

For our full roster of real estate listings, visit our site:

www.CountryHouseRealty.net

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RENTALS

BUILDING FOR RENT: RENT FREE FOR REPAIRS! In the center of **Grahamsville** (Old Post Office) Rent - 985-7411.

FOR RENT: 1 - 2 bedroom apartment 1 - 3 bedroom apartment. Call 845-985-0107.

Beautiful Alpine Chalet-Fantastic Panoramic View 2 bedrooms, den, office, 2 baths, living room, dining room combination. Beautiful modern country kitchen. Finished basement. Detached garage, wrap-around deck. \$1250 +utilities. Security. Call 985-2433.

FOR RENT: 3 Bedroom; 2 bath; jacuzzi; LR; DR & Kitchen. Lots of closet space. Laurel Avenue, South Fallsburg. \$900/month+utilities. Security/Proof of income - 845-693-5104

Large 3 / 4 BR, 2 bath finished basment house. Available 10/1/12. \$1000. per month plus Utilites & security. No pets. 985 2709. Cvnbtfn

2 BR Duplex, Rt 55, Grahamsville. Nice Apt in small community. Great Layout. \$750 +utilities. Sec & References. 985-2941

bdt12/1-1/31renew

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

1. 2 Acres residential. Rt 55, across from Fairgrounds. Private Road. \$38,000.

2. 3+ BR., 2 baths, 2 acres, Tri-Valley Schools in Divine Corners, \$99,900. Owner financing w/25%

3. Mini Estate Loch Sheldrake near college. 4+ BR, 2 baths. Unique.

4. Handyman Special - 1500 sq ft. Loch Sheldrake. New roof. New Foundation. Needs interior. \$50K

Please Call Teresa 845-321-1919.

FORSALE

bdt12/1-1/31renew

Cheap Transportation of Just for Fun! 1995 Suzuki GSX 600 Katana Red/Black Motorcycle (845) 985-0201.

1999 Chevy Blazer, 4.3 V6, 4 wheel drive, fully loaded, 180,000 miles, recently inspected, \$ 3,000 or best offer. 845-985-7922

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pd12/13

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 Tree & Stump Removal • Septic & Driveways**

Robert Dubas - 845-985-7116

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HANDCRAFTED ITEMS FORSALE

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- Arati Store, • Catskill Harvest Market •
- Saunderskill Farm Market •
- Youngsville Towne Gift Shoppe •

Studio open through Christmas by calling 845-985-7564. Happy Holidays!

The Gnomes 'Gnow!

Just for fun and some gnome 'gnowledge', eh?ek out their website at:
gnomemomz.net

**ANSWER TO
 KNARF'S MOVIE
 TRIVIA**

- 1. Alan Hale
- 2. Ward Bond

Knarf's Movie Trivia

We honor this week, the men and women of our military, who still serve, and those that gave their lives so we can be free. Our film tribute presents six films that define life during WW II. I sit here typing my column thinking that next week when the Tri-Valley Townsman hits the news stands on the 6th, we will celebrate the freedom gained by those who gave their lives on December 7, 1941,

exactly 71 years ago the Empire of Japan, with bombs and guns, attacked the US bases at Pearl Harbor Hawaii. Today the weapons of attack are economic, not bullets. Nevertheless, let us now honor and never forget our Vets. These films on TCM, honoring our vets starting this Friday on December 7, 2012, at 6:00 AM, a documentary, **"Prelude to War"** (1943), The rise of Fascists in Germany, Italy, Japan, and their growing aggression, same as today's Fascists of NWO, again putting the world at war, and on the brink of starting new wars once again so the "Merchants of Death" can have greater profits. At 7:00 AM, **"Cry Of Battle"** (1963) The son of a wealthy businessman finds himself in the guerrilla movement fighting against the Japanese in World War II. At 8:45 AM; **"They Were Expendable"** (1945), A Navy commander fights to prove the battle-worthiness of the PT boat at the start of World War II. At 11:00 AM **"Task Force"** (1949) A naval officer devotes his life to the development of the aircraft carrier. At 1:00 PM, a super classic **"Air Force"** (1943) a bomber crew sees World War II action over the Pacific. At 3:15 PM **"From Here To Eternity"** (1953) Another with Sinatra at his best, as enlisted men in Hawaii fight for love and honor on the eve of World War II. At 5:30 PM, **Tora! Tora! Tora!** (1970) The Japanese take advantage of American blunders to launch a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. **"On TCM! Friday December 7, 2012 do not miss our Vets in action. Honor them and understand their great personal sacrifice.**

- Quiz:**
1. Who played Maggio?
 2. Who played "Fatso"?

What's Going On In The GnomeGneighbourhood™ This Week?

For Polly Hill, a wonderful friend

Rest dear friend, all the 'Gnomes' will miss your charming spirit, your helpful ways, and the love you unconditionally gave. Our Lives have been enriched by knowing you. Rest and smile in heaven.

- GRAHAMSVILLE -

Neversink Parks and Rec. trip to NYC was a blast! Great shows and good food near where the bus stops in NYC. Don't miss this next year. Radio City's 3D Christmas Spectacular was just fantastic! And so were the Broadway Plays. Just great, see ya on the next trip.

- PHOENICIA -

Mamma's Boy's very own Sage Mannino better known to his audiences as the **"Sigi Sage"** will be orating with truths from the soul, at 2:00 PM on Sunday December 9, 2012 at Green County Community College. Do not miss this highly creative young man's presentation.

Stay safe,
 Knarf Odranoe
 Gnome

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