



Tri

Ye Olde TOWNSMAN

Valley

"The Best Journal Published by a Dam Site!"

VOL. 8 NO. 1

GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740

JANUARY 5, 2011

FIFTY CENTS

Science Fiction and Fantasy FLASH - Thorn Winter Pg. 10 • Olive Muse - Charlie Blumstein Pg. 6 • The Olive Jar - Carol Lamonda Pg. 6

Decked Out in Denim - A New Tradition at the Misner Agency



At Misner Agency Company Christmas Party held on December 23rd staff and management were all decked out in their dungarees...

Each year the Misner Agency Management and Staff has a year-end donation campaign. This year they started 'Dress-Down Fridays' on October 14, 2011 and went through December 30, 2011. Each staff member that decided to dress down and wear dungarees on 'Dress Down Fridays' committed to contributing \$5 per dress down day. As always, Misner Management (Greg Goldstein and Eric Goldstein) matched employee donations dollar for dollar. So this year, their final donation, including management matching was:

\$720 to People For People Fund; \$350 to Rock Hill SPCA; \$730 to Comm for Families of Iraq War Vets; \$40 to Middletown Humane Society; and \$40 to Federation for the Homeless (Contd. Pg. 3)

Townsmen Staff Enjoys Annual Christmas Celebration at Blue Hill Lodge in Claryville



The Wednesday Volunteer staff of the Townsman gathered together again at the Blue Hill Lodge to celebrate the Christmas season and share another year of memories together. Seated around the table, starting on the left are Barbara Barkley; Gloria Beavers; Martha Ahrens; Barbara Barkley; Linda Comando; Frank Comando; Carolyn Coombe; Jean Helthaler and Hulda Vernooy. Staff members who were not able to attend, but were there in spirit were Claire Rennison, Barbara Slater and Maryann and Joe Ronkese.

On behalf of all of the staff, we are now ready to begin a new year and take this opportunity to thank all the advertisers and readers who have encouraged us this past year and to wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

TVCS FBLA Member Grace Kelly will Travel to Honduras to Deliver Supplies

The Tri-Valley Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is holding a supply drive for families in Honduras. Supplies needed are children's vitamins, school supplies (dry erase markers, stickers, loose leaf paper, pens and pencils), flip-flops and band aids. Supplies can be dropped off at Tri-Valley Central School located at 34 Moore Hill Road, Grahamsville, NY during the school day. If you cannot donate and would like to make a monetary contribution, checks can be made payable to Tri-Valley FBLA and mailed to 34 Moore Hill Road, Grahamsville, NY 12740. We will be happy to purchase the supplies.

In February, Grace Kelly, a 9th grade student and Tri-Valley FBLA member will be traveling to Honduras to deliver the supplies.

The members of the FBLA want to thank all for their support as FBLA collects the supplies needed for children in Honduras.

Hospital Trustees Celebrate Quality Initiatives



Steven Kelley, President and CEO, ERH, Ashima Butler, Vice President ERH, and Debbie Briggs, Vice President ERH recognize their peers for excellence in patient safety.

Hospital trustees, chief administrators, and quality directors from throughout Long Island and the Hudson Valley recognize their peers for excellence in patient safety.

Trustees from hospitals in the Hudson Valley and Long Island gathered Monday, December 5, 2011, at the LaGuardia Marriott for a celebration of clinical excellence and to learn more about the crucial role trustees play in the changing health care environment. The event, sponsored by the Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State (SHANYS) and the Healthcare Trustees of New York State, paid tribute to hospital quality initiatives recognized by the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC) and the Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association (NorMet) as the most outstanding for 2011. NSHC and NorMet, representing hospitals from similar regions, share the same advocacy agenda through the Suburban Hospital Alliance. (Contd. Pg. 3)

Works by Neversink artist on view at CWC

Oil paintings, watercolors and photographs comprise an eclectic exhibition by Neversink artist Sara Alexander Munoz now on view at the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) offices, 905 Main Street, Margaretville.

The show, which includes 19 works ranging from landscapes to an intriguing desktop still life, will be on view through March 15. It can be seen during regular business hours, Monday-Friday (excluding holidays) from 8 to 4:30. (Contd. Pg. 3)

First Solar Menorah Lights Up in Woodstock, NY

Chabad Lubavitch of Ulster County is proud to host the first solar powered Menorah in the world. It is standing in the Center of Woodstock, NY. "We are very excited about this," said Rabbi Avraham Itkin, Youth and Program Director of Chabad of Ulster County, "and hope to be able to replicate the concept in other Menorahs around the world."

Rabbi Itkin was the one to come up with the idea, figure out how to implement it and make it happen. "We are proud to always find new innovative ways to celebrate our Judaism."

Rabbi Yitzchok Hecht, Director of Chabad of Ulster County, remarked, "How interesting it is that the Chanukah Holiday represents light winning over darkness, and here we have a menorah that will take from the sunlight and shine where it would otherwise be dark."

YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN
OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR

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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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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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Grahamsville, NY 12740
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ON THE FRONT BURNER: He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor.
Psalm 72:4

OBITUARIES

Keith Carlsen, 51, of Leesburg, VA died at his boyhood home in Grahamsville, NY on Saturday morning, December 17, 2011 after a year and a half battle with cancer.

The son of Frank and Beverley J. Allen Carlsen, he was born on May 10, 1960 in Loomis, NY. He spent his career working in the telephone and computer industries.

Keith is survived by one son, Brian and his wife, Danielle of Livingston Manor, NY; three brothers: Kurt and his wife, Kim of Grahamsville, Gary and his wife, Deb of Galway, NY and Dale and his wife, Tammy of Hurleyville, NY and his father, Frank Carlsen of Grahamsville, NY; also a grandson, a granddaughter, an aunt and an uncle and several nieces and nephews.

There were no services and cremation was at the convenience of the family.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Orange and Sullivan Counties, 800 Stony Court, Newburgh, NY 12550.

Matthew R. Bertholf of Grahamsville, an employee for NYC Department of Water, passed away on Wednesday, December 28, 2011 at home. He was 30.

He was the son of Gene P. and Deborah Hartman Bertholf, born in February 21, 1981 in Port Jervis, NY.

Matthew graduated from Tri-Valley High School in 1999, and later graduated from St. Lawrence University in 2003. He enjoyed being outdoors and all different activities such as hunting, fishing, golfing, snowmobiling and sapping maple syrup. He was always the type of person who was ready to lend a helping hand. He was a former employee of Mike and Lori Mickelson of M&L Masonry for over ten years. He was a loving son, brother, fiancée, and friend to all who knew and loved him. He will be sorely missed.

He is survived by his loving parents, Gene and Deborah Bertholf of Loch Sheldrake; one brother, Trevor Bertholf and his companion, Kalyn Kosowicz of Loch Sheldrake; his fiancée, Elizabeth Sopchak of Grahamsville; his future mother and father-in law, John and Carol Sopchak of Syracuse, NY and future brother and sister-in-law, Eric and Kim Sopchak of Syracuse; and many beloved aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

He was predeceased by his grandparents, Raymond and Hazel Bertholf and Bernard and Helen Hartman, and two uncles, Bernard and Bob Hartman.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, December 31st at St. Marks United Methodist Church, Napanoch, NY. Interment followed at Hillside Cemetery, Woodbourne, NY.

Donations in Matthew's name can be made to Ulster Heights Methodist Church, 1264 Ulster Heights Road, Ellenville, NY 12428.

(Obitaries continued on page 13)

U.S. Army All-American Announced

Congratulations go out to Nathan Hyndman, son of Mr. & Mrs. Harry Hyndman, of Colorado Springs, Colorado for being selected as one of 125 high school seniors who will take part in the 2012 U.S. Army All-American Marching Band this month. Nathan is the grandson of Thomas and June Smith of Grahamsville, New York and Mr. Robert Hyndman, of Hebron, Indiana.

The U.S. Army All-American Bowl is the premier high school football game in the nation. Produced by All American Games, the Bowl features the nation's top high school senior football players and marching musicians. Students selected for the All-American Marching Band received an all-expense-paid trip to San Antonio, Texas, to march in the halftime performance of the U.S. Army All-American Bowl at the Alamodome on January 7, 2012. (Contd. Pg 8)

DAYS OF YORE...

Today's History

January 2, 1952 - Mrs. Mary Addie Dull of this village, passed away on January 1, 1952 at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Robert Van Keuren. She is survived by two daughters,

Mrs. Van Keuren of Grahamsville and Mrs. W.B. McManaway of Lone Fountain, Virginia and two sons, Alec and Lee of Churchill, Virginia.

Frank Sagendorf, age 76, died January 1, 1952 about a half hour after midnight at his home on Red Hill. He was the son of Theodore and Augusta Crawford Sagendorf. Mr. Sagendorf was a farmer and a carpenter and he spent most of his life in the Town of Denning. He was postmaster at Ladleton for a number of years.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Slater and son moved into their new home, the former Evans' property.

Miss Patsy Ann Banta entertained Jack and Dale Buswell, Barbara and Jim Krum and Brooke Anderson at dinner Wednesday evening in honor of her 11th birthday.

January 3, 1962 - Miss Joan Curry, daughter of the late James V. Curry and Mrs. Blanche M. Curry, was married on Wednesday, December 27, 1961 to Mr. Lloyd Gilbert, son of Mr. and Mrs. Haakon Gilbert of Briscoe at the Grahamsville Methodist Church. A reception followed at the Neversink Memorial Hall. After a wedding trip, the bride will return to Skidmore College where she is a senior majoring in Nursing. The groom will report to Fort Dix, New Jersey.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Mickelson of Woodbourne are the parents of a son born last Wednesday at Maimonides Hospital in Liberty. Mr. and Mrs. William Schulte Jr. of Pepacton Hollow Rd. are the parents of a daughter, Julie. Mr. and Mrs. Donald Terwilliger of Lackawack Hill are the parents of a son, Mark Donald, born at Liberty Loomis Hospital on December 19.

Confirmation and Communion was held at the Sundown Methodist Church this past Sunday. It was with great pleasure that Linda VanWagner, Ronald VanValkenburg and Mrs. Martha VanWagner were welcomed into the church.

Christopher DuBois, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Dubois Jr. was christened at the Methodist Church on Sunday by Dr. John McCombe. Godparents were Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Smith of Hasbrouck.

January 5, 1972 - Mr. Frank VanKeuren, 88, of Grahamsville, died January 4th at Liberty, NY, after a long illness. Born October 22, 1883 at Neversink, he was the son of Elisha VanKeuren and Mary E. Gillette. He was married in Neversink to the late Adelia Dice who died in 1930. He was married again in 1944 to the late Julia Charter who died in 1958. Mr. VanKeuren was a retired carpenter and a member of the Grahamsville Methodist Church and a lifetime resident of Grahamsville.

Fernald DuBois, Harold Hinkledire and Edward O'Brian were drawn for trial jurors for the January Supreme Court term.

Happy Anniversary to Mr. and Mrs. Norman Misner, married 16 years on the 7th of January.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of the late William H. Many of Bradenton, Florida who died December 26th. He is the brother of Robert Many of Grahamsville.

January 7, 1982 - Wayne A. Barringer, son of Ross and Janice Barringer of Grahamsville, graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. Wayne will work for IBM in Manassas, Virginia in the Special Programs/Analysis section and continue college part-time at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Helen C. Davidson of Hasbrouck Drive, Woodbourne, a lifelong resident of the area, died Monday, Dec. 28 1981 at Horton Memorial Hospital, Middletown after a short illness. She was 35. The daughter of Harold and Catherine Winters Burns, she was born May 15, 1946 in N.Y.C. She was a member of the Reformed Church of Woodbourne.

A freezing rain that began about 10:30 a.m. Sunday made roads especially slippery by mid-afternoon, bringing out highway crews who spread TONS of sand to alleviate the hazardous conditions. The most dramatic mishap of the day occurred in Sullivan County when 15 cars piled into each other near Exit 109 at Rock Hill. No serious injuries resulted.

NEVERSINK NEWS - Hulda Vernooy

Happy Birthday to Elise Hornbeck who celebrated on December 17th, Carolyn Coombe, who celebrated her birthday on Christmas Eve and to Barbara Barkley who had two things to celebrate on December 31, New Year's Eve and her birthday! (Call Hulda at 985-2268 with your Neversink news.)

WELCOME HOME HERM!

After a lengthy stay at Achieve Rehab and Nursing Facility in Liberty, Herm Probst is finally back home. He arrived home on Dec. 23, to a very happy group of family and friends. Awaiting him were his daughter Lynn and her hubby Tom, his granddaughter, Jenifer and her hubby Joe; great grandkids, Sebastian and Rayne, his grandson, Andrew, as well as Annette D. and Tara Z. Annie Shelton and Peg Anzano deserve a special thanks for being 'the taxi to Grahamsville' that brought him back home.

Herm is doing well and awaits the company of his family and friends. When in the neighborhood, if you have a few moments to spare, Herm would love to visit with you.

Decked Out in Denim - A New Tradition at the Misner Agency (From Pg. 1)

In addition to the monetary donations above, they also held another pet supply campaign to benefit the Rock Hill SPCA and Middletown Humane Society. Between employees and some very caring clients, they collected hundreds of pounds of pet foods, cleaning supplies, toys, and treats for our precious animal friends that will soon be delivered.

And lastly, they continue to support The BOCES Backpack Program in conjunction with Phyllis Moore, and have already collected and donated several large boxes of foods that will help fill the backpacks.

From the management and staff of the Misner Agency, "We would like to thank all of our clients who helped us with these efforts!"

Hospital Trustees Celebrate Quality Initiatives (From Pg. 1)

Keynoter John Combes MD, president/COO, Center for Healthcare Governance, American Hospital Association, challenged trustees and hospital leaders to more fully engage physicians, establish a deep strategic quality plan, and demonstrate a consistency of purpose. "It's about our [hospitals'] ability to accept risk across the continuum of care while delivering quality care at a lower cost," said Dr. Combes.

In accordance with the categories used for the Healthcare Association of New York State's (HANYS) statewide competition, NorMet recognized first place regional winners in four categories:

- Hospital Division or Unit - Northern Dutchess Hospital for Decrease the Number of Surgical Site Infections Following Total Joint Replacement of the Hip and Knee
- Small Hospital - Ellenville Regional Hospital for Medication and Patient Safety Collaborative
- Large Hospital - Northern Westchester Hospital for Development of a Medical-Surgical Unit Environmental Readiness Process to Improve Patient Satisfaction with the Environment and Provide Support to the Clinical Staff; and
- System - Stellaris Health Network for Hardwiring Processes to Improve Core Measures.

Health Alliance of the Hudson Valley, Vassar Brothers Medical Center, Bon Secours Charity Health System (Bon Secours, Good Samaritan, and St. Anthony hospitals), and Hudson Valley Hospital Center received Honorable Mentions for their entries.

Nassau-University Medical Center (NUMC) took the Hospital Council's top quality prize, the "Excellence in Patient Safety" award, for its project Developing a Low Cost Solution to a High Risk Problem concerning central line-associated blood stream infections (CLABSI).

News for the TVCS District Community Budget Survey

The Tri-Valley Central School District welcomes and appreciates the input of its community. We are continually focusing on supporting a tradition of excellence in education for all children while increasing efficiency and managing unfunded mandates. The District is continuing to look for ways to make sure that these decisions reflect the needs of the community. Your perspective is an essential part of the budgetary process. Please take a minute and fill out the community budget survey located on the Tri-Valley website at trivalleycsd.org. We appreciate your time and thank you.

Works by Neversink Artist (From Pg. 1)

The artist is a native of Sullivan County and has lived there her whole life. She attended Sullivan County Community College earning an Associates Degree in Graphic Design. She then studied printmaking,

painting and illustration at SUNY Oswego, where she earned a Bachelors in Fine Art with a Minor in Art History.

Sara lives in Neversink with husband Johnny and works at Frost Valley YMCA as their graphic designer. In her spare time, she continues to paint and draw, depicting the harmony and peace she feels in nature. "I enjoy highlighting the extraordinary details of common landscapes and wildlife. I draw from my quiet life growing up in the Catskills. Through my work, I create windows into my world; I invite the viewer to come inside and feel the comfort, beauty and flow."

The CWC is a non-profit, Local Development Corporation which runs a number of environmental, economic development and education programs in the five-county New York City Watershed West of the Hudson River. For more information, visit the Corporation's website, www.cwconline.org or call 845-586-1400 (toll-free 877-WAT-SHED).

Woodsongs Coffeehouse

Woodsongs Coffeehouse at the Sullivan County Museum, Hurleyville, NY, Saturday, January 7, 2012 from 6 pm-8:30 pm., with Carol Smith and the 'Little Sparrow' band. Admission of \$5.00 suggested donation. Refreshments available for sale. For information call 845-434-8044 or 845-866-0378 or website <http://www.sullivancountyhistory.org>. for upcoming Woodsongs Coffeehouse on first Saturday in February and March 2012.

CWC Offers Grants to Remove Stream Debris

The CWC has launched a new program to help remove flood debris in stream channels and/or floodplains in the Catskill-Delaware Watershed. The \$2.5 million CWC Stream Corridor Protection Debris Removal Program will provide grants to Towns, Villages and property owners, or Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) acting on their behalf. Funds may be used for labor, fuel, equipment, and materials necessary for flood-debris removal. Preference will be given to projects in West-of-Hudson Watershed areas flooded by Tropical Storms Irene and/or Lee on or after August 28, 2011. Applications are available online. Contact Nate Hendricks, 845-586-1400 ext. 21, for more information.

Eighteen Reach First Plateau in Green Certification

Eighteen Watershed lodging establishments were recognized December 13 for achieving first tier certification in the Green Concierge Program. The businesses were lauded for their efforts at improving sustainable practices and helping to brand the Catskills as an ecotourist destination. Several are working to reach the next tier through the implementation of more rigorous environmental practices.

The certification program is coordinated by Hospitality Green LLC of Mountandale, Sullivan County, with funding from the CWC and Empire State Development.

Achieving Bronze Certification were the following:

GREENE County: Hotel Vienna, Kaatskill Mountain Club, Rosehaven Inn, The Thompson House, Washington Irving Inn

ULSTER County: Creek Locks B&B, Hurley Stonehouse B&B, Lifebridge Sanctuary, Menla Mountain Retreat, Phoenicia Lodge, Skylake Lodge, Twin Gables, Frost Valley YMCA

DELAWARE County: La Bass Cour, Margaretville Motel, Margaretville Mountain Inn, Pepacton Cabins, Turquoise Barn

Ten other establishments throughout the region are now working toward Bronze Certification.

SCDW Welcomes New Board Members

On December 11, the Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop held its annual meeting and Holiday Party at the Sullivan County Museum. Preceding the holiday party, elections were held with the following results: President - Sally Gladden, Vice President - Bunny Woloszczak, Treasurer - Harold Tighe and Secretary - Jim Schmidt. The SCDW welcomes new members DeLois "Cookie" House (Ellenville), Paul Puerschner (Kenoza Lake), and Jacqueline Perito (Woodbourne). Re-elected Board members are Lori Schneider-Wendt and Eileen Kalter. Outgoing members Heather Strauss and Richard Chiger were thanked for their outstanding contributions. Adam Dohrenwend (Woodridge) will be a Junior member. Highlighted at the Holiday Party was the announcement of the SCDW 2012 pre-season productions at the Sullivan County Museum in Hurleyville, NY: Feb. 10 & 11, enjoy a cabaret show "An Evening with Irving Berlin and more"; March 31 & April 1, an historical celebration entitled "Vaudeville in the Catskills"; the digital-age comedy "You've Got Hate Mail" on April 27, 28, 29 & May 4, 5, 6.

Indoor Track at Rockland CC and Armory

Last week during vacation, the Girls and Boys Indoor Track and Field Teams competed at the Pearl River Invitational and The North Shore Invitational at the 169th Street Armory. Over the two days of competition 64 season best performances were attained. At the Pearl River Meet 3rd place performances were attained by Brooke Gillette in the Frosh/Soph 1500 Walk, Kate Greffrath in the High Jump and Dominique Darby in the Shot Put. Other Medalists were: Autumn Bender 4th 3200, Jim Bernstein 7th 3200, Sabrena Smith 8th High Jump and Vicky Tingley 8th High Hurdles.

At the Armory the team competed in 37 events with 34 being season Best performances and one a School Record. Junior Mareena DiMilia threw a Lifetime Best 38-11 3/4" in the Shot Put to (win the event which had 63 Schools represented) and set a School Record. Other top finishers were: 5th Dominique Darby Shot Put, 8th Eugene Morton Pole Vault, 11th Aidan Woolsey Pole Vault, 12th Jim Bernstein 1600, 15th Autumn Bender 1600 and 15th Omar Lopez 1000.

Congratulations to all Team members who competed!

Good Luck to both Teams on competing at the Southern Tier Invitational Saturday featuring 74 Schools at Cornell University.

A WINTERGREEN TREAT



Wintergreen with its bright red berries sparkle during the most dreary days of winter. It is one of those plants you may have heard about from people who grew up a generation or so ago, but Wintergreen has a real presence in the forests around Tri-Valley.

Wintergreen is a small plant found primarily on forest floors. It grows in the dim, dappled sunlight that makes its way through the forest canopy. Wintergreen stays green all year round as its name would suggest. Wintergreen propagates primarily through the spreading roots called rhizomes. Plants will pop up from the roots, resulting in small patches of wintergreen.



Wintergreen is rarely, if ever, found as a single isolated specimen. Depending upon the time of year, wintergreen may have bright red berries, or a small white, bell-shaped flower. The berries and flowers are usually found near the central stem, peeking out from beneath the leaves.

Wintergreen is one of the most widely known and pleasant flavors of all the wild edible plants. Candy, toothpaste, breath mints, and many other items are commonly available in the flavor of wintergreen. Wintergreen makes an enjoyable minty treat when hiking. It was once used as a substitute for tea in colonial America. Native Americans used the medicinal properties of wintergreen to treat a variety of illnesses. Wintergreen, however, is more in the category of novelty wild edibles than anything else, like a wild breath mint, rather than something that would be served as a part of a meal.

The Ojibwa Indians called it Winisbugons (usually translated "Dirty Leaf" but perhaps better translated "Leaf in the Bog"). The French in Quebec gave it the poetic name la Petit te du bois, "The Little Tea of the Woods." Throughout its extensive range it has won a number of regional names: Box Berry, Canadian Mint, Checkerberry, Deerberry, Leatherleaf, Ground-tea or Groundberry, Hillberry, Mountainberry, Partridgeberry, Spiceberry, Teaberry, Wax Cluster, & other names. The berries provide winter food for squirrels, chipmunks, deer mice, grouse, partridges, bobwhites, turkeys, and is even eaten by the red fox in emergency. The leaves as well as the berries are liked by deer and bears.

In the winter, the plant may be covered with snow, but the red berries persist until birds or animals eat them along with the green leaves. Maybe you will be lucky and find a patch of Wintergreen on your next winter hike and you too, may enjoy a wintry minty nibble.

Helpful Hints - Sock it Two You!

How can so many socks vanish? I don't know about you, but I often cannot find two of the same socks in my sock drawer. So what can you do with that lonely sock? Just for starters, you can pull two of those mismatched mates over your shoes or boots if you have to walk on ice. It makes it a bit less slippery. And if you are lucky enough to travel south where there is no ice, put your dirty shoes in those socks before you pack them away in a suitcase. There are so many things you can do with those single socks. I am sure we can think of a lot more things to do with those lovely single socks!

MYSTERIOUS BOOK REPORT NO. 30

by John Dwaine McKenna



Well, as things turned out, this will be the first MBR for 2012 . . . The year the world is supposed to end on December the twenty-first, according to the ancient Mayans of Central America. They carved a big stone calendar and then they disappeared. No one knows where, how, when or why they went, but scholars who can interpret the calendars say it ends on 12-21-12. It has some folks buying old ICBM silos and converting them into living spaces which they're selling to other folks who're determined to survive the catastrophe, no matter what it is. Huh? You've gotta be kidding me. Come on man . . .

I know, I know. That was a weird way to start the Mysterious Book Report for the new year, but see, I thought it was an interesting way to introduce this weeks book puzzle, which is about a complex murder investigation, set in 1930's Syria . . .

Night Falls On Damascus (Thomas Dunn, \$24.95, 259 pages, ISBN 978-0-312-33789-6) by Frederick Highland is about a world in terrible flux. Syria, Jordan, Palestine, Iraq and Kuwait were all created after World War I, "The Great War" as it was then called, from the remnants of the devastated Ottoman Empire. They were then made protectorates of the British and French governments by the League of Nations. This allowed the Brits, and the French, to exploit the resources and the people of the middle east at a time both Navys were converting from coal to . . . guess what . . . oil as a fuel to make steam to drive their ships. It was also a time of revolutionary transition, from colonial to self-rule. Throw in three, or four opposing religious groups and you have all of the elements of a maelstrom, one which, unfortunately, is still circulating today.

Still with me? Good. Because this is the environment French-Syrian police inspector Nikolai Faroun finds himself in as he tries to solve the murder of Vera Tamiri, a social reformer trying to enlighten Arab women about health and welfare issues in a backward and repressive society. Tamiri, "beautiful and controversial, from a prominent Damascus family," was found murdered, her body stuffed in a burlap sack, and dumped in a river with her throat slashed. Against a backdrop of political intrigue, societal interference and guerrilla warfare, Faroun, who himself is a man with an unsavory and mysterious past, struggles to solve the heinous crime.

I read this novel based only on its title because Syria has been prominent in the news-cycle lately, and I got more than I thought was coming. The author packed a great deal of action, adventure and intrigue into a small novel. I was surprised and you will be also. It's an excellent read. You will find plenty of excellent reads at your local library too, where they have many programs for kids. And best of all, it's free.

We're hearing from a lot of you . . . Sharon Corey, Mike Curley, Arden Dean, Marie Dean and Carol Smythe to mention a few. How about you? If you have a question, comment or criticism you can send them the traditional way at: P.O. Box 2406, Colorado Springs, CO 80901. Or, you can save the postage by checking out my website and blog at: johndwainemckenna.com where you will find all kinds of cool stuff, like book lists, all the Mysterious Book Reports, a free short story and copies of *The Neversink Chronicles*, which is selling like hotcakes. One last thing about December 21, 2012 . . . It's four days before Christmas, so be sure to have plenty of milk and cookies to leave out for Santa Claus on Christmas Eve because nothing . . . absolutely nothing will happen. Just wait. You'll see. And I'll see you next week with a brand new MBR. --JDM

County Government 2011 Door Décor Competition Winner Announced

Sullivan County Manager David Fanslau has announced that the Sullivan County Department of Motor Vehicle employees were recognized this morning as the winners of the 2011 Holiday Door Décor Competition. There were a total of twenty-three offices that participated, including the Government Center, E911, and the Liberty campus.

There were photographs taken on Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning. The Liberty Middle School Woodwind Ensemble students judged our contest, after they performed at the Government Center Tuesday afternoon. All of the photographs that were taken as part of this contest are available on the County's website (<http://webapps.co.sullivan.ny.us/docs/cmgr/doors/index.html>). In addition to the selection of the DMV door as the winners of the contest, the second place winner was in DFS Adult Services in Liberty, and the third place winner was the Treasurer's Office. Congratulations to all.

SUNY Sullivan in the holiday spirit

The college community came together to collect toys for the Fallsburg Police Department's annual toy drive. David Seigerman, SUNY Sullivan Director of Public Safety (I.) presents Fallsburg patrol man, Jason Edwards and Fallsburg School Resource Officer, Robert Noller with a box filled with toys.

This season the college has also been collecting Toys for Tots and sponsoring a winter clothing drive.

BE A 'MASTER GARDENER' Deadline to Apply is January 6th

The deadline to apply for the Master Gardener Program through Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Sullivan County is Friday, January 6, 2012. The intensive 15-week training program for Sullivan County residents begins on Tuesday, February 7 at the Gerald J. Skoda Extension Center in Liberty. Up to 20 individuals will be accepted into the program through the application process.

Begun in 1975 in New York State, the Master Gardener Program provides home and community gardeners with unbiased information based on research and experience. One hundred hours of volunteer community service is required as part of this "neighbors teaching neighbors" approach.

Cornell Cooperative Extension staff from Ulster and Sullivan counties will provide the training, led by Dona Crawford, CCE Ulster's Master Gardener Coordinator.

Training dates will run every Tuesday from February 7 through May 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Snow makeup dates are the Thursdays following the snow days. Cost is \$200 with \$50 returned to those who complete the training and the requisite 100 hours of community service.

Volunteer applications are available from Cornell Cooperative Extension and from Sullivan Renaissance. Individuals should check "Master Gardener" in the section "Volunteer Position." Completed applications must be returned no later than January 6, 2012 to: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Sullivan County, 64 Ferndale-Loomis Road, Liberty, NY 12754. Applicants may be asked for an interview and are subject to a criminal background check.

Cornell Cooperative Extension is a statewide educational organization funded by national, state and county governments - that helps New York residents

put research-based knowledge to work. For information call 845-292-6180 or visit <http://blogs.cce.cornell.edu/sullivan/>.

Sullivan Renaissance is a beautification and community development program principally funded by the Gerry Foundation. For information call 845-295-2445 or visit www.sullivanren-naissance.org.

County Grant Program Targets "Main Street" and "Agri-Businesses" Micro-Enterprises Applications Now Available for New Small Business Grant Program

Monticello -County Manager David Fanslau announced today that applications are available for a new Microenterprise Assistance Program (MAP), made possible with an \$185,000 grant from New York State's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Economic Development Program. The grant is being administered by the Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management.

"The program will provide grants between \$5,000 and \$35,000 for business start-ups or existing enterprises with five or fewer employees. The MAP will target two types of small businesses of importance to the County: 1) "Main Street" goods and services located within downtown areas of village or hamlet business districts, and 2) "Agri-Business" enterprises, which refers to farms, agriculture-support businesses, and businesses that process local farm-based products," stated Fanslau.

This dual focus leverages additional funding available through the County's Main Street Revolving Loan Fund and Agri-Business Revolving Loan Funds. "The goal is to help bridge the gap for small businesses looking to get started and to take advantage of other funding and support programs that are available," stated Planning Commissioner Luiz Aragon.

The Microenterprise Assistance Program is a collaboration of Sullivan County's Division of Planning and the Center for Workforce Development, Sullivan Renaissance-a program of the Gerry Foundation, the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce and Liberty Community Development Corporation. Funding comes from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through CDBG funds administered by New York State Homes and Community Renewal. Conditions of the grant include requiring participating businesses to contribute at least 10% of the cost of the project. Also, businesses must create at least one new job that can be offered to or made available to persons from low or moderate income (LMI) households. New positions created must start by September 2013.

Another condition for receiving the grant is that businesses agree to participate in an Entrepreneurial Training Program. Terri Ward, President of CEO of the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce, stated, "The partners have worked hard to assemble a roster of trainers and presentations meant to benefit small businesses in every stage of their development. The classes explore topics from developing a business plan to marketing your product, financing your plans, and finding, hiring and managing employees."

The deadline for grant applications is Friday, February 3, 2012. Sullivan County Planning will hold two public information sessions on the MAP program, Thursday, January 12 at 6PM in the Government Center in Monticello and Wednesday, January 18, 2012, at 6PM in the Callicoon Town Hall.

For more information or to request an application,

contact the Sullivan County Division of Planning at (845) 807-0541 or by email at planning@co.sullivan.ny.us.

VOLUNTEER YOUR GARDEN SullivanArc and Sullivan Renaissance to Host 4th Annual Garden Tour

Exhibit your private garden next summer to a limited number of individuals as a benefit for the SullivanArc Horticulture Program. SullivanArc and Sullivan Renaissance are looking for homeowners to be part of the 4th Annual Sullivan County Garden Tour on Saturday, June 23, 2012.

Next year's tour will feature approximately eight flower gardens in Sullivan County. The event provides a fun, inspirational and educational experience for garden admirers and enthusiasts, while benefiting a good cause. Volunteers can assist at each garden if needed.

Individuals interested in having their gardens considered should contact Kathleen Capozzoli at Sullivan Renaissance at 845-295-2452 or kcapozzoli@sullivanrenaissance.org.

The 2011 garden tour featured gardens along the Route 17 corridor and ended with a wine and cheese reception at Bashakill Vineyards in Wurtsboro. The 2010 tour was in western Sullivan County and finished at ECCE Bed and Breakfast in Barryville.

To purchase an advanced ticket - a perfect gift for the holidays - contact SullivanArc at 845-796-1350 ext. 1050

SUNY Sullivan in the holiday spirit

The college community came together to collect toys for the Fallsburg Police Department's annual toy drive. David Seigerman, SUNY Sullivan Director of Public Safety (I.) presents Fallsburg patrol man, Jason Edwards and Fallsburg School Resource Officer, Robert Noller with a box filled with toys.

This season the college has also been collecting Toys for Tots and sponsoring a winter clothing drive.

SUNY Ulster Accepting Entries for "Water" Regional Juried Exhibition

SUNY Ulster is accepting entries from Hudson Valley artists for its new regional juried exhibition, "Water," opening in 2012 at the Muroff Kotler Visual Arts Gallery that will feature artwork inspired, created or conceptually driven by the multifaceted and timely subject of water.

The deadline for submitting entries to the College for the show that will be judged by local painter, photographer and installation artist Portia Munson is Jan. 18. The exhibition will open with a reception on March 9, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the gallery and run through April 13.

All media will be accepted from artists 18 and older working within Ulster, Dutchess, Columbia, Greene, Orange and Sullivan counties. Works will be judged from Jan. 23, to 27, and artists will be notified by email from Jan. 30 to Feb. 3.

SUNY Ulster's Muroff Kotler Visual Arts Gallery is open Mondays through Fridays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and by appointment. It is closed March 12-16 for spring recess and all other college holidays. Events are free and open to the public.

For more information and to receive the prospectus, contact Jeffers at jeffers@sunyulster.edu or (845) 687-5113, or go to www.sunyulster.edu/water.pdf for requirements and an entry form.



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The Olive Jar Resolutions By Carol LaMonda

Last time to type 2011. No regrets there. Good riddance to floods and tragedies with lingering damages; fond farewells to people we loved and lost. A research poll stated that 70% of respondents rated 2011 as a bad year. They and I am looking forward to 2012 thinking that it will be a year of possibilities and opportunities.

Today I closed out the past year by having the PICC line removed after my 56th antibiotic infusion for Osteomyelitis, a nasty bug picked up in the operating room when I fractured my wrist. That means I can start the new year by being the "Tuesday Yia Yia (Greek for Grandma) for granddaughter Philanthe once again. I was limited to three pounds of lifting with a brace on my right arm and a PICC port on my left. Now I can lift her up and cuddle once again.

Thinking about a new beginning, I think we make a mistake by resolving to give up something. I think we should add something worthwhile to our lives. One of the things I missed the most during my convalescence was exercise, especially yoga. The Olive Senior Recreation Program has a yoga class on Wednesday morning and a Thursday evening at the Library. Kathy Carey teaches both classes. Roxy Newberry has a yoga class at the Reservoir Methodist Church on Thursday mornings from 10-11:30 for a daily fee of \$12.

The senior art class meets Mondays from 10-12 at the Reservoir Methodist Church with Judith Boggess as instructor. Join a book club. Check out the Tongore Garden Club. Volunteer to deliver Meals on Wheels. There are so many opportunities to become involved. Attend school board and Town Board meetings. Take a cooking class or just experiment with a new recipe. Reconnect with an old friend and widen your circle of acquaintances.

A new year is on the horizon. It's time to greet each day with eager anticipation.

Olive Muse- Olive Town Board Fetes Olive Boy Scout Troop 163

Members of Olive Boy Scout Troop 163 received recognition and awards from the Olive Town Board for the 9 day historic Catskill's Aqueduct Trek that they engaged in last summer to celebrate 100 years of scouting in Olive. In recounting the Scouts grand adventure, Scoutmaster Keith Davis said: "These guys got to go in a lot of the buildings to see pump chambers and things like that. We camped overnight at the Mohonk Preserve, Ulster County Fairgrounds and Stewart Air Force Base. At Stewart, we went through a C-5 Galaxy aircraft, got to go in the cockpit, pop out the top roof and they had the full run of the base. They got to sit in the chopper that you see flying through here every day."

Scoutmaster Davis added: "We hiked to West Point, crossed the Hudson River towards Bannerman's Castle, toured Constitution Island, just opposite West Point and proceeded to bicycle south through Westchester County, walking across the top of the Kensico Dam. We walked about 12-13 miles most days. In the Bronx, we met up with a local troop who helped guide us to our destination. We spent the last night at the Museum of Natural History where the scouts were allowed full run of the museum to go through that evening. These boys did a great job. We had a great sendoff at the aerators." After receiving certificates of merit from Town Supervisor Berndt Liefeld, Town Clerk Sylvia Rozelle said "We are all very proud of you."

Head Regional Planner Peter Manning from the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development (CCCD) presented the Catskill Mountain Scenic Byway Management Plan on behalf of the Central Catskills Collaborative (CCC), an arm of the CCCD. In the making since 2008, the proposed inter-municipal agreement was created by the 7 municipal members of the CCC, consisting of 2

individuals from each of the 5 towns and 2 villages in the Rt. 28 corridor from West Hurley heading west until Andes. Helen Chase and Robert Selkowitz of Shokan are the 2 Town of Olive residents representing the Town of Olive in the CCC sponsored Scenic Byway Management Plan effort.

Mr. Manning explained the purpose of the plan and asked the Town Board to consider the resolution that would establish support for the project by the Town. Town Board members said that they did not have enough time to read and digest the 130 page document. No copies were available for public perusal. During the presentation, the promoters of the plan focused on the signage provisions and stated that there were no new regulations in the plan other than the prohibition on off-premise commercial signage, which is already law within the Catskill Park.

Some residents who did obtain and read the 130 page document prior to the meeting raised some questions about the presentation, lack of copies of the plan for public and media examination and the possible omission of key components of the plan, which some residents in the audience felt was a back-door power grab. Councilman Bruce Lamonda said: "It reeks of loss of local control. That is my initial feeling."

CCC member Robert Selkowitz explained: "We wanted to bring the benefit of living in a protected area. We certainly deserve to be recognized as the Catskill Mountain Scenic Byway, we want to get this done."

Peter Manning added: "This project belongs to all the communities."

Dan Elmendorph asked: "Are there any other restrictions that the public should know about? Peter Manning responded with: "The NYS Scenic Byway person said that the only regulation in the byway plan is the prohibition on commercial off premises signage."

CCC representative from Olive Robert Selkowitz said that the Byway Management plan contains aspirations, not regulations. Dan Elmendorph said: "We are worried about losing our rights, that aspirations will be

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made into regulations. Why do we need more laws if we already have the restrictions in place? It's about us losing our rights."

Steve Cadett asked: "Why would we want to take on any more oversight from anyone here?"

Glenda McGee said: "3 years and 130 pages. It's a stunning, breathtaking document of building, of restriction, of control. It's from people who want an over-arching regulatory power. These are the same provisions as in the comprehensive plan. In Shandaken, they did not have a chance to read it either."

Ms. McGee added: "To spend 10 minutes talking about signs when this document is rife with bureaucracy, impediments to business and impediments to free will. We've been working on democracy for 300 years. It's 130 pages of tying people in knots."

Bob Conyea said: "I've spent some time reading it and it's all about loss of local control. All those nice regulations that we didn't like in the Town Comprehensive Plan are back in this plan, and why not, because they are all written by the same people in the collaborative. It sounds like the bad guys in Star Trek. All the stuff we highlighted for removal (from the Draft Comprehensive Plan), its all back in this plan."

Mr. Conyea added: "They talk about corridor-wide design guidelines. We do not need a group of un-elected people telling us what our design guidelines should be." Quoting from the document, Mr. Conyea read: "The collaborative desires to strengthen and formalize itself to become a management entity." He added: "This is all about a loss of control. The people of the Adirondack's are sorry that they passed a similar bill long ago."

Supervisor Berndt Liefeld said that: "This is only the start of meetings. We will have more meetings on it."

Olive Town Clerk Sylvia Rozelle announced that burn permits will be issued at the Town Offices during normal business hours starting in January.

The meeting was adjourned in memory of: Robert F. Adsit, Paul Donahue, Anna Lawrence, Travis Nissen, Milton Schedivy, Joseph Stallinn and Dominick Vanacore Sr.

**RESERVOIR MUSIC NOTES-**

Fred Perry, Owner of Reservoir Music Center,
3179 Route 28, Shokan, NY 12481. 845-657-6127.

Well, it's a new year, and I'm experiencing a mild case of post-annum depression. Either that, or I'm struggling to recover after going out two nights in a row, but whatever it is, it was worth it!

First though, let me wish everyone a healthy, happy, and prosperous new year. The new year starts in January because it's the first month following the Winter Solstice, when the days start getting longer after December 21, the shortest day of the year. So it really is a time of renewal and rebirth.

I started my New Year's weekend off by driving up to Tannersville to see my old pals, The New Riders of the Purple Sage, at the Orpheum Performing Arts Center. The OPAC has been closed for 25 years and this was the first event there since they re-opened, and let me tell you, it must have inspired the band, because they were on fire! By the time they got to the third song, "Louisiana Lady", I was convinced it was the best I'd ever seen them play. It was a shorter set then they usually have played at The Bearsville Theater in past years, but thoroughly enjoyable all the same. They ran through most of their hits, skipping only "Lonesome LA Cowboy" and "Glendale Train", and closing with Bob Dylan's "Rainy Day Women #12 & 35". The new OPAC theater is a beautiful building and a great place to hear music and I hope they are planning to present more shows in this venue.

On New Year's Eve, I ventured into Kingston to catch Pitchfork Militia and The Johnny Monster Band at the new BSP, formerly Back Stage Productions. Pitchfork put on their usual great show and I was struck by what a great guitarist frontman Peter Head has become. As I was watching Pitchfork, I was thinking that they are really the only local band that I really like, but guess what? I found another! Within seconds of starting their first song, The Johnny Monster Band had my jaw on the floor! I had heard good things about them, but I was totally unprepared for the sounds coming from the stage! This kid is the real thing! If I said there was a straight line between Jimi Hendrix, Stevie Ray Vaughn, and Johnny Monster, I might be overstating the case, but not by much! Johnny Monster is a monster guitarist! If these guys are playing anywhere near you, do not miss them! They will blow your mind! In the next few weeks, I will be profiling both of these bands in this space, so look out for that.

A few weeks ago, a friend told me about a young singer/songwriter from Stamford, NY, who he thought was really good. He pressed a CD into my hands and asked me to have a listen. Now lots of people give me CD's to check out, and the percentage of real quality music is usually pretty small, so my expectations were not high, but from the opening chords of the first song, I realized I was listening to someone pretty special. Pete Jacobs is in his last year at the Berklee School of Music and has assembled a band of mostly other Berklee students to play his intricate Beatle-esque songs. Everything about this record, "Thoughts upon a Window", is top notch and professional, from the writing and playing, to the production and engineering.

The Beatle influence is front and center, but Peter's songs are not derivative or slavish copies of the Fab Four. They stand on their own as high quality songs in the same genre, and very impressive ones at that. There are rockers here as well, and Peter says he is influenced by modern bands like Radiohead, Coldplay, The Shins, and I'm pretty sure I heard some Foo Fighters in there too. But please understand, Peter's music goes beyond his influences. He's taken what he could from the music that influenced him and added his own touch to make it completely his own.

The band, who may book themselves as The Pete Jacobs Band, or sometimes Electric Evolver, plays mostly in New York and Boston (they've also played at WAMC's Linda Studios in Albany), but Pete has never lost touch with his Delaware County roots. Whenever he's home, he makes it a point to play some smaller gigs, sometimes solo acoustic, in and around his hometown of Stamford. If you get the chance, catch him. Pete Jacobs could be amongst our next generation of great electric singer/songwriters! More info at www.petejacobsmusic.com.

On a sadder note, after my deadline for my last column, I heard about the passing of Dan 'Bee' Spears, Willie Nelson's longtime bass player, and Sean Bonniwell, driving force behind The Music Machine, the 60's garage rock one hit wonders who recorded the great "Talk Talk", still one of the best of it's genre, and not an easy song to play. Rest in Peace fellas. You made a lot of people happy while you were here. The tough question is though, where's Willie gonna find another bass player who can follow his meandering sense of time? LOL.

Oh, and did I mention that this column begins my second year writing it, and as if to celebrate the occasion, hvmusic.com has added me to their website, www.hvmusic.com, a great resource for Hudson Valley musicians and music fans. (Contd. Pg. 8)

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Reservoir Music Notes (From Pg. 6)

My live music picks will now run from Wednesday to the following Thursday, which may engender some repetition in consecutive weeks, but will also give y'all more time to plan your outings, so I think it's a fair trade off. Here's this week's picks.



Photo by Heidi O'Donnell
The New Riders of the Purple Sage at the brand new Orpheum Performing Arts Center in Tannersville, Friday, Dec. 30

Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2012 - Tonight's the last night of LITTLE FEAT's three night stand at The City Winery in Manhattan.

Saturday, Jan. 7 - The very accomplished guitarist, MICHAEL POWERS returns to Club Helsinki in Hudson. This guy can play, and he's an old friend of mine, so please support him. We need more of Michael in the Catskills.

Sunday, Jan. 8 - STEVE EARLE and ALLISON MOORER make their first appearance at Club Helsinki. This is one of my

two Picks of the Week. MICKEY HART of The Grateful Dead rolls into The Highline Ballroom in Manhattan for one night.

Monday, January 9 - STEVE EARLE and ALLISON MOORER drive South after Helsinki and show up at The City Winery in Manhattan, this time with Woodstock's own HAPPY TRAUM in tow.

Wednesday, Jan. 11 - The great CHRIS THILE, with his PUNCH BROTHERS bandmate, MICHAEL DAVES, make a stop at Club Helsinki. Thile is one of our best mandolin pickers, and if Daves is on the same stage as Chris, he's gotta be pretty awesome too. My second Pick of the Week.

Welcome 2012! May it be better than the last! Start it off by having a great week y'all!

Sheriffs' Association Scholarship Presented

The 2011 New York State Sheriffs' Association Institute, Inc. scholarship was presented to Anthony Clark of Accord, a criminal justice major at Ulster County Community College. The scholarship is presented each year to an academically outstanding full-time student of criminal justice or police science, who intends to pursue a career in a criminal justice field.



In the photo, left to right: Donald C. Katt, SUNY Ulster President, Paul J. VanBlarcum, Ulster County Sheriff, Anthony Clark, James Truitt, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, and Thomas D'Amicantonio, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice.

ZUMBA FOR BRIANNA



Join us in honoring Tri-Valley's own BRIANNA WORDEN in her courageous fight against Neurofibromatosis. As Miss Sullivan County Teen International 2011 and a Children's Tumor NF Ambassador, Brianna has helped spread awareness of NF, both regionally and nationally.

Full proceeds will go directly to the Worden family as they continue their battle against this disorder, which now affects more than 100,000 Americans.

DATE: January 7, 2012
WHEN: 7-8:30 p.m.
WHERE: Tri-Valley Central School (Grahamsville)

\$10 (adults)...\$5 (students)

Bring an over-sized t-shirt to cut up Zumba-style

U.S. Army All-American Announced (From Pg. 2)



Nathan performed on Bass Drum 4 as part of the USAAAMB Drumline on Saturday after a week of practice in San Antonio with the band. After graduation from high school this spring, Nathan has hopes of pursuing a career in music, with marching band being his passion at this time. He hopes to participate in college marching band this fall as well as drum and bugle corps next summer. Nate's high school marching band, The Pride of the Lancers, at Liberty High School in Colorado Springs, placed third overall in State Competition at Colorado State University this past October. Nathan has also performed on a national level with his high school band for the past two years at the Bands of America Super Regional competition in St. Louis, Missouri. Nathan studies under the direction of Mrs. Genice Matske and Mr. Jess Quintana and also participates in Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band at his school.

The halftime show by the USAAAMB could be seen on live webcast at www.banddirector.com at 6 p.m. (EST) on January 6th, and information regarding the USAAAMB can be found at <http://www.menc.org/v/band/u-s-army-all-american-marching-band/>. Congratulations again to Nate for his outstanding achievements and his selection to this elite group of performers!

The Happy Hikers Were Back in Town!



Ed Sidote reports, "On Thursday we had our toughest Fleet hike. We traveled from Norwich, NY to Claryville in the Catskill Mountains and encountered lots of ice in the road and on the trail. We saw the Delaware reservoir that supplies water to NYC, a giant rock which had just fallen, deer close-up, and flood damage." The participants were Tom Bryden, trip leader, Jim Schmidt, Sally Goddard, John Elia, Warren Johnsen, Dick Natoli and the writer, "ED" Sidote. The writer did not hike but waited at the Blue Hill Inn while the group of six were hiking to Claryville from Rd. Pond Rd. and Fair Meadow Rd. intersection. We had lunch at the Blue Hill Inn. Irena had two Russian dishes prepared for us and they were delicious. In addition we had salad, Contd. Pg. 9)

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Happy Hikers (From Pg. 8) Clam chowder, and sandwiches. All very delicious. The service was excellent also.

"At the restaurant we had a warm welcome from Irena and staff, the Town of Denning Supervisor, Bill Bruning and local firemen. Irena had two Russian dishes prepared for us and they were delicious. In addition we had salad, Clam chowder, and sandwiches. and we drank Russian and Ukrainian beer. All very delicious. The service was excellent also."

"After all the good food, fun and photos we didn't feel like hiking anymore, as originally planned, instead decided to come back again."

"Thank you to 'Ed' Bailey who took Tom Bryden up to the parking area on Fair Meadow Rd. to retrieve his vehicle which was parked there during the hike. In spite of the drizzle most of the day it was a fun day. We enjoyed our visit to the Blue Hill Lodge and hope to see them again when we return again in the spring to hike from Round Pond Rd. and Fair Meadow Rd. to the Balsam Lake Parking Lot. It is always a pleasure to have lunch at the Blue Hill Inn as all the personnel are wonderful and the food delicious."

HAPPY HIKING -Ed Sidote 5 Clinton Street, Norwich, NY 13815 ejsidote@frontiernet.net

Arts Society of Kingston's Playwrights Lab will present an Actors' Marathon

On Tuesday, January 17, at 6:30 p.m., the Arts Society of Kingston's Playwrights Lab will present an Actors' Marathon. This event will be held at ASK, 97 Broadway, in Kingston, NY. The snow date is January 24.

The ASK Playwrights Lab is dedicated to performing and discussing new work by playwrights of the region. Lewis Gardner's People I Have Known--Real and Otherwise, a collection of varied monologs, serious and comic, will have its second reading as a work-in-progress, with on-the-spot casting, rehearsal, and presentation to an audience.

All are welcome to perform, including actors from beginners to stars, as well as anyone else who wants a brief experience of acting. The material to be read is suitable for actors over 16. The audience is welcome to attend without charge.

Those who intend to perform should arrive at ASK at 6:30 p.m. for assignment of monologs. The audience will assemble at 7:00 p.m. Send an email with your name to figaro9000@gmail.com if you intend to participate.

A Christmas Drive for Cooper!



With winter's reprieve, Bob Drown took advantage of the unsalted roads on Christmas day and went for a ride in the Wayback Machine with his buddy and "co-pilot", Cooper at his side. They both wish you all a Happy New Year!

Alliance Gallery 2013 Exhibitions Call for Submissions

Alliance Gallery in Narrowsburg, NY is calling for submissions for solo, group, or curated shows in 2013. The Alliance Gallery program priority is to exhibit high quality work by professional and emerging artists who live part-time or full-time in the

Mid-Hudson, Catskill, or Upper Delaware River regions. All media and styles are considered, as are installations and proposals by curators. There is no submission fee. The deadline for submissions is Friday, January 20, 2012.

- Interested artists should submit:
- o Ten to 12 images of recent works as jpeg images on CD at 300 dpi, approximately 8" x 12", labeled with title or number only. (If your jpegs do not represent the work that you want to show, please describe your concept in a cover letter or proposal.)
 - o A one-page itemized list corresponding to the numbered slides/jpegs listing the title, medium, date, and size of each work.
 - o A one-page résumé or description of your art background.
 - o A one-page detailed proposal if your work is of a conceptual nature; or, if you are a curator, a proposal describing the curatorial concept, accompanied by support materials (i.e. images, résumés, etc.)
 - o A SASE (self-addressed, stamped envelope) for return of any materials.

Send to: Alliance Gallery, P.O. Box 170 Narrowsburg, NY 12764

Jurying is based solely on the jpegs, so it is important to submit consistent, high-quality images. As the jurors change each year, it is strongly recommended that artists keep applying even if their work has not been chosen in the past. Artists who have exhibited in one- or two-person shows at Alliance Gallery are welcome to reapply after a two-year period.

For a PDF of the Alliance Gallery submission guidelines, visit ArtsAllianceSite.org. For more information, call the gallery director Rocky Pinciotti at (845) 252-7576.

Kindergarteners become part of the story - and Whoville - at Liberty Elementary School



Whoville has sprung off the pages of How the Grinch Stole Christmas! and taken form as a model village at Liberty Elementary School. Dr. Seuss's holiday classic was recreated by LES

kindergarteners, with each student turned into a "Who" and even the Grinch, who can be found hiding out in Mount Crumpit.

Each kindergarten class read the story together, focusing on characters, setting and plot - the three main parts of a story. "The project gave the kids a chance to learn about story structure, while also putting their creative sides to work," says Kindergarten Teacher Rachel Countryman. "It was a great way to utilize a popular holiday story in an academic way, while still making it a LOT of fun."

Whoville is on display in the kindergarten wing of Liberty Elementary School through the holidays.

Locally Shot Film to be Screened at Callicoon Theater - Editor Zac Stuart-Pontier to lead Q&A

The Delaware Valley Arts Alliance (DVAA) CineArt feature for January is Martha Marcy May Marlene (R), a psychological thriller that was filmed and edited in Sullivan County last summer.



Screenings will be held at the Callicoon Theater, 30 Upper Main Street, Callicoon, NY, from Friday, January 6 through Tuesday, January 10. Screenings are at 7:30 daily with

additional 2 p.m. matinees on Saturday and Sunday. The film's editor, Zac Stuart-Pontier, will be available for a Q&A following the Saturday evening screening.

Written and directed by Sean Durkin, the film stars Elizabeth Olsen and John Hawkes both of whom have garnered rave reviews for their performances

"It seems appropriate that this film was booked for DVAA's CineArt series," says Executive Director Elaine Giguere, "because Zac did his editing upstairs in the Delaware Arts Center in Narrowsburg over the summer."

"I'm very excited about the film being screened at the Callicoon Theater," says Stuart-Pontier. "I've always loved seeing movies there and it's exciting to



Happy New Year!

Thanks to everyone for your support during our first 8 months. We will continue to be open 7 days a week throughout the winter and look forward to welcoming you for breakfast (which now includes oatmeal with toppings), lunch (our chicken and veggie pot pies are our latest hit), and dinner (don't forget our weekend specials). Here's to a peaceful, pie-filled and tasty 2012!

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bring Martha Marcy May Marlene back to the area where it was shot. Sullivan County looks great on film."

Co-sponsored by Callicoon Theater and Delaware Valley Arts Alliance (DVAA), CineArt brings independent and foreign films to Sullivan County audiences. A percentage of admissions and \$1 per person helps to support DVAA programs in the visual, performing, literary and media arts.

Admission is \$9 (\$6 for children) or \$7 on Monday nights and matinees.

For more information call the Callicoon Theater at 887-4460.

Pageant Sign Up Dates Announced

January 15 and January 29 are the official sign up dates for the 2012 Sullivan County International Pageant. Sign-up headquarters is the Liberty Fitness Center on North Main Street in Liberty. Sign up times are from 2 to 2:45 p.m.

The Pageant will be held this year on April 7 at 4 p.m. at the Villa Roma Resort.

Pageant Director Jane Malara noted that they will then meet every other Sunday during the months of February and March at the same location to rehearse the opening number and to have the contestants practice walking and to work on their public speaking.

Malara pointed out that this Pageant is "far from a beauty contest and the pageant system encourages contestants to embrace the mission which is to 'Make A Difference' "

The pageant is a stepping stone that provides a vehicle of opportunity for ladies in Sullivan County.

The Teen, Miss and Mrs. winners of this pageant have their entry paid into the preliminary for the New York International Pageant which is held annually at the Villa Roma Resort and if they win that pageant their entry fee is paid for entry in the International Pageant in Chicago.

The Sullivan County International Pageant has contestants ranging from age 5 through 56 and they crown 5 title holders, Young Miss Sullivan County, Pre-Teen Sullivan County, Teen Sullivan County International, Miss Sullivan County International and Mrs. Sullivan County International.

Ms. Malara said the pageant is "looking for girls of good moral value and ethical standards to become the 2012 title holders and the Teen Miss and Mrs. will be required to have a platform which consists of a cause that they will promote and support during their rein."

This years pageant will be donating proceeds to St. Jude's Children's research which requires \$1.7 million dollars a day to run their hospital. The hospital also has a policy that they will never turn down a patient who is unable to pay for the services.

The Pageant director is looking for dress/gown/attire donations for contestants who can't afford them.

Advertising space is also available for the Pageant color booklet which is distributed the day of the pageant and names of advertising sponsors will also appear on the Pageant website.

Information is available by calling the Ms. Malara at 845-665-2080.

Thorn Winter's SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY FLASH

The Day The World Went Away

By Thorn Winter

One cold, fall morning, while hiking through the rocky woods on Peekamoos Mountain, I spotted above me two lintels of cyclopean stone which stood rooted amidst the dry autumn leaves and dormant trees. Atop those two giant columns of rock loomed a monstrous arch wrought of silver and decorated with reliefs of demons and devils. The ferocious faces of the supernatural creatures were locked in battle poses of eternal combat. A leafy, red vine roped and twisted its way up the lintels and wrapped about the arch, shivering in the chill breeze which blew down the mountain-side. It was a wind that weaved in and out of the trees, howling like an invisible spirit. The area was unnaturally quiet, and no squirrels or birds were within my perception.

I climbed higher and closer to that strange portal, drawn to its vast, sylvan antiquity. As I came within a few meters of it, I felt an odd, tickling sensation in my brain - like a vibrating tuning fork painlessly inserted into my right frontal lobe. The sensation was accompanied by a barely perceivable sound of a very high frequency, such as one might hear and feel when entering an empty, silent room in which a muted television or other highly electrified, but otherwise silent device was switched on. And though my vision became more clear and focused, I felt a strangeness come over me - like a first shot of whiskey - which halted my advance toward the obviously ancient portal. As I focused upon discerning

the source of the strange, almost inaudible sound, the depths of my brain continued to vibrate in a manner that most certainly matched the strange sonic frequency and I began to feel even more euphoric, yet all the more awake. I stepped forward, toward the cyclopean portal, and upon reaching it I placed my hand upon its vine entangled stone. I was shocked to find it so warm to the touch that it burned my skin, in contrast to the chill autumn air of the woodland mountainside. I closed my eyes and listened to the sound; felt its vibration growing within me like a swarm of fruit flies, filling my skull and tingling through my body.

I was certain that the stone was the source of both the sound and the sensation. I leaned upon the rock lintels as my senses and balance reeled under the euphoric assault. The world around me shook like jelly and had the look of heat rising from the road in midsummer. I closed my eyes and a feeling of extreme vertigo flooded over me, expanding the darkness behind my sealed eyelids. It made me feel slightly nauseous, but I dared not open my eyes and risk losing the mysterious, dreamlike feeling - the feeling that the whole world had just gone away and let me be.

Blindly, holding my hands before me as my guides, I felt my way between the cyclopean lintels and beneath the silver archway. The cold breeze rose into a roaring, frigid gale as I stepped forward through the portal. I walked into the powerful wind, like traversing the bottom of a honey filled jar. Then, all at once, the resistance ceased and I fell forward under the force of my efforts. Instinctively my eyes opened as my feet jumped to get back under me. Though I felt foolishly clumsy, I was shocked to find that the forest, the entire mountain, and even the world it was a part of was gone and that I now stood in a dark cavernous void-darker than dark, vaster than all time and space, and heavier than a million black suns.

My sense of smell was assaulted by the odor of rot and death, so much so that I wretched in the pitch-blackness and left the contents of my stomach somewhere upon the unseen ground-ground that shifted like a triple thick layer of marbles beneath my boots. I reached down through the oppressive darkness and touched the earth at my feet, grabbing a handful of what felt like small stones. As I shook them in my palm, I felt a pinch and the lasting burn of a sting and instinctively dropped them. In my mind I saw them as large black beetles and I heard them crackle and chirp as they crawled over one another and across my boots. I felt a tickle on my forearm and brushed something away. I could still hear the high-pitched sound vibrating in my brain and just at the limit of my cochlear sensitivity. It came from everywhere around me, even from within me. My heart pounded with fear and delight.

I had no means of telling how large the cavern I assumed I was in, or if there were any exits back to the surface. I took a crunchy, nervous step forward into the unknown, Stygian world, and as the sole of my boot settled into the peanut shell floor, I heard a distantly echoing and very deep drum beat one time.

Something crawled across my belly - beneath my shirt - and I clawed at it blindly as my skin paled with cold fear and my core locked tight with anxiety. I dared not breathe

without motion, as though no breeze disturbed its combustion. A hushed chant wafted to me through the void like a tendril of misty smoke from the violet flame.

"Om sha omiz mardar def omiz," whispered a thousand voices.

The sound caused my head to ache and my right eye began to feel painfully strained. My loathly euphoria and the absolute darkness produced within and about me a heavy, detached feeling of lonely despair. The low thud of the primitive drumming reverberated off of the unseen walls of the cavernous void and shook my heart within my chest while the strange chant continued.

"Om sha omiz mardar def omiz," said the thousand voices.

The faint, purple light of the flame promised safety, like the moon looks to a man trapped beneath ice, and I, with my pulse racing and my mind reeling on the edge of sanity, ran toward that ultraviolet fire. I wondered if some bottomless chasm or other unseen hazard lay in my path, but to fall up, or down, or forward or backward is still just falling. And so I ran.

The crunch, crunch, crunch of my steps, though not intentionally, was in perfect time with the drumming, four steps to a beat. I was startled when my hands, stretched in front of me, suddenly made contact with a warm, soft, fleshy, and alive thing.

A woman's witch-like scream, filled with surprised terror, issued forth from the thing I wrapped my fingers around. I felt in the dark, and was sure I touched human skin - skin laid delicately over the bones of a slender and feminine shoulder. I was not alone in that black abyss, and as if by instinct, I reached out blindly and wrapped my arms around her, pulling her tightly to me.

"It's all right," I told her, pretending it was she who needed comforting. She buried her face in my chest and returned my embrace with her arms wrapped around me tightly. For a moment we stood together taking blind comfort in each other. Our faces touched in the darkness and we found each other's lips, sharing an unseen but fire filled kiss. And for a moment the darkness did not matter.

Our lips parted, and I felt the nubile, sweet smelling girl's slender form slip from my arms. "You don't know me," she whispered in the void. "I've been to the purple fire. I know what those terrible words mean." We stood unseen before each other, in the darkness, as the chant echoed around us, like a choir of broken whispers.

"Om sha omiz mardar def omiz." I could feel her heat and her flesh and but couldn't see her as she said slowly, her voice shaking with anxious grief. "I am the Outer Gods, the Shadow of Reality."

The words were followed by a sharp sob and I felt her nails dig tightly into the flesh of my hand. "I can't," she screamed, pulling her hand from me as though it were I who gripped her. There was a moment of only the drumming, the chanting, and the phantom sound, and then I heard the crunch, crunch, crunch of her running away from me into the underworld - away from the purple light - in the direction I had come from.

I listened until I could hear her no footsteps no longer. Whether she really was a woman, lost here as I was, or some other diabolical thing sent to haunt and play tricks on me I shall never know. I felt a deep sense of loss.

A sudden energy filled me, a soaring feeling like I could do anything. I ran after her, trying to find her so we might escape the lightless abyss together, or at least share each other's company in that black hell. I ran, shouting, "Woman, come to me!" But I found nothing, seeing only the alluring purple flame and hearing only the drum -- and the chant that I now comprehended the meaning of. I stopped running and caught my breath in the lightless black.

"Om sha omiz mardar def omiz," the thousand voices toned.

I began to wonder what other words such an alien language might speak and what power sentences formed of those words might hold. (Contd. Pg. 15)

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too loudly as I peered futilely through around me in the fathomless black - lest something larger than insects detected me.

The single drumbeat was followed by another and then a slow rhythm began sounding once for every two of my heart beats.

Doom.
Doom.
Doom.

As I listened, filled with terror, I saw ahead of me, far off in the darkness, a tiny, purple flame that burned

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

January 2, 2012

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg
City Hall
New York, NY 10007
Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

I write to personally invite you to tour with me and discuss the many serious issues caused by or exacerbated by the NYC DEP here in Ulster County, the source of much of your municipality's water. The NYC DEP is presently operating much like an occupying nation within our County - extracting the natural resource of clean water while simultaneously polluting our waterways and causing massive regional economic hardships. I implore you to see firsthand the damage being wrought by NYC DEP's broken policies and out of balance bureaucratic influence.

My administration has made countless attempts to work with the NYC DEP to correct these injustices. Unfortunately, they have continued to place NYC's short term water costs far ahead of the health and welfare of the citizens of Ulster County. Simply put, our water is being polluted, our people are being disadvantaged and to add insult to injury the taxpayers of Ulster County are being forced to subsidize NYC water rates as a result of "no win" legal proceedings. Rural towns, with limited resources, must choose between driving themselves to the brink of bankruptcy to defend against annual tax litigation or settle with the result that the NYC DEP pays far less than their fair share of property taxes. This action ultimately shifts the burden for NYC water costs to local Ulster County taxpayers and it is fundamentally wrong.

The people of Ulster County fully appreciate the importance of providing water to their neighbors, the millions of NYC residents and businesses. That being said, the balance between providing that water and protecting our pristine environment, our economy and our taxpayers has been grossly manipulated by the NYC DEP and unfairly tilted in NYC's favor.

As the Mayor of the one of the greatest cities in the world, you have the ability to bring justice to this situation and make things right. Your appearance would also send a strong message that you are concerned about where your water comes from and the people you are impacting. This untenable situation should not be allowed to exist between any municipalities in the United States of America. As such, I urge you to make this matter a top priority in order to address this potential flashpoint of an upstate vs. downstate conflict that is presently undermining our collective desire for "one" New York State. I firmly believe that you have the ability to bring forth long overdue solutions that will better serve the citizens of both of our respective municipalities, as well as our State, and our environment, for generations to come.

Kindly advise when you are available, and I will gladly arrange a tour and meeting at your convenience. I look forward to working with you to bring resolution to these long standing issues.

Sincerely,

Mike Hein County Executive

cc: Charles E. Schumer, United States Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand, United States Senator Maurice D. Hinchey, United States Congressman William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Senator John J. Bonacic, New York State Senator Kevin A. Cahill, New York State Assemblymember Clifford W. Crouch, New York State Assemblymember Pete Lopez, New York State Assemblymember Ulster County Legislators

Joe Martens, Commissioner, New York City Dept. of Environmental Conservation Carter Strickland, Commissioner, New York City Dept. of Environmental Protection Paul Gallay, Executive Director, Riverkeeper Mary McNamara, Lower Esopus Watershed Partnership

December 14, 2011

Christina Countryman
15 Rast Road
Shokan, NY 12481
Dear Ms. Countryman:


I am writing on behalf of the SUNY Sullivan Board of Trustees in response to your inquiry regarding the recent DEC hearing held on the Campus of SUNY Sullivan. While we are sincerely sympathetic to any discomfort you might have experienced while attending the DEC public hearings at the College, we want you to understand that SUNY Sullivan was only the venue for the hearings. The DEC contacted us and requested permission to hold the hearings at the College. We explained to the DEC representative that we had a number of concerns: classes were in session, a theater with limited seating capacity, limited parking, other facilities that were already committed for two sporting events, and crowd control issues. Our primary responsibility has always been and will always be the safety of our students and the protection of our facilities.

The DEC acknowledged our concerns but informed us that they had a protocol in place with specific guidelines to run the hearing. The DEC, not the College, determined how participants would be granted entrance to the College and the theater, etc. In addition, the DEC arranged for the security for the event and the peace officers were given very spe-

cific instructions to follow. The DEC appeared confident that, given their experience with previous hearings, they were in a good position to mitigate any concerns or issues that might develop. Therefore, we deferred to the DEC and allowed the hearings to be held on the Campus.

Thank you for bringing this to our attention.

Sincerely,



Chairman, Board of Trustees
SUNY Sullivan

Assemblymember Cahill Provides Foundation for Clearwater/Maritime Partnership - Hudson River Sloop Clearwater and Hudson River Maritime Museum to Receive Additional Funding for Port Improvement Project

A project between the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater and the Hudson River Maritime Museum has been selected to receive funding from the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Committee. The funds will be dedicated to building a two story timber frame boat building barn on the Rondout Creek. Assemblymember Kevin Cahill (D - Ulster, Dutchess) was responsible for laying the foundation for the partnership by securing a \$125,000 grant for the purposes of improving the port and fostering a relationship between the Maritime Museum and the Clearwater. The funding helped to get the project off the ground and gave the application for the competitively awarded Regional Funds a leg up.

"Here along the majestic Hudson, we are bringing together two organizations who demonstrate that history, education, environmental preservation and economic development can work hand-in-hand," said Assemblymember Cahill. "I have long been advocating for this project and I am pleased to see that the State stepped up to the plate to bring us closer to construction."

The new \$400,000 award, which is administered through the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, is a significant contribution to the project. Once the barn is erected, it will be used for environmental education programming, public green infrastructure trainings, community boat building, maritime history lectures and exhibits.

"This revitalized site is symbolic of the Hudson River's rebirth. The Maritime Museum and Clearwater both give testament to the 'living history' of the Hudson River, from the booming commercial trades of coal, brick and bluestone, to its growing reputation as a recreational paradise," said Assemblymember Cahill. "The cooperative effort of these two groups offers a first-hand opportunity to learn about the past and bask in the present."

"The partnership between Clearwater and the Hudson River Maritime Museum is going to make a big difference on the Kingston waterfront. These grants give us the opportunity to better serve the local community. This building is the catalyst for a number of new youth programs we are developing. In addition, we've got plans to make this a year-round destination, to draw people in for the cultural and heritage experience they can have here summer or winter. This is just the beginning of really good things," said Kate Mitchell, Executive Director of the Hudson River Maritime Museum.

"Both organizations are extremely grateful to the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and to Assemblyman Cahill for making this wonderful project possible. It will benefit all New Yorkers lucky enough to visit the site, but it will especially benefit the people of the Hudson Valley," said Dr. John Weeks, Chair of the Barn Building Committee and Hudson River Maritime Museum Board Member.

Hinchey Announces Service Academy Nominations for Class of 2016

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced his nominees to the U.S. service academies for the Class of 2016. After a thorough examination process in which his office reviewed numerous applications, Hinchey selected 23 local high school students whom he believes would excel at the U.S. Air Force, Military, Naval and Merchant Marine Academies.

"Every year it is such a great honor to nominate young men and women from our area to our nation's service academies," Hinchey said. "The 23 nominees this year underwent a thorough review and application process. Their dedication to community and country is without question. They have excelled in scholastics, physical fitness and extracurricular activities. They represent the very best of what our area has to offer to our prestigious service academies, and I wish them all the very best with the rest of the application process."

The selection process for the nominees was based on each student's scholastic record, physical fitness, extracurricular activities, professional recommendations and a personal interview. The process is highly competitive and the admissions departments of the service academies make the final decision on acceptance.

The names of Hinchey's nominees are listed by academy:

United States Air Force Academy:

Tyler Allen of Endicott - Union Endicott High School; Colin Chateau of Wallkill - Wallkill Senior High School; Ethan Stanley of Saugerties - Saugerties Senior High School; Kristian Tialios of Mount Tremper - Onteora High School; Vincent

Webbe of Liberty - Liberty High School

United States Military Academy

Margaret Anderson of Poughkeepsie - Poughkeepsie High School; Amanda Berthoff of Liberty - Liberty High School; Jack Crowley of Wallkill - Wallkill High School; Brian Doyle of Johnson City - Johnson City High School; Joseph Giordano III of Newburgh - New York Military Academy; David Hart of Endwell - Seton Catholic Central; Brian Hazen of Glen Spey - Eldred Junior Senior High School; John Karluk of Binghamton - Binghamton High School; Dustin Vellenga of Middletown - Chapel Field Christian High School; George Walter of Modena - Wallkill High School;

United States Merchant Marine Academy

Keigan Thompson of Middletown - Pine Bush High School

United States Naval Academy

Dylan Bonitz of Ellenville - Ellenville High School; Brandon Marcello of Apalachin - Vestal Senior High School; Vincent Mentasana of Highland - Highland High School; Megan Rausch of Glen Spey - Home School and SUNY Maritime College; Chad Rogers of Newburgh - Brooks School; Corey Strom of Endicott - Union Endicott High School; Eric Wellman of Wallkill - Wallkill Senior High School

Members of the House and Senate may nominate eligible candidates for appointments to the nation's service academies. Senators nominate applicants statewide, while representatives, such as Hinchey, nominate applicants only from the congressional district they represent.

Students who are interested in being nominated by Hinchey in the future should first contact the service academy of their choice during their junior year in high school and then request a nomination from the congressman's office shortly thereafter. The deadline for the Class of 2017 nominations is October 19, 2012. For more information on the application process, students and parents are encouraged to visit Hinchey's website page on academy nominations at:

<http://hinchey.house.gov>

POLITICAL SLANT- Frank Comando - The Presidential Race

New Hampshire has literally become the second home for Mitt Romney, In swing Ohio, Gingrich gaining the "not-Romneys." Ron Paul has momentum in his favor now. With the Iowa State's GOP residential caucuses on January 3, 2012, and the New Hampshire primary on January 10, it is a good place for the libertarian congressional representative from Texas to be. His undeniable grassroots appeal cuts across a "wide berth" of ideologies. However, I cannot understand how Ron Paul's statement of lowering or removing the minimum wage, will help the low income worker. It just does not make sense. Lower the income of our workers in an already oppressed economy, while the corporations have tax breaks and US government research and development funds, that were taken from Social Security, as Reagan did, to build the B-2 Bomber.

How far will the ethics of cooperate "bottom line" merchants go? Well let us consider their choice to invest in "Dead Peasant" Insurance?

What is "Dead Peasant" Insurance?

Dead Peasant Insurance is sometimes used as a shorthand reference for life insurance policies that insure a company's rank-and-file employees and name the company as the beneficiary. This means that the company receives the life insurance benefits when the covered employees die. The family gets nothing. This insurance may also be called "janitor insurance."

How did it get the name "Dead Peasant" insurance?

Winn Dixie Stores bought life insurance policies on approximately 36,000 of its employees, without their knowledge or consent, and named itself as the policies' beneficiary. The insurance brokerage firm that placed the policies prepared two memos describing the deceased employees as "Dead Peasants." These memos were part of the court's record in a lawsuit in which the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit held that Winn-Dixie's policies were a sham transaction for federal income tax purposes. The memos were later used by reporters such as Ellen Schultz and Theo Francis of the Wall Street Journal and L.M. Sixel of the Houston Chronicle and incorporated into articles about this type of insurance.

That is how far they will go, and maybe further. Capitalism with regulations, and unions are needed to cure the countries problems, and the health and well-being of its workers. We must keep corporations from becoming monopolies; our corporations must consider the people they touch and regulations to keep them fair and equitable.

It was also nice to hear that the corporations refer to the working class as "Peasants." Sounds like the old British Aristocracies coming back. Feudalism? Nay? It must be a new conspiracy theory? Right!

To have your comments and/or questions, (space allowing) posted, or answered here Email politicalslant@yahoo.com.

Have something to say send it; it must be less than 200 words, e-mail politicalslant@yahoo.com.

Obituaries (From Pg. 2)

Vernon "Bud" Edwin Stratton, a retired District Foreman for the City of New York, Grahamsville Office and farmer, passed away peacefully on December 4, 2011 at Ellenville Regional Hospital. He was 83. The son of the late Harry A. and Blanche Pierce Stratton, he was born January 25, 1928 in Paterson, NJ.

He grew up in Totowa, NJ and spent his summers in Grahamsville. He attended Passaic Valley High School, where he was a member of their school band and marching band. He played both the baritone horn and trombone. He joined the Army after High School, where he continued his love for music by touring with the Army band. He was a World War II Veteran receiving an honorable discharge in 1947. After his discharge he attended Rutgers University and graduated in 1952 with a BS degree in Agriculture. On June 5, 1954 he married Charlotte Coombe and together they operated a dairy farm for 22 years, and each held a full time job. Bud loved his animals and they all had names. He also enjoyed working in his vegetable garden and planting fruit trees. He was past President and member of the Tri-Valley Central School Board of Education, a member of Liberty Masonic Lodge 521 and 4H board member of Cornell Cooperative Extension for many years.

He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 57 years, Charlotte Stratton; his four children: Lynn McDonald of Grahamsville, Vernon Stratton Jr and wife, Cindy of Missoula, MT, Elaine Iatauro and husband, Joseph of Grahamsville, and Laurie Clark and husband, Trendell of Chesterfield, VA; four grandchildren: Christopher and David McDonald, Joseph Iatauro and wife, Amy, Heather Iatauro-Mowles and husband, Greg; one great grandchild, Haley Lynn Iatauro; sister, Audrey Schweitzer of NJ; sisters-in-law, Phyllis Gillette, Marilyn Stewart and husband, Bill; brothers-in-law, Philip Coombe Jr and wife, Carolyn, Richard Coombe and wife, Phyllis, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, Harry Stratton; sons-in-law, Wesley

Moshier and Dr. Harold McDonald, and brother-in-law, John Gillette.

Funeral Services were held at the Grahamsville Reformed Church with Rev. Paul Z. Ruter officiating and interment with full military honors will follow in the Grahamsville Cemetery.

Frederick W. Gilles, Sr. of Grahamsville passed away on Monday, December 12, 2011. He was 68. He was born January 19, 1943 in Monticello, NY, the son of the late Waldemar and Emily Ratz Gilles.

He proudly served our country in the United States Army from 1961-1964. He was an iron worker at Local #38. He enjoyed spending time outdoors and hunting. He was a loving husband and father and will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him.

He is survived by his wife, Linda Sheley-Gilles and their children, Amy and Amber Gilles. He is also survived by his children: Frederick Gilles Jr., Eric "Ricky" Gilles and Ginger Gilles and their mother, Linda Gilles; three grandchildren: Frederick, Raychel and Jonathon Gilles; one sister, Margaret Shear and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at Colonial Memorial Funeral Home on December 18th and interment was at the convenience of the family.

Michael Allen Comfort, Sr. of Liberty, NY, a bus driver for Rolling V Bus Corporation, Fallsburg, NY, and a lifelong area resident, died Sunday, December 25, 2011. He was 41. The son of Richard W. Comfort and the late Patricia A. Krom Comfort, he was born October 6, 1970 in Ellenville, NY.

Survivors include his father, Richard W. Comfort and his wife, Leanne of Roscoe, NY; one son, Michael A. Comfort, Jr. of Loch Sheldrake, NY, and two daughters, Megan Comfort of Loch Sheldrake, and MaKenna Davis of Middletown, NY; one brother, Richard P. Comfort of Huntington Beach, CA; one sister, Christina M. Jones and her husband, Ken of Durham, NC; his grandmother, Mae Comfort of Napanoch, NY; his nieces and nephews: Ryan, Jason,

and Daniel Penfield of Durham, NC, Amanda Whipple of Liberty, NY, and Kennedy Linson of Huntington Beach, CA; his aunts and uncles: Floyd "Sonny" Krom, Peter Krom, Paul Krom, Colleen St. John, and Sharen Krom, and several cousins.

He was predeceased by his mother, Patricia A. Krom Comfort; his grandfathers, Richard J. Comfort and Floyd Krom; his grandmothers, Doris Krom and Helen Sheeley; one uncle, Allen Krom, and one aunt, Donna Davis.

ERH Holds Community Blood Drive to Help Boost Regional Blood Supply

In an effort to increase the regional blood supply, Ellenville Regional Hospital will hold a community blood drive with the American Red Cross. The drive will be held on Thursday, January 12, 2012 from 12:00 - 5:00pm at Ellenville Regional Hospital.

In 2011, the American Red Cross responded to an unprecedented number of disasters- delivering help and hope to people affected by floods, tornadoes and wildfires. But there's another kind of disaster which can happen to any of us at any time if we need blood and it's not available. Right now, the Red Cross is facing a critical blood shortage and needs your help. You can help by donating blood. Giving blood is easy. It only takes about an hour, and a single donation can help save up to three lives. Give to someone in immediate need - it could be a friend, a neighbor, or a stranger. The need is constant, the gratification is instant. Give blood.

To make an appointment to give blood, call 845 647-6400 ext. 350. All donors at the Blood Drive will receive a coupon for a free pound of Dunkin Donuts coffee, courtesy of the Red Cross!

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TIME & THE VALLEYS MUSEUM
GRAHAMSVILLE, NY

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

timeandthevalleymuseum.org

The Hurleyville and Woodridge United Methodist Churches invite you to weekly worship:
9 am in Hurlyville, 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

WINTER HOURS FOR ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL
The Little Church with the Big Heart
Sundays, 3 pm: Communion
Music by Susan and Fred Van Wagner
Coffee hour follows service
All are welcome!
For Information: Mother Joan LaLiberté 845-887-4742
5277 State Rt. 42 South Fallsburg

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

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

Covered Dish Supper
January 7, 2012 5:30 pm
Sundown United Methodist Church
at the Sundown Church Hall

Grahamsville United Methodist Church
Jan 21, 2012
Thrift Sale Only 9 am-1 pm

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.

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

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

LEGAL/PUBLIC NOTICES**TAX COLLECTOR LEGAL NOTICE:**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that I, Lisa Garigliano, Tax Collector for the Town of Neversink, County of Sullivan and the State of New York, will collect taxes according to the following schedule:

MONDAY thru FRIDAY: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM (excluding holidays) at the: TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE LOCATED IN THE NEVERSINK TOWN HALL, 273 MAIN ST. (RT. 55), GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740, PHONE: (845) 985-2262 x307

SATURDAY: Neversink Town Hall on the following date: January 28, 2012 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Taxes collected until the 31st day of January, 2012 without interest. All taxes postmarked after January 31, 2012 will be subject to late penalties as listed below. **LATE PAYMENT PENALTIES ARE STRICTLY ENFORCED.**

SCHEDULE OF FEES:

Jan. 1 - Jan. 31 No Penalty
Feb. 1 - Feb. 29 1% of Tax Amount
Mar. 1 - Mar. 31 2% of Tax Amount, plus \$2.00 unpaid notice fee; sent 3/2

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Lisa Garigliano, Tax Collector

TO PAY BY MAIL IN FULL: Send **ENTIRE TAX BILL** with payment to: Lisa Garigliano, Tax Collector, PO Box 307, Grahamsville, NY 12740.

• Upon receipt of payment the top portion of your tax bill will be marked paid and returned to you for your records. It is for this reason that it is **important to return the entire bill.**

INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN: May be paid as follows:

- January - 50% due by 1/31/2012 at 0% interest. Send "Payment #1" stub with your check.
- February - 25% due by 2/29/2012 at 1% interest. Send "Payment #2" stub with your check.
- March - 25% due by 3/31/2012 at 2% interest plus \$2.00 unpaid notice fee. Send entire bill.
- Receipts will be mailed to you after every payment

SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING DISPOSAL FEE:

The County has imposed an annual fee to pay for solid waste/recycling disposal. This fee appears as a separate line item on your tax bill and is payable along with the tax. Please direct all questions to the County Treasurer's office at (845) 807-0200.

AFTER MARCH 31st: TAXES ARE PAYABLE TO COUNTY TREASURER; CALL (845) 807-0200 FOR AMOUNT DUE OR CONTACT THEM AT: Sullivan County Treasurer's Office, 100 North St., PO Box 5012, Monticello, NY 12701.

• If you no longer own this property, please return bill to collector with the new owner's name and address; or forward the bill to the rightful owner.

• If your address has changed, please note your correct mailing address, along with your SBL# and return it with your tax bill.

• You may obtain a duplicate tax bill/receipt or check the status of your payment via the Internet at www.taxlookup.net/neversink.

For information regarding Veteran's, Senior Citizens or Star Exemptions please contact the Town of Neversink Assessor's Office:
Gene Froehlich (845) 985-2262 x 323
Joan McNeill (845) 985-2262 x 319
Hours are Mon. to Thur. 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Or by Mail at: PO Box 307, Grahamsville, NY 12740.

12/15: 1/5/11

TAX COLLECTOR'S NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF TAX ROLL AND WARRANT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that I, Joy Ann Monforte, Tax Collector for the Town of Denning, Ulster County, State of New York, have received the tax roll and warrant for the collection of taxes within the Town of Denning for the year 2012.

Taxes will be collected at the Denning Town Hall, 1567 Denning Road, Claryville, N.Y. 12725 on Monday thru Thursday from 8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M., and at the Catskill Hudson Bank, in the Carrie D's Plaza, Route 55, Neversink, N.Y. 12765 and by mail to the Town of Denning P.O. Box 277, Claryville, N.Y. 12725.

Taxes will also be collected on Sunday January 29th, 2012 from 1 P.M. to 4 P.M. at the Denning Town Hall.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that taxes may be paid on or before the 31st day of January without interest. On all taxes received after such date there shall be added interest of one percent of the amount of the unpaid taxes for each month or fraction thereof until taxes are paid or until the return of unpaid taxes to the Ulster County Department of Finance pursuant to law.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that pursuant to the provisions of law, the tax roll for the Town of Denning will be returned to the Ulster County Finance Commissioner on the date of expiration of the Collector's Warrant for 2012.

Joy Ann Monforte
Tax Collector
Town of Denning

**TOWN OF NEVERSINK
2012 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2012 at 7:00 PM**

Please be advised that the Annual Organizational meeting of the Town of Neversink Town Board for the year 2012 will be held on January 5, 2012 at the Town of Neversink Town Hall, Grahamsville at 7:00 PM.

The purpose of the meeting is to make appointments, set salaries and compensations, establish policies and procedures as well as any other matter that may legally come before the Board.

Lisa Garigliano, Town Clerk

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT, the following policy for use of the Town Transfer Station will be in effect for the year 2012

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Wednesday 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Saturday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

(Excluding Holidays. Changes in the Hours of Operation will be posted as necessary)

ALLOWABLE USERS:

Residents of the Town of Neversink
Commercial Businesses Located in the Town of Neversink
Not For Profit Organizations Located in the Town of Neversink.

ALLOWABLE USE:

The following items generated within the Town of Neversink will be accepted at the Transfer Station:

- Solid Waste - Coupon Books \$15.00
- C D (Construction Demolition Debris) Coupon Books \$30.00
- Tires - Price varies by size
- Refrigerators & Air Conditioners - Freon Removal Fee \$10.00
- Television Set (all display types) - NO FEE
- Computer/Monitors - NO FEE
- Miscellaneous Electronics - NO FEE
- Fluorescent Lamps (Bulbs) - \$1.00 each
- Recyclables, Scrap Metal - Free

ANNUAL PERMIT:

Allowable users must obtain an Annual Permit from the Town Clerk's Office. A Permit must be obtained for each individual residence and business. If two residences, two businesses or a residence and business are located on the same parcel, each must have its own annual permit.

The Permit will serve as Proof of Residency in the Town of Neversink. The staff at the Town Clerk's office will review residency proof before issuing a Permit. The Permit would need to be shown upon the request a Transfer Station Attendant. In addition to being used for I.D. purposes, the Permit will be punched during Spring Cleanup as well as for the free tire disposal program. Each permit holder is entitled to dispose of 4 tires at no charge. Tires must be off the rims. No large equipment tires will be accepted for the free tire program. To continue to keep our fees low, the Town asks that no items are brought into the Transfer Station from locations outside the Town of Neversink.

FEES FOR ANNUAL PERMIT:

- Permit Card: \$5.00 Check or cash at Town Hall only.
- Replacement Permit Card: \$2.00 Check or cash at Town Hall only.

TRANSFER STATION COUPONS:

- **SW (Solid Waste):** \$15.00 per Booklet of 15 coupons - individual coupons are not sold. A 30 gallon bag of garbage will require 1 coupon. Old coupons will still be accepted, but will require 2 coupons per 30 gallon bag. Coupons may be purchased at Town Hall or at the Transfer Station by check.
- **CD (Construction & Demolition Debris):** \$30.00 per Booklet - purchased at the Town Hall ONLY. (Payable by check or cash). Each coupon is valued at \$2.00. Individual Coupons are not sold. Old coupons will still be acceptable and will be valued at \$1.00. A list of costs of individual items such as furniture, carpeting, etc. is available at the Town Hall. CD disposal can also be paid for at the Transfer Station by check.
- **TIRES:** Rims must be removed. 16 inches or smaller are \$5.00. 17 to 20 inches are \$6.00. Over 20 inches are \$22.00. There will be an extra \$3.00 charge per tire for tires brought to the Transfer Station on rims. Payment at the Transfer Station by check only.

• **FREE TIRE PROGRAM:** Each permit holder is entitled to dispose of 4 tires at no charge. Tires must be off the rims. No large equipment tires will be accepted for the free tire program.

• **REFRIGERATORS, FREEZERS, AIR CONDITIONERS & DEHUMIDIFIERS:** There will be a \$10.00 Freon removal fee when disposing of these items. This fee can be paid at the Town Hall or at the Transfer Station by check.

• **RECYCLE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FREE OF CHARGE:** Bottles, Tin Cans, Plastics & Clean Aluminum Cans, Cardboard, Newspapers, Mixed Paper, Scrap Metal, Used Motor Oil and Used Clothing. There are also bins for Deposit Bottles; the proceeds will go to various civic causes.

USING THE TRANSFER STATION:

Persons entering the Transfer Station must show the Annual Permit Card to attendant **BEFORE** depositing items. Attendants will answer any questions with regard to fees and disposal of items.

NEVERSINK TRANSFER STATION NEWS

2012 Transfer Station Permits will go on sale at the Town Clerk's Office on Tuesday, January 3, 2012. The cost of the permit is \$5.00. Coupons may be purchased at the Town Hall or at the Transfer Station. Just remember that to purchase coupons at the Transfer Station you must have your 2012 permit and are required to pay by check, NO CASH will be taken. The Town Hall is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, excluding holidays. The Town Hall will also be open on Saturday, January 28, 2012 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm for the payment of taxes and the sale of permits and coupons. If you have any questions regarding the Transfer Station please stop by or give us a call at 985-2262 x 300 or 307.

Town of Neversink Parks & Recreation Department
www.townofneversink.org
 (845) 985-2262 extension 312

Watch the *Townsmen* for future events of hosted by the Town of Neversink Parks and Recreation Department.

Don't forget FREE FUN every FRIDAY afternoon 1- 4 pm in the upstairs meeting room in the Neversink Town Hall.



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.

AL-ANON MEETINGS -

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

Monday 7:00 p.m. United Methodist Church, 170 N. Main Street, Liberty

Thursday 7:00 p.m. Immaculate Conception Church Annex, 6317 Rt 42, Woodbourne

Saturday 8:00 p.m. United Methodist Church, 170 N. Main Street, Liberty

Frost Valley YMCA Winter Break Day Camp

December 26 - 30th

Bus will be provided from:

Great American-Liberty: 8:00am/5:25pm
 Neversink Bus Garage: 8:20am/5:05pm
 Tri-Valley School: 8:35am/4:45pm

FLASH- The Day The World Went Away (From Pg. 10) I turned toward the purple flame and began walking toward it once again, through the dark void, journeying endlessly as unknown days went by. I met other things in the dark - monstrous things whose visage I was certain, had I been able to see, would have driven me mad. And I told them the meaning of the chant, but no more.

"I am the Outer Gods," I said. "The Shadow of Reality."

The memory of the woman I loved for a few drumbeats in that black abyss never faded-and the flame never came nearer.

Greetings True Believers!

This was one from the hip by Your's Truly to fill in the holiday gap for my writers. Happy Holidays and a prosperous new year! Special thanks to our Production Assistant Kaitlyn Eniel for all your hard work!

If you'd like to support this column, and the Authors who write for it, by purchasing advertising that targets science fiction and fantasy fans, email thornwinter@gmail.com.

If you are an Author of Science Fiction and Fantasy and you'd like to see your story in TW's SFFF, send your manuscript of 1,000 words or less to thornwinter@gmail.com. Please allow 30 days before resubmitting or inquiring.

- 1/7/12 **Sundown Methodist Church Covered Dish Supper** - 5:30 pm Sundown Church Hall
- 1/10/12 Caring for Caregivers at Daniel Pierce Library 6 pm
- 1/11/12 Town of Neversink Board Meeting.
- 1/12/12 Dept. of Motor Vehicles Neversink Town Hall 10:00 am - 2:30 p.m.
- 1/15/12 Claryville Fire Dept. **Pancake Breakfast** 7 am - Noon
- 1/16/12 Town of Neversink Holiday - MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BIRTHDAY
- 1/19/12 Town of Neversink Zoning Board of Appeals
- 1/21/12 Grahamsville UMC **Thrift Sale only** - 9 am - 1 pm
- 1/31/12 Town of Neversink Parks & Rec Meeting - 7 pm Neversink Town Hall
- 2/1/12 Town of Neversink Planning Board
- 3/21/12 Neversink Rondout Antique Machinery Assoc. Meeting - 7:30 PM (No Meetings until March 2012)

GAMES & SOCIALIZING -FREE FUN every FRIDAY afternoon 1- 4 pm in the upstairs meeting room in the Neversink Town Hall.

To All: Municipalities, Civic Organizations, Churches, etc. Please remember to send us your Events Calendar for 2012 so that we may continue to post your meetings and events throughout the coming year. You may send them by regular mail: **Townsmen, PO Box 232, Grahamsville, NY 12y40 or email: tvtownsman@yahoo.com or drop them in the Drop Box on the porch at the Grahamsville 1st Aid Building**

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

SUNDOWN CAMP & BAIT SHOP
 GRAHAMSVILLE DELI
 GRAHAMSVILLE AUTOMOTIVE
 CANNIE D'S
 BLUE HILL LODGE

ARATI GIFT SHOP (Brickman Rd.)
 VALERO MINI MALL (Loch Sheldrake)
 WOODBOURNE CITGO STATION
 MO'S GAS STATION (Woodbourne)
 P.D. SMITH ENTERPRISE (Woodbourne)
 AGWAY • J.B. MAK (Liberty)

JAMES NAPANOCH GROCERY
 MATTHEW'S PHARMACY
 NAPANOCH APPLIANCE
 PLEASANT STONE FARM
 PETER'S MARKET

NEW LOCATIONS in the TOWN OF OLIVE & SHANDAKEN

The Good Stuff Cafe • Boiceville IGA • J & G Log Homes, LLC • Ange's • Tetta's • Boiceville Florist • Reservoir Music • Snyder's
 Phoenicia Pharmacy • Phoenicia Deli • Mama's Boy • Riclardella's • Emerson Resort

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.

Scholarships Available for UCCC Students

The Ulster Community College Foundation, Inc., is offering scholarships to students who will be attending Ulster County Community College during the fall 2012-spring 2013 academic year. Scholarship applications may be printed from the website at www.sunyulster.edu/foundation. The deadline to apply is Friday, February 10, 2012. For more information, call the scholarship office at (845) 687-5293.

SUNY Ulster Schedules Nursing Info Session

Ulster County Community College will hold an information session about its Nursing degree program on Thursday, January 5, at 3:00 p.m. in room 101. This session will provide information on the admissions process, the program curriculum including pre-requisites and co-requisites, as well as new testing requirements. For further information and reservations, phone the Admissions Office at (800) 724-0833 or email admissions@sunyulster.edu. Further information about the Nursing program can be found at www.sunyulster.edu.

ERH Presents Drawings and Paintings by Nancy Ostrovsky at the Healing Art Gallery

Nancy Ostrovsky's drawings and paintings will be on solo exhibition at the Healing Art Gallery at Ellenville Regional Hospital from early January through February 23rd. An opening reception will be held on Thursday January 12, 2012 from 5-7 pm. Ellenville Regional Hospital is located at 10 Healthy Way in Ellenville. Free and open to the public, 8am-8pm daily. For more information about the Healing Art exhibit or the Ellenville Regional Hospital, please contact (845) 647-6400, ext. 286.

Nancy Ostrovsky is a pioneer of performance painting, an art form that has not yet been embraced by galleries and museums but has earned her a dedicated following nonetheless. Just as jazz musicians often go unrecognized, or at least, play on without the distractions of million-dollar-record deals and radio playlists, Ostrovsky has forged her own path in art without worrying about who's hot and who's not in the greater art world. Instead, she has spent her life processing her experiences and absorbing influences and putting it all back into her paintings which have only grown more expressive and wise over the course of the past three decades.

Most impressive is Ostrovsky's development as a performer, which has taken as much strength and control behind the scenes as she embodies on stage. The creation on stage looks entirely spontaneous, but as Nancy always says, "Spur of the moment for me is a lot of work." She has also become a first-rate performer herself, conscious of how she works the stage and uses the space on the backdrop to capture the audience's attention. Her output is astounding, creating paintings in her studio even as she continues to pursue her schedule of performances. But even more outstanding is the way that she has integrated her life with her art.

Ostrovsky has exhibited in Germany, New York, Boston and California. Her work is included in many private and public collections. Website: www.nancyostrovsky.com

Town of Denning Message Board: <http://www.denning.us>
 Town of Neversink Website: <http://townofneversink.org>
 Daniel Pierce Library - <http://www.danielpiercelibrary.org>
 Time and The Valleys Museum - <http://timeandthevalleymuseum.org>
 Tri-Valley CSD: <http://tvcs.k12.ny.us>
 Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman On-Line Edition: <http://thetownsman.com>

The SC Caregiver Resource Center Announces the 2012 Schedule

The Sullivan County Caregiver Resource Center announces the 2012 schedule for the three ongoing support groups. Each meeting is free, open to all caregivers who are assisting a family member or friend, and a snack or desert is passed. During the two-hours, educational materials are offered, as well as the opportunity to visit with other caregivers to share your concerns and to learn from others.

Call Bonnie at 292-5250 (Cornell Cooperative Extension) for information. Reservations are not required (but appreciated) and caregivers are reminded that they are not required to attend the entire meeting (based on what their caregiving responsibilities demand).

-Share the Care meets on the **first Wednesday of the month at 10am within the Hortonville Presbyterian Church, Hortonville.**

-Caring for the Caregiver meets on the **second Tuesday of the month at 6pm within the Daniel Pierce Library, Grahamsville.**

-Caregiver Conversations meets on the **last Wednesday of the month at 6 pm within Cornell Cooperative Extension, Liberty.**

Final Registration at SUNY Ulster January 9

Final registration for Spring 2012 semester classes at SUNY Ulster will be held on Monday, January 9, from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in Hasbrouck Hall, room 220 on the Stone Ridge campus. New, transfer and re-admitting students must attend a pre-registration orientation prior to registering for classes. Classes begin January 17.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The following positions are available at Tri-Valley Central School for 2011-2012:

SUBSTITUTE MONITORS

Interested parties should send letters of interest to:

David Drown
 Tri-Valley Central School District
 34 Moore Hill Road
 Grahamsville, New York 12740
 (845)985-2296 ext. 5417

Cut-off date for accepting letters of interest:
January 13, 2012

SUUJI WA TANSU NI KAGIRU
 answer

2	7	9	3	1	6	8	5	4
3	8	5	2	7	4	6	1	9
1	4	6	8	5	9	2	3	7
7	2	4	5	9	1	3	8	6
9	3	8	7	6	2	1	4	5
6	5	1	4	3	8	9	7	2
5	9	2	1	8	7	4	6	3
8	6	3	9	4	5	7	2	1
4	1	7	6	2	3	5	9	8



GRAHAMSVILLE REALTY

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135 Peekamoose Road
Sundown, NY 12740
grahamsvillerealty@yahoo.com

http://www.grahamsvillerealty.com

LISTINGS WANTED



845-985-0501

FOR SALE: Prime Commercial Property in Grahamsville



NEW! - Just listed - Private, out-of-the-way, 3 bedroom, on 3 acres along the banks of the East Branch of the Neversink River.

If privacy is your game, this property is situated in one of the most private parts in Ulster County on a dead end street.



7991 State Rte 55
Grahamsville, NY
845.985.5116

Grahamsville/Claryville/Sundown/Napanoch:

- Basic hunting cabin with stone fireplace on 3.6 acs adjacent to hundreds of acres of State Land. \$49,500
- **REDUCED** 3 bed/1 ba cottage on 4.5 acres adj State. \$99k
- Working farm featuring 163 bucolic acres, farmhouse with exceptional views, barns, sugar house, etc.. \$1.378m
- 3BR/1BA authentic log cabin on 20+ acs with stone fireplace, skylights, woods that end at the Neversink River. \$319k
- Darling 3BR/1BA cottage on quiet rd near G'vl. Charm galore, fireplace, picture windows, lawns. \$195k
- **REDUCED** Immaculate 3 BR/2 BA on 5 private acs, built 2005. Fireplace, radiant floor heat, a/c, large garage. \$279k
- **REDUCED** Spacious 4-5 BR/2BA turnkey colonial on 5+ level acres w/lg sep garage, in quiet Grahamsville n'hood. \$287,000
- Beautifully-updated 3 BR G'vl Victorian in town with outbuildings, ample parking, creek and lawn. A gem. \$219,000
- 3BR/2BA contemp farmhouse on 100+ acres with spectacular views, 2 ponds, adj to Fire Twr, +cottage. \$669,000
- 3BR/2BA Wonderful home privately set on ~8 acres with screened gazebo, fireplace, 1 mi to Rondout. \$299,000

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

www.CountryHouseRealty.net

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Knarf's "Classic Movie Trivia -



Saturday January 7, 2012 at 8:00 PM Silent Film Festival Marathon featuring, Charles Chaplin as that loveable little tramp. Starting with: *City Lights (1931)*, *Modern Times (1936)*, *A Dog's Life (1918)*, *Shoulder Arms (1918)*, *The Kid (1921)*, *The Idle Class (1921)*, *Pay Day (1922)*, *The Circus (1928)*, *The Gold Rush (1925)*. See them all on TCM Saturday, January 7, 2012 at 8:00 PM rated, TV-G.

Quiz:
A. Name the ingénue actor who played opposite Chaplin in *City Lights*?
B. Name the ingénue actor who played opposite Chaplin in *Modern Times*?

What's going on in the Gnome Gneighbourhood™ this week?

MONTICELLO - Do you like COLLECTING STAMPS? Then don't miss this first 2012 meeting of the SULLIVAN COUNTY PHILATELIC SOCIETY, with two informative points of view on the state of stamp collecting, as always, trading session, Door Prizes, and refreshments, the meeting will take place on Sunday January 8, 2012 at 1:00 pm in the Ted Stroebele recreation center 2 Jefferson street, Monticello NY. This meeting is open to the public as well as club members. Get ready because coming in June their first big STAMP AND COIN SHOW, for further information call (845) 794-2586.

LIBERTY - Need a great Pizza or tasty Stromboli try Charlie's Restaurant & Pizzeria 77 North Main Street, Liberty NY 12754, (845) 292-1112. Don't forget, Charlie says, "One Bite & We Gotcha," and he is right!

HURLEYVILLE - NADIA'S BUFFET check it out! All you can eat \$15.00, plus live music Thursday - Sunday 5 pm on, musicians welcome.

PHOENICIA - need a gourmet lunch in a place that you can sit and quietly enjoy some adult conversation with that special friend? Visit Mike and the gang at MAMMA'S BOY. Sit inside or outdoors under the gazebo and enjoy tasty delights you will definitely remember.

HAVE YOU READ THE CURRENT FLASH of NY Science Fiction and Fantasy Writer Thorn Winter and his friends? Read their next offering in this issue on page 10, If you missed any of the first two, read them on line at thetownsmen.com. Enjoy!

Have a good week!

Knarf Odnaroc
Gnome

ANSWER TO KNARF'S MOVIE TRIVIA

A. Virginia Cherrill
B. Paullette Goddard

RENTALS

BUILDING FOR RENT: In Grahamsville (Old Post Office) Rent - 985-7411.

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

Charming 3 bedroom house for rent on Denman Mt. Road. This two-story Cape Cod includes a kitchen, living room, dinning room, den with fireplace and a large yard adjacent to NYC DEP land. Beautiful red oak floors throughout the house and lots of windows. \$1,000/month. (845) 985-0370

Charming 3 BR OLIVEBRIDGE APT FOR RENT \$1100/Mo+Utilities Wood Floors; 1.5 Baths; Large porch; Large Backyard; Dining Area; Large Country Kitchen; Laundry Rm; Attic; Garden; 1400 Sq Ft+; Oil Heat; lawn mowing included. (718) 738-2468 email: www.movingrightalong.com

2nd Floor in town. Quiet single preferred. \$650 includes heat. No pets. Available soon:

2 Bedroom trailer on creek. Newly renovated. No pets. \$750 + utilities.

2 Bedroom trailer: No pets- \$700 + utilities

2 Bedroom duplex Huge bedroom up, large bedroom 1st floor. \$700 + utilities. No Pets, Security & References 985-2941.

1+ bedroom house in woods, private; long driveway, 30+ acres. Available after November 1. Wood stove & oil heat. \$800 + utilities. Security, references. 693-4464 b2/23dt

Mobile Home for rent in Grahamsville: 2 Bdr, walking distance to Town Park, \$550 per month + utilities and security-No pets. 985-7242. pd1/15

Mobile Home for rent in Grahamsville: 3 Bdr, walking distance to Town Park, \$675 per month + utilities and security-No pets. 985-7242. pd1/15

FORSALE

Get read for spring! 1995 Suzuki GSX 600 Katana Red/Black \$2000 (845) 985-0201.

Electric Guitar Jackson Kelly 6-string Black & Blue Striped Coffin Case - for more information call 845-866-0699. tfn

Black Leather Couch - 91" - 2 years old. Excellent condition. \$500.00 -985-7189

FOR SALE: office/computer/exercise equipment; washer and dryer must go. Great prices on Total Gym, bike and treadmill. Just in time for Christmas. Call Linda at 985-2921

YOGA/REIKI CLASSES/HEALTH

YOGA • REIKI

Close to Neversink Dam on Lindholm Rd

Yoga Class schedule:

Mon, Wed & Sat a.m. - Tues & Thurs p.m
Includes gentle stretches to ease and prevent back & joint pain.

Reiki energy sessions by appointment

Please call for details
JOY 845 292 7870

Beauty of Birth • Doula Services

The word "doula" comes from ancient Greek and is now used to refer to "a woman experienced in childbirth who provides continuous physical, emotional, and informational support to the mother before, during, and just after childbirth."



For more information call:
JANNA COMANDO
DONA Trained Doula Services
(845) 417-6165
beautyofbirthdoula@yahoo.com

HELP WANTED

Want to hire a woman to crochet. Work at home.. Commissioned work (small details) All materials will be supplied. Call 845-985-2162 or email: ruzini2003@gmail.com pd 1/8

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