



The Gardiner Gazette

A call to community



Winter 2018 - Issue #37

Free! Please take one

Using Wood for Fuel

by Tom McMahon

Food, clothing, shelter... and in the Mid-Hudson Valley: heat. There's no escaping this part of life here, and as the age of cheap and available liquid fuels draws to a close we face both new and old methods for keeping warm. For a short, two generations we've become accustomed to the ease of cheap liquid fuels flowing from tank to boiler controlled only by the flick of the thermostat on the wall.

Now, many find themselves making the transition back to the solid fuel lifestyle and its requirements. And although most homeowners would LOVE to go green and have a complete, alternative-energy/thermal-retrofit for their homes, in rural Mid-Hud-

son Valley, wood is often the only sustainable and seasonally reliable source of heat that many can afford in the short-term.

The solid fuel lifestyle has its requirements: Skills (both new and old), labor and time, and a keen awareness, as it's much easier to freeze the pipes, burn the house down, or combust your fuel poorly with a wood stove than an automated furnace.

STEP 1: Secure a firewood source, either your own woodlot or a close friend and neighbor with a large one, or order it from a supplier if you

can afford it. STEP 2: Process your firewood – fell, haul, buck, split, stack. STEP 3: Properly store the wood to dry.

This last step is where most of us tend to go wrong. A stack of wood against the north side of a house with a tarp over it is an ideal way to grow mushrooms, but it won't yield wood fit for your stove. The following is an overview of why it's hard to dry wood well and what it actually requires, putting you one step closer to local self-reliance.

Burning green wood (more than about 20 percent moisture content depending on species) is a bad idea, although many do it year after smoky year; it promotes creosote build-up in the chimney which can cause

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The Majestic Sk8 Crü Girl's Skateboard Crew. Photo: LACE Photo Media

Majestic Sk8 Crü Girl's Skateboard Crew

by Lucia Civile

What began as a fun initiative to start a girl's skate crew has become a bold statement of female empowerment. Started by Ruthless Ruthie Rainbow, with friends Sassy Sema and Piper the Punisher, Majestic Sk8 Crü rides in our very own George Majestic Memorial Park and has grown to nearly 30 young girls and a dedicated band of brothers and young boys.

The crew is also one of the newest additions to the Girls Riders Organization or 'GRO' Hudson Valley. GRO is a national not-for-profit organization founded on the premise of strengthening community involvement in "action sports" for girls, particularly skateboarding. In fact, the organization hails a powerful mission statement, explaining that the group is founded on the principle: "...to inspire, educate and support girls (of all ages) to be confident leaders of positive change."

Skateboard, continued [page 13](#)

More Best of the Hudson Valley

by Carol O'Biso

In the last issue (*Gardiner Businesses Win Best Of The Hudson Valley*, Fall 2017) we neglected to mention that Gardiner Liquid Mercantile won "Best Barn-To-Bar," and the non-profit organization, Sunflower Art Studios, won "Best Artist Co-op," joining McMahon's Contracting (Best Contractor) and Whitecliff Winery (Best Winery) in being local businesses we can be very proud of.

Gardiner Liquid Mercantile, at 127 Main Street in the Hamlet, is a local hotspot founded by Gable Erenzo, and it has everything: a socially responsible, local-first mission, great drinks and eats, cool people, and dare I say, a strong "spirit" of adventure. Its mission is to showcase the bounty of local farms, distillers, brewers, wine makers, cider makers, cof-

fee roasters, craftsmen and women, and to develop into a hub for all farm beverages and food produced within 20 miles of Gardiner's Hamlet.

So, sampling the "liquid," whether cocktails (or mocktails), is an adventure in local mixology. The General Manager, Zoli Rozen, designs cocktails that are seasonal and aligned with the style of the establishment and prepares many house-made syrups, tinctures, bitters, and other ingredients. The Culinary Team, headed up by Patti Lowden, has created a delicious menu that caters to both meat lovers and vegetarians alike, a rare thing in these parts, and just another forward-thinking touch that helped this Gar-



Above, the staff at Liquid Mercantile (Photo: LACE Photo Media). Below, a sign for Sunflower's many offerings (Photo courtesy Sunflower Art Studio).



diner hotspot rise above the rest in their award category. For more information: www.gardinerliquidmercantile.com, (845) 633-8764.

And for Sunflower Art Studios, think PASSION in capital letters! Gardiner-local artist and social entrepreneur Liz Glover Wilson founded this organization in memory of her late sister, Esther, in 2015.

Liz is committed to bringing visibility to the arts in the Mid-Hudson Valley and seeks to create experiences for the community and collaborate with a broad scope of local artisans of all ages. Through various programs, the organization strives to provide art classes for children from every socio-economic strata, and accepts donations to provide

scholarships and art materials for those children who could not otherwise attend, thus promoting art without economic barriers to the community.

Sunflower Art Studios is a 501c3 non-profit arts organization, so if readers want to donate and support their mission, it's fully tax deductible. Thus far, over 300 children have been enrolled, 90 of which attended on scholarship; a donation of \$150 sponsors one child in a five-week course.

Adult classes are also offered, as well as other creative experiences, classes, workshops, and art festivals throughout the year. Their community creative space is located at 2694 U.S. 44/55, Gardiner. For more info: www.sunflowerartstudios.community, 845 419-5219. □

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Philip Hasbrouck's Account Ledgers

by A.J. Schenkman

Recently, Historic Huguenot Street acquired some account ledgers and a ciphering book once kept by Philip Hasbrouck (1783-1841), a merchant, farmer and distiller. The home Hasbrouck built is still situated at the end of Phillis Bridge Road, which was not always a dead end. Prior to the 1950s, a bridge linked Phillis Bridge with what is today Gibbons Lane, running into Albany Post Road. Today, the Hasbrouck home is owned by actor Robert De Niro.

Philip Hasbrouck was a member of the prestigious Hasbrouck family, early settlers of the area known as Guilford, which is now part of Gardiner. His great-great-grandfather, Abraham the Patentee, was one of the original settlers of New Paltz. Philip, the fourth son of Joseph (1744-1808) and Elizabeth Bevier (1749-1795), was born in 1783 and married Esther Bevier (his first cousin) in 1811. Philip built the home

on Phillis Bridge Road in the same year as their marriage. Though he had built an earlier house in 1805, the home on Phillis Bridge would be his last home. Philip Hasbrouck passed away suddenly on December 17, 1841. Esther continued to occupy the home until her death in 1871. They died without children.

Most likely, Philip kept numerous ledgers, but only a few are known to survive. One of the ones acquired by Historic Huguenot Street starts on March 1, 1815, showing that he sold as well as bought many goods—wool, whiskey, Indian corn—to many neighbors as well as family members, including his younger brother Luther Hasbrouck (1788-1826).

What is particularly interesting is that when Philip conducted a transaction with someone who was not white, he noted that. One such ex-



Philip Hasbrouck and Esther Bevier

ample is Simon Gillespie who did some work for Philip, and listed next to his name is black man.

There is a second ledger, starting in November 1828, primarily concerned with bricks and building materials. He titles it the "Brick Ledger." The gem, for me, because I am a teacher, is a ciphering book. It dates to 1796. Even then, like today, when Philip should have been tending to his studies in class, he was doodling in the margins of the book.


These ledgers are great additions to pre-Gardiner history when it was still part of New Paltz, Shawangunk, and Rochester. The archivist at Historic Huguenot Street has graciously shared these great resources. I plan on indexing the names found in all the ledgers in an effort to be of some use for historians when they are researching Gardiner's History. □

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Summer Programs for Kids

by Jen Bruntl and Liz Glover Wilson

We're hunkered down for the winter, so it may seem silly to be thinking of where your kids will go this summer, but as we crawl closer to spring let's explore a few warm-weather opportunities for kids.

One of Gardiner's most popular offerings is the **Gardiner Summer Recreation Program**. With a plethora of activities and Majestic Park at its disposal, this summer camp offers a lot to do for campers from five to those going into eighth grade. For older children there is the opportunity to be a Camp Counselor or a CIT (Counselor in Training).

Brian Majestic, entering his tenth year with the program, recently became Camp Director after many years of learning the ropes from long time directors Frank Laronca and Amanda Paul-Laronca. He says, "Frank and Amanda worked very hard to develop the program into what it is now, and I worked so closely with them that when

it came time for me to take charge, the transition felt seamless."

The camp offers something engaging for everyone. Some kid favorites are sports stations, art projects, tie dying, library time and of course, lanyard braiding! Last summer, every Tuesday and Thursday they got a break from the summer heat with trips to the Ulster County pool, and Friday's offered field trips to movies, bowling, roller skating, and the Ulster County Fair. Visit townofgardiner.org for info.

If the Gardiner camp is not for you, **Mohonk Preserve's Summer Camp** provides an opportunity for children ages four to 13 to spend their summer outside enjoying the natural wonders of the Shawangunk Ridge. Under the careful supervision of their dedicated and professional educators, campers will laugh, play, and learn together, explore interests and abilities and expand their understanding of themselves, each other and the world to which they belong. Registration opened February 1st. Visit mohonkpreserve.org/summer-camps.

A more focused experience can be found at **Fighting Spirit Karate**, where skilled staff offer a Summer kids camp for martial arts. See our feature article about FSK on page seven of this issue, and contact the studio at fightingspiritstudio.com/home.htm for more info.

Art lovers, take note: the Summer Programs and Camp at **Sunflower Art Studios (at Stone Wave)** were

named best art co-op in Best of Hudson Valley 2017 for their commitment to bringing visibility and accessibility to the arts in the Mid-Hudson valley (see our feature article on page two of this issue). Summer programs include Grow Yoga; allowing participants to learn and grow with art and yoga. Certified yoga instructors along with qualified art teachers, are dedicated to guiding and supporting the journey of self-exploration and creative expression. New this Summer, will be a two week art camp series. A wonderfully creative place to be. Registration opens March 1st. Visit sunflowerartstudios.com for more info.

Last but not least, for the agile among us, **Take The Leap Dance Studio** offers a Summer Intensive, focusing on inspiring dancers of all ages. Take The Leap Dance Studio works with students in helping them achieve

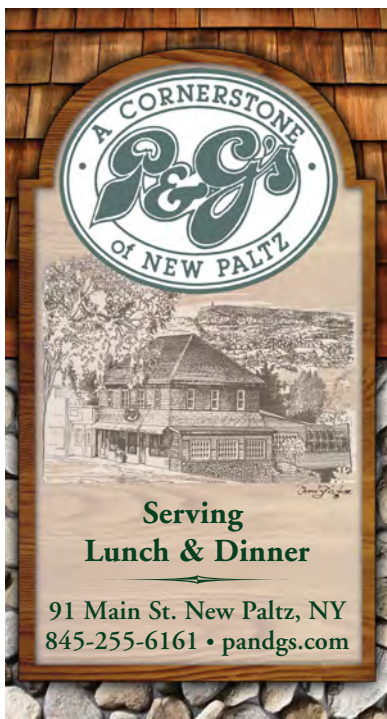


Brian Majestic and Counselor in Training Benjamin Hollman at the Gardiner Summer Camp.
Photo courtesy Brian Majestic

their very best in a positive and supportive atmosphere, providing musical enrichment, dance classes in tap, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, hip hop, ballet & pointe. Find out more at take-the-leapdance.com.

Summer will be here sooner than you think. Don't wait until the last minute to register! ☐

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Hudson Valley Wine Market

Prices on par with big box stores,
but personalized service...

by Joe Ferrara ([instagram.com/bourbon_aficionado](https://www.instagram.com/bourbon_aficionado))

Thirteen years ago, a small wine and liquor shop opened at 119 Main Street in the Hamlet of Gardiner. Known by different names over the years, the new proprietor, Leonard Giannotti, who purchased the shop in 2016, decided to retain the most recent name—*Hudson Valley Wine Market*. There, he and the friendly, knowledgeable staff (Nick Lacovitti and Sue Bowers), provide a relaxed, welcoming experience.

“Our goal is to be a friendly shop that removes the elitism and anxiety from [buying] wine and spirits. We want to be a fun place to shop where you can experiment and learn about wines, and buy products at good prices that over perform,” Leonard said while we sampled a new Amaro, an Italian herbal liqueur.

Len has tastings every Friday from 4:00pm to 8:00pm, giving customers a chance to try some of his new selections. On my previous visit, I sampled an oat whiskey from Chicago’s Koval Distilleries. The tast-

ings are casual and relaxed. They offer a broad selection of wines from around the world with an interesting selection of craft and local spirits as well as a selection of the popular brands.

Can’t find what you’re looking for? No problem, talk to Leonard, and he will try to order it. The staff knows many customers by name, and remembers their preferences in wines. Leonard knows my interest in bourbons and ryes and has, more than once, surprised me with some hard to find bottles, including a recent release of Kentucky Owl Rye—for less than I would have paid anywhere else, if I could find it—as well as a bottle of Wild Turkey *Decades*.

The prices are on a level with the big box stores, except you still get personalized service from people who know their products. That’s something that’s not always available in



Len Giannotti at the Hudson Valley Wine Market. Photo: Joe Ferrara

a larger scale store. In other shops I have overheard customers ask for a bottle of bourbon for a “big bourbon drinker” only to have the clerk recommend Jim Beam, or Jack Daniels, considered by most bourbon aficionados, to be bottom shelf liquor. The same experience happens with wine: Red meat goes with red wine, chicken and fish, white.

The staff at Hudson Valley Wine Market will ask more questions. Need a bottle of wine to go with a spicy, tomato based, chicken dish? Ask. They will give you a few bottles to choose from, as well recom-

mend their choice. Want a bottle for a wine enthusiast that you want to impress? They will help you find the right choice without breaking your wallet. They will show you that you do not have to spend a small fortune to get a great bottle of wine that will impress everyone.

If you have never tried this store, assuming there was not enough of a selection or that they were overpriced, or if you tried it under previous owners, do yourself a favor and check it out now. You will be pleasantly surprised. Tell them Joe sent you. □

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Anne and Ray Smith: Walking with Turtles

by Jose Moeno Lacalle

Ray and Anne Smith greeted this visitor warmly on a very cold early-January day. Their 65-acre property is well off the road, nicely secluded, with a stunning view of the Gunk cliffs. They had lived in Pound Ridge for 37 years, but came to this region to hike in the Mohonk Preserve, fell in love with the area, and bought this undeveloped property 14 years ago. They haven't left since.

It was while clearing the land to build their modern house that a worker came across what he thought was a Blanding's turtle, but it turned out to be an Eastern box turtle. The discovery of the box turtles would come to deeply affect their lives. Encounters over the years with other box turtles led to Anne's

photographing, identifying and describing every one of nearly 90 different individual box turtles on their property. It had become her passion, and she has methodically kept a detailed log, with photographs, of every one of them.

At first Anne and Ray started naming the turtles, beginning with Alpha. One female turtle was dubbed Carolina, after the Latin species name, *Terrapene Carolina Carolina*, but this became unwieldy as more turtles were identified, so the majority are known by a number.

Their two Australian Cattle dogs, Anzac and Diggy, play a major role in finding the turtles, which are often hidden in high grass or undergrowth. Not



Ray and Anne at home. Photo: Jose Moreno Lacalle

only are the dogs highly effective at finding the turtles, but they're very protective of their find until Anne arrives. This experience led to Anne's charming and highly-informative book, *The Silence of the Bell: Monitoring Eastern Box Turtles with Australian Cattle Dogs*. Self-published in 2015 and available on Amazon, it already enjoys a wide readership, from Texas to Canada.

For nearly 10 years the Smiths have participated in

the program, *Walks and Talks, by the Walkkill Valley Land Trust*. An annual "Turtle Walk" takes place in early May, after the turtles have emerged from hibernation (usually by the end of April), at which point the turtles are out and scurrying about seeking mates. They're easy to find then. Those who are interested in joining need to sign up in advance on the Land Trust Web page, walkkill-valleylt.org. This year the event will take place on Saturday, May 5th. □

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The True Essence of a Mindful Warrior

by Jacqueline Reed

A Sea Turtle? When entering Fighting Spirit Karate Studio (FSK) on Steve's Lane, the large 3-D sea turtle swimming out of the wall immediately draws your attention. Gazing around the light, spacious studio, one sees punching bags, body shields, racks of polished wood sticks, an expansive, padded floor mat, and a metal gong, among other things. Pretty much what one would expect to see in a karate school...but that sea turtle...how is this different from other karate schools?

A class takes the floor...adults, not children. The class schedule reflects a wide range of students—from kids to teens to adults, including those with gray hair—and a wide range of offerings including Judo, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, Krav Maga, Muay Thai as well as fitness classes that include cardio kickboxing, bag training and cardio-boost. There is even a family training class once a month, and body types are also diverse, from the expected to the unexpected.

Today, Shidoshi and FSK owner Sean Schenker (Shidoshi is an honorary title designating Master Teacher), leads the class in Kyokushin-influenced Karate. The atmosphere is one of focused attention and respect, but a sense of camaraderie is there as well. As newly minted Black Belt, Stefan Bolz, explains, "The biggest difference at FSK is that there is no ego. There isn't that gap between the belt ranks I have experienced in other dojos. Everything is very low key in an ego sense but high quality training in many different directions with the martial arts."

Stefan has been training since FSK first opened in a small space in New Paltz in 2012, before moving to Gardiner last summer. Scott Berra, another adult student and father of two young children, worked it out with his family to train one day per week, which has grown to three and then four days per week.

Sensei (Teacher) David Kalish says, "I'm a 'lifer,' having trained in martial arts for more than 30 years. Every martial arts school I've been to gets its flavor from the instructor. Sean sees that there are lots of martial arts systems and styles but they are all interconnected. He welcomes everyone and knows that instructors from other styles bring worthwhile items to the table. And he personally runs incredible, challenging and exciting classes."

Your attention is drawn back to the mat by the occasional "splat" of pad on flesh. The students are sparring with each other, and actually seem to be enjoying being hit. Younger students with higher ranking belts give pointers to older students; older teens and gray haired adults, women and men, all seriously engage in the exercise together. Rebecca Haskell, an adult student who returned to training in her mid-30s, says, "The training environment that Shidoshi Sean Schenker has created is about making sure everyone is comfortable. Everyone is respectful of each other's wishes. In particular with sparring, if you wish



Students on the mat at FSK. Photo: Deyano Manco

contact to be harder, it can be; if you wish it to be lighter, it will be. The expectations are that you push yourself to improve, but never at the expense of injury."

Sean Schenker explains, "Sparring is an integral part of the training. It allows for instinct, reaction, analysis, interpretation and improvisation 'under the gun' so to speak, and while there is a reality based application to this in real world self defense, I believe the training is much more a prep for daily life—the constant curve-balls and surprises and twists and turns as we wind the road of life. Sparring helps us rely on ourselves in heated moments of fear, self-doubt and anxiety...and it helps us find strengths and strategies within to allow an inner sense of triumph, win or lose."

Now, you hear the ring of finger cymbals. The students kneel in order of rank, red faced and breathing hard, eyes closed. In front are Shidoshi and the other instructors and the ever present Sea Turtle. All repeat FSK creed; "I come to you with only my empty hands. My karate. Should I be forced to defend myself in a matter of right or wrong, then here are my weapons. My empty hands. My karate." And the class is over.

So the Sea Turtle? It represents Defense: Using its shell, it has found an efficient way of self-defense allowing for survival and longevity. Slow: The path that leads towards fruitful self-actualization is slow. Wise: Around since the age of dinosaurs, survival, adaptation and peaceful existence embody the true essence of a mindful warrior. □

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LEADERS IN LEVELING

Senior Food and Thought

by Alan Rothman

"If you eat that for a hundred years you'll live long," was one of my dad's favorite quips. Even better, if you attend either or both of these wonderful, ongoing senior/retiree gatherings—the informal "Ritary" at Pasquale's, or the Retired Men of New Paltz—you will be nourished by stimulating discussions, lots of humor, long term friendships, and good food too.

My dear friend Dr. Heriberto "Airy" Dixon invited me to join the former, which meets, usually with between six and 15 seniors in attendance, most Thursdays at 12:30pm at Pasquale's Pizzeria and Restaurant in Gardiner. Over a light lunch they share family, career, and travel stories, jokes, current events or whatever comes to mind. Birthdays and holidays are regularly celebrated with home

baked desserts and candy, and sometimes even singing. They are a very diverse group of seniors representing "varied cultural, political, religious and educational backgrounds," says founding attendee Paul Osgood. Some were born and raised here, while others came to attend college and chose to settle here.

It's magical. Everyone enjoys each other's company and looks forward to the weekly gathering never knowing for sure who will be there or what will be celebrated and discussed. And to what does it owe its success? Paul Osgood says, "It's hard to explain the Thursday lunch. It arose about 25 years ago, with two guys who worked at home and didn't want to fix lunch. So they met at what was then Rita's Restaurant. The group



Seniors gathered at Pasquale's. Photo: Alan Rothman

has been dubbed the 'Ritary' ever since. It thrives on the great food and assistance from the always helpful staff at Pasquale's Gardiner, especially manager, Chris, and regular Thursday server Amber, who both treat the group like family. Paul Osgood adds, "It's never been organized. No membership. Just an informal gathering. I am baffled and delighted about how long it's lasted."

The Retired Men of New Paltz is another wonderful group of seniors and younger retired folks who meet regularly to share breakfast and fascinating discussion topics. It meets monthly at the Plaza Diner at 8:00am on most first Monday mornings of the month. The Retired Men of New Paltz is a bit more structured than the Ritary in Gardiner, Founded by O. Lincoln "Linc" Igou of the SUNY Music Department about 40 years ago, a typical gathering includes a non-sectarian grace, announcements of community events, joke telling, a guest speaker followed by questions and answers and, of course, the breakfast of your choice.

The gathering I attended featured guest speaker Michael Simpler, a retired commercial and military pilot. He spoke with great insight about "Use of Nuclear Weapons Pre-emptively or in Response. What is the Protocol?" The dis-

Seniors, continued page 15

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Did You Know?

The UC Legislature, not a throw-a-way vote

by Barbara Sides

Take-Away: To many, the Ulster County Legislature seems like an obscure body with vague powers, but the people you elect to it have the power to spend vast sums of your money and to make decisions that will seriously impact you. It's worth a carefully considered vote.

Back Story: When you paid your County/Town taxes this year, did you notice that the largest number on the bill was the County General Tax? Ever wondered what you're paying for?

The 23-member Ulster County Legislature, elected every two years, approves and can amend the budget crafted by County Executive, Mike Hein. The county's \$324 million 2018 budget will be realized through a combination of our County/Town taxes, a bed

tax (on B&Bs and other forms of lodging), state aid, federal aid, a combination of other revenue sources and transfers. And, 36% of the budget comes from sales tax, highlighting the importance of tourism, and of buying local.

The budget supports the 40 departments of the county, and an example of where our tax dollars go is the controversial Law Enforcement Center In Kingston. The project, overseen by the county legislature, opened in 2007 and went over the original budget by about \$20 million. Principal and interest from the financing of the center will cost the county \$4,371,000 in 2018. The huge facility contains 484 beds and the Sheriff's Office. Revenues from

housing prisoners from other counties (board ins) were intended to defray operating costs, but these revenues have fallen precipitously as other counties expand their own jails. In 2014, revenues were \$1,746,401. As of December 7, 2017, that figure had fallen to \$292,698. When the last payment is made, in 2029, the jail will have cost Ulster County taxpayers \$87,677,000.

In addition to supporting county departments, the budget pays for unfunded mandates, which require local governments to perform certain actions with no money provided. They are opposed by many. For example, indigent defense is an unfunded mandate born by the county, despite the fact that the constitutional right to legal counsel is a state, not a county obligation.

County legislators are paid

\$14,000 per year; minority and majority leaders make \$16,000; and the Chair of the legislature makes \$23,500. Legislators have access to family health insurance, for which they pay 15% of the cost. They also may opt to pay into the NYS retirement system to obtain pension benefits. Legislators meet once per month for the regular session, with possible additional committee meetings, hearings caucuses with their respective political parties.

Six-term county legislator, Tracey Bartels, our Gardiner representative, was re-elected in November. Significantly, Tracey chaired the committee that investigated cost overruns at the jail, the construction of which she opposed, but was already underway when she was elected. If you have any questions or concerns about the legislature, you can reach Tracey at traceybartels@earthlink.net. ☐

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Mind Your Manners

A new book helps us do just that

by Jessica D. Rothman

One evening at dinner in a local establishment, friends Fred Mayo and Michael Gold were appalled by the behavior exhibited by other patrons. Then and there they decided to do something about it—to create a guide to good manners. Fred would write and Michael would supply the accompanying photographs. The result is *Modern American Manners: Dining Etiquette For Hosts and Guests* by Fred Mayo and Michael Gold (Skyhorse Publishing)

Fred Mayo grew up in a home where good manners and proper etiquette were a given. Sunday dinners at the grandparents were a ritual, complete with elegant table settings and family members in their best clothes and on their best behavior. Table manners were reinforced with a daily mealtime game that kept everyone sharp and aware.

A retired professor of hospitality and tourist management with a history of hosting etiquette dinners for students at NYU, Fred, whose hobby is entertaining, is uniquely qualified to advise and guide the rest of us through the choppy waters of being good hosts and guests.

This book isn't designed to be

read cover to cover, but it can be a wonderful resource. It covers a range of topics, including conduct becoming both a host and a guest, setting your table, manners at a cocktail party (can you hold both your plate and drink in your left hand? I can't!), as well as proper manners for a myriad of social and business settings.

Fred begins by differentiating between etiquette and manners, the former being defined as "the set of rules for what is proper in situations ranging from letter writing to extravagant weddings to simple dinner parties," and the latter as "proper and appropriate behavior in a range of social contexts."

By giving very specific examples, beautifully illustrated by Michael's sometimes humorous photographs, the reader can see and understand what is appropriate in each situation. As one reviewer for the New York Times put it, "accompanying photographs [are] reminiscent of Glamour magazine's old Dos and Don'ts pages..." This is not a stuffy "Miss Manners" sort of tome. Fred's friendly, casual writing style draws the reader in, feeling like a conversation, not a lecture.



Fred Mayo at the table and (inset) Michael Gold. Photo: Michael Gold

Although to me some of the material covered was common sense, Fred explained that many younger people, fresh out of college or new to the business world, have not had the advantage of nightly family meals where acceptable manners could be modeled. Single-parent homes or homes where both parents work and children are constantly running to after school activities are much more common than not. And our world is a much more casual place that it once was, so when faced with a more formal situation, many people are at a loss as to how to handle themselves.

When I asked Fred the best way to use the book, he suggested you might want to keep a copy on your coffee table, pour yourself a glass of wine, and randomly explore any of the covered topics. Or introduce it at one of your own dinner parties—your guests might get a good chuckle out of it. Everyone might learn something, too.

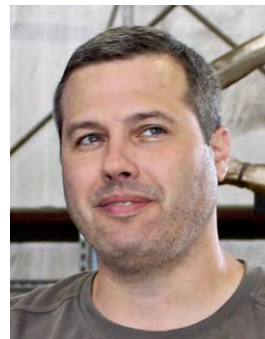
You can purchase a copy of *Modern American Manners* via Amazon, or, even better, try a local bookstore. You can also find it at the Gardiner library. □

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Correction: Fall Fittings

In the summer issue of the *Gazette* we published the wrong picture of Robert Zacheo, co-owner of Fall Fittings on Route 208. Robbie Zacheo is at left. The previous picture we published was of his partner, Chris.

Riding the Ridge

by Janet Kern, reprinted from the Friends of the Shawangunks newsletter

This is a love story about how a girl brought her horse to the Ridge, and the horse gave the Ridge to that girl.

I was born in New York City and raised in Yonkers, but my mother and Aunt had enjoyed horseback riding in their own youth, and made riding lessons part of my childhood.

When Mom bought an abandoned 1882 farmhouse on the south facing slope of the Shawangunks in Gardiner, I fulfilled a long held dream and got a horse of my own. We built a small corral on the hillside behind the house, and in 1973 a red and white "blanket" Appaloosa colt joined our family. "Gorgeous Georgie O'Keefe" and I were partners for the next 26 years. He was an agile, confident, kind and sensible

guy, that rare "bombproof" horse all riders want, but very few find, who never spooks or balks or bolts.

Being on horseback became a kind of meditation for me, with its gentling of intellect and focus on presence -- the grasses, the mountain laurel, the hawks above, the scents and skitterings all around, and ourselves, surrounded and engaged, part of every thing. With Georgie, on the Ridge, I received the gift of being fully in the here and now, in a place as close to heaven as a woman could hope for.

On any given morning, we would head into the forest. I came to realize that the outbound terrain of daybreak and the homebound terrain of sunset do not resemble one another, although they are the same. No fear. If ever we got lost, Georgie found our way home. On one particular day,

he discovered a secret, and I learned an important lesson: when someone you trust tries really hard to tell you something, *pay attention*.

Our favorite ride was to Lake Awosting. We'd head out from the corral, steeply uphill to an old lumber road, then follow a network of trails and deer paths, taking switchbacks north and east/west along increased elevations, crossing and re-crossing streams and eventually arriving at Spruce Glen. Ice remains on the ground there well into spring. There is a modest downward cliff on the left, leading to old-growth trees and a small wetland, and a craggy rock cliffside on the right. Georgie and I always enjoyed getting to Spruce Glen. The trail was wider and level, a great place to canter after all the climbing we'd done, and a long drink from the lake not far ahead awaiting us.

But this time, Georgie refused to go forward. He stopped. He tossed his head, chuffed, rattled the bit, flared his nostrils, and arched his neck so far that his head was nearly under my chin. He spun in a full circle, trying to turn back. I urged him forward and he obeyed, but with a sidestepping prance rightward and leftward, nostrils flared to the size of baseballs. What the hell? A dead deer? Never bothered him before.



Janet and Georgie at Lake Awosting in the 1980s. Photo courtesy Janet Kern

We got to Awosting, drank the cool water, had a sandwich (me) and carrots (him), rode the loop and headed for home. Spruce Glen, again, No other way, and we both knew it. Tired though he must have been, Georgie snorted, lowered his head and went into high gear, galloping through.

Several months later, at Elsie Brett's convenience store in Dwaarkill, I overheard some hunters talking:

"He swears he saw a bear on the Ridge."

"Bull----. They've been gone for decades."

"He swears."

"Bull----." Georgie knew. The hunter was right.

Decades later, bears are commonplace on the Ridge. Georgie died in my arms many years ago, but every time I pass the Spruce Glen crags, those ideal ursine dens, I recall that day, and that horse, and the blessedly transformed life he gave me in one of earth's Last Great Places. And I am grateful beyond measure. □

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New Dogwoods for the Spring Garden

by Fred Gerty

"The White Flowering Dogwood is considered to be the best ornamental of all trees." This statement in the catalog for Musser Forests summarizes many gardening experts' opinion of this wonderful species. The striking display when in full bloom in early May makes this tree stand out in the landscape. Anyone looking to add a tree to their homestead can't go wrong with a dogwood.

Most dogwoods are of the white variety, but several interesting color variations are now widely available. Among the most brilliant is a red

version, such as Cherokee Chief. A paler cultivar with a more pinkish color is also found in many nurseries and garden centers in the valley. While native dogwoods bloom in early spring, an introduced variety blooms later, after the leaves appear. Called kousa, or Chinese Dogwood, it features four creamy white pointed bracts, and grows seeds in a pink or reddish raspberry-like drupe in the fall.

The native dogwood blooms are four white petal-like bracts, surrounding the actual tiny flowers, and appear before the leaves do in the spring. In the fall, bright red berries occur in

Dogwoods, continued [page 16](#)



Above and back page, dogwoods last spring.

All photos: Fred Gerty

Pete Patel

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Skateboard, from page 1

GRO tells girls that, “they are welcome, they are important, they are capable, and they matter.”

The idea for the skateboarding group blossomed for Ruthie nearly four years ago, after her time in Gardiner’s Summer Recreation Program. Ruthie’s mom, Georgia Weinmann, was at first reluctant, and purchased a scooter instead. But after several weeks of her daughter insisting on learning the sport, Georgia bought Ruthie her first skateboarding equipment.

Ruthie loved the sport, but learning to skate beside older, experienced kids was intimidating. When asked why Ruthie wanted to start the crew, her response was simple; “I just wanted someone to skate with.” So Ruthie pulled together a band of girls that would eventually form the Majestic Sk8 Crü.

Ruthie’s love for the sport is contagious and she’s encouraged many kids with no interest in skateboarding to join. From spunky 3-year-old riders to ambitious 12-year-old skateboarders, not much can stand in between this crew and their skateboards.

Many of the parents note that the confidence and mutual support displayed by the skateboarders each session is ever-growing, as are their media pages. The crew’s Facebook group has over 100 members and their Instagram is nearing 250 followers. The crew’s welcoming motto, “You can shred with us,” has become their vision and signature hashtag.

Unfortunately, the record cold temperatures and frequent snowfalls this winter have made skateboarding meet ups few and far between,

but the Gardiner skate team merges with the Hudson Valley Crew once a month to practice at an indoor skateboarding rink in Peekskill.

While the group’s popularity continues to grow, the funds required are substantial. This year, the group hopes to raise enough money to have extra safety equipment and skateboards on-hand; something useful for aspiring riders unsure of the sport. They are also looking to eventually put funds towards refurbishing Gardiner’s skate park. Some

of the girls dream of becoming competitors someday, possibly in the Olympics. The 2020 Olympics will be the first to feature skateboarding as a permitted sport and Ruthless Ruthie has her eye set on the Olympics of 2028.

With everything the crew has accomplished so far, anything they want to achieve seems well within reach, and you can help. Majestic Sk8 Crü is looking for spare helmets, kneepads, elbow pads, wrist guards, and spare boards (hand-me-downs accepted!), and cash donations made are tax-deductible, as GRO, is a 501C3. □

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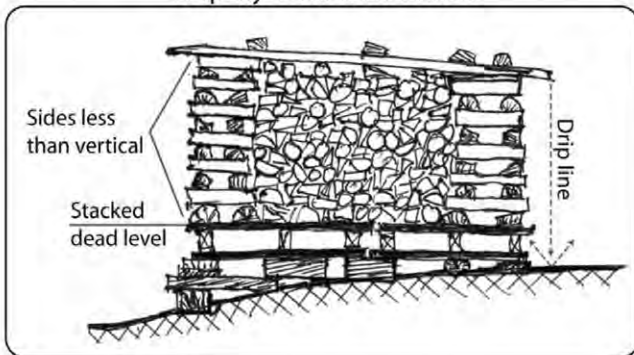
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Wood, from page 1

chimney fires, is hard to keep ignited (while at the same time keeping air flow through the stove to a minimum), reduces heat output by 20 to 70 percent (causing one to need about one-and-a-half to three times as much wood for the same amount of heat), emits much more air pollution, and is heavier to process.

wood stack (you're crafting a stack not making a pile here) involves the same things as any building: a stable foundation with air access underneath, stable shape (not too tall for the width), solid connections (the way the wood stacks against itself) and a sound roof, basically anything impervious, large, flat and rigid, like scrap plywood or, best of all, scrap metal roofing, pitched away from any area that

Properly Stacked Fuel Wood



Under average conditions it takes a year or more to dry 16-inch cord-wood thoroughly. Remember that wood only really dries in New York State between April and November, when temperatures are above 40°F and humidity levels are relatively low. Even with a well-sited and built wood stack, most of that drying occurs between July and September. A good wood shed also does most of its work during that optimal period, but can achieve some degree of drying all year long.

Proper construction of your fire-

would backsplash water on to the wood. I usually don't recommend tarping, as it is so hard to keep the wind from removing or misaligning a tarp and snow from forming depressions in it so that water slowly percolates into the pile. If you must use a tarp, heavy canvas or rubber tarps are best.

Ideally, you burn the top three-quarters of the pile and then restack the remaining one-quarter on top of another stack for the following year: Stack, Cover, Dry, Burn, Stack, Repeat. Enjoy. □

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Seniors from page 8

cussion was worthy of the best in any university class. All this was going on while our server flew around the tables taking orders, delivering food and distributing individual checks.

Why do these men get up so early year round to attend? Rob Greene started when he retired 20 years ago. "I enjoy the fellowship of the other retirees who are interesting and involved in the community." Fellow attendee Ed Rogers has attended since he retired from teaching 10 years ago. He "books" the guest speakers. He has also spoken on a variety of topics including "passive solar homes, food additives, and basic electrochemistry," just to name a few.

⇐ [Back Comment](#) ⇐

Phil Kissinger has been attending since 1997. "I took over about 2004 and was the host from then until 2016." He enjoys meeting with old friends every month and keeping up to date with goings on in the Hudson Valley. Michael Hartner, one of the newest attendees, started coming about two years ago and offered to handle the notifications to newspapers and attendees.

Whether it's the informal "Rit-ary" weekly luncheon in Gardiner or the somewhat more structured monthly breakfast "Retired Men of New Paltz," you'll walk away uplifted, informed and satisfied. As my dad might have said, "If you attend these get-togethers for a 100

Senior Resources Handbook

by Kaaren Vassell


Senior Resources For the Town of Gardiner, NY, a guide for Gardiner's 65+ registered voters, was mailed to their homes on December 20, 2017.

The 27-page booklet provides contact information and a brief description of resources and services including town and county contacts, senior clubs, health, legal and pet assistance, transportation, food accessibili-

ty, adult day care centers, local senior discounts, and more. Free copies can be found at the Gardiner Library and Town Hall while they last. Information was compiled by members of the Gardiner Senior Resources Committee. The Vocational Print Shop at Shawangunk Correctional Facility donated printing, and the Town of Gardiner funded materials and mailing expenses. □


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Carol O'Biso, General Manager

Jason Stern, Ad Manager
GardinerGazetteAds@gmail.com; (845) 527-6205

Kaaren Vassell, Mailing List Manager
Printing & mailing by Cornerstone Services, Inc.

Contributing Writers:

Fred Gerty	Jessica Rothman
Joe Ferarra	A.J. Schenkman
Janet Kern	

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Dogwoods, from page 12

clusters, lasting into the winter.

Dogwoods prefer moist, well drained soil, typical of yards and gardens. They do fine in light shade, but reach impressive stature in full sunlight.

Over the years I've planted a dozen or so dogwoods, and enjoy the flush of color they bring to the home in spring. Elsewhere, a red dogwood I planted two years ago, at the start of the walkway for the Visitor's Center of the Mohonk Preserve, provides a vivid and impressive sphere of color.

Dogwoods are relatively hardy, and seldom have severe disease

or insect problems, but several may bother them from time to time. Among those to watch out for are borers and a wilt disease. Both may be prevented by judicious use of systemic and foliar sprays. Deer do not favor this species to eat, the only problem I've seen is bucks rubbing their horns on saplings in the fall. My daughter lost a fine dogwood I'd planted for her one winter due to this problem.

With Arbor Day arriving the last Friday in April this year, why not plan to plant a tree? You can't go wrong if you choose a dogwood, white, pink, red, or kousa. It will add to the beauty of your homestead, and to the town of Gardiner. □

⇐ [Back Comment](#) ⇒



About This Publication

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LOCAL MARKET ACTIVITY YEAR-TO-DATE (January-December 2017)

	TOTAL LISTED	NUMBER SOLD	MEDIAN SALE PRICE	MEDIAN DOM
NEW PALTZ	137	111	\$279,000	78
GARDINER	119	61	\$379,000	80

Gardiner Real Estate Trends Over the Last Five Years

YEAR	HOMES SOLD	MEDIAN SALE PRICE	MEDIAN DOM	# OF HOMES OVER \$750,000
2013	54	\$300,000	193	2
2014	44	\$296,500	128	7
2015	46	\$302,500	105	2
2016	53	\$295,000	72	1
2017	61	\$379,000	80	8

ULSTER COUNTY YEAR END SINGLE FAMILY COMPARISON (2016/2017) **OBTAINED THROUGH UC-MLS**

DATE	TOTAL LISTED	NUMBER SOLD	MEDIAN SALE PRICE	MEDIAN DOM
2016	2882	1640	\$202,175	96
2017	2753	1721	\$211,500	77

The median price of homes SOLD in Ulster County has risen 4.5% in the last 5 years

DATA OBTAINED THROUGH HUDSON VALLEY CATSKILL REGION MLS

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JOIN US IN WELCOMING OUR NEWEST RISING STAR!



As a 3rd generation resident on both sides of her family, Jessica is deeply anchored in this vibrant community. Her love for the New Paltz and Gardiner area has been growing ever since she was a little girl. It took going away to college and moving to Florida for some time to realize she wanted the Hudson Valley to be her home forever. Jessica can empathize with both the challenges there are when leaving home and the excitement there is in moving to a new area.

In December of 2015, Jessica decided to take a break from school to give herself time to discover her real passion. During her full time work at Anderson Center for Autism, Jessica helped to improve the quality of life for her students and in the process they helped improve the quality of hers. Learning to think outside the box to solve problematic situations, patience, and the ability to look at life through the eyes of others are just a few of the many skills obtained. Although Jessica enjoyed working with her students, she was having a difficult time seeing her friends flourish and follow their passion after college. She wanted more.

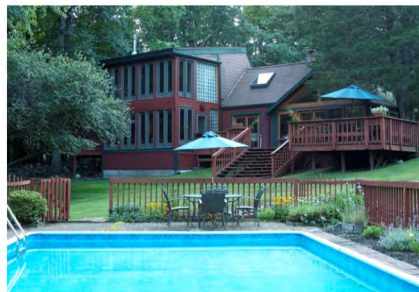
Real estate made perfect sense. Coming from a family with a father who built their home from the ground up, and a mother that has a keen eye for design and use of space, she inherited an appreciation for homes, their structural and interior design, along with the enthusiasm that real estate provides to those who love it! Jessica went through the process of her family buying an old historic property, a piece of New Paltz's history. She helped her parents restore the former one-room schoolhouse into a beautiful residence. Her experience with that renovation and restoration process helps her guide clients to envision possibilities and efficient use of design and space.

Determination, love for helping others, being a local to the area, and a bubbly personality will add to your experience of having Jessica represent not only you, but your best interest as your Ulster County REALTOR.

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