

## The Gardiner Gazette A call to community



Fall 2018 - Issue #40 Free! Please take one

#### A Wet Summer, A Rich Bounty of Mushrooms

by Angela Sisson

People start mushroom hunting for different reasons, but they often begin after discovering that wild mushrooms can be absolutely delicious. With much more flavor than the store-bought variety, edible mushrooms can often be found growing in the woods, free for the taking. It's a wild food that is either difficult or impossible to buy.

**Poisonous Mushrooms:** If we're going to talk about eating wild mushrooms, the issue of poisonous mushrooms needs addressing. A caveat about mushroom-hunting says, "There are old mushroom hunters and there are bold mushroom hunters, but there are no old bold mushroom hunters." For those inclined to explore the world of edible mushrooms, here are a couple "rules of engagement" to apply before you eat what you pick.

First, get a good field guide, study it, and learn to identify the mushrooms you find.



Sketches by Angela Sisson.

Second, until you become truly adept at mushroom identification, don't eat gilled mushrooms. (Gills are those fin-like structures underneath the mushroom cap.) The reason for this is that the most dangerous mushrooms (such as Destroying Angel and Death Cap) all have gills. That's not to say that gilled mushrooms are a problem. Grocery store mushrooms—white button and portabella—have gills, and many ed-

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Everyone knows the saying, "A picture is worth a thousand words." Why is that? Probably because, as humans,

we relate most emotionally and fiercely to an image. This may be why throughout history, art has long been a vehicle for activism. If you want people to care about an issue, you must first get them to pay attention.

Much art tries to convey an opinion or message, so it is not hard to find examples of activ-

Activism, continued page 15

## **Lucky C Stables:** A Paradise Built by Two

by Sandra Cranswick

Lucky C Stables, an equestrian farm owned by Susan and Gary Clark, nestles on 21 acres in gently hilly terrain not far from the Jenkins-Leuken apple farm on Yankee Folly Road. The scene is bucolicthoroughbred horses graze in fenced paddocks, and the stables to the left and outdoor riding rings to the right of the entry drive frame a perfect view of Skytop Tower. There is an atmosphere of relaxed activity -horses being groomed and walked, and young people involved in their riding lessons.

Susan, who grew up in New Paltz, recounted Lucky C's beginnings. She met and married Gary Clark, a cattle and grain farmer, in Missouri, where Susan had received

her degree in Equestrian Science. Smaller Midwest farms were threatened by agribusiness at the time, so the couple decided to return to New York to establish an equestrian farm here.

Gary initially found management work at Dressel Farms, while Susan gave equestrian lessons at their first location on Dusinberre Road. In 1991 they found their permanent home, which had only the indoor arena at that time. In the ensuing 28 years, they have added stables for 38 horses, two outdoor riding rings, a large addition to the indoor arena, an office building, machine shop, and 18 fenced paddocks.



Susan and Gary Clark with a student. Photo: Sandra Cranswick.

Gary and a small crew handle most of the building and maintenance jobs, and Gary also handles all the horse healthcare needs. Susan is in charge of the equestrian training and competition programs. She and four other women comprise the teaching staff, with equestrian students split pretty equally between adults and young people. Pupils may start as young as age three. Classes are year-round, seven days a week, on various levels: there is a six-week summer camp program, a community program with once a week classes for youngsters, and more intensive courses for

those who wish to ride competitively. Students are taught the basics of riding, jumping, and showing horses in competition, as well as how to properly care for and groom their mounts.

Lucky C owns a number of "teaching" horses and ponies; and also boards horses for outside owners who come there to ride and train. "We have a lot of nationally-ranked kids and horses," said Susan, but added, "Every program is individualized—and there's no pressure for people to show—but a lot of people do."

Lucky C, continued page 13



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## **Bringing the World Together: Hosting a Foreign Student**

by Alan Rothman

"People in the USA love their country and their flag. They are proud to represent the USA and to be American citizens." Those are the words of Juan, a visiting student from Spain, who spent part of a summer with us.

The rewards of hosting foreign students are many. My own experience with it started In March of 2010, when a somewhat shy but very bright former student called to say that three students from her high school program in Spain were coming to spend two weeks in Queens at a language/culture program. Could I arrange for her students to have an "in-home American family experience?"

It was almost 30 years ago that she had attended an after-school club I advised in New York City. Later, while attending college, she'd had the opportunity to stay with a family in Spain and met a man there. She came back to the U.S. to complete her college studies, eventually moved to Spain, married the man and raised two wonderful daughters. That shy student of mine now holds advanced degrees in the UK, trains teachers of English in Spain, and travels around Europe lecturing on teaching methods.

My wife and I were hesitant, but agreed to try hosting the students. After all, it was only for 10 days. In fact, we had an incredibly wonderful time showing them around, teaching them about us and learning so much from them.

That October, we visited the girls' families in Zaragoza Spain, staying in the home of one of the girls who had stayed with us. In the short



Students from Spain, posing with the NYPD and, inset, arriving at the airport. Photos: Alan Rothman

time we were there, we developed a close and warm relationship. The ultimate thrill for me was watching that "shy 15-year-old girl" I knew from New York City, now "Profesora Jessica Toro Yuzel," lecture to a standing room only crowd of over 200 at the university. I was as proud as a poppa.

Of course, we invited the

families to send their three daughters back the next summer, and so the cycle began. They brought a fourth student, and spent five weeks. The only parent of the eight who spoke some English told us, "Four girls for five weeks? You are crazy!" She was probably right. However, the next

Student, continued page 13



#### **History Grows in Gardiner**

by Jacqueline Reed

What grows in Gardiner? Well, at Dressel Farms, history does: apples with exotic names such as Bedan, Frequin Rouge, Madaille d'Or and Dabinette; and others, with interesting names such as Somerset Red Streak, Porter's Perfection, Chisel Jersey, and Brown Snout.

What these apples have in common is that they are cider apples that originated in France and England. Tim Dressel reports that Dressel Farms also cultivates another 15 varieties of cider apples and 45 to 50 varieties of "culinary" (eating) apples. The Esopus Spitzenburg is his favorite American variety, first discovered in... Esopus, of course. It is a rare apple that is useful for both eating and cider making.

Cider apples differ from eating varieties in various ways. Mr. Dressel explains, "Cider-specific varieties have some quality that makes them undesirable for culinary use. Examples would be size—many are very small; texture—mealy, tough, etc.; and appearance."

Probably the biggest deterrent is that many cider apples are either tart, bitter, or astringent, since they contain higher levels of tannins, which taste bitter when eaten. But when the juices of these cider varieties are combined and fermented, they create complex flavors, a pleasant "mouth feel," and much more dynamic, interesting, and complex flavors that can be evaluated on taste continuums, as wines are. In contrast, eating apples, when fermented, simply taste like apples.

The history of apple propagation is the stuff of legend. Think Johnny Appleseed, a story based in historical reality. All apples originated in what is now Tajikistan, and were transported throughout Europe.

An article from the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, on declining Apple variety diversity, explains that apples are known for their heterozygosity, which means that a seed taken from, say, a Gala apple, may develop into an apple tree with very different characteristics from its parent, and the fruit can be different as well. This allowed many different varieties of apples to develop, both in Europe and in the U.S. (In the 19th century it was estimated that there were around 14,000 varieties.)

Due to the needs of commercial production and the lack of consistency of apples



Photo from Dressel Farms' website

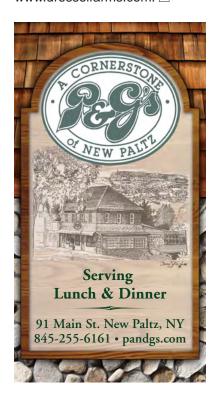
grown from seed, modern cultivation methods focus on grafting or budding. The European varieties grown at Dressel Farms were cultivated in the U.S. by American growers, and the growth of apples for cider, and hard cider in particular, has helped to preserve apple varieties that were once rare in this country.

In Europe and Colonial America, most apples were grown primarily for cider making. Cider was a valuable commodity and is becoming so again today. According to Cornell University, the hard cider business in the U.S. has increased tenfold over the past decade, to 1.5 billion dollars. New York, as Gardinerites well know, has the right climate and soils for growing apples, and thus Gardiner has benefitted economically from this as well.

The next time you visit Dressel Farms, try their Kettleborough Cider House "Huguenot Cider." It is blended

exclusively from heirloom varieties from Europe, England and the US. A sip of this cider is a sip of history.

More information on the apples grown for eating and cider-making can be found on the Dressel Farms website at www.dresselfarms.com.







## Kindness is Actually Healthy for our Kids (and Our World)

by Liz Glover Wilson

We all want our kids to grow into thriving and contributing adults. We want them to be happy and healthy. Successful. As parents, family, teachers, and guardians, we are given the enormous task of instilling values, and helping them start their life journeys on a sure footing.

It has become more important than ever to help kids see beyond their own self-interests—to know kindness. One of the most accessible things we can teach our children is compassion and empathy for all those they encounter, especially those who have different life experiences, opinions and positions.

How kids treat others matters to their everyday mental and, yes, physical health. How we and our children mold our world and future matters. Expressing kindness actually elevates the levels of dopamine (the happiness hormone) and oxytocin (the love hormone) in the brain. Dr. David Hamilton in his book, "The Five Side-Effects of Kindness" talks about the positive effects of expressing kindness on one's body and level of self esteem.

Studies show that when kids were asked to perform three acts of kindness per week over a month, they saw immediate improvement on how the students felt about their own well being. Additionally, studies show that when kids are subjected to bullying from their peers, they suffer from



mental and physical distress. Gardiner resident and cognitive psychologist LeeAnn Renniger, PhD, founder and CEO of Lifelabs Learning, and author of "Surprise: Embrace the Unpredictable and Engineer the Unexpected," says, "Teaching kids to ask more questions and wonder what someone else is thinking activates the empathy center of the brain, which gets built like a muscle over time. Kindness creates more kindness."

So, kindness goes both ways. It's good for others but also

good for us; a most important lesson for kids to learn while they are young. If you need a little help in creating learning experiences for the kid(s) in your life, consider picking up best-selling, "I Walk wth Vanessa," by Keroscoet or "Making A Difference" by Cheri Meiners, to name two. Lastly, consider joining a global community at www.randomactsofkindness.org/become-a-raktivist.

The world desperately needs the next generation to have strength, bravery, and most importantly, compassion. We can help them get there.

#### A Tribute to Carol Ann Lohrman

by Jennifer Bruntil

In the last issue of *The Gazette* I wrote an article about the Friendship of four Gardiner women over the past 65 years. Sadly, on the day that issue was sent out, I learned that one of them, Carol Ann (Majestic) Lohrman, passed away.

I met Carol Ann only once, but it was immediately evident what a lovely woman she was. She was kind and funny and had a twinkle in her eye. Her laugh was contagious. It struck me afterwards that every one of the other three friends had said that Carol Ann was the one who brought them together time and time again over 65 years. Trudi Sims, part of the closely knit group, said, "Part of our foundation has been



rocked and lost. Our hearts are so heavy. She died as she lived, with grace and beauty."

I am happy to have met Carol Ann and to have written a piece that now stands as a tribute to what an amazing person and friend she was to all who had the opportunity to meet her.





#### On The Agenda

by Patty Gandin

This quarter, *The Gazette* received updates from the following Boards and Committees:

**Town Board** (from Supervisor Marybeth Majestic)

Laws: The Ethics Law was unanimously adopted in August. It has been filed with NYS and is currently being circulated to employees, elected officials and board, committee and commission members for them to read and sign off on, agreeing to abide by the regulations in the Ethics Code. The proposed Planning Board Law has a public hearing scheduled in September, and the Noise Law is currently a work in progress.

**Majestic Park:** Using the System for Award Management (SAM) grant money, the ultraviolet water system was installed

and partitions have been installed in the ladies room. Further work needs to be done in the men's room to accommodate the partitions.

Tillson Lake: A meeting at Town Hall in August was attended by Jim Hall, Executive Director of the Palisades Interstate Parks Commission; a representative from Congressman Faso's office: Senator John Bonacic; two representatives from Assemblyman Cahill's office; Dennis Doyle, Director of Ulster County Planning, representing County Executive Mike Hein; Ulster County Legislator Tracey representatives Bartels: from Friends of Tillson Lake: Deputy Supervisor Laura Walls; myself, and my assistant Lucia Civile. It was a "let's roll up our sleeves and work together to find funding to fix the dam" meeting, which those who attended found to be beneficial.

Regional Partnership: The updated brochures for the newly revived mountain scenic byway have been published and are currently being distributed to three thruway rest stops and numerous businesses in town. The website is also being revived. We are excited to be working with this group to promote the 88-mile byway.

Bridge Grant Application: Awards were scheduled to be announced by early fall, but we are still waiting to hear back on the round two grant application. The good news is that Senator John Bonacic has secured an additional \$250,000 grant to be used for the replacement of the Clove Road Bridge.

**Sewer District:** Mapping is currently being finalized by Morris Associates, but we are not in receipt of the final product yet.

**Dog Control:** Nancy Dorn is our new dog control officer, and we are looking for another deputy in this department.

**Zoning Board:** (from David Gandin, Chair)

⇔ Back Comment ⇒



The Zoning Board of Appeals agenda for the September meeting includes continuation of a public hearing on an application for a lot size and setback variance to construct an accessory apartment at a residential property, and an application for a setback variance to construct a "lazy river" swimming pool at Jellystone campground. (Any results will be reported in the winter issue of the Gazette).

Cypress Creek Renewables has withdrawn their application for variances in connection with development of a solar farm on Burnt Meadow Road as they have decided not to move forward with the project.

Parks and Recreation (from Committee member Michelle Tomasicchio)

We will be working on a fundraising calendar for the rest of 2018 and 2019.  $\square$ 





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#### Robibero, a True Family Affair

by José Moreno-Lacalle

For several years there was a winery called Rivendell at 714 Albany Post Road in Gardiner. In 2003, Harry Robibero and his wife, Carole, purchased the 42-acre property with the hope that someday the winery operation would become theirs.

In 2007, the owners of Rivendell did give notice, and Harry mentioned this over family dinner. "Did you hear? Rivendell is leaving. Do you guys want to start your own winery? Should I look for another tenant?" Harry and Carole's daughter, Tiffany, replied, "Let's do it. Let's start a winery." Harry and his family were soon busy refurbishing the building. In May of 2010, Robibero Family Vineyards opened for business, with Tiffany as one of the owners along with her parents.

When I first visited Robibero and tasted some of their wines shortly after they'd opened, I was frankly disappointed. The wines I tasted, made from purchased fruit, were thin, sharp, and unbalanced. I told them so and did not return for a couple of years. Eventually I returned, and it was evident that the wines were improving, so much so that in 2014 Robibero won a Double Gold for their 2012 Cabernet Franc.

The change in quality is due, in large part, to Cristop Brown, the winemaker who was hired soon after they started. Cristop first worked at Millbrook Winery as the tasting room manager. After a few years he went to Benmarl

in Marlborough which has the oldest working vineyard in the country, and it was there that he learned to make wine. Cristop became a very accomplished oenologist and is committed to making clean wines marked by varietal typicity and good balance.

The winery's cellar is very small, but adequate for the level of production that they have at present. The wine is made from fruit purchased from the Finger Lakes, Long Island, and from their own small vineyard.

Most are made from vinifera varieties like Chardonnay, Riesling, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and so on. However, one of their most popular wines, Rabbit's Foot (nonvintage) has a base of 75% Baco Noir, a hybrid variety, plus Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. They also have Bordeaux-style blend, 87 South, made with Cab Sauv, Cab Franc, Merlot, and Petit Verdot. The 2013 New Yorkie Rosé is also a Bordeaux blend which quickly sells

Robibero has won a Best in Category White Wine in the 2014 Hudson Valley Wine and Spirits Competition for their 2013 87 North as well as Gold Medals for their 2013 Traminette and New Yorkie Rosé.

The tasting room is ample,



The Robibero family crest. Photo: José Moreno-Lacalle

well-organized, and offers a very good space for parties. A large veranda invites people to sit outdoors and enjoy the fresh air and the pleasant view.

Because too many visitors seem not to understand that a small operation like Robibero's depends on the sale of all manner of beverages, including wine, a local craft beer, and even water, signs are prominently displayed telling visitors not to bring in their own drinks of whatever kind. But this is a problem all small wineries face.

Robibero Family Vineyards and its wines have arrived, and the results are impressive. It is certainly worth a visit and a taste, or two or three.





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#### **Distracted Driving Takes a Toll**

by L.A. McMahon

The Department of Motor Vehicles reports that human deaths from distracted driving are on the rise nationally and, in fact, statistics show that the catastrophic consequences of distracted driving are growing higher each year. Consider the following statistics from the DMV.org web site from 2016:

- Nine people die every day in the United States from distracted driving.
- 11% of car accidents leading to fatalities are related to distracted driving.
- When texting, your eyes are typically off the road for five seconds. That's the length of a football field when driving at 55 MPH!
- You are three times more likely to crash when performing a visual or manual activity—such as reaching for a phone or the radio.

Aside from the human toll, every year it seems that there is more road kill in Gardiner: squirrels, rabbits, skunks, cats, deer, dogs, and birds. As a road bicyclist, I've always been sensitive to the issue, but a recent, almost tragic, event brought into stark relief the way speeding and distracted driving contribute to road deaths of all kinds.

Here's what happened: on Bruynswick Road in Gardiner, a neighbor was herding her small flock of Guinea fowl across a deserted road. Suddenly, a quarter mile away, an Audi sports car hurtled through the 44/55 intersection, past Lombardi's Restaurant and down the road, exceeding the 45mph speed limit by, in my estimation, at least 20 mph.



My neighbor tried to wave off the car, which was surely going to decimate not only the hens, but my neighbor as well. As the car approached, I noticed that the driver was looking down, as one might when texting.

I joined in, screaming and waving for the car to stop. Less than three car lengths away, the driver looked up, slammed on the brakes and skidded to a stop inches from the birds and my neighbor, all of whom were busy leaping out of harm's way.

When the driver rolled down her window, my neighbor said, "Didn't you see me waving at you to stop?" To which the driver, who as a side note, had a toddler in the car with her, replied, "It's not my problem your birds are in the road," and drove away.

We are all, without question, stressed and overextended these days, and perhaps it could have been any of us just taking a few seconds to get out that really important text; or seeing who that call just came in from;

Driving, continued page 9

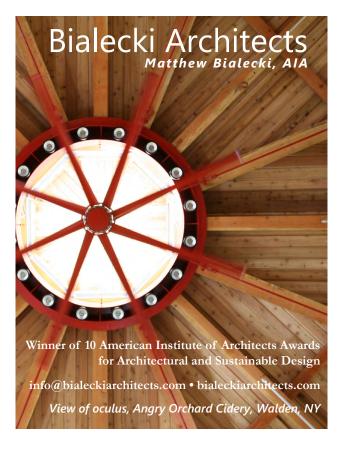


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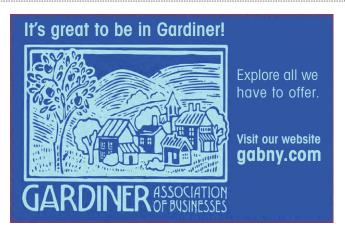
#### Driving, from page 8



or mopping up the coffee that just dripped on our clothes. But isn't it actually our problem? Do we really want to reach the point where we have road kill apathy? Why not take the pledge above, to, "Keep your eyes on the road. Keep your mind on driving. Keep your hands on the wheel." Make Gardiner safer, for animals and humans alike.







#### **Nature's Apathy**

A deer was veering swerving cars, until she was hit square on by ours.
Her death made it oh so clear that we should not run from our fears.
Sad at the loss of my best friend.
Angry for his life's early end;
I saw a roadkill squirrel's form showing me nature's apathy toward gore.

The World cares not for my soul, Nature offers us no special role, but to live and die like all the rest no greater than the smallest pest.

—Sabio Lantz, July 2015 □





#### **Revisiting Gardiner's History**

by the Gazette Editorial Committee

Dot Decker

by Raymond D. Smith, Jr.

Excerpt. Originally published in October 2007 in *The Hudson Valley History* 

Project: Gardiner. Dot Decker passed away on December 6, 2008, aged 92.

In early 2006, a group of local writers and editors launched *The Hudson Valley History Project: Gardiner.* The project aimed to interview residents who had lived in Gardiner for more than 50 years and write their personal stories. (www. hudsonvalleyhistoryproject. org/stories. The website has been kept alive as an act of kindness, by former Gardiner

Town Supervisor Carl Zatz.)

Conceived of by local writer Carol O'Biso, and active for over five years, the project captured the stories of Dot Decker, Lillian Schoonmaker, Bernice Aumick, Vivian Beatty, Joan Decker, Bill Conner, Gladys DuBois, Joe Katz, Betty Moran and Annie O'Neill. O'Biso later became a founding member

and General Manager of *The Gardiner Gazette*.

Gardiner resident Barbara Petruzelli, a former Hudson Valley History Project editor and an avid reader of The Gazette, recently suggested that The Gazette excerpt and serialize some of the stories. We are honored to have the privilege of revisiting these stories. Although previously told, they are as important, poignant and relevant today as when they were first published. In a world full of chaos and trouble, these stories are a touchstone to what is eternally valuable: love, family and community.

We have started, randomly, with the story of Dot Decker.  $\Box$ 

Dot Decker lives in a gray raised ranch across from the big red barn on the Decker farm. Once one of four dairy farms on Phillies Bridge Road alone, by the mid 1980s it was one of the last

large-scale dairy operations

in Gardiner.

Dot's first question to me is, "Who are you? Do you do this all the time? Go out and investigate people?" and though her strong face is topped by neat swirls of white hair, one of her first statements is delivered in a first sergeant's parade ground voice; "No pictures!" It is a style that will become familiar during our interview.



Close to Dot's large chair is a tray table with her reading materials, the phone, a glass of water and the TV remote. She suggests that I put my tape recorder on her table but warns,

Decker, continued page 11

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#### Decker, from page 10

"That table has gone over three times in three days, so when I yell, grab your machine."

Dot Decker, it is quickly becoming clear, has conceded nothing to the infirmities of age; they irritate her, but she gives them short shrift. "Well, I can't walk, so I have this thing [a walker] . . . I have a nerve problem or something I'm taking medication for. And my fingers are kind of numb at the end." Her poor hearing she dismisses with, "I don't understand these ears."

Dot was born Dorothy Cryer, in Walden, and lived there for the first nineteen years of her life. "C, R, Y, E, R.," she spells out for me and adds, "I was told we were the only Cryers, the only family in the United States." Her grand-parents lived in Kokomo, Indiana. Her mother had only one brother and Dot says, "People talk about their cousins. I don't know what they're talking about."

Her father, William Cryer, worked in a knife factory by the upper dam in Walden. It was called the New York Knife Company. Dot believes that her grandfather on the Cryer side made knives in Sheffield, England. She says her father knew the knife business from his father, who knew the business from that father.

She doesn't know how many generations it went back, but they all worked in the knife factories.

Asked about her childhood, Dot's immediate and firm response is, "I was a spoiled brat. That's all I can think of. I was spoiled. I was an only child. My father always wanted a boy. I knew that. My mother had another baby that died at birth after I was born, and there were no more. My mother and father both doted on me. Whatever I did was okav. When I look back . . . !" She smiles and shakes her head. "Boy, I should have had a few whackins. But I never got 'em." To illustrate, she reports having had a favorite cat. She'd put it in the doll's carriage, hold it down and then walk up to the corner and turn around and come back. "Phew!" she says, "that cat had had enough of that. It wanted to get home."

When asked what her parents were like, Dot responds with a single word, "lovable," and says she wishes she had them back. Her father died at sixty-nine while her mother lived to be seventy-nine, and thought she would make



An aerial view of the Decker farm circa 1947. Photo courtesy the Decker family.

it to eighty. "She thought it would be on the tombstone," Dot says, "eighty—and she thought she was the oldest in the family." Dot looks off and smiles, "She didn't know how old I could get. I can't believe it either." Dot was born in 1916, and is now 91.

Dot graduated from Walden High School in 1933 and soon after, met Dick Decker, also an only child. "He came up from Gardiner and I got caught up with him and that was it," she says. Dick Decker was young

Dot Decker continued page 12



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Greg Dawes

#### Dot Decker, from page 11

then, and couldn't drive at night, but his father had bought a new car, "a Rockne coupe, they called it. Black. Beautiful. Shiny." When she says this Dot is looking far away, back into a distant time; Studebaker Corporation built the Rockne in 1932 and 1933, and sold it for \$585 to \$735. That Rockne and a mutual friend, a fellow in Gardiner named Russell Hoffman, were what brought Dot and Dick together. Russell was apparently old enough to drive at night. "Russell got a girl and the four of us got in the coupe and

away we went," Dot says. "I remember going to Orange Lake . . . and Maybrook.

"Tom Moran had that big hotel by the railroad station [in Gardiner]. The summer before we were married, Dick came and brought me . . . August the fifteenth, which is a big affair in the Catholic Church [Feast of the Assumption]. They had a supper and it was upstairs in Tom Moran's hall. I don't know if each person brought something, or just what. Of course there always were the farmers. Those women . . . they cooked! It was so

nice. Since I was an only child, I wasn't used to all this. [Dick told me,] . . . and Dottie, don't talk about an Italian in Gardiner or an Irishman, 'cause they'd be related.' It was upstairs and we could dance. We could do our share of the bar, too!"

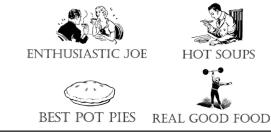
Dot soon took Dick to meet her Grandmother Cryer. "He'll be twenty the day before we get married," Dot said, and her grandmother exclaimed, 'He's not even a man yet!' 'We're going to get married anyway, Grandma,' Dot insisted. She says Grandmother Cryer didn't think much of it, but her mother's mother, Grandmother Vernoye, "took him with open arms. My Grandmother Vernoye was a sweet, lovable person." Dot thinks a moment. "I guess I'm more like Grandmother Cryer."

To be continued in the winter issue of The Gardiner Gazette, or, visit www.hudsonvalleyhistory-project.org/stories to read the entire piece. □



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#### Lucky C, from page 2

Susan is justifiably proud of Lucky C's involvement with the New Paltz schools. They sponsor equestrian clubs at the middle and high schools, and have sponsored the SUNY New Paltz Equestrian Team for the past 17 years. They also sponsored the local 4H Equestrian Club for 30 years.

These clubs compete throughout the eastern US, with a fine record of achievement. Last year, the High School Club won the National Interscholastic Equestrian Association Championship, in a field of 790 teams, with a number of riders taking top rank in their classes. Ribbons festoon many of the horse stalls in the barn.

Susan emphasized that the staff tries to instill a spirit of teamwork and responsibility in their young riders, while helping them connect to the natural beauty around them. Later,

I joined several parents and grandparents under a shady tree and watched Susan giving a jumping lesson, while another rider shampooed her mount in preparation for a show next day. The sense of peace was palpable.

Susan's summed things up by saying, "We've been very fortunate. We've been able to raise our family, put our kids thru college, and do what we love. This is the real message I want to get out. This was our American Dream, and you can still do it. The world's a crazy place, but if you have the passion and you're willing to work hard you can make it happen. We feel like it's been worth it. We give a lot to the community and they give back to us. It's all good.'

Lucky C is truly one of our town's treasures, fostering the values that most of us sought in moving here.

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#### Student, from page 3

seven summers included visits by their younger brothers and sister, all for five weeks.

"The first time I came to the States I was 15 and it was both difficult and easy because the family that received me was like my new family far from home," one student said.

We have taken our charges sightseeing all over New York City, Long Island, the Hudson Valley and Boston. Victoria, who visited for the past two summers, told us, "What I liked the most was seeing cities very different compared to mine." They experienced horseback riding, ice skating, nights in Times Square, Broad-

way shows, concerts, museums, sporting events and beaches.

Without doubt, our endless comparative discussions on language, religion, politics, family and culture were highlights. One evening, Maria turned to me and asked, "How is your religion different from mine?" That began a wonderful discussion. Lucia told me, "What I liked the most was learning the way of daily living, the habits and cultural diversity. I went to learn English and I was immersed 24/7. It is the best way to learn a language."

So, you're thinking that you'd love to do this but have no connections in other countries? Easy! Search online for exchange student programs. If you wish, specify a particular country. De-

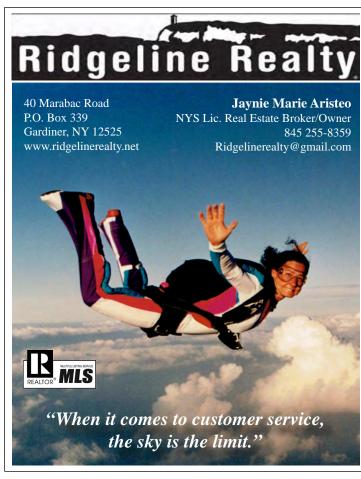
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cide if you're looking to host for a few weeks, a summer, a semester or a year. Consider programs that might pay you, or not.

There are many variables, so select what is best for you and your family. If you know a family in another country, reach out and see if you can arrange something with them, or their neighbors. Do it and I promise that you will love it! It's just people sharing

their lives in spite of language, religious, cultural and age differences and thousands of miles between them. We have made lifelong friends among the students and their parents. We hope to once again visit our "Spanish family" in the near future.

Juan concluded by telling me, "I didn't expect that people would be so friendly. I loved to see my American friends and to visit a different country."

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#### Mushrooms, from page 1

ible wild mushrooms have gills. It's just that the truly dangerous mushrooms happen to have gills.

I've been gathering edible mushrooms for a few years now, and I'm still not ready to eat a gilled mushroom picked from the wild. Even if I'm "pretty sure" it's edible, pretty sure isn't quite good enough.

Edible Mushrooms: Lest I frighten people with the dangers of poisonous mushrooms, rest assured that it's easy to find safe, edible mushrooms. It turns out that many of the most desirable edible mushrooms are easy to identify. They do not have gills, and do not have any look-alikes.

The Foolproof Four: Many people abide by the foolproof four. That is, only eat: Giant puffballs (Calvatia gigantea); Chicken of the woods aka sulphur shelf (Laetiporus sulphureus); Morels (Morchella sp.) or Chanterelles (Cantharellus sp.)

Mushrooms tend to have their seasons. Late summer or early fall is a good time to go hunting for some "choice edible" mushrooms such as Hen of the woods aka maitake (Grifola frondosa) and Chicken of the woods, mentioned above in the foolproof four. Both of these are easy to identify and quite delicious. With all the rain this past summer, it turned into an exceptional mushroom season.

Mushroom hunters often have their "secret" harvest spots (I could tell you where it is but then...) which they return to year

after year. Last year I discovered chanterelles in my woods. This year I was able to return to that same spot and collect a few pounds over a few weeks. Last night we had chanterelles cooked with butter, garlic & winedelicious!

Soon after, I went out for another chanterelle harvest and literally stepped into a patch of black trumpets, the most invisible edible of all. A black trumpet can look like a hole in the ground or a crumpled leaf. I had never seen one before. Black trumpets are another safe choice edible; they have no poisonous look-alikes. I cooked mine in butter. Yum.

Mushrooming for fun: Foraging for these delectable edibles is another entrée into the natural world, like birding or hiking or hunting. And there's the challenge of the hunt—trying to find that same mushroom year after year. You may have found them in previous years, but not this year and so, wonder, "Am I in the right spot? Is my timing off? Is it too dry?"

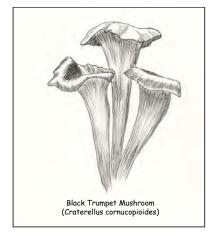
There's the surprise of finding something new along a familiar route. Mushrooms can pop up seemingly overnight; not like a tree or bush which looks pretty much the same as it did yesterday.

And the beauty... A walk in the woods, especially after a wet spell, can reveal a carpet of strange colors and weird shapes as fresh mushrooms emerge from the floor. One

week I started seeing tiny crimson chanterelles cover the slopes, along with lavender "tooth" mushrooms.

Recommended mushroom books: In 2011 I took a popular mushroom class at the New York Botanical Garden, taught by Gary Lincoff, not realizing at the time that he was the east coast mushroom authority. His National Audubon Society Field Guide to Mushrooms, 1981, is the best eastern field guide, and his 2017 The Complete Mushroom Hunter is a great guide with excellent poisonous mushroom information. Lincoff died earlier this year at the age of 75, still teaching and writing about mushrooms. The New York Times obituary refers to him as the "pied piper of mushrooms."

Mycophilia (Eugenia Bone, 2013) is a great read about the wonderful world of mushrooms, and The Mushroom Hunters (Langdon Cook,



2013) reveals the fascinating subculture of commercial mushroom pickers. All That the Rain Promises and More (David Arora, 1991) is a good field guide for the west, and Mushrooms Demystified (David Arora, 1986) is a really big book that answers lots of questions. Finally, don't miss Mycelium Running (Paul Stamets, 2005) about how mushrooms can save the world. Happy hunting. □

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sorry, but you know we have to say it...the author and The Gardiner Gazette, of course, will not be held responsible if you get it wrong.

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#### Activism, from page 1

ism in art. Maybe you have seen the Norman Rockwell painting of an African-American girl being walked to school by four U.S. Marshals? The picture, entitled, "The Problem We All Live With," directly addressed racism in America in 1964.

Or perhaps you know of the famous British artist, Banksy? One of his most popular works, "The Flower Thrower," depicts a man bombing the establishment with flowers, seeming to say, "wage peace, not war." Most recently, and a bit more locally, you may remember the "Fearless Girl" sculpture by Kristen Visbal that was installed in New York City, in front of the Wall Street bull, in March, 2017, just in time for International Women's Day. The statue was a way of calling attention to the gender pay gap and lack of gender diversity in the corporate world.

But art doesn't always have to address national or global issues. Sometimes the issue is a local one, affecting a smaller, but no less passionate, group of people. Such is the case with our next example.

Long-time Gardiner resident and local artist Keith Buesing recently organized a community "float in" which attracted over 100 participants. On July 29th the com-

munity activists brought their kayaks and canoes to Tillson Lake and used the watercraft to spell out SOS (for Save Our Sanctuary). Keith's son, Cody Buesing, is a filmmaker and captured the event with his drone.

If you have been following the Tillson lake developments you know that the 100+-year-old lake has been slated by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC) and NY State Parks Department to be drained. Keith expressed the sentiments of many when he said, "Tillson Lake is in danger of being erased from our community. I know that there are so many people that recognize Tillson Lake as the precious jewel that it is."

Keith works mostly with topiaries, stone and wood, and this was his first project that was devoted to a cause. He stated, "mostly my work is inspired by quirky whimsy. Something unexpected that would make one smile." However, the Tillson Lake SOS. photo was inspired by an aerial photograph by Sebastien Copeland. It depicts global-warming awareness activists in Antarctica, lying in the snow in colorful snowsuits, spelling out "SOS."



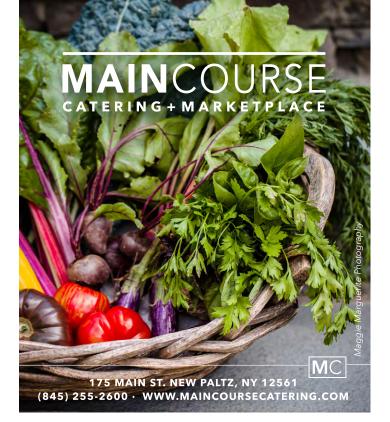
Activists on Tillson Lake in July. Photo: Jim Gordon.

Keith described himself as "a local who recognizes the value and beauty of a precious body of water." He went on to say, "There are few opportunities in this area to experience the simple joy and beautiful sensation of paddling. Using instruments of such simple design and so ergonomically perfect, that they haven't been improved

upon for thousands of years, to glide quietly on smooth water, powered only by muscle, in a scenic setting, in any conceivable weather, leaving nothing behind but ripples."

Keith's love of his experiences on the lake inspired him to take action through his art, showing us again, that activism can take many forms.

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#### The Gardiner Gazette

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## Gardiner Day Block Party a Huge Success

by Carol O'Biso

For those who didn't know, Gardiner Day this year was held in the hamlet instead of in Majestic Park. Billed as a "Block Party," the change in venue injected it with an amazing amount of new energy.

The event was dedicated to Carol Ann Majestic Lohrman, one of the original Gardiner Day committee members, who passed away recently. It was a fitting tribute. There were the usual face painting and great food vendors (in the Town Hall parking lot), as well as the Country Living tent, karate and other demonstrations, and a band, (in Moran Field), while another band and a wonderful array of artisans, wine makers and oth-

er vendors thickly populated Station Square.

The big differences, though, were our shopkeepers participating in the event, people strolling with their kids and their dogs (not allowed in Majestic Park), people stopping for a beer at Cafe Mio's outdoor beer garden (also not allowed in Majectic Park), and the ability to stroll in and out of the shops. (My hair cutter is moving away and I found a new one, simply because the door of the Hair Chalet was invitingly open.)

There was even a shuttle to









get you from one end of town to the other, and crossing guards to keep us all safe while we devoted ourselves to every indulgence! Some of us, who shall remain nameless, may actually have skipped Gardiner Day for the last few years, but if it's in the Hamlet next year, "we" won't be doing that again. □ ← Back Comment ⇒

#### **About This Publication**

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#### LOCAL MARKET ACTIVITY YEAR-TO-DATE (JAN—SEPT 2018)

	TOTAL LISTED	NUMBER SOLD	AVG SALE PRICE	AVG MEDIAN PRICE	AVG DOM
GARDINER	92	44	\$501,555	\$411,000	106
NEW PALTZ	113	65	\$315,754	\$281,500	80

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