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August 21 - August 27, 2019

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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## TOP STORY



# Over the hill

Local Boy Scout Troop celebrates 100 years

By **DIEGO CAGARA**  
cagarad@spotlightnews.com

**DELMAR** — Boy Scout Troop 58 is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

The troop will hold a formal celebration on Saturday, Nov. 16 at the Nathaniel Adams Blanchard Post 1040 of the American Legion.

▲  
Boy Scout Troop 58 stand upon the summit of Baldy Mountain in New Mexico. The troop has a long history in Delmar. In fact, it goes 100 years long.

Submitted photo

Continues on page 5

## NEWS



### Golden years ahead

Jim Reagan first served Guilderland EMS in 1986 and is now retiring.

Story on Page 3

## ENTERTAINMENT



### New kids in the hall

Renovated Lark Hall opens its doors.

Story on Page B1

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COMMUNITY

# Longtime Guilderland EMS Supervisor retires



Jim Reagan was recognized for his outstanding service by Guilderland EMS where he worked for over three decades.

Source: Brenda Reagan

By DIEGO CAGARA  
cagarad@spotlightnews.com

**GUILDERLAND** — Longtime Guilderland EMS Supervisor Jim Reagan has officially gone into retirement starting on the week of Aug. 11, according to Jay Tyler, its director of EMS

Operations. “I’ve known Jim since 2003 when I started and he was a paramedic supervisor there at the time,” Tyler said. “Jim was one of the original paramedics in Guilderland. He was there in 1986 when the town had to create a police paramedic unit and during

the evolution of the system, he became a full-time supervisor and later retired but worked part-time for a little while.”

Regarding the latter point, Tyler explained that Reagan had technically first announced his retirement three years ago but still decided to stay on a part-time basis to help the transition process. Tyler said Reagan’s retirement ceremony/picnic, sponsored by Guilderland EMS, was held at the town’s Western Turnpike Golf Course’s pavilion on Saturday, Aug. 10. A Facebook post about this generated over 70 likes and over two dozen comments from local well-wishers.

When he was still working as a supervisor, Reagan was in charge of field operations and system status management, was also a controlled substance administrator, provided backup support when needed, and handled staff and vehicle issues, according to Tyler — “He was essentially the liaison to the EMS director.”

Reagan had long worked numerous jobs across the Capital District in the past couple of decades, including his

time at Guilderland EMS, being the Maintenance Superintendent for Bethlehem’s Department of Parks and Recreation, being the Elsmere Fire Department Chief, and more. Speaking of Elsmere, its fire department posted a congratulatory photo of a cake in Reagan’s honor on its Facebook page on Wednesday, Aug. 14; it has received almost 100 likes and over a dozen comments from local well-wishers too.

“I believe he was here for around 30 years but he wanted to enjoy life,” Tyler said. “What I’ll miss about him was his calm demeanor and how collected he was under any situation. I remember we had a Guilderland nursing home that had a CO [carbon monoxide] issue and we had to evacuate the place and Jim got our medical director and the police there. He was always very good at commanding.”

The Guilderland EMS continues to offer ambulance service, prehospital medical care and Advanced Life Support First Response, covering almost 100 square miles.

POLICE and EMERGENCY CALLS

## Ravena fire under investigation



Tom Heffernan Sr. / Special to Spotlight News

By DIEGO CAGARA  
cagarad@spotlightnews.com

**RAVENA** — Numerous fire departments responded to a fire at a conveyor belt at the Lafarge Ravena cement plant on 1916 U.S. Route 9W on Friday, Aug. 16.

Among the responding fire departments were those from Ravena, Bethlehem, Selkirk and New Baltimore; New York State Police and Coeymans Police Department also arrived to assist. The aforementioned conveyor belt transports material from a Hudson River wharf to the cement plant. The fire’s cause is under investigation.

Ravena’s Mayor Bill Misuraca wrote in a Facebook post that day that the local public may encounter water discoloration “due to the massive amount of water used to combat the Lafarge fire.” He added that it is safe and he advised people to run their faucets for a while to clear it all up. At least two firefighters were treated for heat exhaustion but there were no serious injuries reported.



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COMMUNITY

# Supplying students for a fresh start

Aim to give students equal opportunity when in school

By **Diego Cagara**  
cagarad@spotlightnews.com

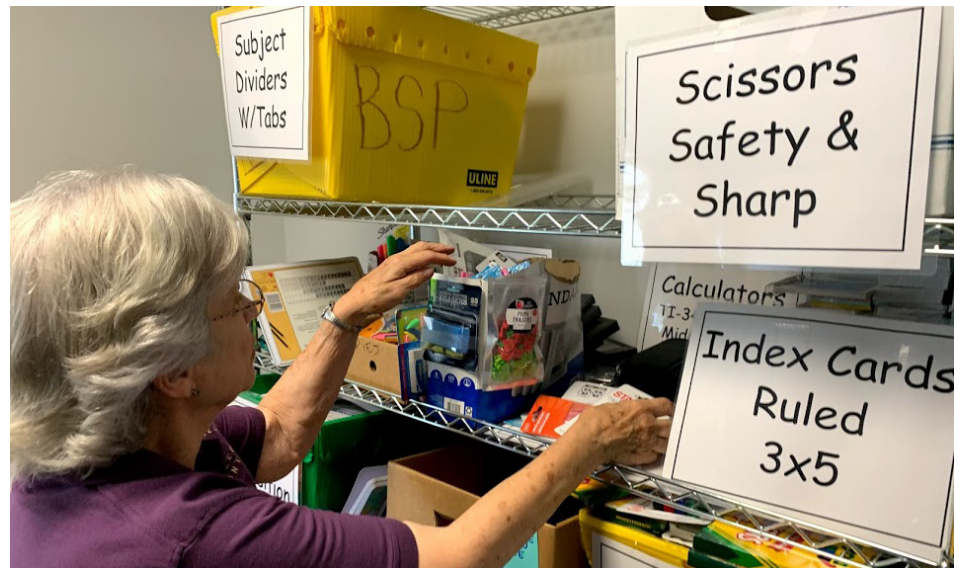
**BETHLEHEM** — As summer break closes and school is getting back in session, not all are able to

afford to buy their own supplies for their classes for the new year. But the town's Senior Services department is swooping in to the rescue before the bell rings.

Its annual school supplies drive, funded by the not-for-profit Bethlehem Senior Projects, is now underway which began in July, according

to William Vail, the department's assistant director. As of the week of Aug. 11, he said 25 families and around 63 students have submitted their respective lists of desired supplies, using a fill-out form, and the department has been working to get them in time for the fall semester. These would benefit students going to school within the Town of Bethlehem.

Supplies include backpacks, lined paper, pens, calculators, locks for lockers, pocket folders, composition notebooks and rulers. Vail explained that the supplies come from items they've gone out to purchase as well as donations from people in the community since summer began. Donations have been gathered from special collecting bins at places like Bethlehem Town Hall, the YMCA and the public library. They are being stored and organized



Volunteer Lynda Bissonnette, above, is among several volunteers who helped organize the donated supplies in the town's food pantry and fill backpacks with them.

Diego Cagara / Spotlight News

at the food pantry at Town Hall by the town's food pantry's volunteers.

A private tour of the room shows an organizational scheme to help volunteers efficiently fill backpacks containing a specific set of supplies

for a specific student in need. Volunteer Lynda Bissonnette said, "I like to see things organized start to finish and I like to see smiles on people's faces. ... We make sure that the supplies are appropriate for whatever the grade of

the student will be in. The supplies are basically a list of what their teachers said they would need."

Bissonnette, who said she has been doing this for at least three years

**Continues on page 6**

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## ■ ENVIRONMENT

# DEC concerned about white pines decline

Pining for ways to address statewide issue and beyond

By **DIEGO CAGARA**  
cagarad@spotlightnews.com

**NEW YORK** — White pine trees are on the decline statewide, according to the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

Jessica Cancelliere, a research scientist in DEC's Forest Health Diagnostic Lab in Delmar and Robert Cole, a Forester in Forest Health in DEC's Albany office, released an article called "White Pine Decline" in July which discusses the phenomenon and what DEC is doing to remedy it. It had been written in May and June.

While Cancelliere was unavailable for comment, Cole said he also works in DEC's Bureau of Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health and they acknowledged that the decline was happening throughout the state, not just in the Capital District.

Beyond New York, he said it is impacting white pine ranges across the northeast coast like in New



England and even the Midwest region of Canada.

He added that the decline was actually first noticed back in 2014 in New York from the low-level discoloration of affected pine trees, or *Pinus strobus*. It originally was detected in 2010 in Maine where the decline affected 62,000 acres of forest, and this spilled over into southeastern New Hampshire, eastern Massachusetts and eastern Connecticut. In the aforementioned article, he mentioned that his Forestry team was "conducting an exotic woodborer survey in the white pine stands of Wilcox Lake Wild Forest near Wells" when they first

made this discovery; white pines' groves there can be as tall as 200 feet and up to 5 feet in diameter.

"We're seeing this progression in the past five years and the discoloring is really the main sign of it," he said. "Normally a pine tree sheds some needles in summer or early fall but discoloration is a big thing to watch out for. It can occur early in the summer like the end of May. Green needles turn yellow and red before they fall off in July from this disease. Normally white pines do shed some needles but it's in the fall."

Speaking of disease, four fungi species were determined to be causing white pine needle damage

(WPND).

Three of them — *Lecanosticta acicola*, *Lophophacidium dooksii* and *Bifusella linearis* — are believed by the DEC to be native to the northeast region but have been known to cause only minor damage to white pine trees.

The fourth species, *Septorioides strobi*, was first discovered in the state in 2015 and has a fungi relative in Japan that is known to attack Japanese black pine. DEC believes that this fourth species is most damaging one out of the four now.

Cole said, "Fungi needs cool temperatures and moisture, and the springs have been heavy and the summers feel warm-wet. These patterns are now conducive for fungi."

The article noted that since 1950, the country's northeastern region has seen an increase of 1°C and overall precipitation has been at around 165

mm during the April-September growing season, 2011 being the wettest recorded year so far.

Relating back to his previous point, these fungi, besides discoloring white pines' needles, would make their canopies appear thin and the branches would also be thinned and weakened, making them more vulnerable to damage from animals, fungi, water, sunlight and soil.

The article also included that pests like white pine blister rust and white pine weevil have contributed to the overall decline.

The rising spread of the fungi species is also complemented by the high density of white pines throughout the state.

According to the article, "Since needle diseases flourish in crowded stand conditions where branches are close together and light and air cannot easily penetrate the canopy, silvicultural practices like thinning to reduce stand densities in WPND-infected stands will decrease the dispersal of associate fungi spores and increase crown light exposure, promoting growth, crown development and tree

recovery."

The article indicated that the state DEC has contacted the U.S. Forest Service Northeastern Area office in New Hampshire and they are now working to develop new guidance recommendations on how to address the white pine decline.

As part of this ongoing process, New York has 30 monitoring plots across the state in the long term that are collecting stand data, observing track changes in tree health and identifying fungal pathogens.

Cole said, "We go back year to year to track the trees' progress like measuring their height, diameter and give an overall rating or health number."

When asked if the overall decline is dangerous, Cole said, "That's tough to say. In the past five years, a good portion of white pines across the state had been affected but it could further turn into a major thing. We want to do more forest management and monitoring."

For more information, visit [www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration\\_pdf/0619whitepine.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration_pdf/0619whitepine.pdf).

## From page 1 ...

### Troop 58

To be located on 16 West Poplar Dr. in Delmar, the event will "basically be a birthday party ... but it is still in its formation phase and we'll have more information as we get closer to the date," said Robert Herzog, the liaison between Troop 58 and Post 1040, and the former's chartered organization representative. "It's a rarity that a troop maintains itself for 100 years and it is a wonderful event that a troop can maintain its continuity."

According to its website, Troop 58 was originally formed in fall 1919 as "Troop 1 of Elsmere" and it kept that name until 1926; it was then renamed as "Elsmere Troop 58" at that point, although it is unclear when it officially became renamed as "Delmar Troop 58." Through the decades, the troop has changed its meeting place numerous

times, including at Post 1040, the Elsmere Elementary School, the former Bethlehem Community Coffee House and Bethlehem Town Hall.

Herzog said as part of the troop's centennial celebration, it is planning to reach out to past alumni and staff in addition to its current roster of around 30 scouts.

Robert Leslie, one of the troop's committee members, said the current scouts "mostly, if not all, are residents of Bethlehem and go to Bethlehem Central for school." He added that it's "pretty cool" that the troop is hitting its centennial and he brought up that he himself was one of its Boy Scouts when he was around 15 years old.

Rob Janeski, the troop's committee chair, said the Nov. 16 celebration is "in the planning stages but we can guarantee that it's an opportunity for current and former scouts as well as families to join in and reminisce and celebrate the achievement of the last 100 years. We'll start reaching

out to alumni just after Labor Day."

Regarding the centennial itself, he said, "It's terrific and it's a testament to quite honestly our sponsor organization, Post 1040. I think our scouts have learned how to give back to the community and also to grow individually."

Speaking on individual growth, Leslie was the lead advisor for Troop 58's recent trip to the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico from July 28 to Aug. 12; he said 10 scouts and a few scouters or advisors were able to go. Not all of its scouts could go as it was a "high adventure experience" which allowed only those aged 14 and over.

Among the things they did, according to Leslie, included marveling at a Tyrannosaurus rex fossil, a rope course, touring a copper and gold mine, and restoring a worn trail to its natural conditions as part of a three-hour conservation project. "We had an itinerary that the



Troop 58 hiking during their two-week stay at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico.

Source: Adam Naumovitz

scouts had chosen based on their interests," he said. "Certainly, they learned perseverance and most of them will earn the Hiking merit badge, the 50-Miler Award and the Backpacking merit badge. They learned to cook on a gas stove, how to prepare and cook meals, how to survive in the wilderness and have a leave-no-trace-behind mindset where they took nothing but only pictures wherever they went and not disturb anything."

Leslie concluded, "It's an opportunity for them to extend

themselves and the trip is the culmination of a lot of years and learning basic scouting skills like survival, cooking and the safe use of tools. It's an exciting and different thing that most kids don't get an opportunity to do."

Looking ahead, besides the Nov. 16 centennial celebration, the three men said some things Troop 58 can expect include a flatwater canoe trip in September and possibly a hiking trip in October or November.

For more information, visit [www.troop58.us](http://www.troop58.us).

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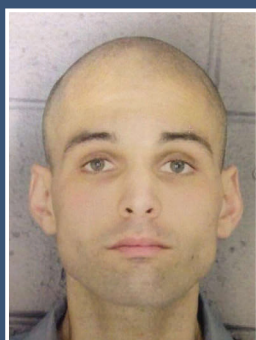
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## OBITUARY

### David Hale Gregory, 91

David Hale Gregory, 91, of Delmar, passed away peacefully on Friday, August 9, 2019 with his loving family by his side.

Born in Syracuse on August 15, 1927, David was the son of the late George Groot Gregory and Dr. Clara Amelia (Hale) Gregory. He was the devoted husband of 43 years to the late Virginia DeWitt Gregory. They were married in 1975 until her passing in June of 2018. He was predeceased by his first wife of 18 years, Janet Rude Graham Gregory.

Loving father of Lynn Hale Gregory, Susan Gregory Schmidt, Carol Ritchie Gregory and William Graham Gregory (Kimberly) and stepfather of Linda Gray Alexander (Bruce), Stephanie Gray Glisson (William), William Jon Gray and Jon DeWitt Gray (Kathleen).

Cherished grandfather of Nathan Beane, Erin Frayne, Emily Dufrene, Elizabeth Schmidt, Piper Gregory, Garrett Gregory and great grandfather of seven.

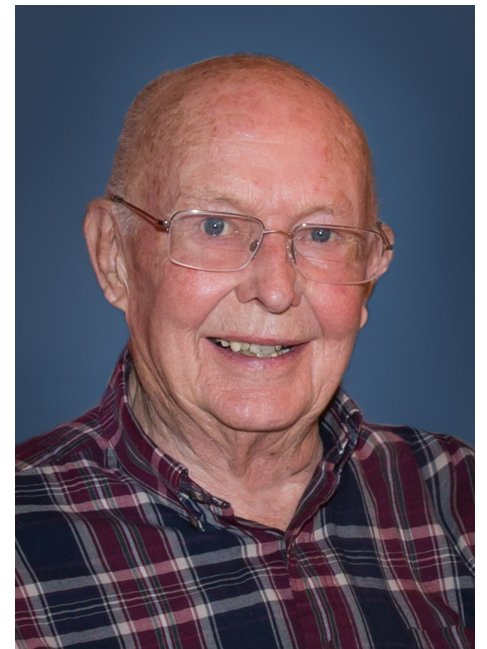
Dearest brother of the late Ann Bunce, the late Jean Munger and the late George Groot Gregory II.

Several nieces and nephews also survive.

David was a lifelong resident of the Delmar and Slingerlands area. He served his country faithfully as a veteran of both the Navy and the Air Force at the end of WWII (1945-1947) receiving an honorable discharge.

David attended Syracuse University where he received an Associates Degree. He was employed as a sales engineer for over 39.5 years and retired from Honeywell Controls Division in Albany.

David was a member of the Elks of Punta Gorda, Fla., the Normanside Country Club, the Delmar American Legion and he was a lifelong member of Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. He was an active participant at the South



Albany Airport and he was a member on the board of directors. David was a pilot and an avid reader, he enjoyed flying, hunting, boating in Florida and socializing with family and friends. Above all, David was a loving father and grandfather.

Memorial services will be held September 21st at 2:00 pm. at St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 16 Elsmere Ave, Delmar, NY 12054. A gathering will follow at the home of Bill and Kim Gregory at 270 Waldenmaier Rd. Feura Bush, NY.

The family requests that donations be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation, Donation Processing Center, P.O. Box 5014, Hagerstown, MD 21741-5014 or online at: [www.michaeljfox.org/donate](http://www.michaeljfox.org/donate).

To leave a special message for he family online please visit [www.NewComerAlbany.com](http://www.NewComerAlbany.com).

### From page 4 ... School supplies

now, added that since the supplies drive is run by volunteers, it can be challenging sometimes as organizing supplies and filling the backpacks can be time-consuming and not all volunteers may be available on call.

Vail said, "It's wonderful that the community has come together and there have also been monetary donations too. We're grateful that the town is giving us space to do this too." He added that the department is expecting probably 25 more families to submit their desired supplies lists and the drive ends around the first week of September. He explained that teachers may reveal



Senior Services' Assistant Director William Vail, right, watches Bissonnette, left, pack a backpack. Diego Cagara / Spotlight News

their specific supplies requirements on the first day of class which can prompt students to reach out to the department again suddenly.

Bringing up that the annual drive has been happening for over 13 years now, he concluded, "We're doing this so that

every student has an equal opportunity to have the supplies they will need to help them succeed. It definitely takes a village and it's amazing that people give back and our community has a very caring spirit. We are grateful for everyone who are involved here."

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# Neighborhood Pride

By **SPOTLIGHT STAFF**

[news@spotlightnews.com](mailto:news@spotlightnews.com)

**SLINGERLAND** — In this building, people learned that pride is a sin, but honoring our past is not.

The people who live in Slingerlands have a distinct purpose of honoring their past, and aim to preserve it. The hamlet is one of the oldest neighborhoods in our town, and it is home to some of the best preserved Victorian Age homes in the Capital District.

In this edition, learn a little more about Slingerlands and some of the people who call it — and who have called it — home.

Photo by Jim Franco / Spotlight Newspapers

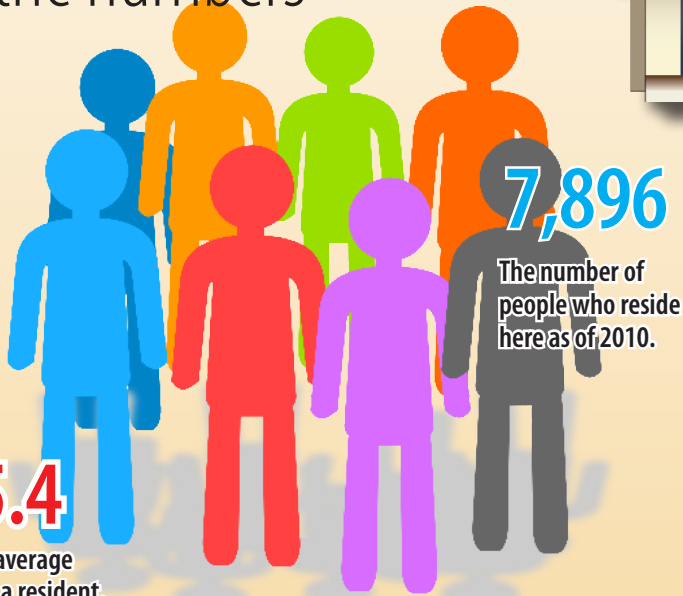
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# A maestro in our midst

You should know  
David Alan Miller

By **KATIE HOPSICKER**  
*intern@spotlightnews.com*

**SLINGERLANDS** — David Alan Miller, the Grammy Award-winning conductor and Music Director of the Albany Symphony Orchestra, has been living in Slingerlands for 26 years and has “loved every minute of it.”

Miller grew up in Los Angeles, California and attended both The University of California, Berkeley and The Juilliard School in New York City.

So how did he get to Albany?

“I knew I wanted to be a conductor since I was 15 years old,” said Miller. Prior

to Albany, he served as an assistant conductor and then associate conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Additionally, he was music director of the New York Youth Symphony. Miller explained that he was “expected to go out and find another orchestra,” and “Albany was open.”

Miller was drawn to the orchestra for its “real reputation of doing new and unusual music,” and “knew [the Capital District] was a wonderful community.” He and his wife, who is from New York City, lived in Albany for a year and “looked in a lot of places” before falling in love with Slingerlands and raising their three children. For the past 26 years, Miller has enjoyed his beautiful,



As its conductor, David Alan Miller has stood before the Albany Symphony Orchestra for more than 25 years.

Albany Symphony Orchestra

historic home, which was built in 1848, and frequently spends his free time gardening.

Most importantly, Miller emphasized the impact that Slingerlands

has had on his family. Compared to the urban atmosphere of Los Angeles, “here [in Bethlehem] I feel like I live in the country,” he stated. “It’s a great place to have your kids grow up... it’s the

most idyllic childhood.”

It seems like Miller’s children are just as supportive of their dad as he is of them. When asked how it felt to win a Grammy Award in 2014,

Miller replied that it was “unexpected” that his Naxos recording of John Corigliano’s “Conjuror” “just happened to be nominated.” Miller brought **Continues next page**



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## From previous page ...

### A maestro in our midst

his son to the awards, and all modesty aside, Miller recalled that it was a “great feeling” and experience to share with his son, Ari.

Miller also remembered the period following his Grammy Award win. “My kids used to ask if I was famous,” he said. Miller would jokingly reply that he “found himself getting stopped at the Slingerlands Price Chopper” more regularly.

Living in Slingerlands has enabled Miller to balance family life with his professional career at the Albany Symphony. Not only is Miller “incredibly happy” to live in a beautiful town in a great vicinity, but he also takes advantage of the Albany County Rail Trail and often bikes to work.

As for the symphony, he feels “really grateful” to be a part of a “community [that] is exceedingly generous.”

The Albany Symphony Orchestra is perfect for Miller, who stated, “I love a lot of different kinds of music... I do the whole panoply.” Miller and the orchestra commission record different works by helping to “bring new pieces into the world... a lot of [pieces] from living American composers.”

When people come to the symphony, Miller hopes that they can expect two things. Primarily, he wants audiences to have a “really powerful, moving... and transformative experience with music.” Secondly, he thinks “there’s something really powerful about seeing music made in front

of you.” Miller explained “the world is at a press of a button” and seeing a symphony play is “less and less frequent” and “old style in a way... That’s a really exciting thing.”

In the future, Miller and the orchestra have some special plans.

“I want to try and do things that are different [from] what everyone else is doing,” said Miller.

He explained, “next year is the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage.” For women composers to be recognized is still “kind of an anomaly” so to raise awareness and celebrate, the Albany Symphony will host a series of “Phenomenal Women” concerts, with “20 works by women composers spread throughout the season.”

Miller wants to focus on “emerging composers” and “what’s exciting— what’s happening in the world.”

*Here [in Bethlehem] I feel like I live in the country. It’s a great place to have your kids grow up... it’s the most idyllic childhood.”*

— David Alan Miller, Grammy Award-winning conductor and Music Director of the Albany Symphony Orchestra



Albany Symphony Orchestra

To aspiring conductors, Miller advises them to “listen broadly” and “learn as much as you can.” Compared to an instrument producing sound and fostering an immediate connection with the respective musician, “conducting is a lot more

abstract.” Miller also brought to attention the fact that “people don’t think about creating composers.” Overall, “think about creating ways to reflect after people.”

With such a rare occupation, Miller’s

influence, inspiration and unique success is resounding. From Los Angeles to New York City to a small town in the Capital District, he reflected, “I’m very proud to live here in Slingerlands.”

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## Act of self preservation

Slingerlands Historic District continues to push for ways to maintain hamlet's rich history

By **DIEGO CAGARA**  
cagarad@spotlightnews.com

**SLINGERLANDS** — When the medieval Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris, France caught on fire this April, it suffered severe damage and attracted international media coverage.

On a smaller scale, lightning struck Albany County Legislator William Reinhardt's (D-33) Slingerlands house at 1613 New Scotland Ave. in May 2017 which caught on fire and took two years for his family to finally move back in after careful restoration from the fire and water damage. More recently, lightning struck

another Slingerlands house on 632 Kenwood Ave. on Monday, July 29; it also caught on fire, received fire and water damage, and a hole in the roof, and the owner is temporarily living with relatives as the house is deemed unsafe to live in for now.

These examples conjured up thoughts on how structures, historic or not, can be vulnerable to factors beyond human control. Regarding historic structures specifically though, it can further lead to a discussion of the topics of historic preservation and historic districts — which is present in Bethlehem.

Slingerlands resident Kathleen Bragle similarly

As the sign suggests, the Slingerlands Historic District is a widely recognized Register of Historic Place, but it lacks official laws or regulations at the town level, for which some residents have expressed concern as they want more proactive steps towards preservation.

Diego Cagara /  
Spotlight News

had that mindset, believing that the Town of Bethlehem should be more proactive in preserving its Slingerlands Historic District, its historic properties within and elsewhere around town.



"The history here is so important and it means something to people. I believe Slingerlands is special but there is a density issue and there have been proposals for developments in the area

which is just atrocious," she said. Bragle lives in the oldest house in Slingerlands Historic District, which was originally built by John A. Slingerland in 1790. The Slingerland family

has a rich history in the 18th and 19th centuries, with various connections to the local town community and national politics, for instance. Bragle said she knew of the house's history

**Continues next page**

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**From page 11 ...**

Act of self preservation

when her family first moved in in the late 1970s.

**Historic District**

Before proceeding, let's discuss about the Slingerlands Historic District first. It consists of 102 buildings and one structure, which were erected mainly between 1790 and 1940, which includes Victorian,

**Albany County Legislator Bill Reinhardt's Slingerlands house, left, has now been repaired since being struck by lightning in 2017. Reinhardt said restoring the house's overall Victorian style was aesthetically important to him and the community.**

Diego Cagara / Spotlight News

Colonial Revival and Bungalow architecture. Local residents worked with Town Historian Susan Leath and the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSPRHP) office to have the area recognized by the State and National Historic Registers of Historic Places in December 2011 and February 2012 respectively, according to Leath.

Despite this designation, this historic district lacks any official town laws or regulations for its property owners and according to Bethlehem Planning Board Chairman John Smolinsky, parts of the district are zoned either Residential or Hamlet. "It's a formality of being recognized as a historic district but when [the Planning Board] receive project applications

in that area, we are required in the zoning code to recognize and consider the historic value of the neighborhood," he said.

According to NYSPRHP's underlying state Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), owners of properties on the State and National Registers of Historic Places "are free to remodel, alter, paint, manage, subdivide, sell or even demolish a National or State Register listed property" as long as it complies with local zoning, not use federal or state funds to complete such a project, and not require a state or federal permit to do it. If the latter two points are the case though, property owners need to review their proposed alterations with SHPO staff.

For more information, visit [www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm) or [parks.ny.gov/shpo/national-](http://parks.ny.gov/shpo/national-)

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register/documents/FAQaboutStateNRinNYS.pdf.

In the case of Reinhardt's aforementioned Slingerlands house — built in 1898 and originally owned by the Slingerland family — Reinhardt said it was important that the house repairs "tried to retain the original look and Victorian style as much as possible" although he acknowledged his restored residence now is not a direct copy of how it looked like before it was struck by lightning in 2017. He acknowledged that the attic, fireplace mantle and many electrical appliances were among those damaged but he was "very happy" with the repair results despite the two-year wait.

Moving back in on June 12 this year, he said an example of a lost item from the fire was an envelope containing key information about the three families, including the Slingerlands,

who previously owned the house and when.

"Not all the family treasures survived unfortunately but this house has character to it and preserving that was so important," he said. "We always kept the Victorian style in mind in terms of the house's painted color schemes, wallpapers and so on. I had to get a building permit from the town to restore my house which was a smooth process." He added that he appreciated not facing any issues about what kind of building materials and tools the repairs could use.

### Push for laws?

There is a movement, though, among numerous Bethlehem residents, especially some in Slingerlands, to push the town government to set up official laws and regulations on properties in the Slingerlands



Historic District for the sake of further historic preservation.

For example, Preserve Historic Bethlehem started an online petition, available at [www.change.org/p/preserve-bethlehem-ny-](http://www.change.org/p/preserve-bethlehem-ny-and-historic-slingerlands)

[and-historic-slingerlands](http://www.change.org/p/preserve-bethlehem-ny-and-historic-slingerlands), which has received 853 signatures as of Friday, August 9 that wants town codes and tighter zoning laws to regulate what type of proposed development projects should be allowed

in the Slingerlands Historic District; it also wants the district to be recognized in town code. Its aim is, however, different from wanting laws and regulations that strictly limit what owners

Slingerlands resident Kathleen Bragle lives in the oldest house, left, in the Slingerlands Historic District. It was originally built by John A. Slingerland in 1790. The historic Slingerland family was prominent in local and national affairs in the 18th and 19th centuries, some of whom are buried in the Slingerland Family Burial vault now.

Diego Cagara / Spotlight News

can do with their properties there, like restricting what color schemes should only be allowed or the size of windows.

Slingerlands resident **Continues next page**

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## From page 13 ... Act of self preservation

Iiona Muhlich, who helped set up the Slingerlands Historic District in 2012 and is living in an early 19th-century New Scotland Road house since 1973, said she personally would not like the type of laws or regulations that restrict what Slingerlands Historic District property owners can do with their houses. "Instead, I just want some protection from commercial development in the area which is our biggest fear now. We don't want things that don't align with the area's historic character or structures," she said.

She and Smolinsky said that numerous residents have brought up in the past year's comprehensive plan public forums about their desire for the town to take more proactive steps

to preserve the historical district and structures.

Smolinsky wrote in a follow-up email that people ideally would support the idea of more historic preservation in town but he "think[s] support might dwindle and opposition [might] increase as any proposed laws/regulations become more prescriptive." Leath said, "I think a local law would be very good if it balances the rights of the property owners with the desires of the historic district and preservation. It has to be thoroughly reviewed and discussed with interested parties onboard."

### More historic districts?

There is interest in the



town having additional historic districts besides Slingerlands although it is unclear whether such new historic districts either would follow Slingerlands' footsteps, work to be recognized by the State and National Registers of

Historic Places and not have any restrictive laws on affected property owners, or be established by the town itself which may develop restrictive laws on affected property owners.

Should a potential new historic district

follow the former's path, SHPO has described the process for applying a property or area/district to the registers. Eligible properties — including residences, bridges, churches, cemeteries, groups of significant

A blue sign, left, stands near the intersection of New Scotland Road and Kenwood Avenue, and across from Toll Gate Ice Cream. If it weren't for the sign, most passers-by likely would not know the location of the Slingerland Family Burial Vault which is a stone's throw away south from it which is significant for being the final resting place for local historical figures like politician John I. Slingerland (1804 - 1861).

Diego Cagara / Spotlight News

buildings, etc. — should be over 50 years old for consideration and an application has to be submitted to SHPO for evaluation.

According to SHPO, "If the property is determined eligible for

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listing, the nomination sponsor is responsible for providing documentation that describes the property's setting and physical characteristics, documents its history, conveys its significance in terms of its historic context, and demonstrates how it meets the register criteria. The New York State Board for Historic Preservation reviews completed nominations. If the board recommends the nomination, the New York State Historic Preservation Officer (Commissioner of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation) lists the property on the State Register and forwards it to the National Park Service for review and listing on the National Register."

The above process usually takes six months to a year long for a historic property but it may take over a year for an applying historic district. SHPO

also noted that a property owner can object to being on the registers.

Smolinsky and Reinhardt believed that the overall application process should start with a grassroots efforts on the residents' part.

Smolinsky said it should also start with an inventory which would catalogue what and where certain houses and properties are located in town that have historical value; for a new historic district, an inventory needs to present a group of closely-located historical properties.

"There may need to be some outreach to landowners about this possibility but not everyone is always interested," he said. "When the Slingerlands Historic District was formed, some landowners questioned about possible regulations and they did not want to be a part of it."

Muhlich recalled back

in the early 2010s when the Slingerlands Historic District was applying for the registers, "some people were afraid they will not be able to put on additions to their houses or paint them how they want but we reassured them that nothing like that would happen."

Reinhardt similarly said, "As a property owner, I'm a bit wary about restrictions being too severe in terms of what I can do with my property. For example, a property owner should not be prevented by a historic designation to introduce energy-efficient things to the house if they want to embrace new or energy-saving technology. But that's not the case in Slingerlands."

When asked where in Bethlehem could a new historic district be located, Reinhardt, Smolinsky, Muhlich and Leath suggested somewhere in South Bethlehem, like

the area along South and Bridge streets.

Leath said that region "is a great community of historic homes which may have been first built between the 1860s and the 1900s. It's beautiful there."

There was also a general consensus among them that having more historic districts in town is a nice idea overall but they agree there is a process to that.

"I don't think the town can take any lead on establishing a historic district since it does not own properties but it can back property owners up who feel that want to be on the State and National Registers," Smolinsky said. "Property owners need to take that initial interest first and once an application is gathered and made, the town can be in favor of it."

### Being vulnerable

The aforementioned

examples of the Notre-Dame de Paris and two Slingerlands homes fires present the reality that historic structures in Bethlehem are always vulnerable to external circumstances.

This concern adds to the possibility of development projects being erected within a historic district or near historic properties.

"You never know what could happen but I think what's important is that we have to take care of things here. Preservation is not a passive verb, it's a very active one," Bragle said. "We need to appreciate historic structures mentally and emotionally but also care for their physical state and preserve them for future generations."

"There's no predictability with things like fire and lightning but there's also threats like development. As I've said before, the Planning Board is required to take

a look at historic values and try to steer a new project to something more compatible with the proposed neighborhood," Smolinsky said.

Reinhardt recalled feeling distraught at how damaged his house was in 2017 but "the Slingerlands Fire Marshall came up to me while I was standing in the front yard and said my house luckily survived because it had thicker beams and better construction materials from when it was originally built. If it were a more modern home, it would've burned to the ground. Each historical building has a story."

He concluded that his family intends to live in the house "as long as we can and I'm really glad to be back."

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# The Pride of Slingerlands

An overdue obituary for local hero, baseball star, World War I veteran

By **MICHAEL HALLISEY**  
 halliseym@spotlightnews.com

**SLINGERLANDS** — Ira Pier, a lifelong resident of the town, World War I veteran and local baseball hero, died Thursday, Sept. 20, 1973, at the age of 88.

When Pier died, his family carried on quietly. His obituary barely comprised of a column inch. Eight lines, of which stated his name, his address, and the names of his six surviving siblings. It stated that funeral services would be private and that there would be no calling hours. It closed with a single request:

“Please do not send flowers.”

A Christian service was officiated by a Delmar pastor at Applebee Funeral Home in the center of town. After a quiet service, he was interned at the cemetery a

Ira Pier, pictured in the middle row on the far right, was called the “Pride of Slingerlands” when he was honored by the town for his prowess on the baseball field.

Town of Bethlehem / Town Historian



mile away, in the opposite direction of his home. And, just as swiftly and quietly as the end of summer approached, so was the passing of the man once called “The Pride of Slingerlands.”

“I have only a vague recollection of doing the funeral,” recalled Pastor David Mc Dowell, forty years later. “It was one of my first as a young pastor and I was called because [he] had no church affiliation.

“I was surprised by how few people were there.”

Pier’s obituary left little hint of the man. Even the extra “i” in “calling hours” seemed to suggest him to be unimposing and not worthy of a cursory glance. The death notice failed to mention how he was a lifelong resident of Slingerlands. That his home, the one his father built in 1900, was where he lived for all but a few of his days.

That some of those years away from home were spent in France fighting against the Germans in World War I. And, once he came back home, he continued to work at The Slingerland Printing Company, just a short walk down the railroad tracks where he had worked for decades before it was sold and later converted to apartment housing.

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baseball. Slingerlands realtor Everett Hevenor wrote a weekly column in the back of the Altamont Enterprise just prior to World War I. Surrounding his ads for available property in and around the hamlet, he shared the news of what was happening within it. Anything from a couple hosting a bridge party in their home to the alleged theft of a horse. Hevenor was the town crier.

Hevenor was also a supporter of the local baseball club. He would write about their victories from the field, turning local boys into newsprint heroes. Pier was one of those heroes. After having spent the past several years as both captain and manager of Slingerlands' ball club, Pier decided to venture off into playing semi-professional baseball in Albany.

In 1908, Pier was gifted a gold watch by the people of Slingerlands prior to the start of the baseball season, which always fell on Decoration Day. In his column that week, Hevenor dubbed Pier the "Pride of Slingerlands."

Semi-professional baseball was still popular in cities across the country. The professional National League had eight teams. The upstart American League owned eight teams as well. No league went further west than Chicago. The game was still a novelty and professional ball clubs

couldn't always pay top dollar. According to baseball historian Bill Kirwin, Albany native Cy Seymour earned \$1,000 a month to play semi-professionally in Plattsburgh before ultimately starring as a hard-throwing pitcher for the New York Giants, and later as a spectacular hitter for the Cincinnati Reds. In 1907, a decade after Seymour premiered for the Giants, Ty Cobb earned \$2,400 — over seven months — with the Detroit Tigers.

Though the local ballfields often paved the path to professional careers for such players as Seymour, Johnny Evers, George Davis and others, Pier did not advance. However, he maintained a good reputation on the mound in Albany.

When war broke out in Europe in 1914, many of Slingerlands' young men went off to fight. Ira was one of five Pier brothers to go overseas. He served as a private in the 83rd Infantry Division. The 83rd was stationed outside Le Mans, in France in June 1918. It was a depot division, supplying more than 195,000 officers and enlisted men as replacements to the front lines before the war's end in November 1918. Ira safely returned home by the following February.

His brothers Arthur (6th Balloon Company), Charles (32nd Machine Gun Battalion), Ellsworth (3rd Engineers Training Battalion) all returned home



The former Slingerlands Printing Company.

Michael Hallisey / Spotlight Newspapers

from France. Ira's brother Edwin suffered serious wounds from machine-gun fire to his leg while serving with Company C of the 149th Infantry. He would go through several surgeries after the war.

Ira returned from the war to his job at the Slingerlands Printing Company, where he spent most of his life working. After the press was established by Cornelius Slingerland in 1879, it became one of the largest employers of the hamlet. It grew into a successful business thanks in part to its location; wedged between the D&H Railroad and present-day New Scotland Avenue.

Ira had remained in Slingerlands

throughout his life. He died on Sept. 20, 1973. He was the brother of May, Iona, Viola, Charles W., J. Edwin and Perry W. Pier. A private funeral service was conducted at Applebee Funeral Home in Delmar. There were no calling hours.

In the winter of 1969, Allison Bennett paid him a visit. The author and town historian was intrigued about his time as a baseball player. The conversation yielded more details about his "Village Wonders" teammates who defeated the best of the teams from Cobleskill to Rensselaer.

"We handled our own pretty well," he said.

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SLINGERLANDS — As the years go by, the residents of this hamlet continue to hold on to the past in an effort to honor the names and the memories that have helped establish this corner of town into the picturesque, and ideal place to call, home.

Jim Franco / Spotlight Newspapers

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CCLW LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/06/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 5757 Collins Avenue, Apt. 806, Miami Beach, FL 33140. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-225618

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

CHOSEN FOODS, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/18/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Mirsky, 14 Harvard Court, White Plains, NY 10605. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-223965

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

CITADEL PEST SOLUTIONS, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/12/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 200 North End Avenue, Apt. 14A, New York, NY 10282. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-226008

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

CITY CYCLES LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 06/18/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Melinda Medina, 3009 Kingsbridge Terrace, Apartment D1, Bronx, NY 10461. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. C-223231

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

CLIFF STREET GARAGE LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/16/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 10 East 33rd Street, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10016. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-223820

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

CORNELIA NEW YORK LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/31/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 79-31 69th Road, Middle Village, NY 11379. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-225118

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**NOTICE OF FORMATION**

CORNER POWELL STUDIO LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/08/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Wexler & Kaufman PLLC, One Penn Plaza, Suite 3406, New York, NY 10119. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-225936

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

DAP REALTY I, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/02/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Kapsalis Associates P.C., 12-52 Clintonville Street, Suite 200, White-stone, NY 11357. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-222796

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

DAP REALTY II, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/02/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Kapsalis Associates P.C., 12-52 Clintonville Street, Suite 200, White-stone, NY 11357. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-222797

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

DARWIN HOLDING LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/01/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Shupack & Hardy, LLP, 450 Seventh Avenue, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10123. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-225279

**NOTICE OF PLLC FORMATION**

DIMITRIS J. DEMOS, DDS, MPH, PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/19/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the PLLC, c/o Dimitris J. Demos, 200 East 32nd Street, #12C, New York, NY 10016. Purpose: For the practice of the profession of Dentistry. D-224843

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

DINNENY COMMODITY ADVISORS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/01/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Neufeld, O'Leary & Giusto, Esqs.,

**LEGALS**

370 Lexington Avenue, Suite 908, New York, NY 10017. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-225178

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

EAST END BAR LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 06/05/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 1770 2nd Avenue, New York, NY 10128. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-224117

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

EAST FORK CAPITAL EQUITIES LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/02/07. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Maksim Stavinsky, 4555 Henry Hudson Pkwy, Apt 204, Bronx, NY 10471. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-223206

**NOTICE OF FORMATION**

ECOMDENT, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/06/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Teerawee Un-chalipongse, 630 First Avenue, Suite 25M, New York, NY 10016. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-225973

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

EP CONTRACTING LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/09/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Walsh, 180 68th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11220. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-223209

**NOTICE OF FORMATION**

ES 45G, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/07/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Law Office of Gilbert A. Lazarus, PLLC, 92-12 68th Avenue, Forest Hills, NY any lawful purpose. D-225759

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

FABAERO, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/06/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Philip E. Klein, Esq., 324 East 48th Street, Suite 1, New York, NY 10017. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-225621

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**NOTICE OF FORMATION**

FAP MANAGEMENT LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/07/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 2139 Williamsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10461. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-225949

**NOTICE OF FORMATION**

FITCHBURG ST. LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/03/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 68 Fitchburg Street, Bayshore, NY 11717. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. C-223076

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

FOLLOWING SEAS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/22/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 1 Kilmer Drive, Short Hills, NJ 07078. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-224408

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

FOR FIVE BOSTON LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/18/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 59-01 55th Street, Maspeth, NY 11378. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-224653

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

FRIENDLY SMILE DENTAL PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/20/08. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the PLLC, 2198 Barnes Avenue, Bronx, NY 10462. Purpose: For the practice of the profession of Dentistry. D-225115

**NOTICE OF FORMATION**

FULLI LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 05/30/17. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Victor Tawil, 29 West 36th Street, Suite 1100, New York, NY 10018. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-225955

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

GJK 86 HUTCH LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/01/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o

**LEGALS**

Maria Kourtellis, 1686 Hutchinson River Parkway, Bronx, NY 10461. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-225181

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

GRAND ARMY PLAZA GARAGE LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/19/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 10 East 33rd Street, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10016. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-224119

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

GREAT BARRIER HOLDINGS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 06/05/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Daniel Feder, 44 West 62nd Street, Apartment 3B, New York, NY 10023. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-225567

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

GVK 88 HUTCH LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/01/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Maria Kourtellis, 1686 Hutchinson River Parkway, Bronx, NY 10461. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-225183

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

HALYARD CONCEPTS, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/24/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 23 Maxwell Avenue, Oyster Bay, NY 11771. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-224544

**NOTICE OF FORMATION**

HAVERTHILL PROPERTIES LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/09/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Victor Tawil, 29 West 36th Street, Suite 1100, New York, NY 10018. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-225955

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

HELEN PHILLIPS 1 LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/23/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Phillips Brokerage, 37-

**LEGALS**

19 Broadway, 2nd Floor, Astoria, NY 11103. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-224460

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

HELEN PHILLIPS 2 LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/23/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Phillips Brokerage, 37-19 Broadway, 2nd Floor, Astoria, NY 11103. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-224465

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

HELEN PHILLIPS 3 LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/23/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Phillips Brokerage, 37-19 Broadway, 2nd Floor, Astoria, NY 11103. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-224468

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

ISRAEL FAMILY OPPORTUNITY ZONE FUND LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 05/30/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Mark Israel, Esq., c/o MIT National, One Penn Plaza, #3406, New York, NY 10119. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-223360

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

IZYIS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/18/18. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 228 Hancock Street, Brooklyn, NY 11216. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-224067

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

JEWELS BY LORI KASSIN LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 06/28/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 2131 East 5th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11223. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-222896

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

JOSK REALTY LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/15/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Owen Willis, 4713 Avenue N, Brooklyn, NY 11234. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-224705

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**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

JPOD MEDIA LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/13/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 50 Battery Place, Apt. 5G, New York, NY 10280. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-226137

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

JULIANA PROPERTY, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/29/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 70 Washington Street, Apartment 10M, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-225102

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

KAIKAY'S BEAUTY SPOT LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/02/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 660 Thwaites Place, #4Q, Bronx, NY 10467. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-223361

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

KATY FINNERAN, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/02/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Katy Finneran, 101 Bradford Avenue, Rye, NY 10580. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-222795

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

KINGSLAND B3 LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/15/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 277 Riveredge Road, Tenafly, NJ 07670. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-223715

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

KSW PROPERTY LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/09/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 196 Orchard Street, Unit 6M, New York, NY 10002. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. CR-225350

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

LAUREL EQUITY 1 LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/09/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Phillips Brokerage, 37-

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may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 1595 Putney Road, Valley Stream, NY 11580. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-223210

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

LEONARD & RICHARDSON STREET LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/17/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 177 Amherst Street, Brooklyn, NY 11235. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-223895

**NOTICE OF FORMATION**

LILYMAR, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/09/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 8307 Hickory Creek Drive, Austin, TX 78735. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-225951

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

LM DEKALB LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/15/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 627-629 Dekalb Avenue, 3E, Brooklyn, NY 11216. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-224655

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

LMJ WEST STREET REALTY, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/16/19. Latest date to dissolve: 12/31/2099. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 9728 Third Avenue, Suite 142, Brooklyn, NY 11209. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-223824

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

LOOP GROUP LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/24/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 253 West 73rd Street, Unit 7-0, New York, NY 10023. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-224545

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**

MAGNA MARKETING, LLC. App. for Auth. filed with the SSNY on 07/23/19. Originally filed with Secretary of State of Delaware on 01/17/2017. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the

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August 21, 2019

# Spotlight on Opinion

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## COMMENTARY

# Let the lawsuits fly



JIM  
FRANCO

for victims to bring litigation past the statute of limitations.

I was brought up Roman Catholic, Catholic grade school, altar boy, confirmation ... the whole deal ... and I always liked Hubbard. I was 11 when he became bishop in 1977, and he came across as a kind soul who epitomized what I was taught the Catholic Church was all about — that all humans have dignity, to help the less fortunate, to forgive and forget and to care for all of God's creations.

For the record, I don't actively practice my religion, much to my mom's disappointment. I haven't been to a church to simply worship in years, and I can't remember the last time I took communion, but the core values are still with me, and probably will remain so forever.

The Albany Diocese, under Hubbard, did implement a policy to deal with accusations of sexual abuse against priests but it did not include contacting law enforcement, and it allowed for the reassignment of priests, even if the accusations were proven credible and true.

Hubbard maintained, and probably still does, bad priests could be rehabilitated and their behaviors corrected. I don't know if that stems from his proclivity to automatically forgive, or an inherent naiveté, or out of fear.

To be fair, he did remove some priests from ministry, but

by the time the allegations came to light the criminal statute of limitations had long past. The statute varies with the particulars of the offense, but safe to say the average is five years from when the crime occurred. As we all know, it can take decades for a person to understand what happened to them as children, and, as adults, years more to work up the courage to admit it publicly and face their perpetrators.

I spoke with a number of victims while covering the scandal for *The Record* and some of the stories are horrific. Making them worse is knowing some priests was transferred from another parish only to do the same thing to another kid. To think about how that could have been avoided if only someone stood up and did the right thing compounds ... everything.

As I mentioned, I covered the local angle of the scandal in 2002-2004 and probably some follow up stories in the years that followed. It was an unenviable assignment partly because of the nature of the stories and it was partly due to my upbringing, and the reverence I had, and still have, for the church. But what really made it a story I really didn't like writing about was the attorney leading the charge in the Albany area.

John Aretakis is a flamboyant, high-energy, opinionated attorney who was loose with the facts and who lobbed accusations around like spaghetti. He used to hold "press conferences" at public parks, at pizza places and I remember one time he gathered the media outside of an Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute fraternity and the "victim" spoke

to the press via a cell phone that was laying on the sidewalk among a bunch of fallen leaves.

He was not the right man for the job, the wrong guy to carry such a legitimate and worthwhile torch. He was suspended for a year for making disparaging remarks about some judges who failed to see his warped view of the law and I'm not sure if he is back practicing or not.

But, to be fair, his hands were tied largely by the state imposed statute of limitations. When the Democrats took over the Senate, one of the first things they did was agree with the other Democrats and pass the Child Victims Act. In addition to relaxing the statute of limitations, it allows a one-year look back window, that started last week, for the accuser to bring the alleged perpetrator to court regardless of when the abuse happened.

So far, in addition to the Catholic Church and Boy Scouts, there are lawsuits naming school districts, hospitals and the estate of Jeffrey Epstein.

Reports say there were up to 400 lawsuits filed in just the first

week. Of course, lawyers have been circling since February, waging advertising campaigns to sign up clients so they had a head start. Just seeing the ads, with photos of the alleged abusers, rubs me the wrong way but they are professional litigators and you can bet there will be some serious money changing hands in the months and years to come.

Some claims are probably fake, I'm sure. We live in a society where people make up cancer stories and start charities after natural disasters just to line their own pockets. Red meat like this will not float away without a few sharks trying to take a bite. I'm not sure how to go about weeding out the fake claims, but that is secondary.

The institutions mentioned above, apparently, have done their best to bury the ugly truth for decades so now, if they have any hope of surviving, it is time to get it all out in the open and let the wounds heal rather than just covering them with a Band-Aid.

Jim Franco can be reached at 518-878-1000 or by email at [francoj@spotlightnews.com](mailto:francoj@spotlightnews.com)

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LIBRARIES

# Space rocks

We explored a Universe of Stories this summer, and now it's time to celebrate with a family-friendly concert Wednesday, Aug. 28, featuring Rick Bedrosian from Hair of the Dog and Hey Jude. Enjoy classics by the Beatles, Simon and Garfunkel, and more as we celebrate our summer reading accomplishments

## Explore Space Land

Imagine the game Candy Land, but with a space theme. Then imagine it as a life-size version. Sound like fun? See for yourself Tuesday, Aug. 27, at 3 p.m. as we transform the Children's Place into Space Land for kids and families.

While you're waiting your turn to embark on the out-of-this-world adventure, you can decorate an uplifting greeting card for Cards for Hospitalized Kids, which will distribute them to young people across the United States who could use a kind word.

## Faux stained glass fun

Color and take home a beautiful faux stained glass creation at our DIY False Stained Glass program on Thursday,

Aug. 29, at 2 p.m. This project is fun yet simple enough for all levels of crafters to create something wonderful. For kids in grades 1-5.

## Labor Day

Bethlehem Public Library will be closed Labor Day weekend Saturday to Monday, Aug. 31 to Sept. 2. Access the library catalog and other library services online anytime at www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org. Regular Sunday hours resume Sept. 8.

## Summer cinema

Bring a blanket or pillow on Friday, Aug. 23; we'll supply the popcorn as you watch a feature length film, 2:30 p.m. Visit www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org for a list of titles. For kids and families.

The library is at 451 Delaware Ave. in Delmar. — Kristen Roberts



with music and dancing. We'll be hosting two concerts that day, one at 3:30 p.m. and the other at 6:30 p.m. If it's nice out, concerts will take place on the Green, so bring a chair or blanket to get comfortable. In the event of bad weather, concerts will take place in the Community Room.

# Clothing swap

Most likely, your child has outgrown last year's school clothes. "They grow so fast...!" So it's time to trade them in for something new (to you!) First, bring clothing items in "like new" condition (no stains, rips, stretching; no socks, underwear, or swimwear; and recently cleaned) on Drop-Off Day, Thursday, Aug. 29 from 2 to 6 p.m.

keep little ones occupied while you shop.

## Summer harvest

Bring your homegrown bounty of tomatoes and other self-cultivated fruits and vegetables, or your favorite dish that incorporates seasonal produce, on Monday, Aug. 26 at 6:30 p.m.

We'll award a prize for

the most delicious tomato, judged by popular choice. Whether you have a green thumb or not, we need tasters for this harvest feast, so please stop by!

Sample the summer bounty, introduce your kids to homegrown healthy options, and help us crown the best tomato.

— Luanne Nicholson



Please keep in mind that we cannot accept clothing others would not be pleased to receive. You'll get credit for each item brought in, which may be redeemed on Shopping Day, Friday, Sept. 30 from 2 to 6 p.m. (10 items maximum per family). Leftover clothing will be donated to Goodwill, and we'll have crafts available to

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The Friends of the Library (FOL) Annual Book Sale is Friday, Sept. 20 through Sunday, Sept. 22.

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— Lynn Kohler



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ALTAMONT — The fair was back in town last week. One of the largest fairs in the area returned to the Altamont Fairgrounds with farm animals, rides and games, food, special events and a host of other attractions. A few strong thunderstorms rolled through the area, but that didn't stop people from having a good time.

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By **SPOTLIGHT STAFF**

[news@spotlightnews.com](mailto:news@spotlightnews.com)

**SLINGERLAND** — In this building, people learned that pride is a sin, but honoring our past is not.

The people who live in Slingerlands have a distinct purpose of honoring their past, and aim to preserve it. The hamlet is one of the oldest neighborhoods in our town, and it is home to some of the best preserved Victorian Age homes in the Capital District.

In this edition, learn a little more about Slingerlands and some of the people who call it — and who have called it — home.

Photo by Jim Franco / Spotlight Newspapers

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# Slingerlands

by the numbers



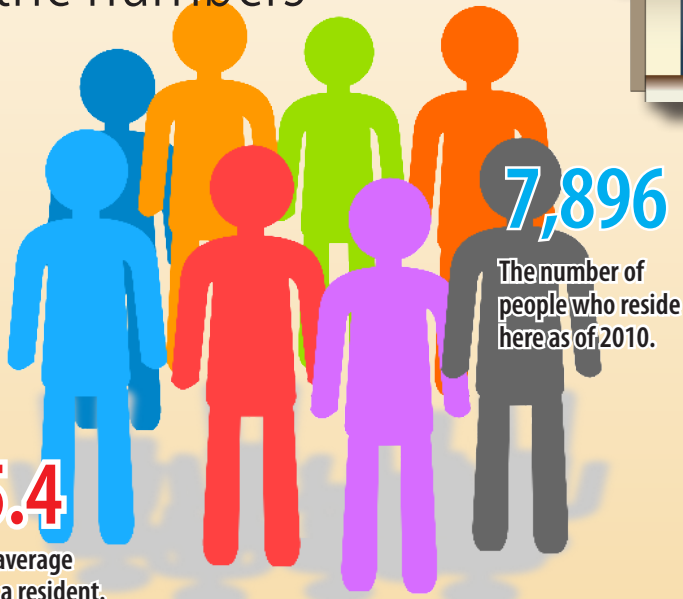
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# A maestro in our midst

You should know  
David Alan Miller

By **KATIE HOPSICKER**  
*intern@spotlightnews.com*

**SLINGERLANDS** — David Alan Miller, the Grammy Award-winning conductor and Music Director of the Albany Symphony Orchestra, has been living in Slingerlands for 26 years and has “loved every minute of it.”

Miller grew up in Los Angeles, California and attended both The University of California, Berkeley and The Juilliard School in New York City.

So how did he get to Albany?

“I knew I wanted to be a conductor since I was 15 years old,” said Miller. Prior

to Albany, he served as an assistant conductor and then associate conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Additionally, he was music director of the New York Youth Symphony. Miller explained that he was “expected to go out and find another orchestra,” and “Albany was open.”

Miller was drawn to the orchestra for its “real reputation of doing new and unusual music,” and “knew [the Capital District] was a wonderful community.” He and his wife, who is from New York City, lived in Albany for a year and “looked in a lot of places” before falling in love with Slingerlands and raising their three children. For the past 26 years, Miller has enjoyed his beautiful,



As its conductor, David Alan Miller has stood before the Albany Symphony Orchestra for more than 25 years.

Albany Symphony Orchestra

historic home, which was built in 1848, and frequently spends his free time gardening.

Most importantly, Miller emphasized the impact that Slingerlands

has had on his family. Compared to the urban atmosphere of Los Angeles, “here [in Bethlehem] I feel like I live in the country,” he stated. “It’s a great place to have your kids grow up... it’s the

most idyllic childhood.”

It seems like Miller’s children are just as supportive of their dad as he is of them. When asked how it felt to win a Grammy Award in 2014,

Miller replied that it was “unexpected” that his Naxos recording of John Corigliano’s “Conjuror” “just happened to be nominated.” Miller brought **Continues next page**



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## From previous page ...

### A maestro in our midst

his son to the awards, and all modesty aside, Miller recalled that it was a “great feeling” and experience to share with his son, Ari.

Miller also remembered the period following his Grammy Award win. “My kids used to ask if I was famous,” he said. Miller would jokingly reply that he “found himself getting stopped at the Slingerlands Price Chopper” more regularly.

Living in Slingerlands has enabled Miller to balance family life with his professional career at the Albany Symphony. Not only is Miller “incredibly happy” to live in a beautiful town in a great vicinity, but he also takes advantage of the Albany County Rail Trail and often bikes to work.

As for the symphony, he feels “really grateful” to be a part of a “community [that] is exceedingly generous.”

The Albany Symphony Orchestra is perfect for Miller, who stated, “I love a lot of different kinds of music... I do the whole panoply.” Miller and the orchestra commission record different works by helping to “bring new pieces into the world... a lot of [pieces] from living American composers.”

When people come to the symphony, Miller hopes that they can expect two things. Primarily, he wants audiences to have a “really powerful, moving... and transformative experience with music.” Secondly, he thinks “there’s something really powerful about seeing music made in front

of you.” Miller explained “the world is at a press of a button” and seeing a symphony play is “less and less frequent” and “old style in a way... That’s a really exciting thing.”

In the future, Miller and the orchestra have some special plans.

“I want to try and do things that are different [from] what everyone else is doing,” said Miller.

He explained, “next year is the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage.” For women composers to be recognized is still “kind of an anomaly” so to raise awareness and celebrate, the Albany Symphony will host a series of “Phenomenal Women” concerts, with “20 works by women composers spread throughout the season.”

Miller wants to focus on “emerging composers” and “what’s exciting— what’s happening in the world.”

*Here [in Bethlehem] I feel like I live in the country. It’s a great place to have your kids grow up... it’s the most idyllic childhood.”*

— David Alan Miller, Grammy Award-winning conductor and Music Director of the Albany Symphony Orchestra



Albany Symphony Orchestra

To aspiring conductors, Miller advises them to “listen broadly” and “learn as much as you can.” Compared to an instrument producing sound and fostering an immediate connection with the respective musician, “conducting is a lot more

abstract.” Miller also brought to attention the fact that “people don’t think about creating composers.” Overall, “think about creating ways to reflect after people.”

With such a rare occupation, Miller’s

influence, inspiration and unique success is resounding. From Los Angeles to New York City to a small town in the Capital District, he reflected, “I’m very proud to live here in Slingerlands.”

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## Act of self preservation

Slingerlands Historic District continues to push for ways to maintain hamlet's rich history

By **DIEGO CAGARA**  
cagarad@spotlightnews.com

**SLINGERLANDS** — When the medieval Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris, France caught on fire this April, it suffered severe damage and attracted international media coverage.

On a smaller scale, lightning struck Albany County Legislator William Reinhardt's (D-33) Slingerlands house at 1613 New Scotland Ave. in May 2017 which caught on fire and took two years for his family to finally move back in after careful restoration from the fire and water damage. More recently, lightning struck

another Slingerlands house on 632 Kenwood Ave. on Monday, July 29; it also caught on fire, received fire and water damage, and a hole in the roof, and the owner is temporarily living with relatives as the house is deemed unsafe to live in for now.

These examples conjured up thoughts on how structures, historic or not, can be vulnerable to factors beyond human control. Regarding historic structures specifically though, it can further lead to a discussion of the topics of historic preservation and historic districts — which is present in Bethlehem.

Slingerlands resident Kathleen Bragle similarly

As the sign suggests, the Slingerlands Historic District is a widely recognized Register of Historic Place, but it lacks official laws or regulations at the town level, for which some residents have expressed concern as they want more proactive steps towards preservation.

Diego Cagara /  
Spotlight News

had that mindset, believing that the Town of Bethlehem should be more proactive in preserving its Slingerlands Historic District, its historic properties within and elsewhere around town.



"The history here is so important and it means something to people. I believe Slingerlands is special but there is a density issue and there have been proposals for developments in the area

which is just atrocious," she said. Bragle lives in the oldest house in Slingerlands Historic District, which was originally built by John A. Slingerland in 1790. The Slingerland family

has a rich history in the 18th and 19th centuries, with various connections to the local town community and national politics, for instance. Bragle said she knew of the house's history

**Continues next page**

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## From page 11 ...

### Act of self preservation

when her family first moved in in the late 1970s.

### Historic District

Before proceeding, let's discuss about the Slingerlands Historic District first. It consists of 102 buildings and one structure, which were erected mainly between 1790 and 1940, which includes Victorian,

**Albany County Legislator Bill Reinhardt's Slingerlands house, left, has now been repaired since being struck by lightning in 2017. Reinhardt said restoring the house's overall Victorian style was aesthetically important to him and the community.**

Diego Cagara / Spotlight News

Colonial Revival and Bungalow architecture. Local residents worked with Town Historian Susan Leath and the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSPRHP) office to have the area recognized by the State and National Historic Registers of Historic Places in December 2011 and February 2012 respectively, according to Leath.

Despite this designation, this historic district lacks any official town laws or regulations for its property owners and according to Bethlehem Planning Board Chairman John Smolinsky, parts of the district are zoned either Residential or Hamlet. "It's a formality of being recognized as a historic district but when [the Planning Board] receive project applications

in that area, we are required in the zoning code to recognize and consider the historic value of the neighborhood," he said.

According to NYSPRHP's underlying state Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), owners of properties on the State and National Registers of Historic Places "are free to remodel, alter, paint, manage, subdivide, sell or even demolish a National or State Register listed property" as long as it complies with local zoning, not use federal or state funds to complete such a project, and not require a state or federal permit to do it. If the latter two points are the case though, property owners need to review their proposed alterations with SHPO staff.

For more information, visit [www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm) or [parks.ny.gov/shpo/national-](http://parks.ny.gov/shpo/national-)

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register/documents/FAQaboutStateNRinNYS.pdf.

In the case of Reinhardt's aforementioned Slingerlands house — built in 1898 and originally owned by the Slingerland family — Reinhardt said it was important that the house repairs "tried to retain the original look and Victorian style as much as possible" although he acknowledged his restored residence now is not a direct copy of how it looked like before it was struck by lightning in 2017. He acknowledged that the attic, fireplace mantle and many electrical appliances were among those damaged but he was "very happy" with the repair results despite the two-year wait.

Moving back in on June 12 this year, he said an example of a lost item from the fire was an envelope containing key information about the three families, including the Slingerlands,

who previously owned the house and when.

"Not all the family treasures survived unfortunately but this house has character to it and preserving that was so important," he said. "We always kept the Victorian style in mind in terms of the house's painted color schemes, wallpapers and so on. I had to get a building permit from the town to restore my house which was a smooth process." He added that he appreciated not facing any issues about what kind of building materials and tools the repairs could use.

### Push for laws?

There is a movement, though, among numerous Bethlehem residents, especially some in Slingerlands, to push the town government to set up official laws and regulations on properties in the Slingerlands



Historic District for the sake of further historic preservation.

For example, Preserve Historic Bethlehem started an online petition, available at [www.change.org/p/preserve-bethlehem-ny-](http://www.change.org/p/preserve-bethlehem-ny-and-historic-slingerlands)

and-historic-slingerlands, which has received 853 signatures as of Friday, August 9 that wants town codes and tighter zoning laws to regulate what type of proposed development projects should be allowed

in the Slingerlands Historic District; it also wants the district to be recognized in town code. Its aim is, however, different from wanting laws and regulations that strictly limit what owners

Slingerlands resident Kathleen Bragle lives in the oldest house, left, in the Slingerlands Historic District. It was originally built by John A. Slingerland in 1790. The historic Slingerland family was prominent in local and national affairs in the 18th and 19th centuries, some of whom are buried in the Slingerland Family Burial vault now.

Diego Cagara / Spotlight News

can do with their properties there, like restricting what color schemes should only be allowed or the size of windows.

Slingerlands resident **Continues next page**

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## From page 13 ... Act of self preservation

Iona Muhlich, who helped set up the Slingerlands Historic District in 2012 and is living in an early 19th-century New Scotland Road house since 1973, said she personally would not like the type of laws or regulations that restrict what Slingerlands Historic District property owners can do with their houses. "Instead, I just want some protection from commercial development in the area which is our biggest fear now. We don't want things that don't align with the area's historic character or structures," she said.

She and Smolinsky said that numerous residents have brought up in the past year's comprehensive plan public forums about their desire for the town to take more proactive steps

to preserve the historical district and structures.

Smolinsky wrote in a follow-up email that people ideally would support the idea of more historic preservation in town but he "think[s] support might dwindle and opposition [might] increase as any proposed laws/regulations become more prescriptive." Leath said, "I think a local law would be very good if it balances the rights of the property owners with the desires of the historic district and preservation. It has to be thoroughly reviewed and discussed with interested parties onboard."

### More historic districts?

There is interest in the



town having additional historic districts besides Slingerlands although it is unclear whether such new historic districts either would follow Slingerlands' footsteps, work to be recognized by the State and National Registers of

Historic Places and not have any restrictive laws on affected property owners, or be established by the town itself which may develop restrictive laws on affected property owners.

Should a potential new historic district

follow the former's path, SHPO has described the process for applying a property or area/district to the registers. Eligible properties — including residences, bridges, churches, cemeteries, groups of significant

A blue sign, left, stands near the intersection of New Scotland Road and Kenwood Avenue, and across from Toll Gate Ice Cream. If it weren't for the sign, most passers-by likely would not know the location of the Slingerland Family Burial Vault which is a stone's throw away south from it which is significant for being the final resting place for local historical figures like politician John I. Slingerland (1804 - 1861).

Diego Cagara / Spotlight News

buildings, etc. — should be over 50 years old for consideration and an application has to be submitted to SHPO for evaluation.

According to SHPO, "If the property is determined eligible for

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listing, the nomination sponsor is responsible for providing documentation that describes the property's setting and physical characteristics, documents its history, conveys its significance in terms of its historic context, and demonstrates how it meets the register criteria. The New York State Board for Historic Preservation reviews completed nominations. If the board recommends the nomination, the New York State Historic Preservation Officer (Commissioner of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation) lists the property on the State Register and forwards it to the National Park Service for review and listing on the National Register."

The above process usually takes six months to a year long for a historic property but it may take over a year for an applying historic district. SHPO

also noted that a property owner can object to being on the registers.

Smolinsky and Reinhardt believed that the overall application process should start with a grassroots efforts on the residents' part.

Smolinsky said it should also start with an inventory which would catalogue what and where certain houses and properties are located in town that have historical value; for a new historic district, an inventory needs to present a group of closely-located historical properties.

"There may need to be some outreach to landowners about this possibility but not everyone is always interested," he said. "When the Slingerlands Historic District was formed, some landowners questioned about possible regulations and they did not want to be a part of it."

Muhlich recalled back

in the early 2010s when the Slingerlands Historic District was applying for the registers, "some people were afraid they will not be able to put on additions to their houses or paint them how they want but we reassured them that nothing like that would happen."

Reinhardt similarly said, "As a property owner, I'm a bit wary about restrictions being too severe in terms of what I can do with my property. For example, a property owner should not be prevented by a historic designation to introduce energy-efficient things to the house if they want to embrace new or energy-saving technology. But that's not the case in Slingerlands."

When asked where in Bethlehem could a new historic district be located, Reinhardt, Smolinsky, Muhlich and Leath suggested somewhere in South Bethlehem, like

the area along South and Bridge streets.

Leath said that region "is a great community of historic homes which may have been first built between the 1860s and the 1900s. It's beautiful there."

There was also a general consensus among them that having more historic districts in town is a nice idea overall but they agree there is a process to that.

"I don't think the town can take any lead on establishing a historic district since it does not own properties but it can back property owners up who feel that want to be on the State and National Registers," Smolinsky said. "Property owners need to take that initial interest first and once an application is gathered and made, the town can be in favor of it."

### Being vulnerable

The aforementioned

examples of the Notre-Dame de Paris and two Slingerlands homes fires present the reality that historic structures in Bethlehem are always vulnerable to external circumstances.

This concern adds to the possibility of development projects being erected within a historic district or near historic properties.

"You never know what could happen but I think what's important is that we have to take care of things here. Preservation is not a passive verb, it's a very active one," Bragle said. "We need to appreciate historic structures mentally and emotionally but also care for their physical state and preserve them for future generations."

"There's no predictability with things like fire and lightning but there's also threats like development. As I've said before, the Planning Board is required to take

a look at historic values and try to steer a new project to something more compatible with the proposed neighborhood," Smolinsky said.

Reinhardt recalled feeling distraught at how damaged his house was in 2017 but "the Slingerlands Fire Marshall came up to me while I was standing in the front yard and said my house luckily survived because it had thicker beams and better construction materials from when it was originally built. If it were a more modern home, it would've burned to the ground. Each historical building has a story."

He concluded that his family intends to live in the house "as long as we can and I'm really glad to be back."

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# The Pride of Slingerlands

An overdue obituary for local hero, baseball star, World War I veteran

By **MICHAEL HALLISEY**  
 halliseym@spotlightnews.com

**SLINGERLANDS** — Ira Pier, a lifelong resident of the town, World War I veteran and local baseball hero, died Thursday, Sept. 20, 1973, at the age of 88.

When Pier died, his family carried on quietly. His obituary barely comprised of a column inch. Eight lines, of which stated his name, his address, and the names of his six surviving siblings. It stated that funeral services would be private and that there would be no calling hours. It closed with a single request:

“Please do not send flowers.”

A Christian service was officiated by a Delmar pastor at Applebee Funeral Home in the center of town. After a quiet service, he was interned at the cemetery a

Ira Pier, pictured in the middle row on the far right, was called the “Pride of Slingerlands” when he was honored by the town for his prowess on the baseball field.

Town of Bethlehem / Town Historian



mile away, in the opposite direction of his home. And, just as swiftly and quietly as the end of summer approached, so was the passing of the man once called “The Pride of Slingerlands.”

“I have only a vague recollection of doing the funeral,” recalled Pastor David Mc Dowell, forty years later. “It was one of my first as a young pastor and I was called because [he] had no church affiliation.

“I was surprised by how few people were there.”

Pier’s obituary left little hint of the man. Even the extra “i” in “calling hours” seemed to suggest him to be unimposing and not worthy of a cursory glance. The death notice failed to mention how he was a lifelong resident of Slingerlands. That his home, the one his father built in 1900, was where he lived for all but a few of his days.

That some of those years away from home were spent in France fighting against the Germans in World War I. And, once he came back home, he continued to work at The Slingerland Printing Company, just a short walk down the railroad tracks where he had worked for decades before it was sold and later converted to apartment housing.

And, it certainly said nothing about

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# Discover SLINGERLANDS

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baseball. Slingerlands realtor Everett Hevenor wrote a weekly column in the back of the Altamont Enterprise just prior to World War I. Surrounding his ads for available property in and around the hamlet, he shared the news of what was happening within it. Anything from a couple hosting a bridge party in their home to the alleged theft of a horse. Hevenor was the town crier.

Hevenor was also a supporter of the local baseball club. He would write about their victories from the field, turning local boys into newsprint heroes. Pier was one of those heroes. After having spent the past several years as both captain and manager of Slingerlands' ball club, Pier decided to venture off into playing semi-professional baseball in Albany.

In 1908, Pier was gifted a gold watch by the people of Slingerlands prior to the start of the baseball season, which always fell on Decoration Day. In his column that week, Hevenor dubbed Pier the "Pride of Slingerlands."

Semi-professional baseball was still popular in cities across the country. The professional National League had eight teams. The upstart American League owned eight teams as well. No league went further west than Chicago. The game was still a novelty and professional ball clubs

couldn't always pay top dollar. According to baseball historian Bill Kirwin, Albany native Cy Seymour earned \$1,000 a month to play semi-professionally in Plattsburgh before ultimately starring as a hard-throwing pitcher for the New York Giants, and later as a spectacular hitter for the Cincinnati Reds. In 1907, a decade after Seymour premiered for the Giants, Ty Cobb earned \$2,400 — over seven months — with the Detroit Tigers.

Though the local ballfields often paved the path to professional careers for such players as Seymour, Johnny Evers, George Davis and others, Pier did not advance. However, he maintained a good reputation on the mound in Albany.

When war broke out in Europe in 1914, many of Slingerlands' young men went off to fight. Ira was one of five Pier brothers to go overseas. He served as a private in the 83rd Infantry Division. The 83rd was stationed outside Le Mans, in France in June 1918. It was a depot division, supplying more than 195,000 officers and enlisted men as replacements to the front lines before the war's end in November 1918. Ira safely returned home by the following February.

His brothers Arthur (6th Balloon Company), Charles (32nd Machine Gun Battalion), Ellsworth (3rd Engineers Training Battalion) all returned home



The former Slingerlands Printing Company.

Michael Hallisey / Spotlight Newspapers

from France. Ira's brother Edwin suffered serious wounds from machine-gun fire to his leg while serving with Company C of the 149th Infantry. He would go through several surgeries after the war.

Ira returned from the war to his job at the Slingerlands Printing Company, where he spent most of his life working. After the press was established by Cornelius Slingerland in 1879, it became one of the largest employers of the hamlet. It grew into a successful business thanks in part to its location; wedged between the D&H Railroad and present-day New Scotland Avenue.

Ira had remained in Slingerlands

throughout his life. He died on Sept. 20, 1973. He was the brother of May, Iona, Viola, Charles W., J. Edwin and Perry W. Pier. A private funeral service was conducted at Applebee Funeral Home in Delmar. There were no calling hours.

In the winter of 1969, Allison Bennett paid him a visit. The author and town historian was intrigued about his time as a baseball player. The conversation yielded more details about his "Village Wonders" teammates who defeated the best of the teams from Cobleskill to Rensselaer.

"We handled our own pretty well," he said.

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## Legacy

SLINGERLANDS — As the years go by, the residents of this hamlet continue to hold on to the past in an effort to honor the names and the memories that have helped establish this corner of town into the picturesque, and ideal place to call, home.

Jim Franco / Spotlight Newspapers

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**Page B5**

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■ **LOCAL SCENE**

■ **PICK OF THE WEEK**



**Aurora Games**

World class competition in all-women's showcase continues at the Times Union Center.

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■ **INSIDE**



**Top holiday gifts**

Get the scoop on the gear, gadgets bound to be on the top of wish lists this year.

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**New kids in the hall**

Renovated Lark Hall Opens its doors

By **SEAN NEVISON**  
*nysmusic.com*

ALBANY — Justin and Jennifer Miller opened the doors of their renovated Lark Hall to an exclusive party including friends and family on Sunday, Aug. 11.

**Continues on page B6**

Photos by Matthew Golden / Matthew C. Golden Photography

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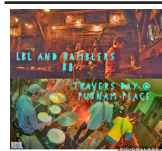
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## RECENTLY ANNOUNCED

# Jamming at Lake George

Twiddle, Pigeons Playing Ping Pong to headline 2019 Adirondack Independence Music Festival

**LAKE GEORGE** — The 5th Annual Adirondack Independence Music festival returns to Lake George over Labor Day Weekend, once again taking place at the Charles R. Wood Festival Commons Saturday, Aug. 31 and Sunday, Sept. 1.

The two-day, multi-band event will feature several of the premiere touring bands currently on the festival circuit, including headliners Twiddle and Pigeons Playing Ping Pong, each of whom will perform two sets at this year's festival.

With years of relentless touring under their belts, the Vermont-based, jam/rock band, Twiddle has built an impressive resume, spanning Red Rocks to Bonnaroo and multiple sellouts at historic venues including Port Chester, New York's Capitol Theatre and Washington, D.C.'s 9:30 club. The quartet has also twice celebrated New Year's Eve in the Capital District with performances at the Palace Theatre in Albany, where they were joined by loyal fans from all over the country. Twiddle will perform two sets to close out Saturday night at the festival commons. As an added bonus for fans of the band, Twiddle's Mihali Savoulidis and Zdenek Gubb will also perform a set on Sunday afternoon as "Gubbulidis & Friends," which will be sure to feature a number of special guests.

Sunday's headliner, Pigeons Playing Ping Pong, is one of the hottest bands in today's jam scene, bringing end-of-the-world enthusiasm to their high-energy psychedelic funk. Their infectious electro-funk grooves, undeniable

live energy and contagious smiles have their rabid fanbase "the Flock" growing exponentially. Based out of Baltimore, MD, this animated quartet has been scorching up the country with their explosive performances and danceable peaks.

This year has been another big year for Pigeons, kicking it off with a string of sold-out shows on their spring tour, including shows at the 1,800-capacity Capitol Theater, and Albany's Jupiter Hall, which sold out three weeks in advance. After teaming up with Twiddle for a show at Colorado's Red Rocks in May, the band spent much of the summer performing at several of the nation's top festivals, including standout performances at Levitate and The Peach Music Festival.

The two-day festival will feature continuous music across two alternating main stages at the festival commons from 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., with late-night sets taking place at King Neptune's (just a short walk up the lake) until 3 a.m. Admission to the late-night sets is free to festival attendees 21-and-over; however, music at the festival commons is open to all ages, and families are encouraged to attend.

For those wishing to make a full weekend of it, there will also be a multi-venue festival kick-off party on Friday, Aug. 30, featuring After Funk & Capital Zen at Shepard Park in downtown Lake George at 6 p.m., followed by Floodwood at King Neptune's at 10 p.m. Both of the Friday shows are free and are open to the general public, as well as festival attendees.

Tickets to the festival are just \$90 in advance for weekend tickets and \$50 for day tickets and are currently on sale at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com).

## WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

### Erin Harkes

**Romo's Pizza and Restaurant — Wednesday, Aug. 21**

**GLENMONT** — Erin Harkes will perform a free solo acoustic show at Romo's Pizza and Restaurant on Wednesday, Aug. 21 at 6 p.m.

Erin Harkes is one of the most sought after performers in New York's Capital District. Erin's vocal ability and range along with her powerful stage presence commands audiences large and small.

Romo's Pizza and Restaurant is located at 365 Feura Bush Rd, Glenmont.

### Double Indemnity

**Empire State Plaza — Wednesday, Aug. 21**

**ALBANY** — The film Double Indemnity will be shown for free at Empire State Plaza on Wednesday, Aug. 21 at 8 p.m.

Capitol Park After Dark's free outdoor movie series returns to West Capitol Park featuring three classic films. Spend your evening on the beautiful grounds of the historic New York State Capitol enjoying complimentary popcorn from Cornerstone and classic films the way they were meant to be seen - on the big screen.

Empire State Plaza is located in Albany.

### Free Summer Movie: The Jungle Book

**The Cohoes Music Hall — Wednesday, Aug. 21**

**COHOES** — The live-action remake of The Jungle Book will be shown for free at The Cohoes Music Hall on Wednesday, Aug. 21 at 1 p.m.

Children under 12 will receive free popcorn and bottled water.

Come dressed as your favorite Jungle Book character and be entered to win a prize.

Raised by a family of wolves since birth, Mowgli must leave the only home he's ever known when the fearsome tiger Shere Khan unleashes his mighty roar. Guided by a no-nonsense panther and a free-spirited bear, the young boy meets an array of jungle animals, including a slithery python and a smooth-talking ape. Along the way, Mowgli learns valuable life lessons as his epic journey of self-discovery leads to fun and adventure.

The Cohoes Music Hall is located at 58 Remsen St, Cohoes.

### Rush: Cinema Strangiato 2019

**Proctors — Wednesday, Aug. 21**

**SCHENECTADY** — The film Rush: Cinema Strangiato 2019 will be shown at Proctors on Wednesday, Aug. 21 at 7 p.m.

The first "Annual Exercise in Fan Indulgence" Cinema Strangiato brings Rush fans together in movie theatres worldwide. Featuring R40+, this global fan event will give audiences a special look into some of the best performances from R40 LIVE, including songs such as Closer to the Heart, Subdivisions, Tom Sawyer and more.

Proctors is located at 432 State St, Schenectady.

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

### Knot Dead

Empire State Plaza – Wednesday, Aug. 21

ALBANY — Knot Dead will perform at Empire State Plaza on Wednesday, Aug. 21 at 12 p.m.

Knot Dead is a rock n roll band from Hoosick Falls that's inspired by the sound of The Grateful Dead.

This event is part of 12 weeks of free daytime concerts crossing all genres featuring the popular Empire State Plaza Farmer's Market and the adjacent Plaza food truck program. Located on the grassy area between Agency Buildings 2 and 3.

Empire State plaza is located in Albany.

### The Wheel

Putnam Place — Thursday, Aug. 22

SARATOGA SPRINGS — Grateful Dead tribute band The Wheel will perform at Putnam Place on Thursday, Aug. 22 at 9 p.m.

The Wheel is a rock-n-roll band covering mostly music of the Grateful Dead.

Putnam Place is located at 63a Putnam St, Saratoga Springs.

### Winnie the Pooh

Cohoes Music Hall — Thursday, Aug. 22 - Friday, Aug. 23

COHOES — Playhouse Stage Company presents Winnie the Pooh live on stage on Thursday, Aug. 22 at 2 p.m. and Friday, Aug. 23 at 2 p.m.

This event is part of a new program for young performers: Playhouse Tykes. Building on the success of Park Playhouse II and Park Playhouse Kids, Playhouse Stage Company is excited to bring their services to beginner level students in the summer months through their new Playhouse Tykes program. Their inaugural program in 2019 will present a fantastic musical adaptation of the A. A. Milne classic The Wonderful Adventures of Winnie the Pooh & Friends, written by long-time Playhouse veteran performer and director, Tim Nelson.

The Cohoes Music Hall is located at 58 Remsen St, Cohoes.

### Seth and the Moody Melix

Barker Park — Thursday, Aug. 22

TROY — Seth and the Moody Melix will perform at Barker Park on Thursday, Aug. 22 at 11 a.m. as part of the Barker Park Kids' Summer Series.

Borrowing from a wonderfully diverse mix of musical styles, this toe-tapping trio plays lyrically rich music for kids that parents can appreciate, too.

The Troy Savings Bank Music Hall presents free summer fun for children with the Barker Park Kids' Summer Series.

Barker Park is located at 3rd St, Troy.

## LIFESTYLE

# This holiday's hot gifts

Get the scoop on the gear, gadgets bound to be on the top of wish lists this year

The holiday season is synonymous with many things, including exchanging gifts with friends and loved ones. Each year, certain items prove more trendy than others. Get the scoop on the gear and gadgets that are bound to be on the top of wish lists this year.

### Amazon Echo Show 5

This is the latest incarnation of the Echo Show at a more affordable price point than past incarnations. The screen is a smart display and enables users to make video calls, play games, watch videos, check the weather, and control smart home devices. A new privacy feature allows users to turn off the camera and microphone when the device isn't in use.

### Battery pack case

There's no need to waste time sitting by the phone charger waiting for popular iPhones to revive their batteries with a battery pack case. A charging case provides extra talk time or video streaming and fits comfortably on various models.

### VicTsing Wireless Shower Speaker

Whether a friend or loved one is practicing for a night out at karaoke or enjoys getting pumped up in the morning with upbeat tunes, a waterproof shower speaker is a hot gift. It can stream music or bluetooth over calls from a phone.

### Fitbit fitness tracker

A Fitbit product is certain to be a winner for fitness enthusiasts. The Fitbit Charge HR Wireless Activity Wristband is an affordable option capable of tracking workouts. It also can sync with a phone and is water-resistant.

### Blink XT Home Security Camera

People with security on their minds, including those who want to keep tabs on their homes while they're at work or on vacation, may cherish this security camera. The newest version is weatherproof and has cloud storage. Motion detection will set off an alert on a person's phone or tablet in real time.



### Tile Trackers

Handy Tile gadgets connect to keys, bags and other belongings that frequently go missing. Simply connect to the app and the device will ring, identifying the location. The upgraded version covers 200 feet and has a louder volume.

### iRobot Braava Robot Mop

This powerful robot will mop and sweep tile and hardwood floors. Pair it with the traditional iRobot vacuum and an entire house can be cleaned without lifting a finger.

These are just a handful of the items that will be coveted this holiday season.

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■ FEATURE

# EXTRA! Newsies good

Park Playhouse tackles Disney classic on Newsboys Strike of 1899

By **DIEGO CAGARA**  
cagarad@spotlightnews.com

**ALBANY** — One should have excellent peripheral vision when watching Park Playhouse’s “Newsies” musical as the production value felt kinetic and yielded mesmerizing visuals throughout its props-adorned stage.

This “Newsies” adaptation is based on the 1992 Disney same-named musical film which had starred a young Christian Bale, which was then reimaged as a Broadway production in 2012.

It offered a romanticized lens into the real-life Newsboys Strike of 1899 in the dark, grimy streets of New York City, where young newspaper hawkers, or newsies, went on a roughly two-week strike against how prominent publishers Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst compensated their newspaper distribution.

The music was by famed Disney composer Alan Menken, lyrics by Jack Feldman and book by Harvey Fierstein. It is directed by Tim Nelson, choreographed by Ashley-Simone Kirchner and received musical direction by Brian Axford. Playing at Washington Park in Albany, its string of performances runs on Tuesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.; it originally premiered on Aug. 6



Andrew Kirby

and will end this Saturday, Aug. 24. To purchase tickets, visit [www.parkplayhouse.com/newsies](http://www.parkplayhouse.com/newsies) or call Park Playhouse’s box office at 518-434-0776.

The production took advantage of a rotating set floor which helped scenes keep fluidly moving on, offering intriguing transitions as certain characters exit the stage while new ones emerge without the need for any awkward silence. The ensemble impressed the audience with their soaring vocals and dynamic choreography which, without Nelson’s succinct direction, would otherwise have fallen flat.

With the aforementioned rotating set, frequent props usage and seemingly umpteen musical numbers, it was an

**Continues on B24**

■ WHAT’S HAPPENING NOW

**Hangin’ & Sangin’ Live: Wallis Bird**  
Caffe Lena — Thursday, Aug. 22

**SARATOGA SPRINGS** — Wallis Bird will perform at Caffe Lena on Thursday, Aug. 22 at 6 p.m.

Join us for a conversation with and performance by Wallis Bird.

Hangin’ & Sangin’ offers up casual conversation and acoustic performances by the best artists from Americana, folk, country, blues, bluegrass, Southern soul, and rock & roll.

This week, Irish artist Wallis Bird will enrapture the audience, as she’s done for over a decade. Nominated for a Choice Music Prize at home in 2017, she’s also been making big waves in mainland Europe. Bird’s new album, “Woman,” is due out on September 27.

Caffe Lena is located at 47 Phila St, Saratoga Springs.

**Fitness at the Plaza**

**Empire State Plaza – Every Tuesday and Thursday**

**ALBANY** — Fitness at the Plaza will be held every Tuesday and Thursday June 4 - Aug. 29 at 5 p.m.

Presented by BlueShield of Northeastern New York, Fitness at the Plaza features HIIT by Catrina K Fitness on Tuesdays and Sunshine Flow Yoga by The Hot Yoga Spot on Thursdays!

Plaza Level, between Agency Buildings 2 and 3

For more information visit: <https://empirestateplaza.ny.gov/fitness-plaza-presented-blueshield-northeastern-new-york>.

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**From page B1 ...**  
New kids in the hall

Lark Hall is a historic performance art and community venue located at 351 Hudson Avenue, in the heart of Albany's Lark Street neighborhood. The 14,000 square foot building was constructed in 1916 by the Daughters of the Eastern Star as a meeting and performance hall that today includes street-level retail,

meeting spaces and a venue space for live music. The main hall has a lofty 22-foot ceiling with a proscenium stage, intricate mezzanine areas, plus an artist's green room and living quarters above the stage.

Owned and operated from 1977 to 2017 by Electric Body Arts, Inc., Lark Hall was most recently utilized as a not-for-profit dance and fitness school maintaining all original historic details. It was purchased last March by a group led by Jeff Buell and Justin Miller, and will ultimately be developed into a

multi-tenanted performance arts and community venue that will continue with the neighborhood's longstanding arts and community-oriented culture.

One of the hall's purposes is to serve as a residency for artists, and allow for them a place to perform, stay and hone their craft in a comfortable oasis.

The century-old building's first floor boasts over 3,000 square feet of commercial space that already hosts Lark Street Yoga Studio, a high-end yoga and fitness studio that only takes up half of the available space. The first floor is expected to include a coffee shop, a juice bar, a box office and an elevator bay to allow handicapped patrons access to the second floor.

The main hall currently contains nearly 3,000 feet of open floor space fronting an approximately 10-foot by 30-foot proscenium stage, along with built-in mezzanine spaces on one side, providing sightlines from above.

The hall will be upgraded to include expanded mezzanine amenities for reserved-level ticketing with private bar and bathrooms. There is also the intent to upgrade the hall's electrical infrastructure to handle state-of-the-art sound, lighting, and modern climate control.

For the first phase of built out, Lark Hall will be rated for approximately 300 occupants and feature unrestricted

sightlines without hindering acoustics.

A unique apartment that includes up to three bedrooms is located above the stage. This living space will be a one-of-a-kind green room and attract artists for multi-night residencies and unique performance opportunities. The living space also adjoins approximately 1,200 square feet of practice and recording space that will be offered to

artists and recording professionals for use as part of regular bookings and extended practice and recording opportunities.

**Opening Night**

The Miller's entrusted close friend Matt Hueston as the event coordinator and the evening was dubbed "A Snowy Evening At Lark Hall."

The sound at Lark Hall was the first thing those lucky enough to be in attendance noticed. The sound technicians and natural wood of the theater made for a crisp, sharp quality as each note rung true. This space is perfect as a listening room, but the hall will surely host some barn burners as well.

The invite-only audience of about 70 people were initially treated to music from Ian O'Neill, of Deer Tick. He opened the evening on guitar and vocals with help from Dennis Ryan on drums and vocals. They played some originals that were just recorded, both tracks from their latest album "Mayonnaise," and songs from their



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**IN BRIEF**

**Franklin County Sweethearts and Mr. Days**

ALBANY — The Franklin County Sweethearts and The Mr. Days Band will perform at Savoy Taproom on Thursday, Aug. 22 at 9 p.m.

The Franklin County Sweethearts bring with them a lifelong love and appreciation for classic country, honky and more.

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Matthew Golden / Matthew C. Golden photography



hear a pin drop as the audience did not make a peep during this very special set. It is no wonder why *Rolling Stone* magazine listed

Broemel was beckoned back onstage to treat the audience to one more tune and decided to close out the evening with a rollicking version of Tom Petty's "Last Dance With Mary Jane."

After the concert, Broemel signed posters, t-shirts and hung out in the hall talking to fans for hours. He even joined fans in a ping pong match.

All the facilities at the beautifully renovated Hall and Yoga Studio are state of the art. The sound is amazing. The framed posters that line the walls and decorations are incredible.

Those lucky enough to attend "A Snowy Evening at Lark Hall" had a once in a lifetime experience and witnessed the start of what will surely be a successful venture with a true listening space for artists to play and feel like family.

side project Happiness.

The audience, having just been treated by the Miller's to a Tex Mex buffet and open bar, was all smiles as the day's last bit of sunlight shone brilliantly through the balcony windows, into amazing auditorium.

O'Neill and Ryan yielded the stage to Carl Broemel, of My Morning Jacket. Broemel had just finished a four-night run with his bandmates. He was quietly watching the opening set from the side of the hall.

After a quick stage switch and soundcheck, Broemel took the stage armed with his cadre of electric, acoustic and pedal steel guitars, along with a rig of pedals and loopers.

Broemel opened the set with "Starting From Scratch" from *Wished Out*. He moved in and out of his original material from his solo records with the same ease as he moved between looping guitars with harmonies that created a rocking atmospheric funk. Then the pedal steel came in, layered over top. You could

Broemel in the top 20 modern guitar players in the world. His command and control of all that was happening on stage were flawless.

Having just finished a solo tour with Tyler Ramsey, Broemel decided to play an M. Ward cover, "Chinese Translation," that they had done together while on tour. This version soared through the hall and out onto the Albany streets outside. Another highlight of the evening was "Carried Away" from 2010s *All Birds Say*. Finally,


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**Emily Wolfe**  
 Sep 10 | 8 pm \$18



**Maurice John Vaughn**  
 Sep 13 | 8 pm \$12 in adv \$15 at door

**BLUES TRIPLE THREAT**  
**MAURICE**  
**JOHN**  
**VAUGHN**



## WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

### Side B and Grape Juice

The Low Beat — Thursday, Aug. 22

ALBANY — Side B and Grape Juice will perform at The Low Beat on Thursday, Aug. 22 at 8 p.m.

Side B is a local band mixing old school and modern rock influences for a classic sound that never gets old.

Grape Juice is an alternative/Indie Rock band from upstate New York.

The Low Beat is located at 335 Central Ave, Albany.

### Rock-aoke LIVE

Rivers Casino & Resort — Every Thursday

SCHENECTADY — Rivers Casino & Resort's weekly Rock-aoke Live will be held on Thursday, Aug. 22 at 7 p.m. at Van Slyke's.

Become the lead singer of a LIVE band at Van Slyke's. Song lists are updated weekly and lists are located at Van Slyke's during the event.

Rivers Casino & Resort is located at 1 Rush St, Schenectady.

### Catharsis 2: Electric Bluegaloo

The Hanger on the Hudson — Friday, Aug. 23

TROY — DJ's De(S)troit and Vellocet will perform at The Hanger on the Hudson on Friday, Aug. 23 at 9 p.m. in the second installment of Catharsis: A Darker Dance Party.

DJ's De(S)troit and Vellocet will be bringing you new and old from industrial, goth, post punk, trip hop, dark techno, and more. 21+ to enter.

The Hanger on the Hudson is located at 675 River St, Troy.

## PICK OF THE WEEK

# Aurora Games in Albany



Aurora Games

World class competition in all-women's showcase continues at the Times Union Center

ALBANY — The world's best female athletes from around the world will come to compete in a "World" vs. "Americas" showdown. With six-days of sport, culture and entertainment, you don't want to miss this inaugural year of the Aurora Games, where women take center stage.

With competition already underway, we highlight some of the remaining events left on the schedule.

### Basketball

Times Union Center — Thursday, Aug. 22

Lindsay Whalen, the five-time WNBA all-star, leads

Team Americas into battle against Team World coached by Australian Legend and former WNBA star Michelle Timms.

### Hockey

Times Union Center — Friday, Aug. 23

Legendary coach Digit Murphy leads a star-studded Team Americas roster featuring Haley Skarupa, Lisa Chesson and Blake Bolden against Team World coached by Sarah Murray and led by Finland's Venla Hovi, Japan's Yuka Hirano and Sweden's Rebecca Sternberg. The Aurora Games introduces a two-shot line which could be decisive in a close game.

### Figure Skating

Times Union Center — Saturday, Aug. 24

Team World and Team Americas will square off on the ice in a team competition that will include skaters from around the world, including three-time U.S. National Champion, Ashley Wagner.

### Beach Volleyball

Times Union Center — Sunday, Aug. 25

Teams from the United States and Canada will take to the sand against two teams to be named for Team World in a straight knockout format competition that will see them battle for Gold Medal bragging rights as volleyball comes indoors for a one-day beach party to conclude the competition. The Gold Medal match will be followed by a closing ceremonies celebration championing women's empowerment.

The Times Union Center is located at 51 S Pearl St, Albany.

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\$19<sup>99</sup>

lunch for two special

two mixed green salads, two entrees & two non-alcoholic beverages (a \$30 value)

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**9 Maple Avenue**  
9 Maple Ave., Saratoga Springs.  
www.9mapleave.com  
Fri: TBA, 9 p.m.  
Sat: Pete Sweeney Group, 9 p.m.

**Arsenal City Tavern**  
795 3rd Ave., Watervliet.  
518-608-6400  
Fri: Side B Band, 8 p.m.  
Sat: LVx2, 8 p.m.

**Athos**  
1814 Western Ave., Albany.  
518-608-6400  
Fri: TBA, 6:30 p.m.

**Black Bear Inn**  
310 19th St., Watervliet.  
518-272-9486  
Wed: Trivia Night, 7:30 p.m.  
Tues: Talent Scout Open Mic

**Caffè Lena**  
47 Phila St., Saratoga Springs.  
518-583-0022  
Wed: Bluegrass Jam, 6:30 p.m.  
Thurs: Wallis Bird, 6 p.m.  
Fri: Doc Severinsen, 8 p.m.  
Sat: Doc Severinsen, 8 p.m.  
Sun: Doc Severinsen, 7 p.m.  
Mon: Open Mic Night, 7 p.m.  
Tues: Hot Club of Saratoga ft. Max O'Rourke, 7 p.m.

**Carney's Tavern**  
17 Main St., Ballston Lake.  
518-280-7959  
Thurs: Matty Finn, 6 p.m.  
Fri: Erin & Mike, 7:15 p.m.  
Sat: Herb Carter, 7:15 p.m.

**Centre Street Pub**  
308 Union St., Schenectady.  
518-393-2337  
Thurs: Jim McCardle, 7 p.m.  
Fri: Deadbeats, 9 p.m.  
Sat: Hit-N-Run, 9 p.m.

**Club Helsinki Hudson**  
405 Columbia St., Hudson  
518-828-4800  
Fri: The Artisans, 9 p.m.  
Sat: I Loved Lucy, 8:30 p.m.  
Sun: Patrick Higgins, 7:30 p.m.

**Emack & Bolio's**  
366 Delaware Ave., Albany.  
518-512-5100  
Fri: Vicki Gayle, 7 p.m.  
Sat: Meredith Ferenczy, 7 p.m.  
Sun: Pearl, 7 p.m.  
Tues: Open Mic, 7 p.m.

**Fort Orange Brewing**  
450 North Pearl St., Menands.  
518-992-3103  
Wed: Fall Corn Hole League, 6 p.m.  
Thurs: Game of Thrones Final Season Trivia, 6:30 p.m.

**Fuze Box**  
12 Central Ave., Albany.  
518-703-8937  
Fri: Cretin Hop, 9:30 p.m.  
Sat: 90s Dance Party, 9 p.m.

**Gaffney's**  
16 Caroline St., Saratoga Springs.  
518-587-7359  
Tues: Open Mic Nights w/ Rick Bolton, 7 p.m.

**Grappa '72**  
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# HOT SPOTS EVENTS CALENDAR



## Heeeeere's Doc!

The trumpet blast heard on every television set on late night television helped usher in Johnny Carson each evening on The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson, Doc Severinsen plays Caffè Lena for three nights starting on Friday, Aug 23. Learn more by visiting [www.caffelena.org](http://www.caffelena.org). Doc Severinsen

518-482-7200  
Wed: Hamilton Street Jazz Company, 6:30 p.m.  
Thurs: Hamilton Street Jazz Company, 6:30 p.m.  
Fri: Annette Harris & Azzaam Hameed, 6 p.m.

**Hamlet and Ghost**  
24 Caroline St., Saratoga Springs.  
518-450-7287  
Wed: Hot Club of Saratoga Trio, 7 p.m.

**Hangar on the Hudson**  
675 River St., Troy  
518-272-9740  
Fri: Catharsis 2: Electric Bluegaloo, 9 p.m.

**The Hollow Bar + Kitchen**  
79 No. Pearl St., Albany.  
518-426-8550  
Thurs: Matt Maeson w/ Your Smith \*SOLD OUT\*, 8 p.m.

**J.J. Rafferty's**  
847 New Loudon Rd., Latham.  
518-783-6800  
Wed: Trivia, 7:30 p.m.  
Thurs: Brian Gentile, 6:30 p.m.  
Fri: Robert Forman, 6:30 p.m.  
Sat: DJ Set, 9 p.m.

**Jessica Stone's**  
738 New Loudon Rd., Latham.  
518-785-8536  
Wed: Talent Scout Open Mic, 8 p.m.

Thurs: Big Crunch Bingo, 7 p.m.  
Fri: Trivia Live, 7 p.m.

**The Low Beat**  
335 Central Ave., Albany  
518-432-6572  
Thurs: Side B and Grape Juice, 8 p.m.  
Sun: In-TV and Old Fox, 8 p.m.

**LT's Grill**  
2305 Nott St. E., Niskayuna.  
518-374-7455  
Wed: Catch the Mania Trivia, 7 p.m.  
Thurs: TBA, 6:30 p.m.

**Lucas Confectionery**  
12 2nd St., Troy.  
518-326-3450  
Mon: Joe Barna Trio or Quartet, 7 p.m.

**McGeary's Irish Pub**  
4 Clinton Square, Albany.  
518-463-1455  
Wed: Best Damn Open Mic Ever, 8 p.m.  
Sun: Blues Jam, 8 p.m.  
Tues: Trivia Nights Live, 8 p.m.

**Mocha Lisa's Caffe**  
Clifton Park Center,  
22 Clifton Country Road, Clifton Park.  
518-383-5373  
Wed: Open Mic Night, 6:30 p.m.  
Fri: Northgate Acoustic, 7 p.m.  
Sat: Megan Moran & Friends, 7:30 p.m.

**Mouzon House**  
1 York St., Saratoga Springs.

518-226-0014  
Thurs: Hot Club of Saratoga Trio, 6 p.m.  
Fri: Mark Tolstrup & The Dixie Boys, 6 p.m.  
Sun: Shirri Zorn Trio, 6 p.m.

**O'Slattery's Irish Restaurant & Pub**  
318 Delaware Ave., Delmar  
518-439-5634  
Wed: Mike DeAngelis, 7 p.m.  
Sat: Jim McArdle, 7 p.m.

**Panza's**  
129 So. Broadway, Saratoga Springs.  
518-584-6882  
Wed: Jeanne O'Connor & Azzaam Hameed, 7 p.m.  
Thurs: Chris Dollard, 7 p.m.  
Fri: Colleen Pratt w/ Peg & Bill Delaney, 8 p.m.  
Mon: Noreen Pratt, 6:30 p.m.

**The Parting Glass**  
40-42 Lake Ave., Saratoga Springs.  
518-583-1916  
Wed: Irish Celtic Session, 7 p.m.  
Fri: At The Post Live w/ Andy Serling, 8 p.m.  
Sat: Forthlin Road, 9 p.m.  
Sun: Kevin McKrell, 8 p.m.  
Mon: Off Track Band, 8 p.m.

**Pauly's Hotel**  
337 Central Ave., Albany.  
paulyshotel.com

Wed: Aunt Vicki / Eamonn Barry / Immune Friction  
Thurs: Carlisle Evans Peck / Belle-Skinner / Ayanna Martine, 7:30 p.m.  
Fri: Valley Gals / Strange Fate / Postage, 8:30 p.m.  
Sat: Rubella Ballet / Wisteria / Dirt Devil / Eternal Crimes, 8 p.m.  
Sun: Ecce Shnak! / NPK / Sun Colored Chair, 8:30 p.m.  
Tues: Smokey Karaoke, 8:30 p.m.

**Provence**  
1475 Western Ave.,  
Stuyvesant Plaza, Albany  
518-689-7777  
Thurs: TBA, 6 p.m.  
Fri: TBA, 6 p.m.  
Sat: TBA, 6 p.m.  
**Putnam Place**  
63a Putnam St., Saratoga Springs.  
518-584-8066  
Thurs: The Wheel, 9 p.m.  
Sat: Let's Be Leonard w/ Rambler's Home, 7 p.m.

**Ravenswood Grill & Tavern**  
1021 NY 146, Clifton Park.  
518-371-8771  
Fri: Stretch, 8 p.m.

**Rustic Barn Pub**  
150 Speigletown Rd., Troy.  
518-235-5858  
Thurs: Open Mic w/ Brian Kane, 8 p.m.

**Sake Japanese Steakhouse**  
611 Troy-Schenectady Rd., Latham.  
518-785-7215  
Sat: TBA, 7:30 p.m.

**Salt & Char**  
453 Broadway, Saratoga Springs.  
518-450-7500  
Every Sun: Hot Club of Saratoga, Noon

**Saratoga City Tavern**  
19-21 Caroline St., Saratoga Springs.  
518-581-3230  
Thurs: Karaoke, 9 p.m.  
Mon: Bingo, 8 p.m.  
Tues: Trivia, 8 p.m.

**Savoy Taproom**  
301 Lark Street, Albany.  
518-599-5140  
Wed: Laughs on Lark, 6:30 p.m.  
Thurs: Franklin County Sweethearts w/ Mr. Days, 9 p.m.  
Fri: C.K. and The Rising Tide w/s/g Josh Taerk, 10 p.m.

**Skyloft**  
1 Crossgates Road, Albany.  
518-869-5638  
Wed: Rock & Roll Up Your Sleeve, 12 p.m.  
Thurs: WEQX Battle of the Bands, 8 p.m.  
Fri: Who's Bad - The Ultimate Michael Jackson Experience, 8 p.m.  
Sat: Johnny 2 Phones, 8 p.m.  
Sun: Bone Thugs-n-Harmony, 8 p.m.  
Tues: The Alarm, 8 p.m.

**Speakeasy 518**  
42 Howard St., Albany.  
518-449-2332  
Thurs: Swing Night w/ Mike Jenkins & the Fat Ties, 9 p.m.  
Fri: Nate Giroux Quartet, 9 p.m.  
Sat: Matt Niedbalski Quartet, 9 p.m.

**Stockade Inn**  
1 North Church St., Schenectady.  
518-346-3400  
Thurs: TBA, 7 p.m.  
Fri: TBA, 7 p.m.  
Upstate Concert Hall  
Fri: Drench III w/ Jansten Vampa Zia Hazeyy & Reddi, 6:30 p.m.

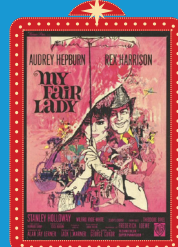
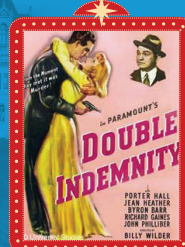
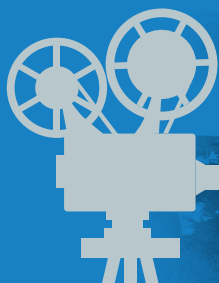
**Van Slyck's**  
Rivers Casino & Resort  
1 Rush St., Schenectady.  
518-579-8800  
Sat: George Lopez, 8 p.m.  
Vapor Night Club  
Fri: Big Sky Country, 8 p.m.  
Sat: Shake, Rattle & Roll Dueling Pianos Show, 8 p.m.

**Waterworks Pub**  
76 Central Ave., Albany.  
518-465-9079  
Wed: Wacky Wednesdays Drag Show, 11 p.m.  
Fri: Friday Nights, 11 p.m.  
Sat: Saturday Nights, 11 p.m.

**Wishing Well Restaurant**  
745 Saratoga Rd., Wilton.  
518-584-7640  
Fri: Rob Aronstein, 6 p.m.  
Sat: Rob Aronstein, 6 p.m.

**Yono's**  
25 Chapel St., Albany.  
518-436-7747  
Fri: Hamilton Street Jazz Duo, 6:30 p.m.  
Sat: Frank Mastan, 6:30 p.m.

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## World Class

Designed to celebrate the best in women's sports, entertainment and culture, the inaugural Aurora Games welcomes all-star athletes, as well as coaches and trainers representing more than 15 countries to downtown Albany to compete from Aug. 20 to 25 in an international competition of teams comprised of the Americas vs. the World. For events and details, visit [auroragamesfestival.com](http://auroragamesfestival.com).

Aurora Games

## COMEDY

### George Lopez

George Lopez will perform a comedy show at Rivers Casino & Resort on Saturday, Aug. 24 at 8 p.m. George Lopez's multi-faceted career encompasses television, film, stand-up comedy, and late-night television. Lopez is currently on his standup comedy tour, The Comedy Get Down, with Eddie Griffin, D.L. Hughley, and Cedric the Entertainer in arenas across the country. The comedians recently debuted their BET scripted comedy series based on their tour. Rivers Casino & Resort is located at 1 Rush St, Schenectady.

### Adrienne Lapalucci

Adrienne Lapalucci will perform a comedy show as part of Pretty Much the Best Comedy Show on Saturday, Aug. 24 at 8 p.m. Adrienne Lapalucci is a comedian, actor and writer born and bred in the Bronx. Her skewed look on life is reflected in her unique brand of intelligent comedy. Her dark sense of humor is counteracted by her love of dogs. Comedy fans might recognize Adrienne from her performances as a semifinalist on Season 7 of NBC's Last Comic Standing and her recent appearance on the Late Show with David Letterman. She was in the mockumentary "Women Aren't Funny." Proctors is located at 432 State St, Schenectady.

## FILM

### Double Indemnity

The film Double Indemnity will be shown for free at Empire State Plaza on Wednesday, Aug. 21 at 8 p.m. Capitol Park After Dark's free outdoor movie series returns to West Capitol Park featuring three classic films. Spend your evening on the beautiful grounds of the historic New York State Capitol enjoying complimentary popcorn from Cornerstone and classic films the way

they were meant to be seen - on the big screen. Empire State Plaza is located in Albany.

### The Jungle Book

The live-action remake of The Jungle Book will be shown for free at The Cohoes Music Hall on Wednesday, Aug. 21 at 1 p.m. Children under 12 will receive free popcorn and bottled water. Come dressed as your favorite Jungle Book character and be entered to win a prize. Raised by a family of wolves since birth, Mowgli must leave the only home he's ever known when the fearsome tiger Shere Khan unleashes his mighty roar. Guided by a no-nonsense panther and a free-spirited bear, the young boy meets an array of jungle animals, including a slithering python and a smooth-talking ape. Along the way, Mowgli learns valuable life lessons as his epic journey of self-discovery leads to fun and adventure. The Cohoes Music Hall is located at 58 Remsen St, Cohoes.

### Rush

The film Rush: Cinema Strangiato 2019 will be shown at Proctors on Wednesday, Aug. 21 at 7 p.m. The first "Annual Exercise in Fan Indulgence" Cinema Strangiato brings Rush fans together in movie theatres worldwide. Featuring R40+, this global fan event will give audiences a special look into some of the best performances from R40 LIVE, including songs such as Closer to the Heart, Subdivisions, Tom Sawyer, and more, as well as unreleased backstage moments and candid footage left on the cutting room floor. Also included are unseen soundcheck performances of the fan-favorite Jacob's Ladder" exclusive new interviews with Tom Morello, Billy Corgan, Taylor Hawkins, producer Nick Raskulinec, violinist Jonathan Dinklage and others. As a special bonus, fans will get a glimpse into the madness and passion that went into the making of Geddy Lee's new book, Geddy Lee's Big Beautiful Book of Bass - featuring a brand-new

interview from the man himself. Rated R. 150 minutes. Proctors is located at 432 State St, Schenectady.

### Smallfoot

The film Smallfoot will be shown for free at Palace Theatre on Tuesday, Aug. 27 at 1 p.m. as part of the Summer In The City Free Movie Series. Free popcorn for kids 12 and under. Stick around after the movie as the Summer In The City Free Movie Series season closes with an Ice Cream Social. Face Painters, balloon twisters, activities, giveaways and free ice cream courtesy of Stewart's Shops. Palace Theatre is located at 19 Clinton Ave, Albany.

## THEATRE

### For The Culture

The Return Of The U- 4 years on Hiatus, The U makes its Triumphant Return Home to The Linda. Bringing you the best in The Capital District and beyond in poetry, performance, music and comedy. The Linda - WAMC's Performing Arts Studio is located at 339 Central Ave, Albany.

### I Loved Lucy

Making its New York premiere directly from its critically acclaimed production on London's West End, Club Helsinki is proud to present Lee Tannen's I Loved Lucy. Starring Sandra Dickinson recreating her role as America's iconic comedienne Lucille Ball and Lee Tannen portraying himself. Few people knew Lucy the way Lee did. Distantly related by marriage Lee met Lucy as a child but cemented their close and enduring friendship as an adult; during the last decade of Lucy's life- years mostly spent out of the spotlight and around a backgammon table. Lee was lucky enough to be sitting across from her during that time and the laughs and tears and stories they share paint an intimate portrait of arguably the most familiar face in the world. This is the side of Lucy we rarely

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### CLUES ACROSS

- Scottish tax
- Filled with horror
- Type of music
- Variety act
- Half-conscious state
- Discontinued European money
- Formal declaration
- Shaft horsepower (abbr.)
- A way to express concentration
- Airline
- Goes well with a carrot
- Length of pant leg
- Mark with a cut
- One who destroys completely
- Greek sophist
- Thomas Hobbes's "De \_\_\_"
- Copyreads
- Talk
- Endangered
- Snag
- Comedienne Tyler
- Castrate a male animal
- Taj Mahal site
- Tending to concede
- One who accepts
- Albanian capital
- Takes kids to school
- About Moon
- \_\_\_ Seamounts: underwater volcanoes
- \_\_\_ Lilly, drug company
- Not working
- Alaska nursing board
- Howl
- Muslim ruler title
- Famed arena
- Back again for more food
- Cheek

### CLUES DOWN

- Raccoonlike animal
- Small
- Separates
- Parties
- Automated teller machine
- One who earned his degree
- Dislike
- Flowering plant
- Nova \_\_\_, province
- Inhabited
- Breathing
- Partner to pains
- Immature insects
- The back
- Heavy club
- Edible fish
- Lament for the dead
- Woody climbing plants
- Small rooms for prisoners
- Ottoman military commander
- "The Crow" actress Ling
- A way of lopping off
- Cigarette (slang)
- Helps little firms
- Member of small discussion group
- Copyread
- V-shaped open trough
- Pokes holes in
- Beloved "Captain"
- Resume
- On a line at right angles
- Light up lamps
- Part of the psyche
- Leeward Island
- 1960s counterculture activist
- Edible seaweed
- Imitator
- Look at and comprehend
- Root mean square (abbr.)

Answers on Pg. B20

got a chance to see, the private side, the way she really was and the way she chose to live her life toward the end of her life. Club Helsinki is located at 405 Columbia St, Hudson.

**A Midsummer Night's Dream**

The production A Midsummer Night's Dream will be performed on Friday, Aug. 23 at 7:30 p.m. at The Egg. One of Albany Berkshire Ballet's most celebrated productions returns for a 2019 tour, reinvented with new choreography by Paula Weber. In this magical two-act ballet telling of Shakespeare's beloved comedy, Queen Titania and King Oberon rule over the fairies and toy with the lives of mortals as they manipulate mismatched human lovers in ecstatic dance. With enchanting music by Felix Mendelssohn and stunning original set art by Thurston Munson, A Midsummer Night's Dream is sure to delight all ages and experience levels. The Egg Performing Arts Center is located at Empire State Plaza.

**Winnie the Pooh**

Playhouse Stage Company presents Winnie the Pooh live on stage on Thursday, Aug. 22 at 2 p.m. and Friday, Aug. 23 at 2 p.m. This event is part of a new program for young performers: Playhouse Tykes. Building on the success of Park Playhouse II and Park Playhouse Kids, Playhouse Stage Company is excited to bring their services to beginner level students in the summer months through their new Playhouse Tykes program. Their inaugural program in 2019 will present a fantastic musical adaptation of the A. A. Milne classic The Wonderful Adventures of Winnie the Pooh &

Friends, written by long-time Playhouse veteran performer and director, Tim Nelson. The Cohoes Music Hall is located at 58 Remsen St, Cohoes.

**FAMILY**

**Seth and the Moody Melix**

Seth and the Moody Melix will perform at Barker Park on Thursday, Aug. 22 at 11 a.m. as part of the Barker Park Kids' Summer Series. Borrowing from a wonderfully diverse mix of musical styles, this toe-tapping trio plays lyrically rich music for kids that parents can appreciate, too. With guitar (Seth Warden), fiddle (Doug Moody) and percussion (Brian Melick), along with sweet harmony vocals, their songs impart good values and educational tidbits in a fresh upbeat organic style. The Troy Savings Bank Music Hall presents free summer fun for children with the Barker Park Kids' Summer Series. This year they are launching into space to explore everything from music to crafts. Barker Park is located at 3rd St, Troy.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Fitness at the Plaza**

Fitness at the Plaza will be held every Tuesday and Thursday June 4 - Aug. 29 at 5 p.m. Presented by BlueShield of Northeastern New York, Fitness at the Plaza features HIIT by Catrina K Fitness on Tuesdays and Sunshine Flow Yoga by The Hot Yoga Spot on Thursdays! Plaza Level, between Agency Buildings 2 and 3. Rain Space - The Hart Lounge in the

Egg. Free and open to everyone regardless of age, fitness level, or experience. All participants are required to sign a waiver in order to participate. You may register for individual classes to sign the waiver in advance and to allow us to contact you regarding updates to the schedule. Walk-ins are always welcome. For more information visit: <https://empirestateplaza.ny.gov/fitness-plaza-presented-blueshield-northeastern-new-york>. Empire State plaza is located in Albany.

**EXHIBIT**

**A Brilliant Bit of Color: The Work of Walter Launt Palmer**

The Albany Institute of History and Art will be displaying the largest public collection by artist Walter Launt Palmer (1854-1932), son of Albany sculptor Erastus Dow Palmer June 22 through Dec. 31. It includes oil and watercolor paintings, pastels, pencil drawings, a rare painted ceramic cup, as well as letters and photographs. A new exhibition at the Albany Institute offers a visual overview of Palmer's life, travels, and artistic output. The exhibition includes works from all three of Palmer's major series: the early interior views where Palmer lavished attention on the textiles, ceramics, furniture, and wall decorations that filled well-furnished homes; his Venetian scenes that capture the luxuriant colors of the sea, sky, and buildings of this island city; and the snow scenes that continue to enchant viewers with their masterful tonal subtleties.



**You know this guy?**

George Lopez will perform a comedy show at Rivers Casino & Resort on Saturday, Aug. 24 at 8 p.m. George Lopez's multi-faceted career encompasses television, film, stand-up comedy, and late-night television. Rivers Casino & Resort is located at 1 Rush St, Schenectady.

George Lopez

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Drawings, photographs, and ceramics accompany the exhibition. The Albany Institute of History and Art is located at 125 Washington Ave, Albany.

**MUSIC**

**The Artisanals**

The Artisanals will perform at Club Helsinki on Friday, Aug. 23 at 9 p.m. Praised by Rolling Stone as having been "built to preach the gospel of rock n' roll," The Artisanals hold iconic predecessors Tom Petty, George Harrison, and Jackson Browne close to their chest, while offering a refreshing vantage through their new single. Produced by Drew Vandenberg (Toro y Moi, of Montreal, Kishi Bashi), "Violet Light" invokes conflicting emotions of hope and longing and begs to be played through a car stereo while the sun sets in the rearview mirror. Club Helsinki is located at 405 Columbia St, Hudson.

**Big Sky Country**

Big Sky Country will perform at Vapor Nightclub on Friday, Aug. 23 at 8 p.m. Big Sky Country is a high energy modern country band that takes great pride in their musicianship, professionalism, and putting on the best show for their fans. 21+ to enter. Vapor Nightclub is located at 342 Jefferson St, Saratoga Springs.

**C.K. & The Rising Tide with Special Guest Josh Taerk**

C.K. & The Rising Tide and special guest Josh Taerk will perform at Savoy Taproom on Friday, Aug. 23 at 10 p.m. C.K. & The Rising Tide is an alt. country/folk rock band hailing from Albany, NY. Poet C.K. Flach is joined by bassist Chris Brant, violin and keys player Danny Boudreau, drummer Robert Piccola and lead guitarist Matthew Copperwheat. Josh Taerk

combines introspective and heartfelt storytelling, pop melodies and raw rock energy in his music. 21+ to enter. Savoy Taproom is located at 301 Lark St, Albany.

**Catharsis 2: Electric Bluegaloo**

DJ's De(S)troit and Vellocet will perform at The Hanger on the Hudson on Friday, Aug. 23 at 9 p.m. in the second installment of Catharsis: A Darker Dance Party. DJ's De(S)troit and Vellocet will be bringing you new and old from industrial, goth, post punk, trip hop, dark techno, and more. 21+ to enter. The Hanger on the Hudson is located at 675 River St, Troy.

**Felix Pastorius' Hipster Assassins**

Hipster Assassins will perform at The Egg on Friday, Aug. 23 at 7:30 p.m. Jazz is Phish is a revolving collective of jazz artists that perform instrumental versions of the music of Phish. Led by jazz bass virtuoso Felix Pastorius, the adventurous improvisational Hipster Assassins will open the show. The Egg Performing Arts Center is located at Empire State Plaza.

**Franklin County Sweethearts and Mr. Days**

The Franklin County Sweethearts and The Mr. Days Band will perform at Savoy Taproom on Thursday, Aug. 22 at 9 p.m. The Franklin County Sweethearts began in May 2016, when best friends Lexi Weege, Rosie Porter, and Tom LeBeau decided to form a trio. Bringing with them a lifelong love and appreciation for classic country, honky-tonk, country rock, and the harmonies of such groups as the Beatles and the Everly Brothers, the Sweethearts surprise and delight their audience with their selection of material. Mr. Days is a singer-songwriter

drawing inspiration from the Grateful Dead, outlaw country, and Appalachia roots his music will move the body and mind. Savoy Taproom is located at 301 Lark St, Albany.

**Erin Harkes**

Erin Harkes will perform a free solo acoustic show at Romo's Pizza and Restaurant on Wednesday, Aug. 21 at 6 p.m. Harkes is one of the most sought after performers in New York's Capital District. Her vocal ability and range along with her powerful stage presence commands audiences large and small. Romo's Pizza and Restaurant is located at 365 Feura Bush Rd, Glenmont.

**Patrick Higgins**

Patrick Higgins will perform on Sunday, Aug. 25 at 7:30 p.m. Patrick Higgins is a New York based composer/performer of experimental music. Higgins has composed works for some of the nation's leading ensembles, ranging from chamber orchestra works, percussion cycles, and string quartets to smaller ensembles and soloists. He has scored works for television, museum exhibitions, and films both short-form and feature-length. As a soloist, he performs both classical acoustic and electric guitar in genre-bending contexts, utilizing extended technique and electronic processing. Club Helsinki is located at 405 Columbia St, Hudson.

**Intelligent Television (In-TV) and Old Fox**

In-TV and Old Fox will perform at The Low Beat on Saturday, Aug. 24 at 8 p.m. In-TV is an original indie-pop-rock-punk band from Troy, NY. Formed in Somerville, MA in March, 2018, the founding members of Old Fox, Alex and Ralph, decided to build the band and its music around the phrase, "honest words

for honest people." The band has since evolved with that goal in mind and has continued to focus on creating simple, vulnerable, and evocative music for anyone who decides to listen. The Low Beat is located at 335 Central Ave, Albany.

**Knot Dead**

Knot Dead will perform at Empire State Plaza on Wednesday, Aug. 21 at 12 p.m. Knot Dead is a rock n roll band from Hoosick Falls that's inspired by the sound of The Grateful Dead. This event is part of 12 weeks of free daytime concerts crossing all genres featuring the popular Empire State Plaza Farmer's Market and the adjacent Plaza food truck program. Located on the grassy area between Agency Buildings 2 and 3. Empire State plaza is located in Albany.

**Let's Be Leonard and Ramblers Home**

Let's Be Leonard and Ramblers Home will perform at Putnam Place on Saturday, Aug. 24 at 7 p.m. Let's Be Leonard is a group of rockers hailing from Saratoga Springs. Ramblers Home is a community of musicians who have grown from the seeds of traditional bluegrass music, weaving together elements of blues, country, funk, soul, jazz and rock n roll. Putnam Place is located at 63a Putnam St, Saratoga Springs.

**Max O'Rourke**

The Hot Club of Saratoga featuring Max O'Rourke will perform at Caffe Lena on Tuesday, Aug. 27 at 7 p.m. as part of the Hot Club Series. Join the Capital District's premier gypsy swing ensemble, the Hot Club of Saratoga for an evening of swinging gypsy jazz music. This event is opened to listeners and players alike. After a set lead by the Hot Club, the group will lead a campfire-like gypsy jazz jam. This month's feature will be guitarist,

composer, and arranger Max O'Rourke. Caffe Lena is located at 47 Phila St, Saratoga Springs.

**Jim McArdle**

Jim McArdle will perform at O'Slattery's on Saturday, Aug. 24 at 7 p.m. Poetic songwriting. Passionate performances. Soulful storytelling. For over 20 years, Jim McArdle has been writing, playing and performing acoustic roots rock to audiences large and small. He creates a powerful, yet intimate connection with the audience with lyrics that capture the journey of friendship, love, loss, and the beauty found in the smallest moments in life with an unflinching honesty. O'Slattery's Irish Restaurant and Pub is located at 318 Delaware Ave, Delmar.

**Rock-aoke LIVE**

Rivers Casino & Resort's weekly Rock-aoke Live will be held on Thursday, Aug. 22 at 7 p.m. at Van Slyke's. Become the lead singer of a LIVE band at Van Slyck's. Song lists are updated weekly and lists are located at Van Slyck's during the event. Rivers Casino & Resort is located at 1 Rush St, Schenectady.

**Doc Severinsen**

Doc Severinsen will perform at Caffe Lena on Friday, Aug. 23 at 8 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 24 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 25 at 7 p.m. "Heeeeere's Johnny!" That lead-in, followed by a big band trumpet blast, was the hallmark of late night television for three decades. The 'Johnny' was Johnny Carson, the announcer was Ed McMahon and the bandleader was Doc Severinsen. Beginning in October 1962, The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson ruled the night air for thirty years. Audiences across America love and respect Doc, not just because he shared their living room with them for so many years, but because his musicianship keeps

iconic American music fresh to this day. Doc's repertoire includes Ellington and Basie standards, pop, jazz, ballads, big band classics and, of course, The Tonight Show theme. Caffe Lena is located at 47 Phila St, Saratoga Springs.

**Side B and Grape Juice**

Side B and Grape Juice will perform at The Low Beat on Thursday, Aug. 22 at 8 p.m. Side B is a local band mixing old school and modern rock influences for a classic sound that never gets old. Grape Juice is an alternative/Indie Rock band from upstate New York. The Low Beat is located at 335 Central Ave, Albany.

**Wallis Bird**

Wallis Bird will perform at Caffe Lena on Thursday, Aug. 22 at 6 p.m. Join us for a conversation with and performance by Wallis Bird. Hangin' & Sangin' offers up casual conversation and acoustic performances by the best artists from Americana, folk, country, blues, bluegrass, Southern soul, and rock & roll. This week, Irish artist Wallis Bird will enrapture the audience, as she's done for over a decade. Nominated for a Choice Music Prize at home in 2017, she's also been making big waves in mainland Europe. Bird's new album, "Woman," is due out on Sept. 27. Caffe Lena is located at 47 Phila St, Saratoga Springs.

**The Wheel**

**(Grateful Dead Tribute)**

Grateful Dead tribute band The Wheel will perform at Putnam Place on Thursday, Aug. 22 at 9 p.m. The Wheel is a rock-n-roll band covering mostly music of the Grateful Dead. Putnam Place is located at 63a Putnam St, Saratoga Springs.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF OUR**

# LABOR DAY

## Early Deadlines

SEPT. 4, 2019 ISSUE

- Display Proof Ad Advertising**  
The Spot518: **Tues., Aug. 27 at Noon**  
A Section: **Wed., Aug. 28 at Noon**
- Display Ad Advertising**  
The Spot518: **Wed., Aug. 28 at 11 a.m.**  
A Section: **Thurs., Aug. 29 at 11 a.m.**
- Services Directory Advertising**  
**Tues., Aug. 27 at 2 p.m.**
- Classified Advertising**  
**Wed., Aug. 28 at 10 a.m.**
- Legal Advertising**  
**Thurs., Aug. 29 at 10 a.m.**

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PLEASE NOTE: The Spotlight News offices will be CLOSED on Labor Day - Monday, Sept. 2

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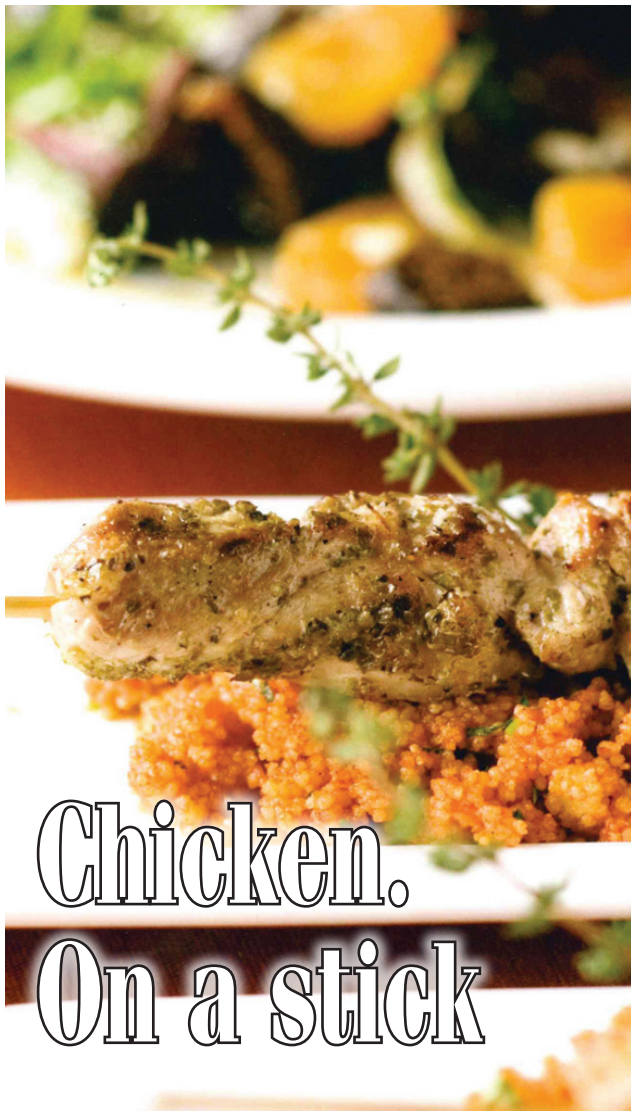




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**FOOD & VINO**



Chicken.  
On a stick

**W**hen it comes to grilling, anything goes. Many people stick to popular staples like hamburgers and hot dogs, but just about anything can be whipped up over an open flame. Those who want to try their hand at something more exotic than traditional backyard barbecue fare can try this Spanish recipe for “Pinchos de Pollo (Grilled Chicken Skewers with Harissa Couscous,” which comes courtesy of James Campbell Caruso’s “España: Exploring the Flavors of Spain” (Gibbs Smith).

Pinchos de Pollo

**Ingredients: Serves 6**

- 6 boneless chicken thighs, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 tablespoon ground coriander
- 1 tablespoon dry oregano
- 1 teaspoon turmeric

Toss the chicken with all the other ingredients and let marinate in the refrigerator for 4 hours (up to 24 hours is ideal). Thread chicken evenly onto 6 wooden or metal skewers. Prepare a grill on medium-high heat and grill the skewers for about 5 minutes per side, until chicken is cooked through.

Harissa Couscous

**Ingredients:**

- 2 cups dry couscous

- 2 cups chicken stock
- 2 tablespoons Harissa (see below)

Put the couscous in a large bowl. Heat the chicken stock and bring to a boil. Stir the Harissa into the chicken stock. Pour the hot stock over the couscous and cover with plastic wrap. Let stand for 15 minutes.

Divide harissa couscous onto 6 small plates and top each serving with a chicken skewer.

Harissa

**Ingredients:**

- 1 tablespoon coriander seed
- 1 tablespoon caraway seed
- 1 teaspoon cumin seed
- 4 large cloves garlic, unpeeled
- 4 large red bell peppers
- 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 2 tablespoons crushed New Mexico red chiles
- Salt and pepper to taste

Stir coriander, caraway and cumin in a small skillet over medium-high heat until aromatic, about 30 seconds. Transfer to a food processor. Cook garlic in the same skillet, covered, over medium-low heat until tender, about 10 minutes, turning occasionally. Let garlic cool, then peel it and add to processor. Char bell peppers over a gas flame or in a broiler until blackened on all sides. Enclose in a paper bag; let stand 10 minutes. Peel, seed and coarsely chop peppers. Add peppers, oil, sugar, and crushed

**Continues on page B24**

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HEALTH & FITNESS

# Get yourself closer with nature

Compost is part of the circle of life in gardens

The season for fresh fruits and vegetables grown right in the backyard is upon us. Warm weather breathes life into fresh berries, tomatoes, eggplant, cucumbers, and many other delectable fruits and vegetables.

Home gardens can be supplemented with delicious finds from the supermarket or farmer's market, including melons, corn and more.

The bounty of the garden can be made more abundant and fruitful with the addition of the right soil amendments. Compost is a key element of rich, nutritious soil. Scraps from items that have been grown in the garden can then be reused in the production of the compost that feeds that same garden. It's a continuous circle of garden life.

Getting started with compost is relatively easy. Homeowners should choose an outdoor space near the garden but far away from the home so that it won't be disturbed by kids or animals. Some people opt for an open compost pile, while others choose closed bins to contain the possible

smell and to camouflage the compost. A sunny spot will help the compost to develop faster, according to Good Housekeeping.

The next step is to start gathering the scraps and materials that will go into the compost. Better Homes and Gardens suggests keeping a bucket or bin in the kitchen to accumulate kitchen scraps. Here are some kitchen-related items that can go into the compost material:

- Eggshells
- Fruit peels
- Vegetable peels and scraps
- Coffee grounds
- Shredded newspaper

In addition to these materials, grass and plant clippings, dry leaves, bark chips, straw, and sawdust from untreated wood can go into the pile. Avoid diseased plants, anything with animal fats, dairy products, and pet feces.

A low-maintenance pile has an equal



**NEED HELP?**  
This paper can be added to your compost.

amount of brown and green plant matter in the compost plus moisture to keep the bacteria growing and eating at the right rate. Aerating the compost occasionally, or turning the bin when possible, will allow the compost to blend and work together. Compost will take a few months to form completely, says the Planet Natural Research Center.

The finished product will resemble a dark, crumbly soil that smells like fresh earth.

Compost will not only add nutrients to garden soil, but also it can help insulate plants and may prevent some weed growth. It is a good idea to start a compost pile as a free source of nutrition for plants and a method to reduce food waste in an environmentally sound way.

## HOROSCOPES

August 2019  
Week 3

**ARIES - MAR 21/APR 20**

There are a few obstacles in your career path right now, Aries. Thankfully, you have a clever way to navigate right around them. All it takes is a little charm.

**TAURUS - APR 21/MAY 21**

It can be difficult to make decisions when under pressure, Taurus. This week you may be put on the spot to answer some difficult questions.

**GEMINI - MAY 22/JUN 21**

Now may be a good time to invest some money into a luxury purchase, Gemini. This can be anything from an extensive vacation to a new car. Just consider the budget beforehand.

**CANCER - JUN 22/JUL 22**

Cancer, a minor health scare could have you rethinking your diet and exercise regimen. Speak with a doctor about the best course of action if you want to overhaul your health.

**LEO - JUL 23/AUG 23**

Leo, some tough choices will be falling on your shoulders in the days ahead. Not everyone may agree with your decisions, but you need to stand by them.

**VIRGO - AUG 24/SEPT 22**

There is only so much that debate will accomplish, Virgo. You may have to sit back and go with the flow on this one, even if that may be difficult.

**LIBRA - SEPT 23/OCT 23**

All it may take is a weekend getaway to completely recharge your mind and body, Libra. Trips do not have to be long to prove rejuvenating. A change of scenery is important.

**SCORPIO - OCT 24/NOV 22**

Scorpio, make a list of the pros and cons of a career change and then mull it over carefully. Explore if salary, environment or status are driving factors in wanting something new.

**SAGITTARIUS - NOV 23/DEC 21**

Memories of good times could have you temporarily living in the past, Sagittarius. That is okay as long as you can come back to the present when necessary.

**CAPRICORN - DEC 22/JAN 20**

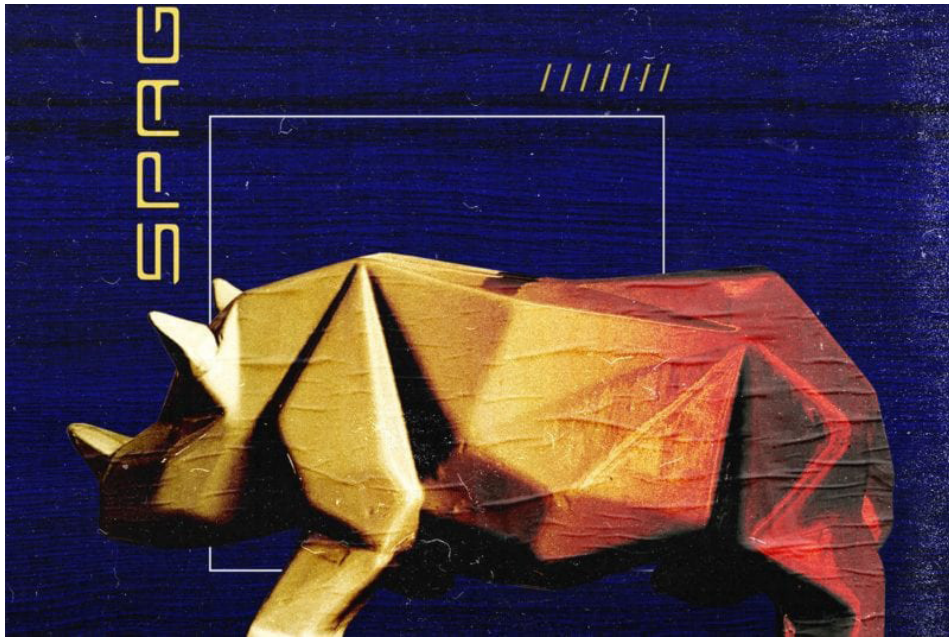
Capricorn, put your pride to the side and focus on what would be best for the majority of people in your family circle. Then you can gear your decisions toward their well-being.

**AQUARIUS - JAN 21/FEB 18**

Aquarius, if your diet and exercise regimen hasn't been as successful as you'd hoped, you may want to speak with a dietician. Then you can get back on track.

**PISCES - FEB 19/MAR 20**

Pisces, there are a few cosmic disturbances on the horizon but nothing you cannot handle with a little finesse. Expect things to blow over shortly.



**MUSIC REVIEW**

# SPAGA

Six, diverse tracks lend to a unique listen from Disco Biscuits' Magner

By **TIM O'SHEA**  
nysmusic.com

Fresh off the heels of another successful Camp Bisco comes the debut release from SPAGA, a new and exciting Philadelphia-based jazz trio that blends intricate soundscapes and piano-driven melodies with a sturdy rhythm section that's more than open to improvisation. This new project is the brainchild of Disco Biscuits keyboardist Aron Magner, whose delicate piano play fuels the self-titled release. Jason Fraticelli (upright bass) and Matt Scarano (drums) round out this latest addition to the burgeoning Philadelphia music scene, who recently performed at Xerox Rochester International Jazz Fest.

Those expecting to hear songs similar in intensity and fashion to what the Disco Biscuits live catalog provides should look elsewhere, although there is a track ("Resurrection") that fans will certainly recognize here. Instead, SPAGA offers a more relaxed and intimate musical environment that's both technically proficient yet still malleable enough to explore new boundaries. The interplay between these three masters of their respective crafts on this record helps create moods that can range from brooding to blissful, sometimes within the same track. With seemingly only minimal post-production effects mixed in, this "mostly acoustic" album instead pays more attention to the organic nature and simplicity of a three-piece band that's still able to produce a powerful and engaging

sound.

A mix of styles begins the album as tenacious drum work and a foreboding bass line are joined by some ethereal piano-driven melodies, a practice common throughout. By the end, the opening track "Creed" develops a light and pleasant tone before slinking away with the return of the darker opening theme. "Marionette in the Snow," which follows, maybe the most enjoyable listen on SPAGA as it takes the listener on a true journey lasting near nine minutes. A joyous main theme gives way to some crispy drum and bass work, giving Fraticelli and Scarano a chance to take the reigns for a little and show off their chops. "Four Angels" produces an ambient and almost spooky soundscape at its outset before a comfortable groove is established, accentuated by more Magner-crafted melodies on the grand piano. And fans will surely recognize "Resurrection," an instrumental take on the Disco Biscuits song that flows back and forth between two main thematic tempos, serving as almost a nod to the original and recently re-worked styles in which the song is played live.

The album may only have six tracks, but each is a unique and easy listen that touches on distinctive elements of jazz, rock and improv that certainly lends itself to a world of possibilities in a live setting. For now, the album, which was released on Magner's own label AM Records on July 26, will have to suffice. But the band does have tour dates planned for later this summer as seen below, including a date at New York City's (Le) Poisson Rouge, serving as the next stage of this musical exploration that's off to a very promising start.

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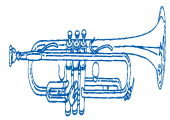
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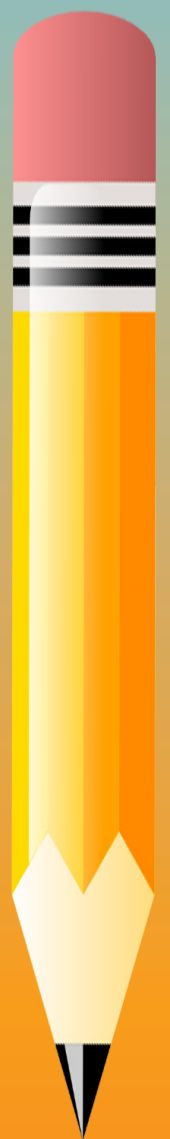
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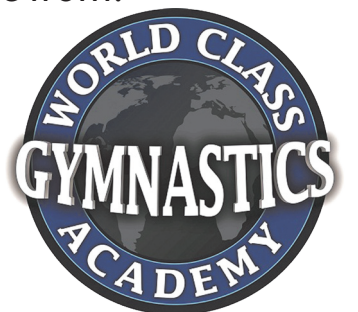


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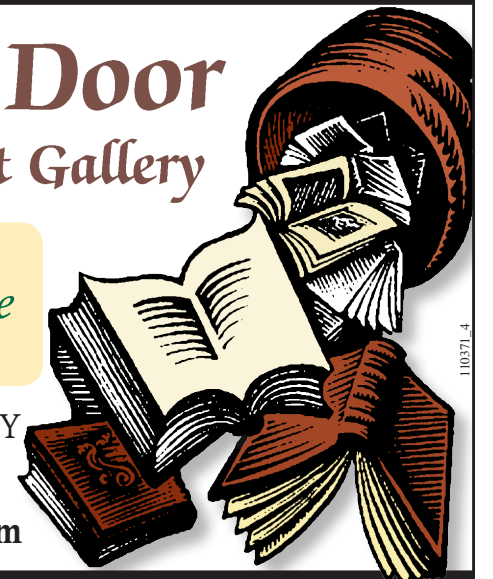
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■ MUSIC REVIEW

# Melissa Gardiner's 'Empowered'

The production, artistry is on the next level on this 'must listen'

By SEAN NEVISON  
nysmusic.com

“Empowered,” the new album from trombone player-extraordinaire Melissa Gardiner is a powerful ride of jazz, funk and dreamy atmospheric tracks that captures the listener from start to finish. Gardiner has been on the circuits playing with legendary acts like Aretha Franklin, The Temptations, and Vulfpeck.

On this record, she reaches above the male-dominated world of jazz with support from fellow musicians Ingrid Jensen and Tia Fuller. The timing of this inspirational record that dropped on June 21, is a statement against women being a placeholder, rather than featured musicians. On the track “Smile,” which features a brief conversation about entertainers being told they need to

‘appear happy’ on stage and, “Mask,” about women feeling like they must hide their emotions, it is clear that these recordings are not only empowering musicians, but all women. A beautiful sentiment set with incredible harmonies, amazingly-fun and catchy backbeats, layered with the strong horn lines are only expected from a Juilliard graduate.

Another strong tune from Empowered is “Slowly.” Gardiner said, “It’s about feeling invisible, where people are looking at you, but not really seeing you – They’re only seeing your physical body.” With the message of abuse, sexism and trying to break through into an incredibly challenging profession, “Slowly” is a wonderful sight on the idea of taking steps forward and finding your way by pressing on. With lovely falsetto vocals and a soaring trumpet leading the way, this is another winner on an outstanding record.

Engineer and producer, Jeremy Johnston, has worked with Gardiner over the years on various records. “This is such an exciting project,” he said. “She came to me with her story and I immediately



said yes, I want to help you tell it. We had phenomenal musicians and it tuned out to be fun, and I think she made a great one!” Assistant engineer, Alex Lavon, and Johnston recorded in Syracuse at multiple locations, brought in Weedie Braimah on percussion who tracked from New Orleans, and traveled to New York City to work with Ingrid Jensen and Tia Fuller. Naomi Clark added to the post-

production of “Empowered,” with a keen eye on the final touches.

With Gardiner’s career over many years of taking these steps forward, it is inspiring to see a talent like this rising above and truly shine with her own voice and powerful message. ‘Empowered’ is a must-listen. The production is next level, as is the artistry.

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Photos by Jim Franco / TheSpot518

## MUSIC REVIEW

# Nanni's 'Towns & Spaces In Between'

By **BRIAN CORNISH**

*nysmusic.com*

Syracuse-based keyboard player Mark Nanni has recently released a CD titled "Towns & Spaces In Between." It is a wide-ranging disc that represents the breadth of Nanni's playbook, encompassing jazz standards, original tunes, popular songs from James Taylor, and selections from the Jerry Garcia/Grateful Dead songbook. He touches on classical, blues, and ragtime as well. It begins with a twist on Irving Berlin's "Russian Lullaby" that allows Nanni to showcase his technique with precision and elegance. A different take on "Bye Bye Blackbird" catches the listener's ear before leading into a couple of original songs, "Sweet Danielle," and "Royalty." Perhaps the biggest surprise on the recording is the last tune, "Sonatina in G," by Beethoven.

The CD was recorded live with no overdubs. While I admire the artistic choice, there were a few places in which the vocals maybe could have used a touch of enhancement, when overtaken by Nanni's impressive keyboard playing. A minor point, to be sure, as his vocals serve the songs well. It's just that Nanni's piano and organ skills are so dazzling.

For those unfamiliar with Mark Nanni's work, "Towns & Spaces In Between" is a great introduction to the range of his abilities. I would hope the CD, and this review, each serve as an impetus to go see him live. He is at his best when able to stretch out on pieces, whether as a solo artist, or with his various ensembles.

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

**Super Crossword Answers**

C	E	S	S	A	G	H	A	S	T	R	A	P	
O	L	I	O	T	R	A	N	C	E	E	C	U	
A	F	F	I	R	M	A	T	I	O	N	S	H	P
T	I	T	R	E	D	E	L	T	A	P	E	A	
I	N	S	E	A	M	I	N	C	I	S	E		
				E	R	A	D	I	C	A	T	O	R
A	B	A	S	C	I	V	E	E	D	I	T	S	
G	A	B	P	E	R	I	L	E	D	N	A	B	
A	I	S	H	A	G	E	L	D	A	G	R	A	
				C	O	N	C	E	S	S	I	V	E
A	B	I	D	E	R	T	I	R	A	N	A		
B	U	S	L	U	N	A	R	T	A	N	E	Y	
E	L	I	I	N	O	P	E	R	A	T	I	V	E
A	B	N	S	C	R	E	A	M	E	M	I	R	
M	S	G	T	H	I	R	D	S	S	A	S	S	



## WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

### A Midsummer Night's Dream

The Egg Performing Arts Center — Friday, Aug. 23

ALBANY — The production A Midsummer Night's Dream will be performed on Friday, Aug. 23 at 7:30 p.m. at The Egg.

One of Albany Berkshire Ballet's most celebrated productions returns for a 2019 tour, reinvented with new choreography by Paula Weber. In this magical two-act ballet telling of Shakespeare's beloved comedy, Queen Titania and King Oberon rule over the fairies and toy with the lives of mortals as they manipulate mismatched human lovers in ecstatic dance. With enchanting music by Felix Mendelssohn and stunning original set art by Thurston Munson.

The Egg Performing Arts Center is located at Empire State Plaza.

### Felix Pastorius' Hipster Assassins

The Egg Performing Arts Center — Friday, Aug. 23

ALBANY — Hipster Assassins will perform at The Egg on Friday, Aug. 23 at 7:30 p.m.

Jazz is Phish is a revolving collective of jazz artists that perform instrumental versions of the music of Phish. Led by jazz bass virtuoso Felix Pastorius, the adventurous improvisational Hipster Assassins will open the show.

The Egg Performing Arts Center is located at Empire State Plaza.

### The Artisanals

Club Helsinki — Friday, Aug. 23

HUDSON — The Artisanals will perform at Club Helsinki on Friday, Aug. 23 at 9 p.m.

Praised by Rolling Stone as having been "built to preach the gospel of rock n' roll," The Artisanals hold iconic predecessors Tom Petty, George Harrison, and Jackson Browne close to their chest, while offering a refreshing vantage through their new single. Produced by Drew Vandenberg (Toro y Moi, of Montreal, Kishi Bashi), "Violet Light" invokes conflicting emotions of hope and longing and begs to be played through a car stereo while the sun sets in the rearview mirror.

Club Helsinki is located at 405 Columbia St, Hudson.

### Doc Severinsen

Caffe Lena — Friday, Aug. 23 - Sunday, Aug. 25

SARATOGA SPRINGS — Doc Severinsen will perform at Caffe Lena on Friday, Aug. 23 at 8 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 24 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 25 at 7 p.m.

"Heeeeere's Johnny!" That lead-in, followed by a big band trumpet blast, was the hallmark of late night television for three decades. The 'Johnny' was Johnny Carson, the announcer was Ed McMahon and the bandleader was Doc Severinsen. Beginning in October 1962, The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson ruled the night air for thirty years. Audiences across America love and respect Doc, not just because he shared their living room with them for so many years, but because his musicianship keeps iconic American music fresh to this day. Doc's repertoire includes Ellington and Basie standards, pop, jazz, ballads, big band classics and, of course, The Tonight Show theme.

Caffe Lena is located at 47 Phila St, Saratoga Springs.

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■ **SHOW REVIEW**

# Developing sound

'Perfect Stranger' delivers

By **KAITLIN LEMBO**  
 lembok@spotlightnews.com

**ALBANY** — To say the overall sound of C.K. and The Rising Tide has matured is an understatement.

Frontman Curtis Flach explained how the overall sound of the group had definitely grown since its debut, *American Romance*. Not only did the five-piece Americana up-and-comer write as a unit this time around, but each member had stepped up their game to explore the vast genre of indie rock while maintaining the overall sound of what makes the band special.

Perhaps the most impressive part of "Perfect Stranger" is the showcase of each member's individual talent. The guitar solos are more advanced — and more plentiful — in the band's sophomore album. Flach's voice is richer. The violin parts are indicative of a musician who has been working hard at perfecting his craft, which

is characteristic of Danny Boudreau's continuing progression on his newest instrument.

C.K. and The Rising Tide kicked off "Perfect Stranger" with a release show at Lost and Found Albany on Saturday. With a very soulful and moody opening act from Julia Alsarraf, the crowd was attentive and warmed up for some rock 'n' roll. Alsarraf played about six songs, both covers and her own material. Even though the show started a few minutes past its 8 p.m. schedule, it was clear right away how special the night would be.

I was elated to see C.K. play "Trigger Happy," my favorite track from *Perfect Stranger*. A rousing rock anthem, "Trigger Happy" is a clear indication of the band's progression into the louder side of music. Boasting an impressive guitar solo (which was masterfully played by new member John Lenio, in his first performance with the group no less), the loft my brother and I perched ourselves on was shaking with the harmonies.

"Warm" is my least favorite song on the



Kaitlin Lembo / TheSpot518

album, but I was impressed how different it sounded live. A slow, romantic song about love and general closeness, the close quarters of Lost and Found provided a unique experience that made the song seem faster and a lot more intense. While the song is really not my taste in music, the crowd went wild, with Flach promising the hungry audience that more was coming.

Other highlights of *Perfect Stranger* include "Sleepwalkers," "Hi-Fives and Hand Grenades" and "Bones." Characteristic of Flach's lyrical aptitude, each track completely obliterates the typical cadence of popular music by incorporating unique verses (that aren't repetitive) and showcasing Flach's poetic side.

The show would not have been complete without performances from *American Romance*, including the beautiful "Hey Hey Helena" and the catchy "Contraband." I was pleasantly surprised to hear how the sound of the original tracks had improved with the band's capabilities.

Overall, *Perfect Stranger* — and its rousing release show at a quaint, comfortable bar at the heart of Broadway — is a formidable and successful attempt at dabbling in new genres while staying true to the signature Rising Tide sound. With loads of positive feedback already trickling in, it's safe to say the five Capital District men and their entourage can only soar from here.



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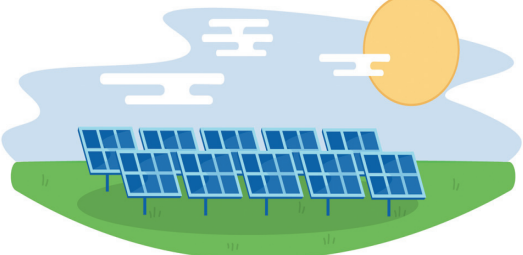
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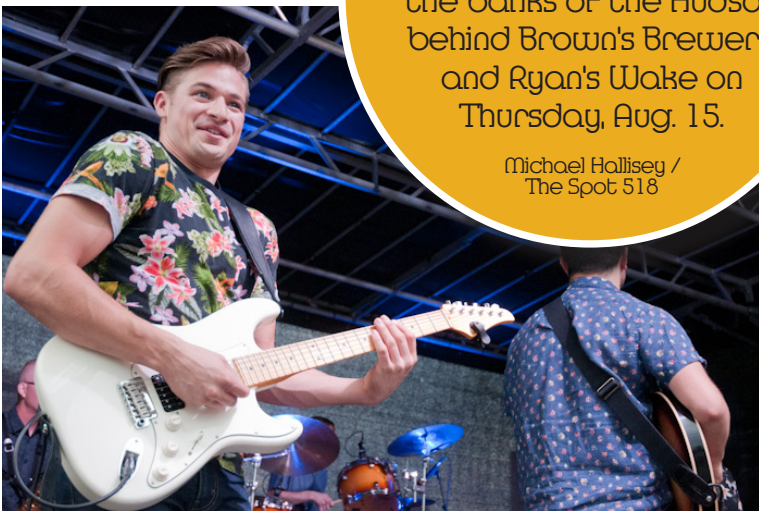
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Michael Hollisey / The Spot 518

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**From page B5 ...**

**EXTRA! Newsies good**

applause-worthy surprise that no missteps or slip-ups occurred throughout the performance.

Speaking of steps, Kirchner's choreography also deserves a standing ovation as the young actors almost turned "Newsies" into "Cirque du Soleil" as they showcased scenes that included effortless cartwheels, tap dancing and smooth pirouettes. They also appeared fearless as they constantly scaled the rotating metallic structure at center stage which towered over the first few rows of the audience.

The production, despite its musical nature and youthful atmosphere, felt as if there were high stakes involved as the ensemble were not afraid to raise their decibels as they shot their defiant fists in the air in protest and some actors' necks and arms even appeared taut with pronounced veins. What made the story relatable, despite its historical backdrop, was its underdog theme. The audience can root for the united newsies who demanded change and a voice for reason.

The cast mainly comprised of roughly 40 middle and high school students from throughout the Capital District, around 10 of whom are from the Bethlehem and Guilderland area, according to Park Playhouse Producing Artistic Director Owen Smith.

Smith — himself a

student at Park Playhouse when he was 15 and graduated from Bethlehem Central High School in 2000 — said he decided last year to adapt "Newsies" for the Washington Park stage this summer because it offered more starring roles for students to play onstage than a production that otherwise would have just a few main roles, and it kept with the New York City theme that began with "In the Heights," a musical Park Playhouse recently adapted from June 28 to July 27.

He added, "It also tells a really great story about people who wanted to fight for their rights to not be taken advantage of and I think that's as resonant now as it was happening in 1899. We have our most advanced students and it's really just a good choice for this year as we felt we had the right students to do it."

Speaking of students, 14-year-old Frances Johnson, who will be in 10th grade at BCHS this fall, played Elmer and she said she wanted to return to Park Playhouse after enjoying being in last year's "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying." She also expressed gratitude at how there has not been any canceled performances so far since they take place outside and she remembered that it was a rainy season last year.

Andrew Kirby, 14, played Specs; he will be in 10th grade at BCHS this

fall like Johnson. Saying that he has been doing Park Playhouse productions for four years now, he said he has appreciated making friends and meeting new people throughout. He also complimented the production staff for their tireless behind-the-scenes work which helped make "Newsies" come alive.

Michael Jantson, 10, is the youngest cast member who is the only one still attending elementary school; he will be in 5th grade at Elsmere this fall. Playing Les who offers comedic relief in "Newsies," he said he has always liked theater since kindergarten and he enjoys working with all the older kids. He added he initially had some difficulty learning the choreography but grew more comfortable with it after rehearsing more.

Michael's 17-year-old sister, Catherine, is part of the ensemble and she will be a senior at BCHS this fall. Expressing gratitude for Park Playhouse's role in exposing her to further develop her acting skills, she said she has been involved for four years now. "Honestly, performing at the park is just the best feeling in the world in front of all these people and seeing all the kids in the audience with probably the biggest smiles on their faces is probably my favorite part," she said.

If you want to see the production for yourself, you are in luck. Performances are still happening through Saturday, Aug. 24 and for more information, visit [www.parkplayhouse.com/newsies](http://www.parkplayhouse.com/newsies).

**From page B13 ...**

**Food & Vino**

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