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January 5 - January 11, 2021



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TOP STORY



NEWS

Two arrested at DWI stop

State Police catch two for alleged DWI at checkpoint.

Story on Page 2



Happy 100th Birthday!

Community celebrates local man's special day with parade.

Story on Page 3



'Chaotic'

Details of holiday fire reveal quick acts by family, firefighter

By **THOMAS MARRA**

news@spotlightnews.com

DELMAR — Details of an early morning fire — just two days after Christmas — were revealed by authorities and the family who was displaced by the blaze.

Bethlehem Police Officer Andrew Hynes was just ending his eight-hour overnight shift when he was flagged down just before 6:45 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 27, after a passerby noticed a structure fire from Delaware Avenue.

Continues on page 2

◀ Delmar Firefighters run a water hose to the back of the Dawson Road house fully engulfed in flames Monday morning, Dec. 27.

Thomas Marra / Spotlight News

ENTERTAINMENT



Family and loss

The production of a celebrated playwright's work brings one family's story of post-Holocaust Ukraine to America.

Story on Page B1

SPORTS



Eagles ice Jets

Eagles hockey team rushes the net against regional split squad.

Story on Page 11

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■ POLICE, FIRE and EMERGENCY CALLS

Rape, criminal sex act

On Tuesday, Dec. 28, the New York State Police in Latham arrested Amelio Chabrier, 22, of Iliion for allegedly raping an underage victim.

On Nov. 1, State Police received a complaint that a possible sex crime had occurred in the Town of Bethlehem. An investigation revealed that Chabrier allegedly had sexual intercourse with a victim who was less than 15 years of age. Chabrier was taken into custody following an interview at State Police headquarters in Latham.

Chabrier was charged with rape and criminal sex act, both felonies.

He was virtually arraigned in Bethlehem Town Court and sent to the Albany County jail on \$5,000 cash or \$10,000 bond.

Two arrested at Guilderland DWI checkpoint

At a sobriety checkpoint at the northbound onramp to the Northway on Friday, Dec. 17, State Police arrested two drivers for DWI.

Troopers arrested Nicholas Chenard, 43, of Wynantskill after he showed signs of impairment, failed field sobriety tests and registered 0.08 percent BAC at the police station. He was charged with DWI and released.

They also arrested Montana Macken, 26, of Troy, after he showed signs of impairment, failed field sobriety tests and registered 0.13 percent BAC at the police station. He was charged with DWI and released.

Both will appear in Guilderland Town Court.

— John McIntyre

From page 1 ... Delmar fire

Hynes located the fire at 485 Dawson Road where he said there was fire coming through the front windows of the home. The back of the home was fully involved in fire on both the first and second floor. He notified dispatch to send fire crews to the scene of a fully-involved house fire.

“When I had arrived the back of the house was fully involved and it had already worked its way to the front,” said Assistant Chief Dan Ryan of the Delmar Fire Department.

A ladder truck from Delmar Fire pulled into the driveway and crews got right to work on the fire.

There were four people living in the home at the time of the fire, who police say were all able to exit the home without injury. The family was asleep when they woke up and were alerted to the fire, according to a post made by the homeowner on the fundraiser page.

“It was chaotic, but we ran downstairs, grabbed

our pet turtle from the tank and were able to escape out our front door, just seconds ahead of the flames as they were moving from the back of the house towards the front,” the homeowner said. “Two or three minutes later, we were standing in our driveway wearing only what we wore to bed, holding an aquatic turtle, shivering and watching with shock and disbelief as the entire structure became engulfed.”

The fire spread so quickly that the stairs to the second floor were completely burned after the family escaped.

Crews made entry on the first floor and Chief Ryan said one firefighter put their foot through a hole where the basement stairs were.

Crews were then pulled from the structure and went to exterior operations only.

There were also reportedly four cats inside the house that did not make it out.

Delmar, Elsmere, Slingerlands, Selkirk,

North Bethlehem and Onesquethaw fire departments assisted with on-scene and standby operations, along with Delmar-Bethlehem EMS, Albany County Paramedics and Bethlehem Police.

There were no injuries reported on the scene.

The fire was knocked down quickly before fire crews were packed up by 11 a.m., Ryan said.

He added that the home was a total loss except for the garage, where crew members were able to salvage some items for the family.

“There were a bunch of tools and things like that in the garage that were all saved,” he said. “There was also a hand-made wooden canoe and other things in there.”

The Bethlehem Police Department’s Fire Investigation Team is continuing to investigate the cause of the fire. Ryan said it appeared to have started in the back of the house, where fire officials observed electrical arcing.

A GoFundMe was established at <https://bit.ly/DawsonFire>.

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■ COUNTY NEWS

COVID cases spike to record high

Daily infection rate jumped to 1,003 cases on New Year's Eve

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

ALBANY COUNTY — County Executive Daniel McCoy announced Friday, Dec. 31 the total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Albany County is now at 41,330 to date, with 1,003 new positive cases identified last week.

The County Executive was joined by St. Peter's Health Partners Chief Medical Director of Acute Care Thea Dalfino, M.D. and Albany County Health Commissioner Dr. Elizabeth Whalen to discuss the latest surge of new COVID infections, the Omicron variant and what impact there may be on local hospitals in the coming weeks.

The report came just hours before many anticipated New Year's Eve celebrations for the evening.

"With 1,003 new COVID infections identified in the county since yesterday, it's clear we've entered an alarming new phase of the pandemic," McCoy said. "The last record for daily infections was 471 which we reported just two days ago, and these concerning numbers don't reflect at-home tests for the most part and are likely much higher. It's still unclear

Do you need a mask?

BETHLEHEM — Albany County donated 12,000 masks and several hundred test kits to Town Hall last week, and those masks were later distributed across town with help from the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce.

The town's Emergency Management Office worked with the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce, faith-based organizations, and many others to make masks available.

If you are in need of a mask, you may be able to find one through one of these locations: Adam Station, Glennpeter Jewelers, Tool's Restaurant, My Place & Co., SunMark, Community Bank, Trustco, Pioneer, Phillips Hardware, AAA Hudson Valley, Joyelles Jewelers, Perfect Blend, Balance Massage, Delmar Beverage, I Love Books, Wildbird Junction, Dr. Herzog, Helping Hands, Ando Salon, Shampooole, Circle of Friends, The Dance Experience, Grange, R-Pizza, Spotlight Newspapers, Los Panchos, Gally's and Free Movement Pilates.

what kind of impact this unprecedented infection rate will have on our hospitals, but as Dr. Dalfino said, infections among hospital staff [are] creating a strain on an industry that is already short-staffed."

Residents can receive free Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines (including booster shots) Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each week at the Albany County Department of Health, 175 Green Street.

Albany County continues to deliver vaccines to homebound residents, which includes

seniors, disabled individuals, those lacking childcare and those with other accessibility issues. Anyone who would like to schedule a time for a vaccine appointment should call (518) 447-7198.

Residents who want a shot from a state-run facility should use the state's website or call the state vaccine hotline at 1-833-697-4829. For general information on the vaccine, residents can also dial the United Way of the Greater Capital Region's 2-1-1 hotline or the Albany County Department of Health at (518) 447-4580.



Happy 100th Birthday!

DELMAR — Longtime resident and veteran Army Air Corps pilot Al Hofaker celebrated his 100th birthday on Wednesday, Dec. 29. The community celebrated along side him with a parade that stretched across his Salisbury Road neighborhood on Saturday, Jan. 1. His daughter Christine Iannotti helped organize the Saturday afternoon parade. The procession was kept in order with the aid of the Bethlehem Police Department. Hofaker sat comfortably in a chair from inside his garage to wave on those who drove by to visit. Birthday cards and donations to the Miracle Network were collected at the end.



Photos by Thomas Heffernan Sr. / Special to Spotlight News

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■ EDUCATION

BC to name new elementary principal

Jennifer Szpila arrives from South Colonie to take district-wide elementary assistant principal role

DELMAR — The Bethlehem Central Board of Education is expected to name Jennifer Szpila as elementary assistant principal, a role serving all five elementary schools in the district.

Szpila has worked in the South Colonie Central School District for 15 years, most recently as an administrative dean and a Committee on Special Education chairperson addressing the individualized education plans of students at the middle school level. She began her career in education in the Albany City School District as an

School climate survey

DELMAR — Bethlehem Central is to launch its School Climate Survey to students, parents and staff members next week, starting Monday, Jan. 10. The survey is covering three fronts, the first of which will be an online survey for students in grades 5 to 12 during the week of Jan. 10. Simultaneously, parents are to receive a link to the survey in an email scheduled to be sent Jan. 10. Staff members are to receive a similar link. The data is collected by the district and is not shared with state or federal agencies. All three parties are asked to complete the voluntary survey by Friday, Jan. 21.

elementary teacher and reading specialist.

In Bethlehem, Szpila will work with each of the elementary schools as coordinator of the district's Response to Intervention program, a tiered instructional program designed to support struggling learners in the

early grades. In addition, she will be responsible for helping develop curriculum and collaborating with teachers at the elementary level, lending support in the use of technology hardware, apps and resources that can enhance student learning.

The Board of Education is expected to appoint

Szpila at its next meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 5.

"We are very fortunate to have Jen Szpila join the BC community as elementary assistant principal," said Superintendent Jody Monroe. "She comes to us with more than 20 years of valuable experience supporting young learners. Her experience goes beyond the classroom. She has been invested in the whole child and in their wellness both physically and emotionally. She will be a tremendous asset to our elementary staff and students."

Monroe said Szpila has experience as a member of her current district's mental health team and has been a leader in therapeutic crisis intervention and trauma-sensitive instructional practices.

The soon-to-be elementary assistant principal says she will

always consider herself a teacher first.

"As a leader, I will stay true to my roots and always put students at the center of my decisions," said Szpila. "My time in the classroom gives me a unique perspective for how to best support teachers and a clear understanding of the challenges and rewards that come from teaching."

Szpila, who holds a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in education from The College of St. Rose, and an educational leadership certificate from the State University at Stony Brook, said she decided to pursue a degree in administration later in her career to be an example to her own children.

"I was driven to return to school by my strong beliefs in equity, inclusivity, and continual improvement," said Szpila. "I have two teenage daughters and as

a professional woman, it is important to me to be a role model and example for what strong women can achieve."

With her daughters and her husband, Szpila says she enjoys traveling and cooking and that she has developed a "green thumb" with a love of gardening indoors and outdoors.

Looking ahead to her new role in Bethlehem, Szpila said her biggest challenge is also what she is looking forward to most.

"I am most looking forward to meeting everyone and building relationships with the staff, students, and community in Bethlehem," said Szpila, who said she will wear her new favorite colors of orange and black with pride. "I am excited to share my expertise and continue my own path of teaching and learning."



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■ EDUCATION

BC waits for COVID tests promised by Gov. Hochul

Superintendent credits staff, students for 'relatively' low number of close contacts

By MICHAEL HALLISEY
halliseym@spotlightnews.com

DELMAR — Bethlehem Central joined school administrators from across the region by informing their respective district families of their intent to resume in-person instruction this week amid a rising number of new COVID cases in Albany County.

"The district's plan is to return to in-person instruction on Monday, Jan. 3," Bethlehem Central Superintendent Jody Monroe shared with district families. "Please be assured that we remain committed to keeping the health and safety of students and staff at the forefront of all decision-making."

Monroe's online statement was distributed 24 hours before Albany County reported a record 1,003 new COVID infections from the previous day. Between Dec. 24 and Dec. 30, the school district learned of 29 COVID cases.

"With the Omicron variant increasing the number of COVID positive cases in the school district and in the community, there are several updates I want to share regarding our mitigation efforts and reporting of cases," she said.

Bethlehem Central has said it was attempting

"Please be assured that we remain committed to keeping the health and safety of students and staff at the forefront of all decision-making."

— Jody Monroe, Bethlehem Central Superintendent

to obtain more rapid COVID-19 test kits for students. Last week, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced that tests will be sent to all school districts for distribution following the winter break. Monroe said her administrative and health teams are working on a plan for the distribution and use of these testing kits and on a system whereby results can be reported.

The district is accepting negative COVID test results on either a rapid test or PCR test for students showing symptoms to return to school. The superintendent stressed that symptomatic students must be well enough to participate in school and that families need to communicate directly with their child's school nurse prior to their child's return to school to ensure their student meets all state requirements.


As of Sunday, area administrators said they had yet to change their quarantine guidelines following the Centers for Disease Control's recommendations for shorter isolation periods

announced Monday, Dec. 26. The health agency now suggests that people with COVID-19 should isolate for five days if they are asymptomatic or their symptoms are "resolving without [a] fever for 24 hours. The quarantine would then be followed by five days of wearing a mask when around others.

Monroe said schools would continue to use the county Health Department's protocols as they waited to learn for any updates.

The rising number of infections is forcing Bethlehem administrators to change how it reports cases within the district. Instead of providing the public with daily updates, Monroe said the district will now include only weekly updates at the end of the week. The reports will include the number of cases at each school, along with the number of close contacts identified as a result of contact tracing at school. These will include whether contact was made on the school bus or at school-related activities.

"The relatively low number of close contacts that are identified when the school district conducts contact tracing is due to the diligence of our staff and students in their consistent use of mitigation measures such as proper mask-wearing and maintaining an appropriate physical distance," Monroe said. "As a result, we have had few identified close contacts in most of these reported cases."



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OBITUARY

Louis Spelich

DELMAR — Louis A. Spelich, a longtime resident of Delmar, NY and more recently a resident of Atria Guilderland, passed away peacefully on December 24, 2021 at the age of 94 with his children at his side.

He was born in Lackawanna, NY, the son of the late Joseph and Ljuba (née Huzjak) Spelich. Mr. Spelich was raised in Lackawanna and in his teens worked at Bethlehem Steel, Lackawanna Plant.

Mr. Spelich graduated from Buffalo State Teachers College, Buffalo, NY and Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. He taught art at public schools, first in Detroit and then in Delmar, NY, where he introduced photography classes at the Bethlehem Central High School before his retirement from the Bethlehem Central School District in 1986.

Lou was a professional photographer who took team pictures for generations of Bethlehem Little League players and photos for the Bethlehem Police Department as well as Senior Prom photos, portraits, passport photos and weddings.

He was a world traveler, an avid bowler, a sailor who plied the waters of the Caribbean, the New England Coast, Cape Cod Bay and Saratoga Lake. He was also a pilot, a scuba diver and an assiduous follower of the local Estate Sales.

Mr. Spelich was a United States Naval Reserve veteran of WW II and the Korean Crisis. He saw service in the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre, the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean and Mediterranean seas. He was a member of many professional and civic organizations. He spent numerous years involved in the U.S.-China Peoples Friendship Association, Northeast (Albany) New York Chapter. He was also quite active in the peace movement, particularly with the global organization Veterans For Peace as well as Bethlehem Neighbors for Peace (Delmar, NY).

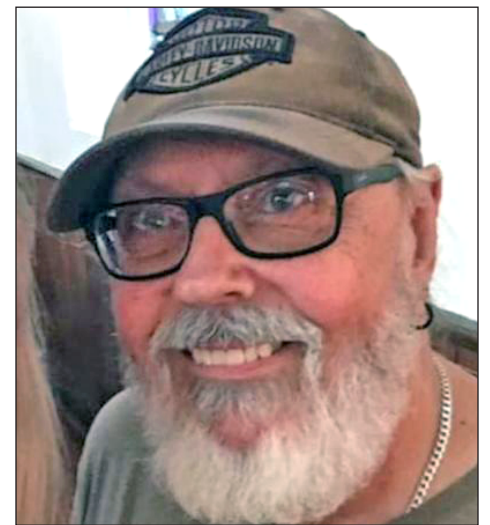
He is survived by his wife Jane Streiff-Spelich and by his children from a previous marriage: Christine Spelich and her husband Michael Rhodes-Devey of Delmar, NY; Carole Spelić and her partner Richard Moninski of Mineral Point, WI; and Dr. Mark Spelich and his partner Gloria Toticaguena of Boise, ID.

There will be an interment of ashes at the Holy Cross Cemetery on Ridge Road, Lackawanna, NY at a later date to be announced. Friends and acquaintances are invited and welcome to attend. A reception will follow. The family requests no flowers or mass cards, but instead, suggests that those so inclined give a donation to their local homeless shelter or food bank.



Godspeed, Big Daddy

ELSMERE — Volunteer firefighters from the Elsmere Fire House stand at attention to honor Stephen R. Wright who died unexpectedly on Dec. 13, at the age of 66. A ceremony at the firehouse was conducted following a procession that led from Applebee Funeral Home on Tuesday, Dec. 21.



Thomas Heffernan Sr. / Special to Spotlight News

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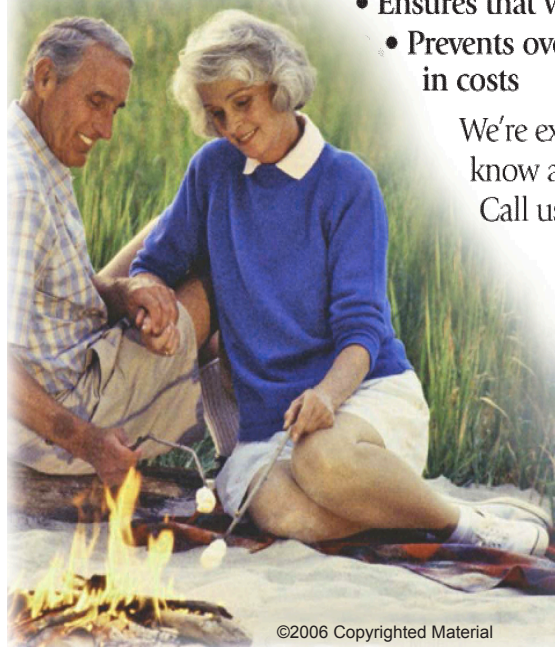
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BUSINESS

Phillips Hardware donates to local pantries

DELMAR — Phillips Hardware raised \$5,000 during the holiday season which will be donated to local food pantries to assist with their respective needs.

According to a statement released through the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce, the money will be split between four pantries with each receiving \$1,250.

Guilderland Food Pantry, Hilltown Pantry, Altamont Pantry and South End Children's Cafe were each listed as beneficiaries.

American National announces 3Q results

GALVESTON, Texas — American National Group, Inc. and subsidiaries announced net income for the third quarter of 2021 of \$51.0 million or \$1.90 per diluted share, compared to net income of \$171.1 million or \$6.36 per diluted share for the same period in 2020.

Net income for the third quarter of 2021 was \$120.1 million lower than net income for the same period in 2020 primarily because gains on equity securities were \$119.6 million less in the third quarter of 2021.

In addition, an increase in realized investment earnings of \$21.9 million during the third quarter of 2021 was offset by a reduction in after-tax adjusted net operating income of \$22.4 million.

Net gains on equity securities were \$0.5 million or \$0.02 per diluted share in the third quarter of 2021, compared to \$120.1 million or \$4.47 per diluted share for the same period in 2020, reflecting more favorable market conditions for the appreciation of our investment in equities during the third quarter of 2020.

Net realized investment earnings for the third quarter of 2021 were \$37.9 million or \$1.41 per diluted share, compared to net realized investment earnings of \$16.0 million or \$0.60 per diluted share for the same period in 2020.

The increase in net realized investment earnings was primarily attributable to an increase in earnings from investment funds as well as a reduction in the credit loss related to our commercial mortgage loans

due to improved market conditions during the third quarter of 2021.

Owens Corning earns place on Dow Jones Index, again

TOLEDO, Ohio — Owens Corning earned a place on the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index for the 12th consecutive year, and on the DJSI North America Index for the fourth consecutive year, with industry-leading assessment scores.

The DJSI World comprises an elite listing of the world's largest companies based on long-term environmental, social and governance criteria. Companies are selected for inclusion in the DJSI in part based on their scores in the S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment CSA. Owens Corning scored 89 out of a possible 100 points overall in the 2021 S&P Global CSA, placing the company in the 100th percentile for the building products industry. The company's scores in each dimension (economic, environmental, and social) are also in the 100th percentile for the industry.

"We are honored to have again earned this recognition from the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices," said Chair and Chief Executive Officer Brian Chambers. "At Owens Corning, sustainability is core to who we are and how we operate. Continued inclusion in these indices is a clear reflection of the hard work of our global team as we continue to push ourselves to build upon our strong track record of performance to meet the needs of our customers, communities, and shareholders."

"Earning a place on the DJSI for the 12th year in a row assures us that our sustainability efforts continue to be focused on the challenges and opportunities that matter most," added Senior Vice President and Chief Sustainability Officer Frank O'Brien-Bernini. "The recently updated climate models, and the amplified calls for urgency on climate action, reinforce our determination to improve faster as a company as we do our part to meet the needs of today and tomorrow."

Reflecting the company's commitment to transparency, Owens Corning earned a perfect score for the materiality, environmental reporting, and social reporting criteria.



Prop to protect against predatory debt collectors

By MICHAEL HALLISEY
halliseym@spotlightnews.com

ALBANY — The New York state Department of Financial Services is proposing an amendment to a 2020 debt collection law that will extend consumer protection from predatory debt collection practices.

Acting Superintendent of Financial Services Adrienne A. Harris said the proposed amendment follows findings from a recent department investigation revealing abusive and deceptive debt collection, as well as data on consumer complaints to regulators.

"Predatory debt collection practices can deceive consumers and ultimately lead them further into economic hardship," Harris said. "DFS' proposed amendment requires clear communication on consumer debt obligations and ensures the consumer has the right information to dispute the validity of the debt. This amendment enhances consumer protections through increased transparency and prevention of harassment, helping put people on a path to financial well-being."

This proposed amendment will enhance disclosures to consumers, reduce opportunities for debt collectors to mislead consumers about their debt obligations, and prevent harassment of consumers with excessive communication through stricter limits on phone calls than federal regulations impose.

The amendment is intended to help ensure consumers pay only debts they owe and pay them only once by mitigating opportunities for predatory debt collection through changes that address specific actors and specific harms. It will require debt collectors to provide key data about the alleged debt to the consumer and maintain records relating to the alleged debt so that the consumer can identify the debt or dispute the allegation.

The legislation is also intended to reduce opportunities for debt collectors to mislead consumers about the character of the debt and their obligations to pay through disclosure requirements, including mandated written disclosures. It also proposes to limit harassing phone calls and other excessive communication from debt collectors.

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2nd Avenue, Suite 303, New York, NY 10022. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-281320

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION
UPWISE VENTURES LLC. App. for Auth. filed with the SSNY on 12/13/21. Originally filed with Secretary of State of Delaware on 12/08/21. 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,

LEGALS

1110 2nd Avenue, Suite 303, New York, NY 10022. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-281321

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION
VAN LEEUWEN NEW YORK 73RD STREET LLC. App. for Auth. filed with the SSNY on 12/02/21. Originally filed with Secretary of State of Delaware on 11/30/21. 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, 310

LEGALS

Greenwich Street, New York, NY 10013. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-280888

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION
VAN LEEUWEN NEW YORK TRIBECA LLC. App. for Auth. filed with the SSNY on 11/24/21. Originally filed with Secretary of State of Delaware on 11/19/21. 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, 310

LEGALS

Greenwich Street, New York, NY 10013. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-280663

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION
WESTBURY MADISON, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/22/21. 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, 15 East 69th Street, Apartment 5B, New York, NY 10021. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-280567

LEGALS

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION
WONDERLAND NETWORK LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/29/21. 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, 4142 42nd Street, #4K, Sunnyside, NY 11104. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-281104

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION
WOODBURY WAY LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/09/21. Office: Albany County.

LEGALS

SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 9 West 20th Street, 11, New York, NY 10011. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-281164

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION
ZELIGMAN HOLDINGS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/22/21. 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, 191

LEGALS

Chrystie Street, New York, NY 10002. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-280572

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION
ZLCW LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/14/21. 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 Zackary Van Amburg, 248 East 68th Street, New York, NY 10065. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-281445

To place your Legal Notice: Call 439-4949

Indoor Storywalk

If you enjoyed our StoryWalks at Mosher and Long View Parks this summer, you'll be happy to know we have a warm and dry StoryWalk right here at the Library for this winter. Stop by the Library during our regular hours and read Bark, George by Jules Feiffer with your child. The StoryWalk begins at the Early Readers section of our Children's Area.

Make a Duct Tape Wallet

Swing by the library after school on Wednesday, Jan. 5, at 4:30 p.m. to learn to make a duct tape wallet to store all your cool stuff – like your Library

RCS COMMUNITY LIBRARY

card! It's easy for kids age 8 and up. Space is limited, so sign up today.

Library Storytimes

Storytime meets on Thursdays at 10 am and combines music, movement, and stories to encourage play and early literacy. Romp and Read will help get the wiggles out on Tuesdays and Fridays at 10 am with identical programs; interactive themes, stories, and action songs with props.

Indoor storytimes are limited to six families per session. Registration is required via our events

link on our website. All attendees ages two and up must wear a mask, and there will be room for family groups to spread out

Take and Make Tuesday

Snowy Shadows: Just as there is beauty in symmetry, you can find balance in this yin-yang-like paper project. Cut out a snowy scene, then create the shadows cast by your creations. We provide the paper and instructions, You provide scissors and imagination. Pickup begins at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 11. Don't forget to send us a picture of your creation – pics@rcscommunitylibrary.org.

— Carol Melewski

Bead Creative

Teens and adults are invited to a beading workshop at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 11.

Experience is not needed for this project. You will learn some easy beading techniques that may start you on to a new hobby. If you are already experienced, join us to create something beautiful using our large selection of beads.

Winter Bingo

From January 1 through January 31, you can play library BINGO to win some fabulous prizes. Receive a bookmark, pin or magnet for the first 2 rows completed. Complete the entire card to pick a prize from

Voorheesville Public Library

the prize box. You can pick up a BINGO card at the library, or print one from our website.

Preschool Storytime

Children ages 2-5, with caregiver, will enjoy an interactive, theme-based storytime at 10 a.m. Tuesday mornings at the library. All storytimes have an emphasis on early literacy that will include an art activity that can be completed at the library or at home. Some of the themes for January are Winter Wonders, Birthdays!, and Silly Socks. Registration is limited.

Check our online calendar for specific dates, or call the library for more information. If the Voorheesville School District delays school by two hours, or closes for the day due to inclement weather, storytime will be cancelled. For all other programming, please call ahead to confirm the library will be open.

Free museum passes

Looking for something fun and different that you can take the whole family for a reasonable cost? We have many free passes to area galleries and museums. Stop by and see what's available at your local library.

— Lynn Kohler

LIBRARIES

A year in review

We've wrapped up yet another unexpected

year at the library. Despite the challenges we faced with pandemic-related closures and service limitations, we spent much of 2021 dreaming up new ways to bring you the best of Bethlehem Public Library in a safe and socially responsible way – from outdoor events and our Pop-up Library on the Plaza to take-and-make crafts along with Zoom author visits and trivia nights.

Some highlights from 2021:

- Our Luminaries for Hope display on the plaza walkway in early January was a way for our Bethlehem neighbors to share messages of hope for the new year.

- The library's Kindness Matters campaign encouraged others to pay kindness forward.

- We launched a new Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BethPL.

- Our seed library returned in the spring with a new online "shopping" portal. We also added home seed-starting kits to our Library of Things collection.

- We added a texting option to our curbside pickup service.

- Rock star, playwright and author Larry Kirwan paid a virtual visit and talked about his life and work, including his most recent novel "Rockaway Blue."

- We celebrated National Poetry Month in April with a contest open to all ages.

- Coffee and Conversation hosted noted speaker Giacomo Calabria



for a four-part virtual series highlighting the military science of the American Civil War.

- Creativebug, which provides thousands of high-quality, on-trend arts and crafts instructional videos, was added to the library's digital resources.

- The Friends of Bethlehem Public Library held outdoor Pop-Up Book Sales in May and September, in what is likely to be an annual tradition.

- Bethlehem Public Library's budget of \$4.45 million for the 2021-22 fiscal year was overwhelmingly approved by voters. The levy portion represented a zero percent increase over the previous year. Voters re-elected incumbent Trustee Harmeet Narang.

- Multiple Story Strolls were set up around town so that families could enjoy a picture book and activities outside.

- Summer Reading returned with the theme Tales and Tails. Outdoor programs were scheduled throughout the summer to keep everyone engaged and reading.

- The library partnered with the town to provide family-friendly live entertainment all summer at our Thursdays in the Park series. We also welcomed the return of our Evenings on the Green summer music series. The rain may have delayed a couple of the programs, but we were caught up by early September.

- Children's author and illustrator Jeff Mack

stopped by for an outdoor event to talk about why and how he makes his books.

- Author Dr. Gretchen Sorin and filmmaker Ric Burns were part of a lively and important conversation sponsored by UHLS about the documentary "Driving While Black: Race, Space and Mobility in America."

- A new mobile app launched that allows users to search the catalog, manage their accounts, place holds, pay fines and more.

- The Great Give Back provided an opportunity for library patrons statewide to partake in meaningful, service-oriented experiences. We hosted a collection for new, unopened household cleaning and hygiene supplies for the Bethlehem Food Pantry and held a drop in card decorating event.

- New York Times bestselling author Jean Hanff Korelitz, who has written seven novels, including "The Plot," joined us for a virtual Q and A.

- October was a lively month for the library, with a virtual pumpkin-carving contest, trick-or-treating at the library and the community Trunk or Treat event at the town park.

- Our blood drive in November was well-attended after a year hiatus.

- The library distributed K9-95 masks and rapid COVID test kits provided by Albany County and the Town of Bethlehem Emergency Management Office.

- At year-end, circulation of library materials is once again approaching pre-pandemic levels.

— Kristen Roberts

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■ SCHOLASTIC SPORTS

BC Eagles ice Jets

COLONIE — Bethlehem scored three times in the second period and twice in the third to beat the Capital District Jets 5-0 in a Section II matchup on Tuesday, Dec. 28.

Tyler Fabian scored twice for the Eagles and Dane Jones scored a goal and had three assists. Will Clark and Liam Parry had a goal each for Bethlehem while Jackson Adams, Will Bievenue, Cameron Smith and Tyler Bitely each had an assist.

Michael LaCouture had 28 saves for the Jets and Rory Cairns had 18 saves for Bethlehem.

Bethlehem (3-0-1, 5-1-2) is in second place and will host first-place Adirondack on Wednesday, Jan. 5.

The Jets (2-5, 5-5) — with players from Colonie, Shaker, Columbia, Averill Park, and Tamarac — will travel to Rome on Friday, Jan. 7 to play a non-league game against Mohawk Valley.

Photos by Jim Franco / Spotlight News

■ LIBRARIES

Winter Reading Challenge

January kicks off a new year, and the 5th Annual Winter Reading Challenge for all ages, sponsored by Lerner Publishing. Our goal is to read 3,000 books and win prizes for all to enjoy. This year's theme is Read for a Better World, encouraging readers of all ages to explore diversity, empathy, and positive action through literature. Join in the fun by logging all of your reading this month on Beanstack, individually or as a family. Simply sign up or login at: <https://guilderlandlibrary.beanstack.org/reader365>.

More Tech & Résumé Help

Due to popular demand, computer coach Robin has added more time slots to help you get



The American Red Cross is holding a blood drive at Guilderland Public Library on Tuesday, Jan. 18, from 1 to 6 p.m. to help remedy the worst blood shortage in over a decade. Appointments to donate blood, platelets or plasma may be made at <https://www.redcross.org/give-blood.html> (walk-ins always welcome too). All January blood donors will automatically be entered to win an all-inclusive three-day trip to the 2022 Super Bowl in Los Angeles.

Photo credit: redcross.org



the most out of your Apple device! She can also assist with the Learning Express tool on our website to help you craft a winning résumé. Sign up on the Events tab of our website for your 1:1 virtual hour-long appointment on Mondays Jan. 3, 10, 24 or 31 at the additional 5:30 p.m. time slot.

Virtual Storytime

Meet us via Zoom for a lively interactive storytime on Thursday, Jan. 6, at 10:30 a.m., ideal for children ages infant-age 5. We'll read books, sing songs and enjoy a fun time together! We also have ideas on props you can create at home to make the experience more interactive. Please register

on the Events tab of our website for the link.

Board vacancies

The Guilderland Public Library Board of Trustees is looking to fill two short-term vacancies through June 2022. Interested individuals who are U.S. residents, Guilderland Central School District

residents, and at least 18 years old are invited to submit a resume and a brief statement of interest to: nominating-committee@guilderlandlibrary.org by Jan. 10, 2022.

Night Owls Online

"The Hellfire Club" by Jake Tapper, centered on

1950s Washington D.C. intrigue, is the subject of our next monthly evening book discussion on Monday, Jan. 10, at 7:30 p.m. Please register on the Events tab of our website for the link to participate via Zoom.

— Luanne Nicholson

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First Night

It was a 'new-norm' kind of celebration as Bethlehem hosted its First Night festivities.

Page B15



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■ **PREVIEW**

■ **INSIDE**



Guest conductor

Albany Symphony Orchestra to host a special guest.

Page B3



Spread the word

Opera Saratoga will move around this summer.

Page B3



Family and loss

The production of a celebrated playwright's work brings one family's story of post-Holocaust Ukraine to America

By **MICHAEL HALLISEY**

halliseym@spotlightnews.com

SCHENECTADY — Tanya Deptola shares concern over how her production of Friedrich Gorenstein's play "Berdichev / The Family That Never Was" will be received by an American audience. It's not a musical, she said. It's not a comedy, either. It's a drama, she explained. It's tragic.

Continues on page B4

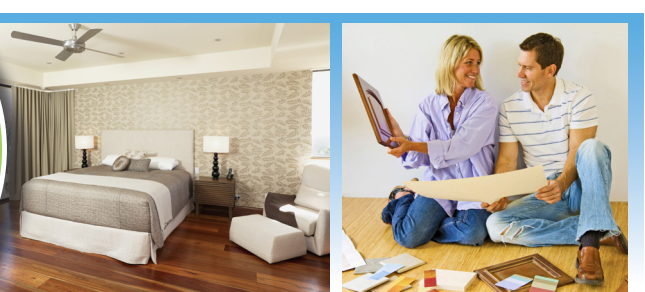
■ **IF YOU GO**

- **What:** Friedrich Gorenstein's "Berdichev / The Family That Never Was"
- **When:** 7 to 9:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 14 and Saturday, Jan. 22 [in English]; 7 to 9:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 21 [in Russian]
- **Where:** Neil and Jane Golub Theater at Adeline Wright Graham Boys & Girls Club of Schenectady, located at 104 Education Drive, Schenectady, NY 12303
- **How much:** \$18/online at www.eventbrite.com, \$20/at the door, \$10/students & senior citizens

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quote of the week

"It's a very popular play, because it's so funny, but you also want to cry. It just swings back and forth. It's a beautiful play."

— Ron Miller, Actor and stage manager

GRAB A BITE

On your path to finding a new and slimmer you, don't forget to grab a bite from your local eatery.




Photo by Michael Hallisey / The Spot 518



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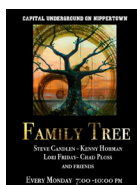
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■ WHAT'S HAPPENING

Tale of One Thousand and One Nights

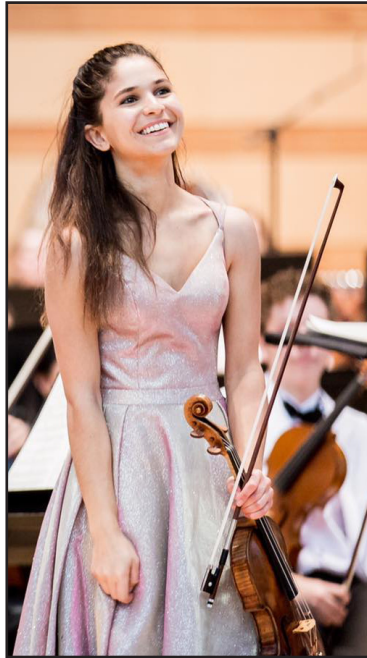
Special guest conductor Erina Yashima leads the Albany Symphony Jan. 8 at Proctors

SCHENECTADY — The Albany Symphony returns to historic Proctors Theatre in the heart of Schenectady at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 8, 2022, under the baton of special guest conductor Erina Yashima.

Yashima, Assistant Conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra, will lead Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's enduring musical setting of Scheherazade, the story of One Thousand and One Nights, as well as Vivian Fung's A Child's Dream of Toys and Alexander Glazunov's Violin Concerto. The concerto features another Symphony debut—virtuoso violinist Maya Anjali Buchanan.

In addition to in-person tickets, access to the Symphony's online livestream of the performance is available. For tickets and livestream access call (518) 694-3300 or visit albansymphony.com.

In accordance with local guidelines and in coordination with our partner venues, the Albany Symphony has adopted health and safety protocols for the wellbeing of all patrons, musicians, and staff. Patrons will be required to present proof of full COVID-19 vaccination and matching ID upon arrival. A recent negative PCR COVID test will be accepted in lieu of vaccination only with proof of exemption—see proctors.org for details. All patrons will be required to wear masks while indoors, regardless of vaccination



Maya Anjali Buchanan

status.

As a leader in the creation, performance, and recording of new orchestral music, the Albany Symphony is reshaping the nation's musical legacy through its adventurous programming, commissioning and recording of new work, and broad community engagement beyond the concert hall.

Recognized as one of the American's most innovative and creative orchestras, the two-time Grammy Award-winning Albany Symphony is renowned for virtuosic performances featuring classic orchestral favorites, lesser-known masterworks, and a diverse array of new music from leading and emerging voices of today. The Symphony has received more ASCAP Awards than any other orchestra in America, as well as several Grammy nominations, including the orchestra's most recent win in 2021.



Erina Yashima, Assistant Conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra, will guest conduct the One Thousand and One Nights for Albany Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, Jan. 8.

Todd Rosenberg Photography

■ JUST ANNOUNCED

Opera Saratoga announces new summer model

SARATOGA SPRINGS — Opera Saratoga announced last week a return to large-scale performances this summer with a new festival model that embraces partnerships with multiple venues that will expand the playhouse's footprint across the region.

Opera Saratoga's 2022 Summer Festival will play across the region in a list of storied venues that includes Proctors in Schenectady, The Egg in Albany, The Saratoga Performing Arts Center in Saratoga Springs, The Round Lake Auditorium in Round Lake Village, The Barn at French Mountain in Lake George Village and The Mansion Inn in Rock City Falls.

Opera Saratoga's Artistic and General Director Lawrence Edelson explained that their decision to expand its geographic footprint this summer was catalyzed by the need for renovations at The Spa Little Theater. It was also inspired by their increased activity across the region throughout the year.

At the heart of the 2022 Summer Festival will be performances of Rossini's bel canto comedy The Barber of Seville on Proctors MainStage, as well as his exquisite Petite Messe Solennelle at The Round Lake Auditorium; the deeply moving Sky on Swings by Lembit Beecher and Hannah Moscovitch at The Egg, which explores the journey of two women living with Alzheimer's disease; and Stephen Sondheim's Broadway masterpiece, Sweeney Todd, on the Amphitheater Stage of the Saratoga Performing Arts Center.



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The dinner table is where families often come together to share and bond over stories of the day. Here, the table features chairs from different sets — each showing their own unique characteristics.

The New Russia Cultural Center

are with the center,” she said. Many flock to the center’s annual Winter Festival, its largest event of the year. Some, she added, have lost their ties since coming to America. The Russian language is what connected all emigrants from the former Soviet Union during the last 25 years.

Berdichev is a city in Central Ukraine where Nazi invaders, intent on genocide during the Second World War, eliminated the entire Jewish population. Following the Holocaust, Gorenstein witnessed the decline and diminishment of Jewish culture and character in Soviet society. He selected Berdichev as a symbolic Jewish town for the play, and based the characters on his own family and memories.

Gorenstein’s early life shaped him into a wordsmith whose work turned a critical eye on Stalinism and anti-Semitism. His parents, Naum and Enna, were both educators. The

From page B1 ... Berdichev

The New Russia Cultural Center has tried three times to bring Gorenstein’s play to a local stage. Deptola, the president of the non-profit organization, said they were denied from obtaining the necessary funding. At one point, the grantors turned them away, dismissing the cultural center for “just wanting to show the play to our small group.” That’s when her stage manager had an idea.

Ron Miller, who had been applying for the grants, submitted another proposal. Let’s have two casts for two different shows, he said. One in English and another in Russian.

It worked. Since forming in 2005, the New Russia Cultural Center has focused to expand the

public’s understanding and appreciation of Russian folk arts and Russian-American history. The center stands to stimulate public interest in Russian culture through educational activities and exposure to Russian folk arts.

The Russian-speaking

“It’s a very popular play, because it’s so funny, but you also want to cry. It just swings back and forth. It’s a beautiful play.”

— Ron Miller,
Actor and stage manager

community includes people of different nationalities, such as Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian, Jewish, Latvian, Tatars and others,” Deptola said. By her count, she said there are about 12,000 Russians in the Capital District. “Not all of them

future playwright was born in 1932, a pivotal year in which a horrible famine resulted in the death of an estimated 10 million Ukrainians. History places blame on the mismanagement or resources. While the region



The New Russia Cultural Center’s production of “Berdichev” features two casts, one that speaks English with another that speaks Russian.

The New Russia Cultural Center

COMING UP at PROCTORS theREP★ UPH

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COME FROM AWAY

Proctors • January 25 - 30

This New York Times Critics’ Pick takes you into the heart of the remarkable true story of 7,000 stranded passengers and the small town in Newfoundland that welcomed them. Cultures clashed and nerves ran high, but uneasiness turned into trust, music soared into the night, and gratitude grew into enduring friendships.



FLY

theREP • January 28 - February 20

Based on the experiences of the Tuskegee Airmen, this inspiring story follows four courageous young Black American pilots as they train to fly combat aircraft during World War II, paving the way for the desegregation of the military. Soaring and inventive, FLY combines live action, video and the compelling “Tap Griot,” that will have you on the edge of your seat and standing up in solidarity with these brave Americans!



THE BAD PLUS

UPH • January 13, 7:00 p.m.

The Bad Plus are the ultimate originals. A democratic unit with a clear vision and a refusal to conform to convention. For the past two decades they have played with spirit and adventure, made their own rules and done so with a bold sense of creativity and intent.



PASSPORT SERIES: AMERICAN PATCHWORK QUARTET

Proctors • January 21, 7:30 p.m.

Beyond borders, cultures, and colors, American Patchwork Quartet compels audiences to reflect on our shared histories and defining differences.



HIPSTER ASSASSINS

Proctors • January 28, 8:00 p.m.

Hipster Assassins is a collaborative endeavor of virtuosic talent that came together in New York City at the historic Zinc Bar in 2010.



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Proctors • February 4, 8:00 p.m.

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1/21 • Passport Series: American Patchwork Quartet

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1/28 - 2/20 • Fly

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at UPH

1/13 • The Bad Plus

1/28 • Hipster Assassins

PROCTORS Collaborative

continuously struggled for independence from the Soviet Union, there are others who blame Joseph Stalin's regime for conducting a genocide. Gorenstein's father was arrested by authorities in 1935. He died two years later as he attempted to escape from the gulag to which he was sent.

Religious ideology was stripped away within Stalin's Soviet Union. In Berdichev, whose population was once 80 percent Jewish, synagogues were converted to community centers. Gorenstein's mother, who became a director of a home for juvenile offenders, changed her son's name, concealing his heritage. In 1941, Nazi Germany invaded Ukraine. Gorenstein and his mother escaped Hitler's death squads by evacuating into the Ural Mountains. Enna died of tuberculosis in 1943, after which Gorenstein was sent to an orphanage before he returned to Berdichev to be raised by his aunts, Zloty and Rachel at the war's end.

Casting for the play's 16 characters began last

October. Miller, the play's stage manager, said the task took several weeks to complete. For every character, they had to assign two actors.

The play presents 30 years in the everyday life of a Jewish family from 1945 to 1975, as two sisters, Rachel and Golda, guide their family through hard years of poverty and strife. It is an unsentimental story about post-Holocaust Jews, separated from their culture, history and people, who nonetheless survive through laughter and tears.

Miller said this adaptation of Berdichev promises to highlight the pain and experience of life immediately following the horrific events of the Holocaust. The topic matter, however, is not exclusive to Jews. Deptola said the common themes of the play are loss and family. Promotional material focuses on a dinner table surrounded by empty chairs — each one obtained from a different set.

"It's a very popular play," he said, "because it's so funny but you also want to cry. It just swings back and forth. It's a beautiful play."

"We hope to use this opportunity to generate a collaborative community effort that might renew awareness of the Holocaust to a younger generation of Americans and help examine its impact on 21st-century life."

— Tanya Deptola,
The New Russia Cultural Center president

The New Russia Cultural Center has spent the past several years attempting to bring Berdichev to the stage. Once it committed to offering the play to separate English and Russian speaking audiences did it receive enough funding.

The New Russia Cultural Center



Deptola said the intended aim of performing Berdichev is to give the audience a broader perception of themselves, immersing them in a different time and culture to instill new insights into the history and human connections across time.

"We hope to use this opportunity to generate a collaborative community effort that might renew awareness of the Holocaust to a younger generation of Americans," she said, "and help examine its impact on 21st-century life."

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MUSIC

9 Maple Avenue
9 Maple Ave., Saratoga Springs.
518-583-CLUB

Albany Capital Center
55 Eagle St., Albany.
518-487-2155

Across The Street Pub
1238 Western Ave., Albany.
518-438-1718
Thurs: **Trivia** | 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The Avalon Lounge
29 Church St, Catskill
518-719-1640
Fri: **Pro Jam** | 8-10 p.m.
Sat: **Bobby Previte Presents: The Pwp Grooveharmonik Trio** | 8-10 p.m.
Sun: **Purple Witch of Culver** | 8-11 p.m.

Brown's Troy Taproom & Brewery
417 River Street, Troy
518-273-2337

Black Bear Inn
310 19th St., Watervliet
518-272-9486
Wed: **Trivia Night** | 7:30 p.m.

Caffe Lena
47 Phila St., Saratoga Springs
518-583-0022
Tues: **Saratoga's Impact Sector Speaks** | 4-5 p.m.
Wed: **Caffe Lena School Of Music After-School Folk Ensembles** | 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Thurs: **Joe Jencks And Crys Matthews** | 7-9 p.m.
Fri: **Mark And Jill** | 8-10 p.m.
Sat: **Rees Shad And The Convo Combo** | 8-10 p.m.
Sun: **Ranky Tanky** | 4-6 p.m.

Carson's Woodside Tavern
57 NY-9P, Malta
518-584-9791
Thurs: **Jay Yager & Chris Dollard** | 6-9 p.m.
Fri: **Fefi Kaku** | 6-9 p.m.
Sat: **Steve Candlen** | 6-9 p.m.

Centre Street Pub
308 Union St., Schenectady
518-393-2337
Fri: **Ill Funk Ensemble** | 4 p.m.

Cohoes Music Hall
58 Remsen St., Cohoes
518-434-0776
Fri: **Gilbert Gottfried** | 8-10 p.m.
Sat: **Taylor Hicks W/S/G Madison Vandenburg** | 8-10 p.m.

The Comedy Works
388 Broadway, Saratoga Springs
877-565-3849

Druthers Brewing Company
1053 Broadway, Albany
(518) 650-7996

Eden Cafe
269 Osborne Road #3, Albany
518-977-3771
Thurs: **The Tony Loves Trixie Show auditions and Rehearsal** | 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

The Egg
Empire State Plaza., Albany
518-473-1845

Emack & Bolio's
366 Delaware Ave., Albany
518-512-5100

Empire Live/Underground

HOT SPOTS EVENTS CALENDAR



Gilbert Gottfried at Cohoes Music Hall

For over 50 years, Gilbert Gottfried has made audiences laugh with his unique, unfiltered stand-up comedy. He now stops to take the Cohoes Music Hall stage on Friday, Jan 7.

Gilbert Gottfried

93 North Pearl St., Albany
866-468-3399
Fri: **Zoso The Ultimate Led Zeppelin Experience** | 7 p.m.

Empire State Plaza
Eprire State Plaza., Albany
518-992-3103
Sat: **Learn to Skate Clinic** | 10 a.m.

Fort Orange Brewing
450 North Pearl St, Albany
518-339-2337
Sun: **Cocktails And Crafts With Bash: Lazy Susans** | 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Frog Alley Brewing Co.
108 State Street Schenectady
518-631-4800
Fri: **Thunderstruck live at Frog Alley** | 7 p.m.

Fuze Box
12 Central Avenue Albany
518-992-6434
Fri: **HEX: Electric Heretics** | 10 p.m.

Funny Bone
1 Crossgates Mall Rd #K-206, Albany
518-313-7484
Fri: **Mitch Fatel** | 7:30 p.m.

Gaffney's
16 Caroline St., Saratoga Springs
518-587-7359

Grappa '72
818 Central Ave., Albany
518-482-7200
Thurs: **The Hamilton Street Jazz Trio** | 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Fri: **Earl Davis with Peg & Bill Delaney** | 5:30-8:30 p.m.

The Hangar on the Hudson
675 River St., Troy
518-272-9740
Sat: **Elvis Birthday Bash** | 7:30-11 p.m.

The Hollow Bar + Kitchen
79 North Pearl St., Albany
518-426-8550

Lark Hall
351 Hudson Ave, Albany
518-599-5804
Sun: **Lark Hall Winter Market** | 11- 4 p.m.

The Linda
339 Central Ave, Albany
518-465-5233
Sun: **New York Folklore At The Linda** | 3-5 p.m.

McGeary's Irish Pub
4 Clinton Square, Albany
518-463-1455
Tues: **Trivia Night** | 7 p.m.

Nashville Of Saratoga
39 Phila Street, Saratoga Springs
518-909-6274

Nanola
2639 Rt 9, Malta
518-587-1300
Sat: **Honey Suckle Vine returns to Nanola** | 8 p.m.

The Night Owl
17 Maple Ave., Saratoga Springs
518-319-2300
Thurs: **Cookout** | 7 p.m.
Fri: **Fireside Fridays** | 8 p.m.
Sat: **Supper Club Saturdays** | 6 p.m.

Olde English Pub
683 Broadway, Albany. 518-434-6533

The Palace Theatre
19 Clinton Ave., Albany
518-465-4663

Playhouse Stage Co.
Madison Ave at New Scotland Ave Albany (518) 434-2035

Panza's
129 So. Broadway, Saratoga Springs
518-584-6882

Parish Public House
388 Broadway, Albany
518-465-0444
Sat: **Glass Pony** | 7:30 p.m. - 12 a.m.

The Parting Glass
40-42 Lake Ave., Saratoga Springs
518-583-1916
Tues: **Dart League** | 7 p.m.
Wed: **Celtic Session** | 7 p.m.
Fri: **Friends Union Band** | 7 p.m.

Paulys Hotel
337 Central Ave., Albany
518-426-0828
Wed: **A Grateful Dead Jam Night** | 6 p.m.
Sat: **American Cancer society benefit** | 4-6 p.m.

Proctors
432 State Street., Schenectady
518-346-6204
Sat: **Albany Symphony Orchestra's Scheherazade** | 7:30 p.m.

Putnam Place
63a Putnam St., Saratoga Springs
518-584-8066

Fri: **With A Little Help From My Friends Benefit Concert** | 7 p.m.

Rare Form Brewing Company
90 Congress Street Troy
(518) 326-4303
Fri: **Ampevene / T.V. Doctors** | 6 p.m.

Ravenswood Grill & Tavern
1021 NY 146, Clifton Park.
518-371-8771
Tue: **Trivia Night** | 6:30 p.m.

The Ruck
104 3rd St., Troy
(518) 273-1872
Wed: **Trivia** | 7-9 p.m.

Rustic Barn Pub
150 Speigletown Rd., Troy
518-235-5858
Thurs: **Open Mic Night** | 6 p.m.
Fri: **Soul Sky** | 8 p.m.
Sat: **The Wheel** | 8 p.m.
Sun: **Second Sunday Bluegrass Jam** | 5:30 p.m.

The Saratoga Winery
462 Route 29, Saratoga Springs
518-584-9463
Fri: **Ubuntu** | 5 p.m.

Saratoga National
458 UNION AVENUE SARATOGA SPRINGS
518.583.4653

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.

Sand Lake Center for the Arts
2880 NY 43 Averill Park
518-674-2007

SPAC
Avenue of the Pines, Saratoga Springs
518-584-9330

Troy Savings Bank Music Hall
30 Second St., Troy
518-273-0038

Vapor
342 Jefferson St, Saratoga Springs
(518) 584-2110
Sat: **Big Sky Country** | 8 p.m.

Van Slyck's
Rivers Casino & Resort
1 Rush St., Schenectady
518-579-8800
Fri and Sat: **Lecco** | 7-10 p.m.

Waterworks Pub
76 Central Ave., Albany
518-465-9079
Fri: **Friday Night Dancing & Karaoke** | 10 p.m.-4 a.m.
Sat: **Saturday Night Dancing & Drag** | 10 p.m.-4 a.m.

Wicked
1602 Route 9, Clifton Park
518-467-8900
Fri: **Open Mic** | 7 p.m.

Wishing Well Restaurant
745 Saratoga Rd., Wilton
518-584-7640
Fri: **Rob Aronstein Trio** | 8 p.m.

EXHIBITS

Albany Institute of History and Art

Romancing the Rails: Train Travel in the 1920s and 1930s
The 1920s and 30s were a kind of golden age for rail travel in the U.S., a period when railroads were portrayed as modern amenities that carried passengers to romantic getaways in luxury and comfort. Yet the story of railroads and rail travel during the period is much more complex, involving talented individuals, hardworking people, engineering accomplishments, celebrations, and momentous events. Open: Now -Feb. 2022.

The Hudson River School: Landscape Paintings from the Albany Institute- The Albany Institute holds a large and important collection of nineteenth-century American landscape paintings, works often associated with the term "Hudson River School. This exhibit is currently ongoing.

Nineteenth Century American Sculpture:Erastus Dow Palmer and His Protégés Launt Thompson, Charles Calverley, and Richard Park- Designed to showcase the museum's nationally known collection of mid- to late-nineteenth-century sculpture, This exhibit is currently ongoing.

Ancient Egypt- Egyptologist and Guest Curator Dr. Peter Lacovara has incorporated the research and scientific discoveries revealed in the GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies exhibition into a new exhibition about Ancient Egypt. This exhibit is currently ongoing.

Traders & Culture: Colonial Albany and the Formation of American



LIFE AFTER 50



Capture the Attention of the Largest Population Segment in the Capital District!

ISSUE DATE: **Jan. 20**

AD DEADLINE: **Jan. 5**

Identity- This exhibition looks at those diverse peoples who shaped colonial Albany and the objects that reflect their interests, values, commercial, and social interactions. This exhibit is currently ongoing. The Albany Institute of History and Art, 125 Washington Ave. Albany, 518.463.4478.

which are then reinterpreted as new paintings. Amy Talluto and Ginnie Gardiner both describe the earliest phases of their creative process as cloaked in associations with landscape, weather and seasons. Beginning November 20th 2021 to April 25th, 2022 Location: 3rd Floor, Main Terminal, 737 Albany

time when members' artwork was exhibited on the iron fence surrounding Washington Park in Troy, the original location of the Arts Center. Open September-December 2021. 265 River St., Troy. Gallery hours: Daily, Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, noon to

tidal shift in the twentieth century. During the Edo period (1603-1867) a new market of middle-class patrons had encouraged artists to create expressive and iconic images for mass distribution.

These prints, known as ukiyo-e (pictures of the floating world), became wildly

newspapers and magazines had taken Japan by storm, and the popular woodblock prints of the previous century seemed to many a relic of the past. Open: Now - January 30, 2022.

Anne Thompson-Trail Signs -Thompson has long explored the shifting meaning of signs and symbols in relation to their social setting, whether making paintings, prints, or outdoor projections. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, she began designing posters featuring bold, black-and-white symbols and installing them on trail kiosks throughout Berkshire County. This unsanctioned project sought to engage and complicate public messaging at a time when people increasingly ventured into and sought meaning in the outdoors.

As striking as they are mysterious, Thompson's abstract forms suggest public wayfinding, but also digital iconography, modernist logotypes, or even ancient languages. Open: Now-Dec. 31.

Erin Shirreff- This yearlong exhibition in public spaces around the Clark examines Erin Shirreff's practice—between analog and digital media, two and three dimensions, and still and moving images—and its fascination with the mythmaking behind art history. Through photographic manipulations of sculptures found in books, and ones of her own making, Shirreff asks what is left of the original experience of an artwork once it has entered the historical record, and what traces of an artist's labor might still be legible after the fact. The exhibition includes photographs on paper and aluminum that have been creased and cut, to take on sculptural dimensions, as well as the artist's video work. Open: Now- January 2nd, 2022. Advance timed ticket reservations are required. Museum hours: Daily, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Admission: Adults, \$20; children 18 and younger, free. 225 South St., Williamstown, Mass. 413-458-2303 or www.clarkart.edu

Clement Art Gallery

Ongoing: Permanent antique print and map room. Gallery exhibits hours: Weekdays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission. 201 Broadway, Troy. Visit Salon '21 Art Show Local Artists thru Jan. Holiday Hrs. Mon-Sun, 11-6 201 Broadway, Troy. 518-2726811 or clementart.com.

The Esther Massry Gallery

Massry Center for the Arts, The College of Saint Rose, 1002 Madison Ave., Albany. Gallery hours through Saturday, April 27: Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 5 p.m.; open until 8 p.m. on Thursday, closed on Sundays, academic holidays and between exhibitions. Free admission. 518-485-3902 or www.facebook.com/esthermassrygallery

The Hyde Collection

Summer Bomb Pop: Collection in Dialogue- Brings together seventeen works of contemporary abstract painting from the collection of the Tang Teaching Museum at Skidmore College by artists such as Sarah Braman, Jeffrey Gibson, Rashid Johnson, Mindy Shapero, and Chuck Webster with several twentieth-century works from The Hyde Collection's renowned Feibes & Schmitt Collection by artists such as Grace Hartigan, Alfred Jensen, Ellsworth Kelly, Bridget Riley, and Andy Warhol.

Summer Bomb Pop is organized by the Tang Teaching Museum in collaboration with Jonathan Canning, Director of Curatorial Affairs and Programming at The Hyde Collection. This exhibit is currently ongoing - January 2022.

Masterpieces & Mysteries- Artistic treasures and art historical queries, drawn from its vaults. Among the great works of art that Louis and Charlotte Hyde brought to Glens Falls are delicate works on paper so sensitive to the damaging effects of light that they can only be exhibited once every few years. Out from storage come watercolors by



Thunderstruck Live at Frog Alley

Thunderstruck is America's leading AC/DC tribute band, bringing nothing by 'High Voltage' rock and roll without any dirty deeds tied to it. The band will play Grog Alley Brewing Co. on Friday, Jan. 7

Thunderstruck Live

Albany International Airport

ECHO-Ginne Gardiner & Amy Talluto Recent Painting and Collage A pattern of reflections distinguishes the work of these two artists, who make paintings that are cycled into collages,

Shaker Rd, Albany, NY. 518-242-2241 or www.albanyairport.com/arts

Arts Center of the Capital Region

Fence 2021- The Fence Show is an annual celebration that pays homage to a

4 p.m. Free admission. 518-273-0552 or artscenteronline.org

The Clark Art Institute

Competing Currents: 20th-Century Japanese Prints - Japan's printmaking landscape underwent an unprecedented

popular not only in Japan but across the globe when the country opened to international trade in the mid-nineteenth century.

By the beginning of the twentieth century, however, woodblock prints had largely fallen out of vogue. Mass-market

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11		
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16					17		18			19				
20						21				22				
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49					50				51		52	53	54	55
56					57				58					
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62					63						64			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Requests
5. Calendar month
8. Invests in little enterprises
12. Bird sound
14. S. American plant cultivated for tubers
15. Car
16. Bullfighter
18. Hill (Celtic)
19. Strong criticism
20. Detector
21. When you hope to get there
22. Having the skill to do something
23. Legendary MLB broadcaster
26. Vulcanite
30. C. Asian mountain range
31. In a way, healed
32. Midway between east and southeast
33. Small appendages of insects
34. ___ Greene, "Bonanza" actor
39. A place to bathe
42. Postal worker accessory
44. Classical music
46. A way of wrecking
47. Terminator
49. You eat three a day
50. Pointed end of a pen
51. NATO official (abbr.)
56. Genus of clams
57. Boxing's "G.O.A.T."
58. A colorless, odorless gas used as fuel
59. Covered thinly with gold paint
60. Bachelor of Laws
61. Red fluorescent dye
62. Engineering group
63. Female sibling
64. Adjacent

CLUES DOWN

1. What a thespian does
2. Footwear
3. Adjust spacing between
4. Witnesses
5. Who shows excessive fondness
6. Distinct form of a plant
7. National capital
8. Hunting expedition
9. Related to medulla oblongata
10. European country
11. Cola
13. Excluded from use or mention
17. Speak
24. Bloodshot
25. Make better
26. Keyboard key
27. Type of degree
28. Paddle
29. Peacock network
35. Not young
36. Baseball stat
37. One's grandmother
38. Breakfast food
40. Bathroom features
41. Disease-causing bacterium
42. NY ballplayer
43. Got up
44. Prophet
45. Part of the mouth
47. Unnatural
48. Acronym for brain science study
49. Three are famous
52. Languages spoken in Patagonia
53. Freedom from difficulty
54. Widely used OS
55. Many people pay it

Answers on Pg. B13

Winslow Homer, pastels by Edgar Degas, drawings by Henri Matisse, and a pen and ink sketch by Vincent Van Gogh. This exhibit is currently ongoing- December 31st.

Museum hours: Daily, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m., Closed Monday. Admission: adults, \$12; seniors (60+), \$10; Children, students (w/ID)/active military members and their families, free. 161 Warren St., Glens Falls. 518-792-1761 or hydecollection.org

The Jan Rutland Memorial Artists' Space

Gallery hours (through Thursday, Feb. 28): Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Second Floor, National Bottle Museum, 76 Milton Ave., Ballston Spa. 518-885-7589 or nationalbottlemuseum.org/the-jan-rutland-artists-space/

Mabee Farm Historic Site

Redesigning Fashion: Transgression and Identity in Women's Historic Dress- A partnership between SCHS and the Fashion & Textiles program at SUNY Oneonta. The collaboration has resulted in an exhibition that explores the historical importance of women's clothing and fashion in the expression of cultural values and the creation of identity, and examines how those ideals change over time. Open now - November 30.

Beyond the Pines: Early Schenectady- Explore early Schenectady: its founding, its people, and what life was like for early Schenectadians. This exhibit is ongoing.

Changing Downtown- At the heart of a successful downtown are interesting stories and unique buildings that illustrate a city's distinct character. Changing Downtown traces Schenectady's stories and

buildings through the years, exploring the city's legacy of transformation and innovation. By discovering the forces that shaped downtown Schenectady, we can better understand ourselves, and our vision for the future. Open now - Dec. 31.

Winter hours: Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 1100 Main St. (NY Route 55), Rotterdam Junction. Admission: Adults: \$5/person for self-guided access; or \$8/per person for tour and exhibit access; children and students (w/ID) free. 518-887-5073 or schenectadyhistorical.org

miSci

Seeing Ourselves: From Silhouette to Selfie - Imagine not knowing the look of their own face. For most people throughout history, this was the rule rather than the exception. It was only through the development of technology that we reached the modern day, where seeing yourself is as simple as looking in a mirror or pushing a button. Seeing Ourselves takes guests on a journey through the development of portraiture, photography, mirrors, and more.

Featuring approximately 55 objects, the exhibition includes more than 20 works of art, among them a collection of late 18th-century miniature portraits by Irish-born artist George Place, and a painting by Harold M. Mott Smith titled Their Last Meeting that commemorates Thomas Edison's visit to Schenectady in 1922 where he met Charles Proteus Steinmetz, another trailblazer in the field of electricity. Early prototype X-ray equipment, rare photographs, a collection of cameras, and a model of the first GE Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine are also on view.

Interactive activities include Capture Your Shadow, Colorize a Photograph, Get In The Scene, Face Mixer, Fool a Computer

Vision System, Make Your Bones Dance, and more.

Engineering the Perfect Shot! The Interactive Minigolf Exhibit - This exhibit features nine interactive, miniature golf holes, each designed to demonstrate a concept from the science of physics. Observe projectile motion, kinetic friction, collision, and more as you play a full round of miniature golf.

Players track their progress using a digital scorecard, accessible with any smart device, as well as access bonus materials associated with each hole. Open Now - Jan. 9.

Schenectady Inventors that Changed the World - Explore a rotating display of inventions from Schenectady that changed the world, from the first home appliances and televisions to power generation and medical imaging devices. The exhibit features unique artifacts from miSci's collection including the world's first synthetic diamond; a prototype mechanical television from 1928; and a 1907 Electric Breakfast Set, featuring some of the first electric appliances ever produced. Open: Now - Jan. 17, 2022

Museum hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (observatory open until 8 p.m. on Thursday); Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. 15 Nott Terrace Heights, Schenectady. Admission: Adults (13+), \$12; seniors (65+), \$10; children (3-12) \$8. Additional \$6/person for planetarium show. 518-382-7890 or www.miSci.org

National Museum of Dance

Posters From Hollywood's Golden Age- An unprecedented one hundred thirty dance movie posters from the collection of veteran producer Mike Kaplan are on view in three of the Museum's galleries. This rare and exceptional collection includes several American and



Want to learn how to ice skate?

Novice skaters have an opportunity to learn more with a Learn to Skate clinic hosted by the Empire State Plaza on Saturday, Jan. 8, starting at 10 a.m.

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international versions of Hollywood film posters which range in date from 1918 to the 1980s with the majority from the 1930s, 40s, and 50s. This exhibit is currently ongoing.

On Being Still: Portraits By Joanne Savio- Renowned photographer Joanne Savio has been documenting the arts community through portraiture since the 1980s. She has captured some of the most influential dancers and choreographers of our time including Mikhail Baryshnikov, Pina Bausch, and Elizabeth Streb in addition to several members of the Hall of Fame such as Merce Cunningham, Mark Morris, Gregory Hines, Bill T. Jones, and Trisha Brown. Her stunning, iconic portraits of dancers and choreographers are on view in the Foyer.

Dancers After Dark- Dancers After Dark features photographs from Jordan Matter's 2016 book in which he documents nude dancers in iconic locations around the world. This exhibition also includes exclusive video from the making of Dancers After Dark. This exhibit is currently ongoing.

Museum hours: Daily, Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. 99 South Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Admission: Adults, \$6.50; seniors/students (w/valid ID) \$5; children ages 4 to 12, \$3; children ages 3 and younger, free; free admission for all patrons on Tuesday. 518-584-2225 or www.dancemuseum.org

**New York State Museum
Thomas Hart Benton**

In 1956 Thomas Hart Benton was commissioned by Robert Moses, chairman of the New York Power Authority, to create two murals for the powerhouse building of the state's first hydropower facility in Massena. They feature Jacques Cartier's explorations of the St. Lawrence River and the Gulf of



HOT DATE

TRIVA

Once is fun. Three times is a habit. Anything more is a career. McGeary's Irish Pub is hosting a Trivia Night calling your name on Tuesday, Jan. 10, from 7.

St. Lawrence. Alternately titled The Seneca Discover the French and Jacques Cartier Discovers the Indians, the murals depict the 16th-century encounters from two points of view. These life groups were on view at the Museum when it was at the State Education Building.

The original building in Massena where these murals were displayed is now closed to the public. They were removed and conserved beginning in 2018 and are on loan to the New York State Museum until Dec 31. Also, "a small fort, which our people

call Fort Orange." This exhibition examines the momentous discovery of Fort Orange and the lasting impact of events occurring there 400 years ago that shaped the character of the region, state, and the nation. Select artifacts, film footage from the excavation preceding the construction of I-787, and four decades of historical and archaeological research are highlighted.

Museum hours: Tuesday-Sun, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; 222 Madison Ave., Albany. Free admission; suggested donation of \$5/person or \$10/family. 518-474-5877 or www.nysm.nysed.gov

**Opalka Gallery
SHIFTING GAZE: A Reconstruction of the Black & Hispanic Body in Contemporary Art**

- From the collection of Robert B. Feldman. On view from October 22 - December 14th. Opening reception on Friday, October 22nd from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. Proof of vaccination is required to enter gallery and view exhibition.

Gallery Hours: Tuesday through Friday, noon to 7 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. Sage College of Albany, 140 New Scotland Ave., Albany. Free admission. 518-292-7742 or opalka.sage.edu

Saratoga Arts

320 Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Free admission. Gallery hours: weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 518-584-4132 or saratoga-arts.org

**Schenectady County
Historical Society**

Continuing: "Back in My Day: Childhood, Play, and Schenectady." Are play and childhood toys a reflection of larger social, cultural, and technological developments? This exhibition examines that question, focusing primarily on cultural and social influences on childhood in the 20th & 21st century. Admission, \$5.

On view indefinitely. **Plus permanent exhibits. Ongoing: "Mapping Schenectady."** Some of SCHS' most prominent and interesting maps are now on permanent display in the Map Gallery. Also, **"Beyond the Pines: Early Schenectady,"** an exhibit focused entirely on early Schenectady: its founding, its people, and what life was like for the city's earliest residents. Plus permanent exhibits. Museum hours: weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Library and Museum, 32 Washington Ave., Schenectady. Admission: \$5. 518-374-0263 or schenectady-historical.org

**Dan Sekellic Visual
Arts Gallery**

Gallery hours: Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sand Lake Center for the Arts, 2880 NY Rte. 43, Averill Park. Free admission. 518-674-2007 or slca-ctp.org

Tang Teaching Museum

Un-Representation-Un-Representation is the capstone project for Maria Staack '22, the 2020-21 Meg Reitman Jacobs '63 Endowed Intern. The Internship is a yearlong pre-professional opportunity for a Skidmore junior or senior in the Tang Museum's Education Department. This exhibit is currently ongoing - Nov 21st.

All Together Now- All Together Now forges new collaborations between neighbor arts organizations to bring attention to rarely seen objects. At the Tang Teaching Museum, exhibitions feature furniture, tools, and textiles from the Shaker Museum and a revealing survey of postcard collages by Ellsworth Kelly. At partner institutions, exhibitions will show focused selections of work from the Tang collection, including many recently acquired paintings, photographs and sculptures, many shown in dialogue with

collections at each museum. This exhibit is currently ongoing- Jan 2, 2022.

Look After Each Other: Intimacy and Community- presents work by artists and designers who demonstrate that life with the disease is bigger than someone's medical diagnosis: it includes intimacy, care, friendship, and more. Intimacy is a political act. The intimacy and love, both romantic and platonic, highlighted in this exhibition extends from bedrooms to community centers to ephemeral objects that bring people together even when physically distanced. This exhibit is currently ongoing - Dec 5th.

Skidmore College, 815 North Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Museum hours: Tuesday - Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.; Thursday until 9 p.m. Free admission; suggested donations of \$5/adult; \$3/child 13+; seniors, \$2. 518-580-8080 or tang.skidmore.edu

Union College Galleries

Alisa Sikelianos-Carter: In the Eye of Belonging- Sikelianos-Carter asserts that Black features are a manifestation of a sacred and divine technology that has served as a means of survival, both physically and metaphysically. She envisions a cosmically bountiful world that celebrates and pays homage to ancestral majesty, power, and aesthetics. Inspired by traditionally Black hairstyles, Sikelianos-Carter uses web and catalog-sourced images to construct new archetypes. Through her exploration of opulent, luminescent materials she is creating a mythology that is centered on Black resistance and uses the body as a site of alchemy and divinity. This exhibit is currently ongoing- Jan 9, 2022.

Olivier Models at Union College- Union College's Permanent Collection includes an extremely unique and priceless collection of Theodore Olivier's stringed

models, used for demonstrating the relationships and intersections of geometric shapes in space. This collection is the largest single group (forty-six) of Olivier models to be held in one collection around the world. This exhibit is currently ongoing.

Chitra Ganesh: Sultana's Dream- a portfolio of twenty-seven linocuts created in 2018 by contemporary artist, Chitra Ganesh, and published by Durham Press, will be on exhibition in its entirety on the third floor of Schaffer Library. This exhibit is currently ongoing.

Hours (all galleries): Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 807 Union St., Schenectady. Free. 518-388-6004 or muse.union.edu/man-deville/home

University Art Museum

Well/Being: An Exhibition on Healing and Repair- Well/Being: An Exhibition on Healing and Repair features 12 established and emerging artists and musicians presenting multi-disciplinary approaches to pandemic-related issues such as kinship, chronic illness, convalescence, intimacy, the emotional costs of caregiving, and various incarnations of love and community. This exhibit is currently ongoing- Dec 11th.

I'll Be Your Mirror- I'll Be Your Mirror explores mediated representations of self in the newly launched Collections Study Gallery. Featuring works from the collection in dialogue with pieces on loan by past-exhibiting artist, Dave McKenzie. Features artwork by Andreas Feininger, Katria Foster, Rachel Foulton, Jenny Kemp, Mary Ellen Mark, Dave McKenzie, Edward Steichen, and Andy Warhol. This exhibit is currently ongoing- Dec 11th.

Uptown Campus, University at Albany, 1400 Washington Ave., Albany. Gallery Hours: Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, noon to 4 p.m.;

HOROSCOPES

January 2022 Week 1

ARIES - MAR 21/APR 20

Your finances need a little extra work, Aries. Start to focus on investments, money and other financial matters. Your mind is quick and you catch on quite fast.

TAURUS - APR 21/MAY 21

Romance is on your mind this week, Taurus. This is the time to focus on solidifying your relationship with someone special in your life or to find that perfect match.

GEMINI - MAY 22/JUN 21

Matters involving work are at the forefront of your mind, Gemini. You may need to put in some extra hours on the job this week. Keep your head down and your efforts will be noted.

CANCER - JUN 22/JUL 22

Cancer, you may be longing for an encounter with your romantic partner, but other factors keep getting in the way of your date. You have to make romance a priority.

LEO - JUL 23/AUG 23

An unexpected financial windfall lands in your lap, Leo. It is just the good news you need at this point in time. Start thinking about how to invest this unexpected gift.

VIRGO - AUG 24/SEPT 22

Business and personal successes are coming your way soon, Virgo. It could be a project that brings you financial gain or the development of a new friendship.

LIBRA - SEPT 23/OCT 23

Libra, whether it's a hunch or a tip from someone close to you, you have some valuable information that will come in handy in the coming days.

SCORPIO - OCT 24/NOV 22

A relationship reaches new heights, Scorpio. If you are unattached, you might find a partner soon. If you have a significant other, he or she will become even closer.

SAGITTARIUS - NOV 23/DEC 21

Sagittarius, draw your closest friends together and plan a gathering where you can exchange ideas and rekindle friendships. It's been a while since you socialized.

CAPRICORN - DEC 22/JAN 20

A long journey is in your near future, Capricorn. It may come by way of a much-needed vacation, or you may make a move across country to follow a job or passion.

AQUARIUS - JAN 21/FEB 18

Finances dominate your week, Aquarius. This could be related to a pay raise at work or a personal investment that pans out. One way or another, success isn't too far away.

PISCES - FEB 19/MAR 20

Pisces, a business partner may contact you with some good news after returning from a trip. Prepare to join this person in a promising venture.

and Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Free admission. 518-442-4035 or www.albany.edu/museum

THEATER

Northeast Ballet's Annual The Nutcracker

Under the Artistic Direction of Darlene Myers. This year's production is dedicated to John Wescott and Allan Yerdon. This performance is made possible, in part, with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency and Fenimore Asset Management. Northeast Ballet's Annual Nutcracker under the Artistic Direction of Darlene Myers. Making its annual return to the MainStage is everyone's favorite holiday ballet. Enter a world of Christmas dreams to the joyous music of Tchaikovsky in this annual year-end favorite. Join the Sugar Plum Fairy, the heroic Nutcracker Prince and the evil Rat King in this whimsical celebration of the season. Show will run for two nights December 22nd and 23rd at 7 p.m. only at Proctors 432 State Street Schenectady.

MISCELLANEOUS

Jerusalem Reformed Church

Soup, Sandwich, and Desert Take-out. Saturday, October 9th from 4:00 - 6:30 p.m. Donations welcome. Please note, masks are required to enter the building. 1433 Indian Fields Rd, Feura Bush.

Troy Farmers Market

More than 80 food growers, bakers, chefs and artisans gather to offer the Capital District's freshest and finest! Live music, great food, family activities and learning opportunities. Every Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Troy. Free admission. 518-708-4216 or www.troymarket.org

Schenectady GreenMarket

Vendors, shoppers, musicians and friends gather at this festive marketplace featuring more than 60 vendors who produce everything they sell. Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free admission. 518-986-0318 or schenectadygreenmarket.org/

Veterans Meet-Up

All veterans welcome to free coffee Tuesdays, from 6 to 8 p.m. Saratoga Coffee Traders, 447 Broadway, Saratoga Springs. 518-884-4999 or www.VeteransPeerConnection.org

Social Night/Open House tours

Get a feel for this amazing creative community. Free. Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Tech Valley Center of Gravity, 30 3rd St., Troy. 518-279-7863 or www.tvcog.net

MUSIC

Purple Witch of Culver + Friends

Purple Witch of Culver is a kaleidoscopic journey through sonics and poetry cultivated by Sarah Safaie and Evan Taylor. Join us and step into the deep end of the surrealistic lake we call home. This is happening Sunday, January 9th at 8 p.m. only at The Avalon Lounge 29 Church St, Catskill.

Joe Jencks and Crys Matthews

On the anniversary of the Capitol Riot, we bring you artists who use music to expose the wounds that drive us apart, and set us a path to healing. Joe and Crys find common ground among people of all walks of life, and invite us to sing together. Veteran folksinger Jencks merges conservatory training with a working-class upbringing to create ballads filled with heart, soul, groove and grit. Crys Matthews' hope-fueled, love-filled social justice songs are just what's needed



Taylor Hicks with special guest

American Idol alumni come together on the same bill to entertain the Capital District from the Cohoes Music Hall stage — Taylor Hicks with special guest Madison VanDenburg — on Saturday, Jan 8.

today. Show will be January 6th at 7 p.m. only at Caffe Lena 47 Phila Street Saratoga Springs.

Mark and Jill

Steeped in the roots of gospel, jazz, and blues, Mark & Jill is a duo with traditional and original songs featuring seasoned Saratoga blues artist and NY Blues Hall of Fame inductee Mark Tolstrup accompanied by sultry vocalist Jill Burnham. Mark and Jill meld their vision and talent for a taste of New Orleans meets Austin. This is where the Delta meets the Rio Grande. Over a haunting slide guitar their voices soar and blend in harmony. Mark and Jill bring a fresh original interpretation to the earliest roots of the blues. Their original songs deal with both the hard realities of life and the joys of being alive. Show will be January 7th at 8 p.m. only at Caffe Lena 47 Phila Street Saratoga Springs.

Thunderstruck live at Frog Alley!

Join us for a night of music from AC/DC hosted by Thunderstruck! Doors will open one hour before the show. Opener will begin at 7pm, followed by Thunderstruck. This show is inside the main taproom, entrance on 108 State St. Show is 21+ ONLY, and guests must present a valid ID to security upon arrival. There will be limited seating available on a first come, first served basis. Please check out our website for all policies and rules, as well as information on food and parking. Show is January 7th at 7 p.m. only at Frog Alley Brewing, 114 State St, Schenectady.

With a Little Help From My Friends Benefit Concert

The 518 music family will be holding a concert to remember Amy Corcoran and to raise funds to help Ed and Wyatt to adjust to daily life without their loving

SUDOKU

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Answers on Pg. B13

What's happening this week?

Check out our HOT SPOTS Calendar at: thespot518.com/hotspots

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CONCERT REVIEW

Resolve to see Sirsy in 2022

By LAURA DAPOLITO
nippertown.com

SARATOGA SPRINGS — Local music legend Sirsy shifted from their usual electric rock sound to acoustic with ease for a show at Caffe Lena on January 1, 2022, welcoming in the new year with joy, passion, and story.

The local duo initially greeted the audience with a verse from “Thank You for Being a Friend.” With a deep nod to Betty White, Melanie Krahmer and husband Rich Libutti’s vibe was celebratory of their love of the comedienne who recently passed away. Sharing stories of watching White perform in Golden Girls

and also on White’s prank show, Krahmer’s reverence for Betty White quickly morphed into humor as Libutti joked that their song “Cry Baby” was “really about Warren Beatty.” There was no doubting that this couple was about to tell jokes as much as showcase their wild talent, sharing stories and humbly leaning into the silliness of their natures.

Sirsy originated and still calls Albany home, and began performing locally and nationally in 2000. And while they perform over 250+ shows every year, there was a down home friendliness to Krahmer and Libutti as they shared their inside jokes, stories behind songs, and clear admiration for one another.

Time seemed to pass without any awareness as the

duo played “Astronaut,” a song that showcased Krahmer’s vocal control and wildly unique ability to shift voices. From there, the duo sang about Krahmer’s deceased grandmother, celebrating the happiness both felt in her presence when she was alive. The lyrics brought images to mind of a small but fierce Italian grandmother whose cooking and passion for her grandchildren reassured them constantly of her love. Krahmer smiled recalling her grandmother yelling at dancers blocking her view at early concerts before they moved the grandmother “Mary” upstairs to watch from a balcony of a nearby now extinct venue; the audience seemed also inclined to forgive the chiding grandmother even though she was disrupting her

granddaughter’s disco band’s purpose. Charmed by the story, the audience members were smiling under their masks, with deep creases around eyes and foreheads as they clapped and chortled.

The night at Caffe Lena was filled with stories of family, love, and heartache, including covers of familiar songs (Coldplay’s “Fix You” was an early melting moment for the audience), and originals like “Uncomfortable.” Krahmer joked she only talks about “Uncomfortable” in therapy, but she clearly pulled off the edgy anger with a sexy sound and made it appear effortless. Also effortless was Libutti’s guitar riff, which raised applause after his solo.

The duo moved to the piano for “Gold” and “Goner,” two

songs with very different vibes and sounds. Sirsy’s magic is in its songwriting; the lyrics and music are constantly challenging listeners to break out of one style and try on another. Somehow, Krahmer’s vocals shift without hesitation to match each new sound. Her father noted this as well when she first played him her song “Fireflies,” to which he smiled and told her it was magical.

She also plays piano, flute, kazoo (yes, kazoo!), and wears a tambourine on her ankle. Singing and typically playing percussion in her electric sets, Krahmer was more fluid tonight on stage with the acoustic music, lending her talents to the quieter sound and revealing so much more than

Continues on B14

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

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A	S	K	S		D	E	C		S	B	I	C				
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From page B12 ...

Sirsy in 2022

usual as a result.

As she chuckled through the end of “Goner,” I realized I wished I could have dinner with this couple and share stories about their life together. “Goner” is a love song, but starts with rage; the lyrics describe not liking someone’s face, but eventually owning not being able to resist the lover, too. It was in that moment that one could imagine them arguing over all the little things that make marriages real.

From there, Sirsy went even deeper into how love works in marriage. Bravely honest about

the hardships of living in small quarters without an audience as a buffer during the pandemic, “Seven Seas” brought out charm and laughter all at once about the realities of long-term relationships. She sang about “little volcanos” being small in comparison to their love, which is as “large as the seven seas.” The wisdom of this was so real, so genuine, and recognizably human.

The fun shift to “Hell No,” a new song that has yet to be released, showed Krahmer’s sassy spirit to challenge negative self-talk and push forward to find the good in herself. Incredibly relatable, this song could be a theme song for 2022 for most looking to improve self-care. Audience members nodded along, agreeing that self-talk can

be the hardest abuse to overcome. “Hell No” offered some guidance and free cognitive behavioral therapy.

Then, just as quickly, the couple shifted gears once again, bravely covering Brandi Carlile’s “The Story.” The vocals are demanding on that piece, and Krahmer owned the song by lending it her own spirit and emotion. She then shifted to fan-favorite “Brave and Kind” as she reminisced about her struggles with cancer.

Her husband, ever the comic relief, also shared his memory about Krahmer learning she had cancer. “That wasn’t even the craziest thing that happened that day...I was kissed...full mouth... by a smoker!” As the crowd laughed, Libutti added, “Yeah, pray for me. Mel had cancer twice, but I was kissed on the mouth by a smoker.”

The audience was delighted by the final song in the set, “Find Somebody to Love,” a

Queen cover that demanded Krahmer once again reflect the diversity within her skill set and shift octaves in her vocals like a hot knife slicing through butter. Energized by Sirsy’s performance, the audience demanded an encore. Sirsy obliged with “Waiting for Rain.” The couple admitted they had only played it once before acoustically – in Hawaii, in the rain.

Sirsy is worthy of their legendary status. With powerful vocals and exciting lyrics, the duo is at once charming and intense. Make it a resolution to see them this year, even if you’ve seen them before. Look for them at Putnam Place in February, and even later this summer at NipperFest. This is one resolution worth keeping.

This feature was originally published by Nippertown at Nippertown.com.



Welcome to the Black Parade
My Chemical Romance

Dirty Little Secret
The All-American Rejects

Sweetness
Jimmy Eat World

1985
Bowling for Soup

Face Down
The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus

Excuse the lack of local flavor on this list. The changing of the calendar has brought an appetite for nostalgia and the apparent need for high energy vibes to kick New Year’s resolutions into gear.

— Michael Hallisey

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**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

Bethlehem's First Night festivities went off with a bang on Friday, Dec. 31. More than 1,000 residents showed up for on-street music and a dinnertime fireworks show to usher in the New Year.

Photos by
Michael Hallisey /
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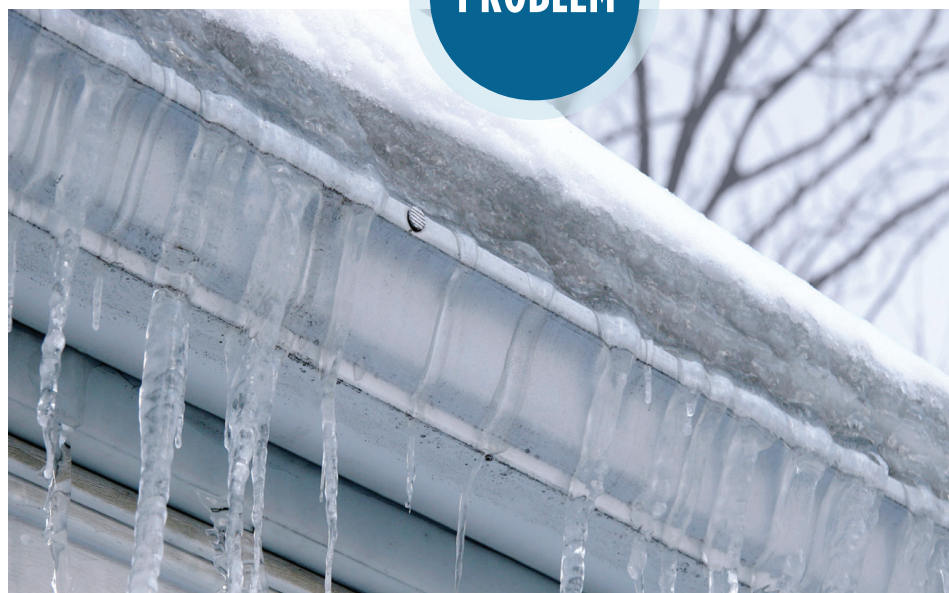
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