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50 THANK YOU ESSENTIAL WORKERS!
Dear Friends of the Catskill Mountain Foundation,

We’ve missed you! We hope that you and your loved ones are well during this time of social distancing. We wanted to give you a little update on our efforts while we do our part to flatten the curve.

Catskill Mountain Foundation staff has been working steadily and remotely, adjusting our programming schedule and discovering new ways to reach our audiences and stay engaged with you and your needs during these uncertain times. Artists, musicians, dancers and other performers still do what they love to do, and we want to share that with you!

We’re working behind the scenes to bring you an exciting 2020-2021 season. We have all been encouraged by how the arts are providing comfort to so many people in these challenging times, and we look forward to better days when we can all be together again, enjoying the beauty of our mountains and the artists who are inspired by them.

Regular updates to the Catskill Mountain Foundation Coronavirus response can be found at catskillmtn.org/news/coronavirus.html

Yours sincerely,

The Staff of the Catskill Mountain Foundation
The Guide magazine has always been available in digital format and will continue solely in that format until we feel it is safe to print and distribute a print issue. You may find online issues of the Guide at catskillmtn.org/news/guide-magazine/index.html.

The Orpheum Dance Program is continuing to offer limited community ballet lessons to its students by video. Follow the ODP on Facebook at facebook.com/OrpheumDanceProgram.

Although many of our Performing Arts programs have been cancelled or postponed, we are providing occasional videos on Facebook highlighting artists who have graced our stages in the past, and we are sharing content created by other artists that we hope will inspire you. We are also hard at work creating some online digital performances for you to enjoy this summer. Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/catskillmtn.

The Kaaterskill Gallery is working on creating online interactive activities for children and adults as well as presenting short interviews with local artists and writers in our weekly eblasts. Follow the gallery on Facebook at facebook.com/KaaterskillFineArtsGallery.

It comes with heavy hearts that we announce the cancellation of our 2020 Summer Program at Sugar Maples Center for Creative Arts. It is our belief that here at Sugar Maples our community is our family. In order to ensure the safety of our students, instructors, and staff we believe that it is not in the best interest of our community to proceed with this year’s program. We are working hard on a series of exciting workshops for the summer of 2021, hopefully including some of the courses that were not able to run this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Rest assured, we are actively using this time to make Sugar Maples even stronger in the summers to come.

Follow Sugar Maples on Facebook at facebook.com/sugarmaples.center and on Instagram at instagram.com/sugarmaples.center.

The Mountain Cinema is using this down time to install new equipment in our theaters to give you a better experience once we can open again. In the meantime, we are sharing movie news and streaming movie recommendations on our Facebook page. Follow the Mountain Cinema on Facebook at facebook.com/MountainCinema...we want to hear about your favorite movies as well!

Catskill Mountain Printing Services remains up and running, so please let us know if you have any printing needs...we are here for you! Email Steve at friedmans@catskillmtn.org to contact us!
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Quarantine Coping Strategies

…from the staff at the Catskill Mountain Foundation

“One of my favorite strategies: I am practicing gratitude every day. I find that when I can remember all of the good things in my life I’m able to go through the day feeling connected to the goodness in this world; there are so many people stepping up to help others. I know that we will all pull thru this together and that things will be better.”

—Barbara Cobb, Advertising Sales, Catskill Mountain Region Guide

“I have reconnected with a daily Yoga practice, running when the weather permits, and writing in a daily gratitude journal. Oh, and cooking and baking A LOT. And if all else fails, I throw on a pair of fun socks...it’s hard to be blue when your feet are covered in hedgehogs and hearts.”

—Sarah Taft, Editor, Catskill Mountain Region Guide

I actually have more projects than I anticipated, but I like to keep busy! It has been surreal to walk these empty streets! When I’m at home, I like to listen to calming music like Jazz. And there is always Netflix & Hulu, Zooming with family on weekends! I have been in contact with my family throughout the world … and some cooking … the baking is my son’s expertise!

—Isabel Cunha, Administrative Assistant

“I am on my I phone trying to keep in touch with my clients and following through with whatever jobs are going on. My down time is spent doing physical training. My wife bought me a recumbent bike which I use to pedal miles everyday. My biggest passion is watching movies … I have Netflix and Prime so I have a lot of choices. This also helps me in choosing the movies for the theaters.”

—Steve Friedman, Guide and Catskill Mountain Printing Services Sales Manager, Movie Theater Manager

“We have been watching old movies…anything with Humphrey Bogart or Ginger Rogers!”

—Sarah and Peter Finn, Founders, Catskill Mountain Foundation
“This first is to find gratitude and carry it with me through each day. It can be specific like, my son and his wife (who live in Brooklyn) both got the virus but never seemed in danger. They are both healthy now. (Whew!). Or it can be general like, I’m so glad I live in a village where folks are stepping up to take care of each other in a variety of ways, from sustaining a healthy soup kitchen to feed the hungry, providing grants to artists in need to buying lots of gift certificates from the Main Street merchants. Wow!

My second strategy is to get outside each day in order to be physically active. My tasks are in the garden, making raised beds and creating a new bluestone sitting area under 6 new apple trees.

And third, to work on something positive for the future. I’ve adopted the phrase, Today Builds Tomorrow, and am organizing folks in my community to develop projects towards sustainability with the goal of having the Village of Catskill be carbon neutral by 2030. Let’s have the courage to ask, What If... ?”

—Robert Tomlinson, Director and Curator, Kaaterskill Fine Arts Gallery

“This week, I will attend my first virtual yoga class with an instructor who lives in Alaska, and it might be my favorite quarantine coping strategy. Between the struggle to maintain a structured work schedule and avoiding my creative distractions, I have ventured into an occasional online yoga class. My sister-in-law used to live in Alaska and has a friend there who is teaching a virtual yoga class for six weeks. This will be the first time I have ever taken any fitness class with a family member. My sister-in-law lives in San Diego now and I haven’t seen her since our day at the beach in New Jersey last summer. Thank you, Zoom!”

—Joan Oldknow, Education and Marketing Manager

“I have been working from home. I have taken over my husband’s man cave and made it my CMF office from 9:00 - 4:30 and when I am not in the office working I am knitting (several items) and watching old TV shows.”

—Emily Morse, Administrative Assistant

“I have been painting some small, 3” x 3” watercolors, every day.”

—Max Seinfeld, Director, Sugar Maples Center for Creative Arts
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Since 2000, the Hudson Valley Film Commission has worked tirelessly to secure local crew, cast, locations, vendors, post production facilities, and more. The film commission has supported and worked on over 500 productions, helping to create thousands of jobs and over $250 million in regional economic development especially in Ulster, Dutchess, Orange Counties, as well as Columbia, Delaware, Greene, and Sullivan Counties.

As we all try to make sense of COVID19 FACTS & related difficulties, it is important to stay informed and to keep a healthy and positive outlook. Film production has been postponed for safety reasons. The Film Commission is continuing to work with production companies, politicians, unions and other film commissions with the hope of releasing information soon about the future of film production.

In the meantime, it’s a good time to catch up on local films. To that end, the Commission is sponsoring STREAMFEST, a collection of films that have been produced locally in the Catskills. We have included a small selection below: links to their streaming locations, as well as many more films, are located on hudsonvalleystreamfest.org/streamfest. More films are being added regularly.

When you visit the STREAMFEST page, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Hudson Valley Film Commission so that they can continue their important mission.

A QUIET PLACE
(RATED PG-13, 90 MINS)
DIRECTED BY JOHN KRASINSKI
STARRING: MILLICENT SIMMONDS, EMILY BLUNT, JOHN KRASINSKI
In this terrifyingly suspenseful thriller, a family must navigate their lives in silence to avoid mysterious creatures that hunt by sound. Hailed by critics and audiences around the world, experience the must-see movie of the year. Available on Amazon Prime.

“...a monster-movie allegory for parenting in a world gone very, very wrong.”
—John DeFore, The Hollywood Reporter

AGAINST THE CURRENT
(RATED R, 98 MINS)
DIRECTED BY PETER CALLAHAN
STARRING: JOSEPH FIENNES, MARY TYLER MOORE, MICHELLE TRACHTENBERG
Struggling with a tragic past, a man with an urgent calling enlists two friends to help him swim the length of the Hudson River. Available on Google Play.

“Filming along the magnificent Hudson, Callahan takes in remarkable sights and scenes and finds drama and comedy at every bend.”
—Kirk Honeycutt, The Hollywood Reporter

FRANCES HA
(RATED R, 86 MINS)
DIRECTED BY NOAH BAUMBACH
STARRING: GRETA GERWIG, MICKEY SUMNER, ADAM DRIVER
A New York woman (who doesn’t really have an apartment) apprentices for a dance company (though she’s not really a dancer) and throws herself headlong into her dreams, even as the possibility of realizing them dwindles. Available on IFC Films Unlimited with Prime Video Channels

“The director mixes moods with a playfulness that is both brazen and carefree and yet precisely modulated, yielding results that amplify the specific content of the screenplay. This makes for a film that, however cheap it was to make, is incredibly rich to watch.”
—Todd McCarthy, The Hollywood Reporter

HAPPYISH
(RATED TV-MA, 11 EPISODES)
STARRING: STEVE COOGAN, KATHRYN HAHN, SAWYER SHIPMAN
A middle-aged adman is shaken up by his new boss, a 25-year-old who advises him to “rebrand” himself. Is it possible, or is this as good as he’ll get? Available on Netflix.
**MAN ON WIRE**
(RATED PG-13, 94 MINS)
DIRECTED BY JAMES MARSH
STARRING: PHILIPPE PETIT, JEAN FRANÇOIS HECKEL, JEAN-LOUIS BLONDEAU
A look at tightrope walker Philippe Petit’s daring, but illegal, high-wire routine performed between New York City’s World Trade Center’s twin towers in 1974, what some consider, “the artistic crime of the century”. Available on Amazon Prime.

“One of the most wildly entertaining docs of recent years.”
—Robert Koehler, Variety

**MARTHA MARCY MAY MARLENE**
(RATED R, 102 MINS)
DIRECTED BY SEAN DURKIN
STARRING: ELIZABETH OLSEN, SARAH PAULSON, JOHN HAWKES
Haunted by painful memories and increasing paranoia, a damaged woman struggles to re-assimilate with her family after fleeing an abusive cult. Available on Cinemax on Amazon.

“Elizabeth Olsen steps onto the radar as a seriously accomplished actor in this mesmerizing drama, which also marks an assured feature debut for writer-director Sean Durkin.”
—David Rooney, The Hollywood Reporter

**TOOTSIÉ**
(RATED PG, 116 MINS)
DIRECTED BY SYDNEY POLLACK
STARRING: DUSTIN HOFFMAN, JESSICA LANGE, TERI GARR
Struggling with a tragic past, a man with an urgent calling enlists two friends to help him swim the length of the Hudson River. Available on Amazon Prime.

“This year’s miracle is called Tootsie. It is not just the best comedy of the year; it is popular art on the way to becoming cultural artifact.”
—Richard Schickel, Time

**UPLOAD**
(RATED TV-MA, 10 EPISODES)
CREATED BY GREG DANIELS
STARRING: ROBBIE AMELL, ANDY ALLO, ZAINAB JOHNSON
A man is able to choose his own afterlife after his untimely death. Filmed in part at the Mohonk Mountain House. Available on Amazon Prime.

“I love Upload because it’s so smart, so funny and so imaginatively complicated.”
—David Bianculli, NPR
We need Art now more than ever! Please do what you can to support these not-for-profit Arts organizations in three counties of the Catskill Region. Many have cancelled their summer programming, some are offering online programming, and all could use your support ... please visit their websites to find out more!

(Note: we have tried to compile as complete a list as possible, but if we have forgotten you, please let us know! Email tafts@catskillmtn.org)

Photo courtesy of Honest Brook Music Festival, Delhi, NY

DELAWARE COUNTY
Bright Hill Press
94 Church St.
Treadwell, NY 13846
607 829 5055 • brighthillpress.org

Bushel Collective
106 Main St.
Delhi, NY 13753
bushelcollective.org

Erpf Gallery at the Catskill Center
43355 Route 28
Arkville, NY 12406
845 586 2611 • catskillcenter.org/erpfgallery

Franklin Stage Company
25 Institute St.
Franklin, NY 13775
607 829 3700 • franklinstagecompany.org

Honest Brook Music Festival
P.O. Box 309
Delhi, NY 13753
607 746 3770 • hbmf.org

Longyear Gallery
785 Main St.
Margaretville, NY 12455
845 586 3270 • longyeargallery.org

MURAL on Main Gallery
631 Main St.
Hobart, NY 13788
607 538 3002 • muralartgallery.org

Open Eye Theater
960 Main St.
Margaretville, NY 12455
845 586 1660 • theopeneyetheater.org

Roxbury Arts Group
5025 Vega Mountain Rd.
Roxbury, NY 12474
607 326 7908 • roxburyartsgroup.org

West Kortright Centre
49 West Kortright Rd.
East Meredith, NY 13757
607 278 5454 • westkc.org

12 • www.catskillregionguide.com
GREENE COUNTY

23Arts Initiative
PO Box 203
Tannersville, NY 12485
23arts.org

Athens Cultural Center
24 2nd St.
Athens, NY 12015
518 945 2136 • athensculturalcenter.org

Bridge Street Theatre
44 West Bridge St.
Catskill, NY 12414
518 943 3894 • bridgest.org

Catskill Mountain Foundation
7971 Main St.
Hunter, NY 12442
518 236 2000 • catskillmtn.org

CREATE (formerly the Greene County Council on the Arts)
398 Main St.
Catskill, NY 12414
518 943 3400 • greenearts.org

Hudson Valley Dance Festival
Historic Catskill Point
Catskill, NY 12414
165 West 46th Street, #1300
New York, NY 10036
212 840 0770 • dradance.org

LUMBERYARD Center for Film & Performing Arts
62 Water St.
Catskill, NY 12414
518 943 1912 • lumberyard.org

Prattsville Arts Center
14562 NY-23
Prattsville, NY 12468
prattsvilleartcenter.org

Thomas Cole National Historic Site
218 Spring St.
Catskill, NY 12414
518 943 7465 • thomascole.org

Windham Arts Alliance
PO Box 55
Windham, NY 12496
518 734 3366 • windhamartsalliance.org

Zadock Pratt Museum
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518 299 3395 • zadockprattmuseum.org

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ULSTER COUNTY

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PO Box 175
Malden, NY 12453
845 246 7873 • armofthesea.org

Arts Society of Kingston (A.S.K)
97 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401
845 338 0333 • askforarts.org

The Ashokan Center
477 Beaverkill Rd.
Olivebridge, NY 12461
845 657 8333 • ashokancenter.org

Center for Creative Education
15 Railroad Ave.
Kingston, NY 12401
845 338 7664 • cce4me.org

Center for Photography at Woodstock
59 Tinker St.
Woodstock, NY 12498
845 679 9957 • cpw.org

DENIZEN Theatre
10 Main St Suite 501
New Paltz, NY 12561
845 303 4136 • denizentheatre.com

Green Kill
229 Greenkill Ave.
Kingston, NY 12401
347 689 2323 • greenkill.org

Hudson River Maritime Museum
50 Rondout Landing
Kingston, NY 12401
845 338 0071 • hrmm.org

Hudson Valley Film Commission
13 Rock City Rd.
Woodstock, NY 12498
845 679 4265 • hudsonvalleyfilmcommission.org

Maverick Concerts
120 Maverick Rd.
Woodstock, NY 12498
646 965 2365 • maverickconcerts.org

Mount Tremper Arts
647 S. Plank Rd.
Mt Tremper, NY 12457
845 688 9893 • mounttremperarts.org

Opus 40 Sculpture Park & Museum
50 Fite Rd.
Saugerties, NY 12477
845 246 3400 • opus40.org
Phoenicia Festival of the Voice
PO Box 327
Phoenicia, NY 12464
845 688 3000
phoeniciavoicefest.org

Phoenicia Playhouse
10 Church St.
Phoenicia, NY 12464
845 688 2279
phoeniciaplayhouse.com

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PO Box 276
Saugerties, NY 12477
saugertiespromusica.org

Shadowland Stages
98 Center St.
Ellenville, NY 12428
845 210 4848
shadowlandstages.org

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ulsterballet.org

Ulster Performing Arts Center
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Kingston, NY 12401
845 339 6088 • bardavon.org

Women’s Studio Workshop
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Kingston, NY 12401
845 658 9133 • wsworkshop.org

Woodstock Artist’s Association
and Museum
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Woodstock, NY 12498
845 679 2940 • woodstockart.org

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Woodstock, NY 12498
845 679 2079 • woodstockguild.org

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Woodstock, NY 12498
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Cook the chopped onions in 4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) of butter until translucent. While the onions are cooking, add a pinch each of salt & pepper. Let the onions cool slightly. Melt the remaining stick of butter and put it aside. Combine the remaining ingredients, except for the filo dough.

Spread a generous amount of melted butter in an approximately 9”x16” baking pan. Next start layering the filo dough, one layer of filo and then brush the filo with the melted butter. Use half the package of filo and then spread your spinach filling evenly on top of the filo. Now continue to layer your filo and butter until you have used the whole package of filo. Be generous with brushing on the butter. Either roll or trim the edges of the filo for a neat appearance.

Bake the spanakopita in a 375 degree oven for approximately 30 to 45 minutes until the top of the filo is a rich golden brown. Let cool slightly, then slice and serve.

SPANAKOPITA
Cheese Louise, Kingston, NY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Filo dough</td>
<td>1 one pound package</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feta</td>
<td>3 cups crumbled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flour</td>
<td>3 tablespoons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butter</td>
<td>1 1/2 sticks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onions</td>
<td>2 cups chopped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinach</td>
<td>3 pounds frozen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregano</td>
<td>1 teaspoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt &amp; Pepper to taste</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The familiar question, “What’s for dinner?” has taken on a new meaning in an age when we’re all cooking more often, sometimes with items that we’re finding in the deep, dark reaches of our pantries and freezers. Luckily, the Catskill Region has some of the best chefs in the country, and they are here to help you with some tasty home cooking ideas, using things you may already have in the house!
ORGANIC ZUCCHINI CHIPS
Benedetta & Giovanni Barbaro, The Green Palate

Cut an organic zucchini into thin slices and toss it in 1 tablespoon of organic extra virgin olive oil, sea salt and pepper. Sprinkle with paprika and bake at 450°F for 25 to 30 minutes.

CINNAMON-SPICED GRANOLA BARS
Mother Earth’s Storehouse

½ cup rolled oats
¼ cup dried coconut
2 Tbsp. raw sunflower seeds
2 Tbsp. raw walnuts
2 Tbsp. raw almonds
2 Tbsp. raw cashews
½ cup raisins
½ cup dried soft apricots, chopped
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
¼ tsp. cardamom
3 Tbsp. tahini
Pinch of salt

Add all ingredients to a food processor fitted with a metal blade. Grind until all ingredients are well combined and hold together. Transfer onto wax or parchment paper. Press into a square or a rectangle. Cut into bars or squares.

Notes: Any combination of nuts and seeds can be used. Figs or other moist dried fruit can be used instead of apricots.
BUFFALO DEVILED EGGS
Owner/Chef Richard Erickson, Blue Mountain Bistro to Go, Kingston

To hard-boil the eggs, place them in cold water, bring to a boil, set a timer for 8–9 minutes. Rapidly chill in ice-cold water. Carefully peel the eggs, cut them in half lengthwise, and remove yolks. In a small bowl, whip yolks with mayonnaise, celery, blue cheese, and salt. Spoon or pipe into the cut halves.

Toss panko with your favorite hot sauce (Frank’s Red Hot Buffalo Wings Sauce is the most authentic). Spread on a baking sheet and toast in a 200°F oven 15–20 minutes, until crisp. Let cool.

Put a drop of hot sauce on each egg for color, then top with the spicy bread crumbs. Garnish with the celery leaves and/or celery seeds.

FIRST TRACKS
Woodnotes Grille, The Emerson, Mt. Tremper, NY

Build in glass footed hot drink mug: .5 oz. Campari, .5 oz. bourbon, .5 oz. smoked vermouth, .5 oz. anise syrup. Top with hot water and stir. Garnish with star anise.
Orzo Mac & Cheese  
Chef Phil DeFalco, Jessie’s Harvest House, Hunter

1. Preheat oven to 375F. Butter 2 medium casserole dishes or one larger dish.

2. Melt butter in a medium sauté pan and heat milk in another. Fill large pot with salted water and place on high heat.

3. Add flour to pot with melted butter, stirring and cooking for 1 minute.

4. Whisk in hot milk slowly and continue cooking and whisking until mixture bubbles and thickens. Remove from heat.

5. While milk mixture is still hot, whisk in the salt, nutmeg, black pepper, cayenne pepper, 3 cups of cheddar, 1 1/2 cups asiago and 2 cups of parmesan. Stir well with wooden spoon until cheese melts. Set aside.

6. When water has come to a boil add orzo and cook for 8-10 mins. You want the pasta more underdone than al dente. Drain and rinse.

7. Stir pasta into cheese sauce, then add bacon peas & butternut squash cubes.

8. Pour into prepared dishes, and sprinkle with remaining cheese and bread crumbs. Bake for 25-30 minutes or until browned on top. Let cool for 5 minutes before serving.

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CARIBBEAN SWEET POTATO BLACK BEAN SALAD
from Compassionate Cuisine published by the Catskill Animal Sanctuary (see cookbook review on pages 26-27)

Sweet Potatoes
2 large sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/2 inch cubes, about 4 cups
3 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1 tsp ground cumin
1/4 tsp ground cayenne pepper
1 tsp salt

Dressing
1/4 cup fresh lime juice
3 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
2 Tbsp fresh lemon juice
2 Tbsp maple syrup
2 large cloves garlic, minced, about 2 tsp
1 tsp yellow mustard
1 tsp salt

Salad
1 (15.5 ounce) can black beans, rinsed and drained, about 1 1/2 cups
1 cup fresh (cooked or uncooked) or frozen and thawed corn kernels
2 scallions, sliced thinly on the diagonal, about 1/4 cup
1 cup roasted, salted peanuts, roughly chopped
Chopped cilantro or parsley, for garnish

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Line a baking tray with parchment. Place sweet potatoes on the baking tray in a pile. Drizzle with the olive oil and sprinkle with cumin, cinnamon, cayenne, and salt. Toss together with your hands then arrange in a single layer on the tray. Roast for about 20 minutes, until fork-tender.

2. To make the dressing, in a large bowl, whisk together the lime juice, oil, lemon juice, syrup, garlic, mustard, and salt. When potatoes are done, set aside to cool for about 10 minutes then place them in the bowl with the dressing.

3. To make the salad, add black beans, corn, scallions, and peanuts. Toss to combine. Garnish with fresh cilantro or parsley. Serve immediately or chill before serving.
I Am Baking

I am baking
Bread
Apparently that’s what
You do during a pandemic.
Flipping through recipes
Wondering where you put
Those packets of yeast.
You make rolls and biscuits
And loaves and rounds
Flour everywhere

It fills the kitchen
And the rest of the house
With a loving smell
Buttery and yeasty
And stands in contrast
Like a hearth’s glow
Against the early spring rainy season.

And when the oven is opened
And the pan is set on
The stove top like a trophy
It warms the home
And smells so good
And you can’t help dreaming
Of the moments when we’ll
Slather it with butter
All melting
(Or jam, if that’s your thing).

For some reason
Baking always reminds me
Of my grandmother
It says that we are home
We are family
We are safe
That the sun will rise
And that someone will
Always be brewing coffee
In the morning,
And the bread will be there
To comfort you.

—Carlo DeVito

One Flu Over the Cuckoo’s Nest

One for our times
It’s a contagion
A post-truth, post-fact
Internet chat sensation

Blame it on 5G
Blame it on China
Blame it on Chemtrails
Maybe on South Carolina

To call it conspiracy
An attempt to define
Pretend there’s control
Pretend it’s all fine

A pox on the breathing
A strain on the heart beat
A cough at the checkout
But stay away six feet

Oh my darling, oh my darling
Oh my darling quarantine
I’mma going stir crazy
But at least my hands are clean

It’s not the Black Plague
It’s not Spanish Flu
But millions may die
Before this is through

I laugh at the darkness
I jest ‘cause I must
I’m trapped where I am
My spirit would rust

I mourn for the fallen
Despite jest it’s true
But maybe it is
Just a phage we’re going through

—Sean Springer
A Community of Gratitude

As the clock strikes eight
Cheers erupt
In four-story flats, Romanesque villages and Country estates

Not the cusp
Of a new year Unfurled

The Louvre has gone dark

On the front line
Distance is disfigured
Personal protective equipment
Dwindling as virulent bubbles pervade

Sympathy commandeers the breeze
With whistling clapping banging
And slapping

Each night Windows unlatched

A symphony of the secluded unite

Pandemonium Weaves a spell Of appreciation

Vesuvian light Ignites in praise

Of the front line
Of caregivers cashiers and sacrificial lambs
Hunkering down to ward off the ferryman

—Raphael Moser

Settled

This meadow is open
and has a place for light to land.

The land folds like hands cupped
to hold the soil and receive the rain.

This river flows here, between two oceans.
This river fills, empties into each, and fills again.

The fish here are live and swim.
Here are the bees and honey.

It is here that the bear hunts and drinks.
Here one hears the songbird’s song.

Here the water rests.
Here the light nestles.

This is where a man has settled.
This is where he dwells.

Here in the center
in the middle of all.

—Phillip X. Levine

A Small Floating Ball

Has anyone noticed this?
We are all living on a small floating ball
a ball floating in outer space.
No one can live any place else
including astronauts on space stations they
eventually come home
to the small floating ball.

—Rodney Alan Greenblat
LOOKING FOR A FUN CREATIVE PROJECT?

This playful exercise is from our friend, Brian Mooney, who invented Storymatic—a game that we offer in our Kaaterskill Shoppe in Tannersville.

IT’S EASY!

GREAT FOR INDIVIDUALS, FRIENDS, FAMILIES… ANYONE WHO WANTS TO WRITE A STORY OR POEM!

1. Choose two entries from the Main Character section: that will give you the basic characteristics for the main person in your story or poem.

2. Next, choose two entries from the Story Leads section that will lead you into your story.

There are two rules for this process.
1. You can’t kill off your main character (too easy)
2. Your main character has to change from the beginning to the end of your story or poem

Have fun!

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Submit your stories to
Robert: tomlinsonr@catskillmtn.org
and
Sarah: tafts@catskillmtn.org

We’ll choose some of our favorites to publish in an upcoming issue of the Guide!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAIN CHARACTER</th>
<th>STORY LEADS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>firefighter</td>
<td>shouldn’t have touched it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>best selling author</td>
<td>nobody is watching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>person with a tail</td>
<td>everyday ritual is interrupted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>liar</td>
<td>letter to the editor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recluse</td>
<td>lightning strikes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>owner of a hot air balloon</td>
<td>noisy neighbors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trespasser</td>
<td>worst haircut ever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>person who owns a lot of stuffed animals</td>
<td>lonely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>taxidermist</td>
<td>discovers a new species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>person with an excellent sense of smell</td>
<td>the quest continues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amateur swimmer</td>
<td>on holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>retired police officer</td>
<td>a class reunion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spelling bee contestant</td>
<td>bad directions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>teenager who is good at math</td>
<td>the car won’t start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>avid journal keeper</td>
<td>broken bone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blind person</td>
<td>memory lane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pilot</td>
<td>the one that got away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>emergency room doctor</td>
<td>if only what was said could be taken back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>person afraid of heights</td>
<td>secret meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>person with an anger management problem</td>
<td>particularly inconvenient phobia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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518 263 2060 • www.catskillmtn.org/gallery
Facebook: KaaterskillFineArtsGallery
A Greene County Garden in May

By Margaret Donsbach Tomlinson

It’s an illusion that life returns to the garden in spring. Life has always been in the garden, burrowed under the earth’s surface in the form of worms, springtails, rootlets, hibernating woodchucks, a myriad of friendly soil bacteria, and probably mysteries none of us yet understand. Even the decaying trunk of a tree at the end of its life span is rich with life and life’s possibilities, inviting in the fungi, insects and bacteria that release nutrients into the soil, even while the tree continues to sprout leafy twigs.

What does return to the garden in spring is the gardener. The sun’s warmth, the opening blossoms, the green of leaves, the chirp and call of birds, and the smell of the rich earth entice us back outdoors. The garden not only symbolizes the renewal of life, it is literally health-giving.

Vegetables grown in a home garden are the freshest and, if grown in good soil, richest in nutrients. Homegrown veggies eaten within a few hours of harvest not only taste better, but are more nutritious than veggies that spent time in a warehouse, on the road and in the grocery store before being brought home. Spinach, for example, can lose as much as 80 percent of its vitamin C after just three days of storage and half its folate (a B vitamin) after eight days.

Gardening offers healthy exercise, which can be gentle enough for seniors or vigorous enough for a young person’s workout. Retirement homes and senior centers are starting to build raised garden beds, often wheelchair accessible, on their grounds so people who can’t bend to plant at ground level can still garden. For spry younger folks, digging a hole to plant a tree or preparing a garden bed for seeds can be a bigger workout than they may realize—until the next day when sore muscles let them know.

Scientists are now confirming what gardeners have long realized: just spending time turning over soil and breathing its earthy scent is a mood-lifter. A microscopic organism present in soils around the world, the beneficial bacteria mycobacterium vaccae acts as a natural anti-depressant and stress-reliever, perhaps by boosting levels of serotonin and norepinephrine in the brain of someone who has breathed it in. Lab mice injected with mycobacterium vaccae swim about happily in mini swimming pools that would provoke anxiety attacks in stressed mice. The study of soil is still in its infancy. Who knows what other life-affirming bacteria are hanging out in our gardens?
We all have a lot more time for reading these days...enjoy these selections about the Catskill Mountains!

**Catskill Trails, Book One: The Northern Catskills**
by Edward G. Henry
Black Dome Press, available at blackdomepress.com
A conservation professional, draws the latest information from geology, forest ecology, meteorology, wildlife biology, geography, economics, and human history to offer a well-rounded picture of the Catskill Mountains as the hikes rise to the sky through levels of rock strata and ever-changing forests.

Book One takes you to The Escarpment Wall, Huckleberry Point, Platte Clove, Kaaterskill High Peak, Kaaterskill Clove, Roundtop, Hunter Mountain, Westkill Mountain, Windham High Peak, Pratt's Rocks, Mount Utsayantha, Huntersfield, The Devil's Path, Bearpen, and The Blackhead Range.

**Catskill Trails, Book Two: The Central Catskills**
by Edward G. Henry
Black Dome Press, available at blackdomepress.com
Ed Henry’s interpretive guide continues with the trails of Mount Tremper, Overlook, Ashokan High Point, Slide, Giant Ledge, Panther, Cornell, Wittenberg, Belleayre, Balsam, Haynes & Eagle, Big Indian, Peekamoose, Table Mountain, Dry Brook Ridge, Balsam Lake, Doubletop, plus the trail-less High Peaks.

**The Catskills in the Ice Age Third Edition, Revised and Expanded**
by Robert Titus and Johanna Titus
Black Dome Press, available at blackdomepress.com
In this new, revised and expanded edition of the popular *The Catskills in the Ice Age*, two resident science professors take the reader on a tour of the Catskills and show the evidence of the half-mile-high glacier that crushed and ground the mountains and forests 20,000 years ago and which then melted, sending immense torrents of water that formed the picturesque cloves and waterfalls of today’s Catskills, thereby creating the landscape that inspired the Hudson River School painters.

**Compassionate Cuisine: 125 Plant-Based Recipes from Our Vegan Kitchen**
by Linda Soper-Kolton and Sara Boan, stories by Kathy Stevens
Catskill Animal Sanctuary, available at casanctuary.com/cookbook
Recently published by the good folks at the Catskill Animal Sanctuary, *Compassionate Cuisine* is one of the most accessible vegan cookbooks out there. Filled with scrumptious recipes sure to please everyone in your family, this book is filled with food that is good for you, good for your animal friends, and good for the planet. No special
equipment is required (although a high-powered blender and a food processor do help), most recipes include items that are probably already in your pantry, and you don’t need a degree from the Culinary Institute of America to understand the directions.

The recipes are interspersed with really wonderful, sometimes funny, sometimes moving stories from the Sanctuary. You’ll meet new friends, human and non-human alike, and learn a bit about the art of vegan cooking along the way.

See a recipe from the book on page 19.

Feel Good Food: Recipes from the Hudson Valley’s Blue Mountain Bistro-to-Go
by Chef Richard Erickson and Mary Anne Erickson
Available at bluemountainbistro.com

“A solid collection of reliable recipes closely tied to the Hudson Valley agricultural region.”
—The New York Times

Husband-wife team Richard and Mary Anne Erickson, chef and artist, serve up recipes, images and stories that share their love of food, community, and each other. This book draws on their 25 years experience serving food with an international flair that embodies the rustic elegance of the region.

Fun and informative, it is also a loving tribute to the farmers responsible for making the Hudson Valley a culinary destination. The recipes are easy to follow, packed with helpful tips and practical advice. Tantalizing recipes will inspire readers to head straight to a farm stand, invite friends over and start cooking.

See a recipe from Blue Mountain Bistro on page 18.

My Reach: A Hudson River Memoir
by Susan Fox Rogers
Cornell University Press, available on Amazon

“This is an elegantly written and beautiful book, dominated by powerful, antithetical emotions: grief over the loss of elderly parents and exhilaration with exploring a great American river. There is Huck Finn and his raft and the Mississippi—now there is Susan Fox Rogers and her kayak and the Hudson River to add to the American canon of glorious nature writing.”
—Philip Roth

In this memoir of the Hudson River and of her family, Susan Fox Rogers writes from a fresh perspective: the seat of her kayak. Low in the water, she explores the bays and the larger estuary, riding the tides, marveling over sturgeons and eels, eagles and herons, and spotting the remains of the ice and cement industries. After years of dipping her paddle into the waters off the village of Tivoli, she came to know the details so well that she claimed that section of the river as her own: her reach. Woven into Rogers’s intimate exploration of the river is the story of her life as a woman in the outdoors—rock climbing and hiking as well as kayaking.

Ned Buntline: So Much Larger Than Life
by T.M. Bradshaw
Available on Amazon

“Edward Zane Carroll Judson, who wrote under the name Ned Buntline, spent the first few and the last fifteen years of his life in Stamford, NY. He was a collection of paradoxes: hightoned literary critic/dime novelist; Temperance lecturer/heavy drinker; family man/bigamist; naval hero/army deserter; died at 63/hanged at 23. Whatever one knows about him, the opposite is also true. Three areas of his life, however, were consistent within the swirling chaos of his energy: he loved the outdoors, he loved women (and they seemed to love him back), and he wrote, day in and day out, in the woods, in jail, wherever he happened to be.”
—from the Introduction

This highly entertaining book by local author T.M. Bradshaw tells the full story of Ned Buntline in clear, easy prose that will keep you engrossed from page one. Think today’s media figures are ringleaders in a three ring circus? They ain’t got nothin’ on ol’ Ned.

Trails with Tales: History Hikes through the Capital Region, Saratoga, Berkshires, Catskills & Hudson Valley
by Russell Dunn and Barbara Delany
Black Dome Press, available at blackdomepress.com

30 historic hikes include: Starks Knob & Schuylerville Champlain Canal Towpath • Saratoga National Historic Park • Geyser Park • Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve • Peebles Island State Park • Oakwood Cemetery • Burden Pond Environmental Park • Ann Lee Pond • Indian Ladder • Bennett Hill Preserve • Clarksville Cave Preserve • Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve • Balanced Rocks • Shaker Mountain • No Bottom Pond • Tyingham Cobble • Ice Glen & Laura’s Tower • Ashintully Estate & McLennan Reserve • Vroman’s Nose • Pratt Rock • Lindenwald & Martin Van Buren Nature Trail • Rogers Island • Olana • Montgomery Place • Ravena Falls • Hudson River School Art Trail • Catskill Mountain House Escarpment • Saugerties Lighthouse • Overlook Mountain • Sky Top & Mohonk Lake.
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Phone: (518) 589-7500 • KaaterskillFineArtsGallery
An award-winning photographer based in New York City, Robert Hsu is celebrating his 25th anniversary in the photographic arts. During these decades, Hsu has combed the Northeast of the United States to capture and reveal the priceless beauty of the mountains, forests and streams of the region through the seasons and over the years.

His photographs often seem both objective and abstract; yet one common element connects them all: Mr Hsu’s work seeks to inspire all to commit to protecting, preserving and appreciating our natural environment, now and for future generations. His lens is his voice; his photographs tell magnificent stories without words.

Born in New York City in 1950, Robert Hsu attended Riverdale Country Day school and studied mechanical engineering at New York University. His native creative gifts plus his acquired technical skills have enabled him to master the photographic arts in both film and digital formats.

His contribution of his artworks to healthcare facilities, wellness institutions and their staff is his wonderful way of saying thank you for saving and protecting our lives.

To see more of his work, please visit rhphotoart.com.
Kaaterskill United Methodist Church Thrift Shop

By Christie Pierce

The Kaaterskill United Methodist Church Thrift Shop is located at 7889 Main Street in the Village of Hunter. The setting is unique in that it is an historic building that was dedicated as a Presbyterian Church in 1828. It has seen a lot of local history over the years and must be one of the oldest existing buildings in the Town of Hunter.

I know that miracles happen every day, but it's not every day we get to see one. A few years ago, I went with Sue, one of our volunteers, to the Thrift Shop to find some winter clothes to send to a refugee program in Albany called RISSE. The Shop had been closed since fall, so I expected it to be mostly empty. Was I in for a surprise! I saw heaps of bags and boxes of donations piled high, filling every space. I looked at Sue. Who will sort and organize all this stuff? She told me that the previous year they were able to have it done much earlier, but due to weather (there is no heat in the building) and many other reasons, it wasn't getting done this year. To me the job looked insurmountable. After that I went to help at one of the workdays Sue organized and I was astonished at the work being done. Several people were working to empty bags, size and hang clothing, and sort the toys, housewares, and books. Later that week Sue sent pictures. There it was: the miracle! Clothing hung on racks or was organized in bins, glassware was arranged on shelves, pots, pans, and household goods were laid out on tables. It is truly amazing what a few good people can do in a short time.

I remember when the grounds of the Tannersville church needed to be cleaned up. We asked for help, set a time, and people showed up with rakes, pruners, and wheelbarrows. Within a few hours the lawns looked fabulous.

If 20 hours is needed to do a job, one person can work 20 hours and end up feeling exhausted and bitter, or 10 people can work 2 hours, enjoy each other's company, and feel good about what they've accomplished. We are so lucky in our community to have people who are so giving of their time and gifts.

The Thrift Shop is important in so many ways. It's a place for folks to take very usable things they no longer need and donate them to a most worthy cause. New items with tags go to Veterans, any clothing item not used goes to other charitable organizations, so nothing is wasted. It's a place for shoppers to find incredible bargains and stretch their budgets. Every time you go, there are new and exciting treasures to discover. It's a place where volunteers feel great, meeting friendly people and raising money for the church. No wonder it's a place where miracles happen! But Thrift Shop work is NEVER done. There are always donations being dropped off, sorting and organizing to be done. Please join us and give a hand if you can.

If you would like to volunteer, you may message us on Facebook @ Kaaterskill Thrift Shop in Hunter, call the church office at 518 589 5787, or email the church at kaaterskillumc@gmail.com.
By the time you read this, we will all be months into adjusting to a new reality with the COVID-19 virus. It has changed the way that we do almost everything here in the Catskills, including getting outdoors and enjoying our beautiful Catskill Mountains. That means we’re learning a new normal where we recreate locally and responsibly, observe posted closures and ensure proper social distancing when we are outside.

For many organizations here in the Catskills, including the Catskill Center, the response to the pandemic has changed the way they work, but hasn’t changed their commitment to meet their mission remains.

This April, in the midst of the pandemic and an unprecedented response by New York State, we were able to celebrate a win for the environment thanks to the Governor and Legislature of New York State for sticking to their environmental priorities even though letting those priorities slide may have been the easier choice this year. The State budget includes a fully funded Environmental Protection Fund; within that fund, there is a new line for the Catskills Visitor Center (CVC) that provides $150,000 to the Catskill Center for operations. In a regular budget year this would have been an amazing accomplishment. This year it was beyond any expectation. The budget also includes an Environmental Bond Act that, if approved by the voters in November, will provide $3 billion to address climate change in the State. In addition, fracking was banned permanently, more stewardship efforts will take place in the Catskill Park, and a number of other environmental priorities were advanced.

The funding for the CVC is the result of persistence and teamwork in action. The Visitor Center was first envisioned more than 30 years ago as a place to interpret the Catskill Park and region to visitors. Five years ago this July, that vision was finally realized when the Catskills Visitor Center first opened to the public. As a public/private partnership between New York State and the Catskill Center, the Catskill Center quickly found that to properly realize the potential of the Catskills Visitor Center, they would need to find adequate funding for operations and programs. Lots of hard work went into finding funding over the past five years and the CVC continued to grow. This year, thanks to an incredible amount of work, the Catskill Center and its supporters were able to educate legislators and the Governor on the importance of this resource through the efforts of the Catskill Park Coalition, friends, supporters, members, and lovers of the Catskills. The final result is in this newly announced funding in this year’s budget!
Our collective efforts in Albany also resulted in increased money for work on the Forest Preserve, which will create more trail crews, better trails, improved access, new facilities, better campgrounds and much more. The Governor will also establish a high-use task force for the Catskills where stakeholders will work together to address the challenges and opportunities that increasing visitation will likely bring to our region.

Thanks to a recent Smart Growth Grant from NYSDEC to create a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Plan, the Catskill Center is excited to begin working on this DEI plan for the Catskill Park. The Catskill Center looks forward to the opportunity to more comprehensively address these issues internally and is really excited to also explore them further with stakeholders Park-wide.

**NYS Social Distancing Guidelines When Engaging in Outdoor Recreation Activities**

In response to many questions received if it is okay to drive to the Catskills for hikes on social media, in our discussion groups, in email, and through telephone calls, the Catskill Center urges you to avoid traveling far to recreate. Yes, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has recommended that healthy individuals exercise and enjoy the outdoors, but they have done so with several guidelines:

**Stay Local!** Stay close to home, keep your visit short and avoid high-traffic destinations.

**Be Safe!** Avoid crowds and groups (including crowded trailheads). Keep a distance of at least 6 feet from others. Alerts others as you’re about to pass or step aside to let others pass.

**Be Ready!** Move quickly through parking lots, trailheads and scenic areas. If a site is crowded, choose a different park, trail or time to visit.
Stay Home! If you’re not feeling well, stay home. Anyone older than 70 or with a compromised immune system should also stay home.

The Catskill Center urges everyone to follow the recommendations of NYS and if you do want to recreate outdoors (walking, running, bike riding, etc.), you do it by staying local, respecting closures and restrictions, following proper social distancing guidelines and by being responsible when outside.

Many Forest Rangers have been redeployed to assist with the COVID-19 pandemic, reducing their ability to quickly respond to emergency calls in the Forest Preserve.

If you travel far from home, you are potentially exposing yourself and others to COVID-19 everywhere you stop, even if it’s just for gas. Not only that, by traveling to rural areas without strong healthcare and emergency responder infrastructure, if you are hurt, you are unnecessarily stretching these services even further.

The Catskill Center will continue our work to protect and preserve the Catskill Mountains, Catskill Park and the region, but for right now, we are asking for everyone who isn’t already in the Catskills, to please stay home, recreate locally and be responsible so we can get past the COVID-19 pandemic and get back to having everyone enjoy the Catskills.

Thank you, stay safe and be well! The mountains will be here to enjoy when this is all over.

Catskill Fire Towers Temporarily Closed
The six Fire Towers of the Catskill Park (Overlook, Hunter, Mt. Tremper, Balsam Lake, Red Hill and Upper Esopus) have been closed to the public by the NYSDEC to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The Catskill Fire Tower Challenge has been suspended while the Fire Towers are closed. In addition, the volunteer Catskill Fire Tower Project, which staffs the Fire Towers on weekends has been suspended temporarily.

Kaaterskill Falls, Surrounding Trails and Parking Areas Temporarily Closed
The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has announced the temporary closure of Kaaterskill Falls, the viewing platform, and connecting trails. The Kaaterskill Wild Forest will remain open to the public. The closure of the Kaaterskill Falls site is part of DEC’s statewide efforts to reduce the community spread of COVID-19 by encouraging New Yorkers to safely and responsibly recreate locally. DEC is temporarily closing public access to the falls due to its unique features that do not provide for appropriate social distancing during the ongoing COVID-19 response.

Kaaterskill Falls is a popular destination that consists of several short-access trails leading from large parking areas to the falls and the viewing platform. The falls, viewing platform, and access trails are relatively small areas that are currently concentrating recreationists together, preventing safe social distancing at this site, as well as placing an unnecessary burden on and danger to State and local resources and emergency responders during the ongoing public health response. DEC will continue to evaluate the situation and will announce when these areas reopen to the recreating public.

DEC is closing parking areas at Molly Smith, Laurel House Road, and Scutt Road to public use. All access trails leading to the falls will be closed. Roadside parking in these areas is prohibited.

In addition, DEC is blocking roads leading to the North-South Lake Campground to encourage social distancing and reduce visitor density while providing access for hikers to visit trails that connect with the campground.

Catskill Center Praises Strong Commitment to the Environment in NYS Budget
During these unprecedented times, the Catskill Center praises Governor Andrew Cuomo, the New York State Assembly, and the New York State Senate for strengthening their commitment to the environment in this year’s state budget. The budget includes a fully funded $300 million Environmental Protect Fund, a $3 billion “Restore Mother Nature” Bond Act, along with a number of other measures that ensure clean air, clean water, open space, wildlife and a healthy environment remain top priorities for New York State.
“Given the incredibly challenging situation the State is facing with the coronavirus outbreak, it is heartening and uplifting that environmental priorities for New York State and the Catskills remain a top concern for Governor Cuomo, the Assembly, and the Senate,” said Catskill Center Executive Director, Jeff Senterman.

“We are very excited to see increased funding to help manage and protect our Catskill Park and Forest Preserve, including a new source of funding for the Catskills Visitor Center and increased funding for Forest Preserve stewardship activities,” he said. “Improving and protecting these resources will benefit both our Forest Preserve and our Catskill Park communities. Investments in our environmental programs on average generate a $7 return for every $1 invested, which represents jobs and a positive economic impact as we work to recover from the current public health crisis in the future.”

Catskills Visitor Center Funding
Under the Environmental Protection Fund, this year’s budget includes $150,000 to help fund operations and programs of the Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey Catskills Visitor Center (CVC).

A partnership between the Catskill Center and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), the Catskills Visitor Center is the official visitor center for the 700,000-acre Catskill Park. Located in Mt. Tremper, New York on State Rte. 28 near the entrance to the Park, it welcomes well over 10,000 people each year to the region. CVC visitors can experience exhibits and dozens of special programs and lectures, as well as search maps, ask adventure advice, and inquire about information on shopping, lodging, and restaurants in the Catskills. The CVC’s 60-acre property has trails for educational walks including hikes along the Esopus River and an 80-foot fire tower overlooking the area.

In the short-term, this funding will assist the Catskill Center in moving programming, activities, and information to an online format to allow visitors to virtually visit the Catskill Park. In the longer term, this funding will help support on-site staffing and expanded programming, including new curriculum and activities for visiting school groups.

Environmental Protection Fund
The Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) will be funded at $300 million this year, including $31 million for new open space land protection projects, some of which could be in the Catskill Park.

Funding for “state land stewardship” increased to $34.4 million (from $33 million last year), and a new authorized use of those funds is for “trail crews or other activities related to

Kauterskill Falls, currently closed for public viewing. Photo by Francis X. Driscoll, francisxdriscoll.com
sustainable use of the forest preserve and other state lands that are threatened by overuse.” This funding could support shuttles, education, and other components of a strategic effort to manage visitor traffic to high-use areas in the Catskill Park. In addition, the State will be forming a Catskill Park High-Use Task Force, which will produce recommendations to help manage high-use (which this funding could also support).

Just over $13 million in funding for invasive species controls is available in the EPF. In the Catskills, these funds support efforts like the Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) and the Invasive Species Strike Team.

The EPF includes $100,000 for the Catskills Science Collaborative at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, $500,000 for the Hemlock Wooly Adelgid Project at Cornell University, $1 million for Belleayre Mountain and $2 million for community Smart Growth Grants in the Catskill and Adirondack Parks.

In addition to these specific categories, the EPF pays for open space, parks, solid waste and recycling facilities, environmental justice programs, and climate change mitigation/adaptation measures throughout the Catskills and across New York State.

“Protect Mother Nature” Environmental Bond Act
Included in the Budget is a historic $3 billion Environmental Bond Act, which will provide funding for key investments in local infrastructure and environmental restoration. These investments will help communities across New York prepare for flooding, rising seas, and dangerous extreme heat. The bond act will now go to voters for approval on the ballot in November.

Catskill Park Updates now Available for the Catskills Online
Due to the COVID-19 situation, local recreational opportunities are changing rapidly and the status of many outdoor related programs are changing. In place of regular trail conditions updates, the Catskill Center through Catskills Visitor Center is now posting updates related to the Catskill Park, Catskill trails, Catskill campgrounds and camping, Catskill boating and more on the Visitor Center’s Trail Conditions blog at www.catskillinterpretive-center.org/trail.

NYCDEP Postpones Opening of Recreational Boating Season on Four Reservoirs in the Catskills
The New York City Department of Environmental Protection has announced that it will postpone the opening of its recreational boating season because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The season was scheduled to open May 1. It will be postponed until at least Memorial Day weekend, May 23, and potentially longer depending on guidance from health experts and government leaders.

The recreational boating program allows the use of canoes and kayaks on four of New York City’s waters supply reservoirs in the Catskills: Cannonsville, Neversink, Pepacton and Schoharie. To protect water quality in the reservoirs, the recreational boating program relies on a small network of trained businesses who steam clean the boats before they are used each spring. Steam cleaning is critically important because it prevents the spread of invasive species that harm water quality and aquatic ecosystems. Many of the businesses that provide steam cleaning are now
closed as part of the statewide effort to slow the spread of the virus. In addition, DEP is unable to inspect and provide annual training at those businesses at this time.

Fishing from rowboats with valid boat tags will continue to be permitted on DEP reservoirs, along with shoreline fishing. Unlike canoes and kayaks, which are removed from the reservoirs each fall, the vast majority of rowboats are stored year-round on lands alongside the reservoirs. DEP has also collaborated with its partners to install signs at popular trailheads to encourage social distancing on trails that traverse water supply lands.

**Visit the Catskill Park’s Visitor Center Virtually**

Before you embark on any adventure in the Catskills, be sure to stop at the Park’s official Visitor Center, the Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey Catskills Visitor Center! Located on Route 28 in Mount Tremper, the Catskills Visitor Center is your gateway to Catskills, where you can learn about the vast outdoor recreational opportunities in the area as well as discover Catskills communities and rich cultural and natural history.

The Catskills Visitor Center is open seven days a week from 8 am to 3 pm. At the Center, you can explore the interpretive exhibits, gather information and speak with knowledgeable staff about the Catskill Park and region. In addition to information, exhibits and staff, the Center is home to more than a mile of walking paths, fishing access to the Esopus Creek and a sculpture trail, featuring the work of local artists and artists who have been inspired by the Catskills.

The Catskills Visitor Center is also home to numerous events and activities throughout the summer, including Family Days, interactive workshops and presentations, a Catskill Mountain Book Festival, guided outdoor adventures and more!

You can visit www.catskillsvisitorcenter.org, call 845 688 3369, or email info@catskillcenter.org for more information. The Catskills Visitor Center is located at 5096 Route 28 in Mount Tremper.

Please note that the Catskills Visitor Center building has been temporarily closed to the public to assist in reducing the spread of COVID-19. Staff remain available via telephone and email to answer questions and offer advice. Visit the Visitor Center’s website for more information. The Catskills Visitor Center site, trails and picnic areas remain open for the public to use and park information is available at the kiosk on the Visitor Center’s access drive, just off of Route 28.

A significant website upgrade is planned for the near future to better facilitate virtual Catskill Park visits!

**Camping Suspended in Peekamoose Valley, Sundown Wild Forest**

The NYSDEC is temporarily suspending all overnight camping in the Peekamoose Valley area of the Sundown Wild Forest of the Catskill Park in the Town of Denning, Ulster County to protect public health and ensure adherence to social distancing protocols.

Interested visitors can find the latest information on additional closures and restrictions at dec.ny.gov/outdoor/120286.html. DEC will continue to assess camping status and will announce when these areas reopen to the recreating public.

**Catskill Park Advisory Committee**

Did you know that there is a group of Catskill Park stakeholders working together to address issues of park-wide importance in the Catskills? The Catskill Park Advisory Committee (CPAC) was established by the Catskill Center in consultation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) several years ago. Currently chaired by the Catskill Center, the CPAC is a group of representatives from local governments and organizations that provides a forum for communities and user groups of the Catskill Park and the Catskill Watershed. The purpose of the Committee is to provide assistance, advice and guidance to the DEC, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection and other land managers in the management of the New York State Forest Preserve, the Catskill Park and the Catskill Watershed.

Meetings are held quarterly and are open to the public. If you'd like to learn more, join the mailing list or attend the next meeting, please contact the Catskill Center at 845 586 2611 or email them at cccd@catskillcenter.org with CPAC in the subject asking to be added to the mailing list.

**Give Back to the Catskills**

The natural beauty, the majesty of the mountains, the protection of the Catskill Forest Preserve, the region’s natural and cultural resources, all need your help! By supporting the work of the Catskill Center, you support: stewardship of our Catskill Park and its vast natural resources; the Center’s collaborative spirit as we convene, create partnerships and facilitate discussions that benefit the region; and the Center’s work to support education, arts and culture throughout the Catskills.
While the Catskill Center may not be able to interact in person for the time being, their staff continue to explore and launch new ways for them to remain connected with their members, supporters, and those who love the Catskills. Keep a look out for increased resources, virtual workshops, programs, and more from the Catskill Center and CVC websites. Stay tuned into their social media platforms—Twitter, Instagram and Facebook—for even more opportunities to engage, learn, and advocate with them.

Most importantly, know that by being a member and supporter of the Catskill Center you are helping protect and preserve the Catskill Mountains that we all love. This glorious Park will be even better preserved than before because of our collective hard work, and we will one day leave our homes to explore, travel, and enjoy everything this region has to offer once again.

To support the work of the Catskill Center, become a member online at catskillcenter.org/membership or donate by mail: Checks made out to the “Catskill Center” can be mailed to Catskill Center, PO Box 504, Arkville, NY 12406.

Jeff Senterman is the Executive Director of the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development in Arkville, NY, a member of the Board of Directors for the American Hiking Society, the Catskill Watershed Corporation and the Central Catskills Chamber of Commerce. Jeff graduated with a degree in Environmental Science from Lyndon State College and worked for many years as an Environmental Planner in New England before coming back to New York and the Catskills in the nonprofit sector. To learn more about the work of the Catskill Center in the Catskills, visit catskillcenter.org.
“All art has this characteristic – it unites people.”
—Leo Tolstoy
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The staff of the Catskill Mountain Foundation and the Catskill Mountain Region Guide would like to express our gratitude to all of the essential workers who are keeping us safe during the COVID-19 crisis.

Thank You!

“When I was a young boy and would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people that are willing to help.’”

—Fred Rogers